

Ancient ST 2231

Chapter 2231 - Luo Qingcheng's Evil Finger?

The creation of their Guardian Vine had greatly increased the cohesion within the Sea King Palace. A Guardian was far too important to a sect. The reason why it could be named a Guardian was because it was as strong as a God. From the aura it had when it was awakened, they knew that the strength of the bloodthirsty demonic vine was far from normal.

Any worries about the future would be solved with the existence of a Guardian. Most importantly, their Guardian was young and would be able to protect the area for a long time. The inhabitants were the first generation for the Sea King Palace, and the Guardian had each of their blood essences.

Only Qing Shui and a few others knew about the terror of the bloodthirsty demonic vine. He wouldn't have to worry even if he left at this moment. Anyone around the area who wished to bring harm to the Sea King Palace and its inhabitants would incur the bloodthirsty demonic vine's wrath.

Qing Shui had no plans of leaving just yet. The conflict with the Golden Yakshas hadn't been resolved just yet and there was a possibility of their return. Qing Shui decided to stay back, and perhaps settle the score with the Golden Yakshas once and for all.

Spiritual Qi around the Sea King Palace was growing denser. This was the ability of the bloodthirsty demonic vine. Being a plant-type Guardian, it could rely on strength and converge Spiritual Qi to their area.

Qing Shui was itching for time to fly by faster. This way, he would be able to unlock the next level for the Hundred Treasure Chest and in turn, allow his own abilities to progress even further.

Qing Shui's greatest desire at this moment was to move up the ranks of his cultivation. When the realm of his Heavenly Dao rises, that would be the time when he is finally able to unleash his full potential. At that point, the Stellar Transposition and his Divine Weapon, Flying Swords would be deadly weapons.

Qing Shui had a great time during these peaceful days with his wives and children. Even though they weren't in full attendance, it was still better than spending time alone at the Imperial Cuisine Hall or during travels. However, Luo Qingcheng held on to every chance to devour Qing Shui...

The relationship between Qing Shui and Luo Qingcheng used to be clear. While they didn't clearly define it, she had long considered herself to be his woman and the others had likewise thought so. Sometimes, even Qing Shui regarded her as his woman.

Luo Qingcheng had said it herself. She could remain single all her life, but if she were to marry, then Qing Shui would be the only one she would consider.

Qing Shui didn't dare to reject as that would be a huge blow to a woman. This woman had once been willing to abandon her own status for him. Besides, she was charming and alluring. She was a mermaid, someone many men could only dream of having to themselves.

"Qing Shui, are you avoiding me?" She finally got the opportunity to spend time with Qing Shui alone.

"How is that possible? You're a beauty. Why would I avoid you?" Qing Shui laughed and replied.

“I wouldn’t force you into anything. Do you have to be that fearful of me? You were so courageous in the past, even to the point of taking advantage of me. And yet, you’re avoiding me now. How infuriating.” Luo Qingcheng advanced towards Qing Shui, hooking her hands behind his neck. Her beautiful eyes stared unblinkingly at Qing Shui.

Qing Shui wrapped his arms around Luo Qingcheng’s slender and soft waist. The woman in front of him was a mature, dignified, enchanting, intelligent, and elegant woman. Qing Shui found that she was packed with all sorts of charm. What an extraordinary woman. She would be top of the tier wherever she went. She was great in the kitchen, graceful in the guest hall, and glamorous on the bed.

“Why are you yearning for love?” Qing Shui laughed.

“I’m just a regular woman. Isn’t it normal for me to feel so?” With her attention still on Qing Shui, her lips curved into a beautiful arc.

Qing Shui found that there would always be teasing involved with this woman. Sometimes, he couldn’t even gain any advantages.

“It’s normal, of course. I do wonder how you resolved it by yourself. Do you use your hands or some other tools?” Qing Shui nodded and asked seriously.

Luo Qingcheng licked her lips. “I used this finger.”

With that, she stuffed the finger inside Qing Shui’s mouth.

Qing Shui was startled. He watched the sly smile on Luo Qingcheng’s face, noting the slender finger in his mouth, and most importantly, what the finger had been doing.

Qing Shui didn’t contemplate further about the truth behind her claims and neither did he feel disgusted. Her finger teased Qing Shui’s tongue and he thought, “Get ready to be teased.”

Qing Shui kept his eye on Luo Qingcheng’s smile then stuffed his own finger into her mouth. Luo Qingcheng flushed red and retracted her finger, spitting out Qing Shui’s own before throwing him a charming glance.

“Let’s consummate our marriage today!” Qing Shui hugged her tightly.

“No. Once I’m ready, I’ll give you everything. At that time, I’ll make you feel like you’re in the seventh heaven,” Luo Qingcheng rested a hand on his chest, her tongue swiping across her lips.

Qing Shui lowered his head till his lips were beside her ear and whispered. In reflex, her face reddened even further and said, “Disgusting!”

“Why would it be disgusting? It’s something that all married couples do,” Qing Shui responded seriously.

“Wait until I’m your woman then,” Luo Qingcheng spoke softly.

As much as he was agitated, he didn’t want to force her into anything she didn’t want to. After all, it would be hard to let go after guarding her own body for so long. However, with her in his arms, he exhibited his nimble fingers once more as she whined in his embrace, weak in her limbs and bones. She watched Qing Shui with undisguised satisfaction.

"I was on cloud nine," Luo Qingcheng whispered into Qing Shui's ears.

"The real thing would have been even more comfortable," Qing Shui said with a laugh.

In all honesty, it might not have felt better than Qing Shui's techniques, but at least it would feel different. The collision between the visual and the sensation would naturally be stronger during the real deal.

Luo Qingcheng bit her lip and said, "Just a while more. My training during this period is critical. I don't want to be distracted."

She leaned forth and deeply kissed Qing Shui right after, leaving him stunned and feeling as if he had just been stolen a kiss.

...

The Golden Yakshas returned after another week. There weren't many this time, just about a dozen. They were big in stature, about ten meters in height, with two of whom were slightly shorter. They were the ones who had fled previously.

Apart from the Golden Yakshas, there was a demonic beast. A Golden Wolf, only about a meter in size but it was glowing in gold. Its eyes were like miniature suns exuding a substantial radiance. Its aura seemed to be able to tear apart the atmosphere.

Qing Shui's heart shook at the sight of the wolf. The Golden Wolf's aura was petrifying. At this level, the size could no longer be used as an accurate measurement. Creatures at this level came in all sizes.

"Young man, there hasn't been anyone who dared to bully the Golden Yakshas. Did you really think we wouldn't be able to handle you?" An old man leading the Golden Yakshas came forward.

The old man shone in gold and he looked dignified, standing there like a mountain. Qing Shui was shocked. The old man's cultivation was greater than every one of those he had met before, but he must have been within the Cave Realm still.

"I didn't bully them. On the contrary, they weren't doing what humans should. If you could come here and spout these words, then you must not have been anywhere near decent either. Without seeking the truth, you just want to pressurize others with your power," Qing Shui said as he fixed his attention onto the old man.

"You've killed so many of my people and yet, I'm the one pressurizing others with my power?" The old man glared furiously at Qing Shui.

Chapter 2232 - The Powerful Guardian Beast and The Golden Wolf

"You've killed so many of my people and yet, I'm the one pressurizing others with my power?" The old man said as he glared furiously at Qing Shui.

"They deserved to die. They only have themselves to blame," Qing Shui retorted.

"Hah, they deserved to die? To put it plainly, it was the survival of the fittest. In that case, let's speak with our fists instead. I'll let you see what it means to be deserving of death. Your friends and family are

humans, and so are mine. I'd love to see how you'd counter me." The old man's body glowed in gold, and aura swept across like a hurricane.

"Guardian, I'll leave the formation to you." With a bow towards the Golden Wolf, the old man spoke up.

The Golden Wolf nodded before charging towards Qing Shui. A lone horn atop its head was like a screw, sharp and reflective like a sword, as though it was emanating a golden shimmer.

As expected, this wolf was the Guardian Beast of the Golden Yakshas. Qing Shui watched as it charged towards him, nervous about the fact that it was planning to break his formation by force. It must have been quite confident in its own abilities to dare to attempt such an act.

Qing Shui was nervous. As much as he had faith in his formation, his opponent's strength wasn't something to scoff about either.

Bang!

Just once and Qing Shui could already see cracks decorating the formation. His expression changed and hastily shifted his strength to the peak. Size was deceiving when it came to the Golden Wolf. While it was small, it had the power to break the formation. Once it succeeded, it would surely proceed to annihilate them.

Roar!

Qing Shui summoned Diamond White Tiger King, the Battle God Halo Formation, and even the Buddha Diamond Seal.

At the same time, he summoned the Dragon Spider, the Dark Phoenix, and the Golden Scaled Dragon Elephant as well.

Bang!

The formation was completely broken by the third hit, and like a meteor, the Golden Wolf sprinted towards Qing Shui, leaving a trail of golden halo surging behind it.

Roar!

The Diamond White Tiger King let out a roar, enhancing its body with the Buddha Diamond Seal before charging towards its enemy.

Bang!

The sound of collision reverberated throughout the field as Qing Shui witnessed the Diamond White Tiger King being flung aside. While its strength was decent, there was still a drastic difference between the Golden Wolf and the Diamond White Tiger King. There was no doubt that the Golden Wolf was an ancient species with cultivation even higher than the Diamond White Tiger King.

The almighty Diamond White Tiger King incurred internal injuries in that short amount of time, even with the fact that its forte was its defense.

Qing Shui hastily applied Emperor's Qi, Art of Pursuing, and other tools that could combat his opponent.

Nine Palace Laws!

Qing Shui had just used it when the Golden Wolf charged towards him with the speed of light.

A mystical force enveloped him and Qing Shui could feel how the hair all over his body stood at attention and leaped away in a flash. However, he was still swiped at his left shoulder, bursting into a muddle of flesh and blood.

How terrifying!

Qing Shui felt the terror of its powers at that moment. The Golden Wolf was simply too dangerous. Even after the reduction in its stats, it still remained this powerful.

Following its successful strike, the Golden Wolf charged towards Qing Shui once again.

Stellar Transposition!

A flash of silver!

Thump!

A crisp sound rang out as the attack landed atop of the Golden Wolf's head. Qing Shui's strike contained 140 billion Dao of power which bypassed any defense abilities.

However, all it did was cause the Golden Wolf to let out a howl. Its abilities far exceeded the number of Dao that were used, and besides that, the difference in cultivation between Qing Shui and the Golden Wolf was too drastic. Hence, it was resilient to the attack. Stellar Transposition negated defense but Qing Shui hadn't gained the ability for it to overcome Heavenly Dao. The Golden Wolf seemed to grow furious at the attack.

The use of Stellar Transposition had left Qing Shui feeling disheartened. The process of Heavenly Dao wasn't something he could just change, and so there weren't any other ways to make progress. He could only aim to enhance the cultivation of his Heavenly Dao to combat his opponent. This way, even Stellar Transposition would grow more terrifying in power.

Divine Weapon Flying Sword!

Qing Shui felt a wave of helplessness at the fast approaching Golden Wolf, and for the lack of better options, he summoned the Divine Weapon, Flying Swords.

Qing Shui was confident in his Flying Sword. With its abrupt appearance and speed as it flew towards the Golden Wolf, it seemed to suck in the surrounding air into its halo as it surged forward.

Roar!

Its speed was too fast to be dodged completely. Even as the Golden Wolf moved out of the way, the Flying Sword managed to take a stab at it, shredding some of its fur. Drops of golden blood made their appearance in its place.

Ancient Golden Blood.

Roar!

Just as Qing Shui's Flying Sword made its return, the Golden Wolf let out a roar and a whirlwind of gold surrounded it. The air around them seemed to shift before the Divine Weapon, Flying Swords dropped abruptly.

The Golden Wolf then lunged towards the Flying Sword, the horn on its head clashing against the weapon.

Ding!

A golden ray appeared, so bright that it seemed to pierce into your eyes. The Flying Sword was cast aside from impact despite Qing Shui's control over it. His face changed at that. Who would have expected that the Golden Wolf would have such a Heavenly Technique? This was too scary. The Golden Wolf was like a tiger which had grown wings.

It could make everything around it fall in speed, much like Qing Shui's Heavenly Vision Technique.

Speaking of the Heavenly Vision Technique, Qing Shui had also used it in haste, affecting the Golden Wolf's speed drastically as well.

The Golden Wolf was too sharp. Not only was it unbeatable in strength, its speed was highly threatening as well.

The old man on the opposing side didn't move an inch. He had the utmost confidence in the Golden Wolf. It'd be disrespectful to the Golden Wolf if he decided to interfere now.

Spider Thread Bind!

The Dragon Spider shot its web towards the Golden Wolf.

Without sparing a single glance, the Golden Wolf lunged towards Qing Shui. The binding of the spider web didn't seem to influence the creature as it dragged the Dragon Spider along. Its strength was simply much higher than the Dragon Spider's.

Bang!

A countless number of spider webs appeared on the Dragon Spider's body as it shot towards the Golden Wolf. Snow-white cobwebs made their way towards the Golden Wolf.

It halted in its steps this time around, as though it was afraid of the webs. The golden glow on its body intensified suddenly and a whirlpool appeared around its horn, drilling its way into the webs.

The webs near it were torn apart by the action and it crossed through the hole.

The Dragon Spider let out a whine before shooting its webs towards the Golden Wolf again.

Roar!

As though angered, it let out a roar and its body grew as big as a gigantic mountain. It was still shimmering in gold and there was a murderous aura emitting from its enormous stature. The webs wrapped their way around the body and just as it wanted to bind the Golden Wolf, a blast of golden flame escaped between the wolf's sharp teeth.

The sharp claws tore apart the webs while it was at it.

As much as the web from the Dragon Spider wasn't your normal cobweb, it was unable to withstand the Golden Wolf. Its golden flame reduced the webs to ashes, and its claws were able to pierce it apart.

Whimper!

The Dragon Spider let out a soft whine. In that instant, the Golden Wolf had already lunged towards it, its huge claws ready to tear the Dragon Spider apart.

Qing Shui's eyes reddened at the side and with a mental shift, the Nine Continents Mountain appeared.

The mountain had about 6 billion Dao worth of attack power now and a chance of striking with its shield. It was too bad that this level of power wouldn't be something that was a concern to the Golden Wolf. Its body collided against the Nine Continents Mountain and sent the mountain flying aside. Thereafter, without any reduction in speed, it charged towards Dragon Spider one more time.

Qing Shui's eyes widened with rage. At this moment, when any help seemed too late, he shouted unconsciously, "Guardian Vine, save her!"

Chapter 2233 - The Guardian Vine Ended the Golden Wolf

Qing Shui hadn't felt so helpless in a long time. His opponent was too overwhelming, having complete control over the battle. This was the first time Qing Shui had felt the discrepancy in abilities. He didn't know which realm the Golden Wolf belonged in, but it must have been a strong one. It was such a menacing existence.

Many Guardian Beasts had existed since ancient times. This Golden Wolf was one of these mystical existences, protecting Golden Yakshas and allowing them to exist this long. If it wasn't for the Golden Wolf, they would not have obtained what they had today.

Qing Shui had always felt that his abilities were decent and that there weren't many who would be able to injure him. However, he had severely underestimated the Heavenly Dao. Before Divine Connection, Heavenly Dao did not have much effect, but after that realm, the potential and effects it had were apparent. Even so, a person's strength was still the foundation. Without it, the Heavenly Dao wouldn't be able to help much. Besides, when the Heavenly Dao became superior, it would naturally allow his abilities to improve tremendously.

The Dragon Spider's life was hanging by a thread and Qing Shui could do nothing but look at it happen helplessly. Their last hope in saving the Dragon Spider was the mysterious Guardian Vine.

Although Qing Shui was the one who grew it, it didn't mean that he could order it around. This was the Guardian Vine's pride in question.

Even though Qing Shui had shouted for help, he didn't bear much hope. He was out of ideas. The formation had been broken and he wasn't strong enough to counter their opponent. The Divine Weapon, Flying Swords, the Nine Continents Mountain, and the Stellar Transposition were all ineffective in countering its attack.

He had thought of using the Thunderous Beast's Violet Lightning Strike to block it. However, against such a huge demonic beast, disabling it temporarily wouldn't help much. They might be able to block it

once but there would be another attack. Besides, it was too late to summon the Thunderous Beast. The Diamond White Tiger King may be able to sustain a few more attacks from the Golden Wolf, albeit barely, but it was also too late for that now.

If Qing Shui couldn't trap their opponent, it went without saying that the Dragon Slaying Beast wouldn't be able to either. It wasn't fast enough and would only end up being knocked away by the Golden Wolf.

Hence, Qing Shui could only helplessly call for the Guardian Vine to save the Dragon Spider.

Just as Qing Shui was giving up hope and accepting that it was too late, a reverberating boom shook the ground.

A stalk of blood-red demonic vines spiraled towards the sky and trapped the Golden Wolf, the metallic smell of blood filling the air.

Roar, whimper...

There was no way of differentiating between a howl or a roar but it sounded miserable. The enormous Golden Wolf struggled fiercely against the binds, its sharp claws clawing at the bloodthirsty demonic vine ceaselessly.

Both the Golden Wolf's fangs and claws were honed, to the extent where the almighty bloodthirsty demonic vine was injured as well, spewing blood from its wounds. It then used its bloody thorn and pierced into the Golden Wolf's sturdy skin in retaliation.

Thereafter, its branches continued renewing and wrapping themselves around the Golden Wolf, unforgiving in binding itself around the creature. Layers after layers, it was as if it could go on forever. Its growth was fast and even the almighty Golden Wolf couldn't break through those sharp thorns.

The Golden Wolf had been invincible before, but at this moment, Qing Shui thought it looked helpless. This left Qing Shui speechless. What kind of existence had he just awoken? What abilities did it have? What realm did it belong to?

In his moment of shock, the question about its realm resurfaced.

In the end, it was down to the bloodthirsty demonic vine's years. Qing Shui didn't know how long it had been alive. It had been around for a long time within the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal, absorbing Spiritual Qi, as well as Heavenly and Earthly Treasures. During the finishing touches, it had furthermore absorbed a countless amount of blood essence, awakening successfully.

This outburst of power startled Qing Shui beyond words. Some existences couldn't be categorized within the five elements. Could it be that this was exactly what the Guardian Vine was?

After pondering for some time, Qing Shui still couldn't comprehend it and gave up altogether. All he knew was that the bloodthirsty demonic vine was powerful and terrifyingly so.

The enormous Golden Wolf let out a horrible cry, the blood essence in his body was flowing by the minute. It was already surrounded by a countless number of demonic vines and bounded tightly by them.

Everyone at the Sea King Palace was on the edge. The Guardian Vine was too strong. It was so strong that it could end the Golden Yakshas' Guardian Beast, the Golden Wolf at any second. Not to mention, the Golden Wolf was a superior existence in the Nine Continents Star Ocean Domain.

The old man at the Golden Yakshas side paled at the sight. He could tell that their Guardian was facing its demise. It would be impossible to plea for the Golden Wolf's survival from his enemies. They would be next to be annihilated when the Golden Wolf was killed...

With the intention of fleeing while they could, they began to retreat slowly. However, just as they turned, the bloodthirsty demonic vines emerged from the ground just like before, rushing upwards towards the sky and trapping the Golden Yakshas. They were the strongest men of the clan, the garrison.

Yet, they didn't have any strength to retaliate.

The combination of screams and howls continued for an hour before disappearing altogether. The demonic vines disappeared along with them, leaving only the bloodthirsty demonic vines that weren't magnificent in size at the Sea King Palace.

"Our sincerest gratitude to the Guardian Vine!" Qing Shui and the women bowed.

Thereafter, everyone else at the Sea King Palace offered their gratitude as well, unable to calm down from the exhilaration and pride. This was their shelter, the safest place for them to be in this dangerous way of life in the Main Continent. There was never any guarantee for their lives.

Now, though, the Sea King Palace would be a pure land. Its rise was destined.

The bloodthirsty demonic vines didn't respond, remaining quiet as though it had fallen into slumber. It was a vine-type hence it wouldn't feel lonely. Its consciousness could float a great distance away in this Ocean Domain.

The Golden Yakshas clan was finished. Since the death of the Golden Wolf, the fate of the Golden Yakshas had long been decided. However, there wasn't just a branch of Golden Yakshas within Nine Continents Star Ocean Domain, so they wouldn't be reduced to extinction. However, among the four great clans, they might be exterminated.

Without the Golden Wolf, the Golden Yakshas wouldn't even be able to protect themselves against the Silver Dragon Palace as the latter also had a great Guardian Beast.

Guardians were paramount to a clan. It was their insurance. The reason why great clans could survive for long was because of the existence of their Guardians. Even if their generation of descendants waned out, having a Guardian would enable them to live peacefully. Once their Guardian was gone, enemies would attack them without restraint.

Qing Shui felt assured here. After this, they would expand and strengthen their own might before entering the Nine Continents Star Ocean Domain. The Sea King Palace's strength was increasing at an exceptional rate, but they still needed time. The formation of a great power required the hard work from generations of descendants and would require at least a few hundred years to achieve it.

Qing Shui bid the Guardian Vine farewell and returned to the Imperial Cuisine Hall with the other women.

As the news of the Sea King Palace's elimination of the Golden Yakshas' Guardian Beast spread, many others gathered soon after his return. Even the story of his awakening of the Guardian Vine became widely known.

Awakening a Guardian Vine was akin to planting it. In the future, its terror would reflect upon Qing Shui as a figure to be feared. To be able to awaken such a grade of Guardian could only mean that their blood essence was extraordinarily strong as well. After all, it was the most crucial element to awakening a Guardian.

Nothing else needed to be said about Qing Shui's blood essence in this case.

Chapter 2234 - Trouble Arose from a Bite, Beihuang Fan's Cave Realm

The Imperial Cuisine Hall had grown larger now with the influx of new people. There were some who came over from the Taiyi Immortal Palace, and even Beihuang Liefeng was there.

The Golden Yakshas were allied with the Demon Gate. Qing Shui's victory was equivalent to breaking a limb off of the Demon Gate. It didn't matter whether the Demon Gate or the Golden Yakshas were the limb to the main body. Either way, it was a great loss to the Demon Gate and the Five Tiger Immortal Palace.

The Divine Palace and the Taiyi Immortal Palace were more than pleased to hear the news. The opponents had been old nemeses of theirs and it was only natural for them to be happy when these enemies were weakened.

The Golden Battle God suggested Qing Shui to take over the Divine Palace once more but Qing Shui declined. Instead, he asked, "Elder, is there something called the Nine Continents Divine Palace?"

Golden Battle God grew silent. Qing Shui had posed the question when there wasn't anyone else around.

"Yes. It's a superior existence. If you ever meet them one day, you must think of a way to join the Nine Continents Divine Palace," Golden Battle God gave a straight answer.

"Doesn't the Divine Palace surpass the Nine Continents Divine Palace? Is it that crucial to join the Nine Continents Divine Palace?" Qing Shui asked curiously.

The Golden Battle God let a bitter laugh slip and said, "The Nine Continents Divine Palace is the mightiest existence among all Divine Palaces. While that doesn't provide much affirmation, any Divine Palace would feel a sense of belonging with the Nine Continents Divine Palace. It is the headquarters of all Divine Palaces. A holy place. It is the mightiest existence which surpasses my years in multiples. It has been passed down for countless years. It is near impossible to ever surpass the Nine Continents Divine Palace."

Qing Shui understood now. The existence of the Nine Continents Divine Palace was real and it was the peak of the golden pyramid. Besides the Nine Continents Divine Palace, there were many others with the Nine Continents as part of their label.

There would surely be a chance for him to meet them. Pushing the thoughts about the palace aside, Qing Shui focused his energy on strengthening himself again as well as the Divine Palace.

Beihuang Fan smiled at Qing Shui and said, "Not bad!"

Qing Shui chuckled and asked, "Did you miss me that much after just a few days?"

Beihuang Liefeng watched as his daughter's smile was laced with a tint of embarrassment and annoyance. The sight made his heart swell with relief and happiness. After all, he had been worried about his daughter for all these years.

Beihuang Fan's face flushed a deeper red when she noticed her dad's smile.

"Father-in-law, this is a little gift from your son-in-law. I Hope you'd find it to your liking." Qing Shui presented a variety of items, of which some were of the alcohol variety.

"You jerk." Beihuang Fan wanted to strangle Qing Shui.

"Hahaha, alright. I'll accept it. You must take good care of Fan'er." Beihuang Liefeng responded gleefully.

"Father..." Beihuang Fan retorted with a mixture of annoyance and anxiousness.

Others smiled as they watched her, before turning to Qing Shui. 'You just barely met the mark for the Goddess of the Northern Emperor.'

Beihuang Fan was the most beautiful woman, the goddess of the Northern Emperor Domain.

"I didn't accept anything, so it doesn't matter what you said," Beihuang Fan snapped angrily before turning on her heel and walking away.

Qing Shui couldn't tell if she was truly angry or just embarrassed. At this moment, Beihuang Liefeng chuckled and said, "Imp, stop standing there and go coax her."

Qing Shui scratched his head and replied, "Alright, I'll go right now."

Beihuang Fan was alone in the backyard, venting to no one about Qing Shui being a jerk.

"Little Fan Fan, you're becoming more and more like a delicate lady. Here, let your husband coax you," Qing Shui spoke up shamelessly.

"Disgusting. Get away." Beihuang Fan glared at Qing Shui.

"An abundant spirit and a jade structure with infinite grace. Shoulders fine like knives and a slender waist. Your skin is fair and smooth. How soft and perky. How I wish I could touch." Qing Shui rubbed his hands together as he watched Beihuang Fan.

"Ah, go to hell. I'll bite you to death."

Beihuang Fan lunged forward and grabbed Qing Shui's arm before biting down harshly. She was enraged by Qing Shui but couldn't win against him in the end. Even her personality was turning increasingly submissive in front of him.

Ah!

Qing Shui let out a yell but didn't move in fear of hurting Beihuang Fan's teeth. His arm was being pulled in front of Beihuang Fan to be bitten, and now they were closer to each other than before. Naturally, his eyes were exposed to the bouncy area thanks to the close distance.

Qing Shui smacked his lips. "Then I'll bite you too."

He lunged forward and bit Beihuang Fan's chest after his words.

Qing Shui wasn't forceful in the act. It was just a little nibble, leaving Beihuang Fan stunned.

As though struck by lightning, she leaped aside with her shaking body. She didn't have that big of a reaction when Qing Shui touched her before but she was staring motionless at Qing Shui this time around. Tears began to well up in her beautiful eyes before streaming down. She turned on her heels and walked away.

Qing Shui panicked, rushing forward to hold her in his arms, quickly saying, "I'm sorry!"

"What relationship do you have with me? What do you take me for?" Beihuang Fan's voice was cold, just like the first time they met.

Qing Shui knew that he had gone overboard this time. He could feel the distance increasing between them. Even with her in his arms, he didn't feel like he could get her back.

She had never been overly agitated by Qing Shui's teasing. She had even seen Qing Shui as her future husband, but even as a future husband, he had no right to be this frivolous with her. Even if they were married, he would have to consider her feelings. He was being downright disrespectful to her. What did he take her for?

Beihuang Fan felt cold, as though something had been broken. She was upset and sad, not because Qing Shui had neglected her feelings but the attitude she had towards Qing Shui.

"Qing Shui, I need to be alone." Her emotionless voice left him helpless.

He grew vexed all of a sudden, as though he had just lost something important. Tantai Lingyan had left. This was a fact that he had never truly forgotten. Now it seemed like he was going to lose Beihuang Fan as well. He was going to lose the woman he hadn't had the chance to call his.

Snap!

A crisp sound rang out. As if something in his body had been broken, a stream of fresh blood flowed from the corner of Qing Shui's lips. The world in front of him seemed so clear suddenly, like an epiphany. Feelings, relationships, and everything else, he realized, were just troubles that people brought upon themselves.

Beihuang Fan watched the man in front of her, the one whom she wasn't sure about her feelings for. She watched motionlessly as he stood there with fresh blood flowing down his lips and her heart ached. In that instant, she realized that she loved this man. At that thought, a cave opened up behind her.

A breakthrough. She had really broken through. It was true that she realized this love wasn't as great as she expected and felt it slipping past her fingers. Whether it would be lost in the end, she had still experienced love and broken through her current realm, attaining the Cave Realm.

She was at Half Step of the Cave Realm before, and now she had finally attained the Cave Realm. The opening to the cave was evidence of that.

The mouth to the cave grew clearer even though the inside was still a blur.

After the formation, another cave appeared behind her, on the other side of Beihuang Fan.

Beihuang Fan stood there as she stared at Qing Shui, as though she gained an epiphany as well. Memories of their time together flooded her mind and she realized what beautiful memories they were. It was too bad that she didn't feel the same way she had before. At that moment, her heart felt as though it had just lost something.

Chapter 2235 - Qing Shui's Gold Cave, Strength Growing Rapidly

Double caves... To reach two caves the moment she attained a breakthrough. This was a talent blessed by the heavens. However, thereafter, another cave appeared behind Beihuang Fan.

To be reaching triple caves on the first breakthrough...

There were no further breakthroughs. It stopped at triple caves.

Beihuang Fan looked at Qing Shui, her gaze filled with struggles and then she turned to leave.

As Beihuang Fan slowly left and her beautiful figure went into the distance, fresh blood once again flowed out from the corners of Qing Shui's lips. However, at this moment, a vortex appeared behind him. Qing Shui's brows furrowed as if he was trying to bear with this intense pain.

Dark clouds suddenly filled up the sky. There were even some purple clouds amongst them, covering up the entire sky.

Boom!

A bolt of lightning struck out toward Qing Shui.

Qing Shui hadn't thought that comprehending this relationship would bring him a tribulation. Was this a gain from one's experience? Why did he have the feeling that the price he paid for this experience was too great?

A bolt of lightning struck Qing Shui. He didn't move, but the vortex behind him grew increasingly stronger, as if wanting to suck in the world around it.

Boom boom...

The densely packed lightning bolts kept landing, and only the snow-white lightning bolts could be seen in the sky.

Zizi...

A bolt of violent lightning struck down.

Qing Shui shivered, but it was his heart that ached. It was as if he had seen Tantai Lingyan when she had left. He wondered how she was doing. To think that he hadn't been able to suppress the powerful Demon King's Blood in her body.

His body ached and several huge violet lightning bolts landed on Qing Shui's body.

Ahhh!

Qing Shui was in so much pain that it felt as if his body were going to break. It was as if his body was no longer his own. He let out a loud bellow into the skies, as if wanting to unleash the suppressed and irritating feelings in his body completely.

As he bellowed out, the vortex behind him slowly became a cave. Most importantly, it was in a faint gold color, but it was a cave.

Boom boom...

Lightning once again appeared in the sky. At this moment, a huge vortex appeared in the gold cave, sucking in all the wild lightnings in the sky. This was not all. Qing Shui also discovered a strange thing. The Thunderous Beast was in this cave.

For a moment, Qing Shui couldn't understand what was going on.

The lightnings in the sky kept on plunging down, but the gold cave was like a bottomless hole, drawing in all the lightning bolts no matter how many there were. The faint gold cave became increasingly condensed and glimmered. It was unlike any other caves.

At the very least, it was different from Beihuang Fan's caves from earlier, as well as the Golden Yakshas' caves.

Qing Shui felt that his physical strength was increasing as well. It wasn't increasing at a very fast speed, but it wasn't slow either. This was given to him by the lightning that had struck him.

The first few caves that appeared at the Cave Realm were very important. Most people would get one when they reached this realm, and geniuses might get two. Even very powerful geniuses would only have two. Having three was already a little heaven-defying and demonic.

Only in the legends were there people who would get four, but there probably weren't many people who had seen someone who had achieved this.

Slowly, together with the lightning, Qing Shui's gold cave stabilized. This cave was right behind Qing Shui, unlike how other people's which would be above their left or right shoulder. Qing Shui's cave appeared directly behind him, and it looked very different as well.

Roar roar!

The strength of the Thunderous Beast in the cave suddenly grew in leaps and bounds as it glimmered in violet light, having a striking appearance. The Thunderous Beast was a Divine Beast that controlled lightning, but it hadn't been able to encounter a suitable fortune and thus, didn't get stronger all this time. The Thunderous Beast was a control-type Divine Beast.

Qing Shui had no idea what changes the Thunderous Beast was going through, but it was now a lot stronger than it was before.

The dark clouds and the violet clouds in the sky continued to come down, and the gold cave no longer sucked them in. Therefore, all of them landed on Qing Shui. Despite that Qing Shui's body was very strong, he gritted his teeth and hung on. However, it was as if there was no end to the lightnings in the sky and Qing Shui started to panic.

Ahhh!

Qing Shui couldn't hold it in any further, and once again let out a loud bellow. His hair floated up, the green veins on his body popped up. His muscles, that were tougher than steel, were tensed up tightly. Qing Shui continued to receive the countless lightning bolts that were coming down on him.

Cave

This time around, a cave appeared on Qing Shui's left shoulder. It looked very blurry, but he was certain that this was a cave, a second one.

Gradually, this cave took form and looked like other people's caves. It didn't draw in lightning either. Qing Shui's mouth was filled with blood and a thought struck him. He rapidly took out the Tribulation Evasion Pills and took one.

Instantly, he could feel a mysterious change going through his body. It was as if his body was a conductor. There were no changes to the lightning in the sky, but when they struck his body, 80% of them were conducted out. This made Qing Shui feel a little better.

The second cave took form, and the lightnings in the sky were reduced by half. This made Qing Shui heave a sigh of relief. He sensed that his strength had grown a lot and right now, his body was extremely powerful.

He had achieved a major breakthrough in his realm and had gotten stronger as well. With that, his ability to withstand the lightning in the sky also grew. Moreover, with the Tribulation Evasion Pill that he had taken, it would be much easier for him to brace against the next tribulation.

The third cave also gradually appeared.

Qing Shui glanced at it and heaved another sigh of relief. He was satisfied just for the third cave to appear.

He didn't feel that he was a person of great talent, yet it was true that he had some treasures and it could be counted as part of his talent as well. All in all, he already felt very satisfied to have the third cave appearing, considering Beihuang Fan's first breakthrough also brought her three caves.

Having three caves was already very terrifying. To have three caves appear on the first breakthrough was already the best achievement currently known, maybe with exception of the legendary warriors in the myths. A lot of the current top experts only had two of them back then.

The lightning in the sky reduced gradually, and the faint shape of a fourth cave suddenly appeared behind Qing Shui in the end. It was very faint, and one wouldn't be able to tell if they didn't take a close look. If they did, they would be able to see the faint silhouette of a cave.

Qing Shui was now in a very bad state. He was covered in wounds and in a great deal of pain, but on the contrary, he felt very happy and agitated. He had now reached the Cave Realm, and even the fourth legendary caves had appeared for him, spiking his battle prowess by an extreme amount.

Having reached the Divine Connection Realm, his attacking prowess had increased by a lot. Right now, the attacking prowess of Qing Shui's physical body was at 22 billion Dao Force.

Qing Shui's current strength was at 22 billion Dao Force.

He had a defense of 220 billion Dao Force.

The Heavenly Fate Treasure Pagoda would increase 20% of his defense and thus, Qing Shui's defense had reached 264 billion Dao Force.

The Parry Heavenly Fate Treasure Pagoda and the Heavenly Fate Treasure Pagoda would increase his ability to block off attacks by 22 billion Dao Force. It was like Qing Shui now had a defense of about 280 billion Dao Force.

Qing Shui's Divine Weapon Flying Sword could fend off an additional 3.2 billion Dao Force, and increase his defense by 3.2 billion Dao Force. Qing Shui's current defense had reached about 290 billion Dao Force.

This made Qing Shui's strength increase in leaps and bounds. It was too much. Most importantly, he had reached the Cave Realm. This realm was very terrifying. Just being able to reach the Divine Connection Realm was very terrifying. Many geniuses had never been able to truly step into the gates of the Heavenly Dao in their entire lives.

Qing Shui was covered in blood now. And then he realized, there were also demonic beasts that had appeared in his other two caves. Right now, Qing Shui had no idea if they were the real demonic beasts or just their spirits. It was the Diamond White Tiger King and the Dragon Slaying Beast.

Chapter 2236 - Won't Let You Leave Again

The breakthrough this time really did surprise Qing Shui. It was because he skipped past the Half-Step Cave Realm

The reason something like this happened was related to Beihuang Fan. Although Qing Shui was happy now, he still felt upset at the thought of Beihuang Fan and about what happened the night before. Qing Shui liked this woman. There was no reason why a person would like another. It was like how there would be some women and no matter how beautiful they were, he wouldn't have the feelings of love for them.

The power of the secular world, as well as setbacks, would tend to produce huge impacts. He hadn't thought that a single change from Beihuang Fan—just a gaze, a single word, and the feeling of the change of the distance between them—would let him go through such a huge transformation.

After cleaning up, Qing Shui started to cultivate and temper the power increment he had just received.

The increment to Qing Shui's strength was very stable. After all, huge breakthroughs in one's realm would tend to stabilize one's foundation. Moreover, Qing Shui's primary ability was his defense, and it was easy to familiarize with it.

Nine Continents Mountain!

This Supreme Treasure's attacking prowess had also reached a terrifying 110 billion dao force. Moreover, it had its terrifying Shield Attack. The Nine Continents Mountain was very useful and could be used in battles from now on.

Cave!

Qing Shui started to slowly study the caves. He thought of the cave with the Diamond White Tiger King. There was a White Tiger Divine Feet inside—something that was akin to a destined legacy's battle technique. Other than being able to provide the cultivator with Origin Qi and strength, the cave could also nurture beast spirits.

When the cultivator was injured, they could recuperate in the cave. The cave absorbed and purified powers from the world which provided Origin Qi, speeding up the person's cultivation. One could even reach the level of a Cave Heavenly Technique, which would have mysterious and unfathomable abilities.

Qing Shui sensed the Thunderous Beast in the gold cave. This should be a spirit, yet also like a Thunderous Beast that was formed from a type of energy. It held a terrifying electric force, and this spirit seemed to be like that of the ancient Desolate Beasts, emitting a terrifying aura.

Qing Shui attempted to mobilize the Thunderous Beast in the cave.

Boom!

The Thunderous Beast darted out like a bolt of lightning crashing in the sky and sending smoke all around. Most importantly, its spirit didn't disappear, as if it were a real Thunderous Beast. A familiar power was transmitted into Qing Shui's body. Right now, he could use his consciousness to control this spirit.

Thunderbolt, Violet Lightning Strike, Violet Lightning Net?.

There were no interferences from the outside world, and this continued on for about 15 minutes.

Qing Shui understood a little on how amazing the Cave Realm was. The Cave Realm allowed one to refine and nurture the spirits of demonic beasts. One could even change the beast spirits in the cave, allowing the cultivator to grasp a powerful battle technique of a demonic beast.

Controlling beast spirits wouldn't imply a distraction. It would be just like performing a battle technique.

After leaving, Qing Shui was in a bit of a daze. He didn't chase after Beihuang Fan earlier and didn't know if he should. A woman like Beihuang Fan wouldn't be pacified just by saying something good to her. However, she was still a woman. Would she be pacified if he were to say something nice?

Qing Shui walked to the front courtyard and saw that everyone was around. Beihuang Fan didn't leave either and this made Qing Shui very surprised. After all, with what had happened earlier, he felt that she would leave. Seeing that she didn't go away, Qing Shui heaved a sigh of relief.

Earlier on, Qing Shui seemed to have comprehended a lot in an instant. He didn't worry too much about the gains and losses. He had an indescribable disposition, confidence, and warmth, but it wasn't sharp.

"Qing Shui, make us some food. I want to eat food that you make," Nuo Lan looked at Qing Shui and said happily.

Qing Shui smiled and nodded. When he headed to the kitchen, he had to pass by Beihuang Fan. Qing Shui looked at her and saw that she was smiling as she looked at him.

Although she was smiling, Qing Shui felt that they had grown further apart.

Qing Shui's footsteps were a little heavy and he walked over, telling himself that what's his would eventually be his. Things mustn't be forced. At least, he couldn't force a relationship. Even if he loved her, he wasn't willing to force her. Give up... Should he give up?

Qing Shui's internal struggles were very strong. He looked at Beihuang Fan and struggled intensely.

In the past, he had always taken the attitude of not forcing things. Thereafter, he felt that if he liked a woman, he would have to get his hands on her even if he had to do it by force. Of course, the prerequisite was that she loved him as well.

Qing Shui maintained the same stand. If the woman he liked likes him back, then there was no one who could break them apart. However, if she no longer loved him, then Qing Shui couldn't get himself to forcibly keep her by his side.

Suddenly, Qing Shui felt that someone was pulling on his hand and he shivered as he sensed that warm and beautiful hand, feeling great anxiety. His entire body seemed to be trembling as he looked at Beihuang Fan, having the anxious feeling as if he had lost something but gained it back. He asked, "Have you forgiven me?"

"If I don't grab your hand, I'm afraid that you'll leave forever. You're irresponsible." Beihuang Fan's voice was very cold, but it sounded melodious to Qing Shui's ears.

Beihuang Fan turned to leave after saying this, heading toward where her father was.

However, Qing Shui felt very happy. He calmed down completely and that existence in his heart that felt like a crack was stabilized.

When Beihuang Fan appeared indifferent and cold to Qing Shui, he became mature. The blow he received then made him comprehend a lot of things about love, leading him to attain a breakthrough in his realm.

However, humans were emotional creatures. Even after maturing, one couldn't avoid feelings and should be able to handle relationships and emotions better.

Qing Shui had always felt that he wasn't mature enough in term of his feelings. This was both for the past and the present.

Qing Shui was very happy now, and he made a lot of unique and good dishes, a lot of them being made with the best things in the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal. Not only were they nourishing, but could increase a lot of one's Origin Qi. These people had a great fortune to be able to enjoy this feast.

Beihuang Fan ate happily, but Qing Shui didn't eat at all. He kept himself very busy.

"I have no use for this anymore. I'll return this to you. Thank you!" After the meal, Qing Shui handed the Ancient Drawing of Divine Realm to Beihuang Fan.

"Mmm!" Beihuang Fan received it.

Qing Shui stood before her, wanting to say something but found it hard to speak a single word. In the past, he was able to tease her casually, but now she had changed and Qing Shui was unable to act like how he had done before.

Qing Shui smiled, feeling ridicule over himself.

"I thought you were a very daring person, so why are you acting so cowardly now? You seemed to be very arrogant when you first met me." Beihuang Fan also felt a little awkward when she saw Qing Shui acting like this.

"Back then, I didn't like you, so I wasn't afraid of anything. And now, I suddenly feel that you're so distant." Qing Shui shook his head, smiling a little bitterly.

He had put in a lot of effort before this woman acted like an ordinary woman. But in a flash, she went back to how she had been in the past. Of course, Qing Shui would feel gloomy over this.

"I'm angry because I'm not that important to you. If I had allowed you to pass by me earlier, you might really disappear for good before my eyes. If you truly loved me, you wouldn't let go of me so easily." Beihuang Fan looked at Qing Shui and said seriously.

"My heart isn't that strong."

After very long, Qing Shui said softly. He was the only one who knew that these were characteristics from the memories of his previous life that had been embedded into his bones. If he didn't have his current strength and things he owned now, he would probably not even dare to look at this woman when he was standing before her.

Beihuang Fan hadn't expected that Qing Shui would say this, but she seemed to understand a little. She smiled, "My realm has progressed and I've comprehended a lot. Right now, even if I were to change, some things wouldn't disappear. I still want to get married in this life. You've taken so much advantage of me. If I don't marry you, who else can I get married to?"

Chapter 2237 - Relationship Confirmed, Intimate

"No matter what happens, I'll never let you leave my side."

Qing Shui's words rang out softly next to Beihuang Fan's ears. She wrapped her hands around Qing Shui's neck and lifted her head to look at him. Her beautiful eyes were like the brightest and most beautiful black gemstones, her long lashes exuding a great charm. Her beauty was astonishing and she looked at Qing Shui without blinking.

There was only a three-inch gap between them and so Qing Shui could clearly sense Beihuang Fan's fragrant exhaling that brushed his face. Her upright nose was right before him. However, Qing Shui was acting very proper now. He would like to kiss her, but he realized that he had lost the courage to do so.

This woman made him feel at a loss and a little hesitant.

Thinking of Beihuang Fan's words from earlier, as well as what he had said, there was a little change that had occurred to his mental state. If he didn't take another step forward, he might make her even sadder.

Qing Shui slowly got closer. He did so very, very slowly, giving time for Beihuang Fan to dodge.

However, even though Beihuang Fan's face flushed up, she didn't dodge. Her eyes narrowed slightly, her long lashes kept trembling. This showed that she wasn't feeling very calm.

He kissed those graceful lips, and the tender and fragrant feeling filled up his entire body. Qing Shui gently sucked and bit on her tender lips softly, his two hands embracing her tightly, making it such that there were no gaps between them.

The familiar pressure came from his chest with an astonishing bounce to them. Qing Shui's hand stroked her back gently, calming her down. He then skillfully pried open her teeth and quickly entered that sweet space, entangling with her tongue and sucking on it greedily.

Beihuang Fan's body trembled slightly. Qing Shui kissed while caressing her. His hands had a magical power even if he didn't perform the Soft-Tendon Hand Technique.

Right now, Beihuang Fan was only standing because Qing Shui was hugging her. Qing Shui let go of the lips from the panting Beihuang Fan, but his kiss landed on her nose, cheeks, eyes, and that tender neck. When Qing Shui sucked on her glistening earlobes, Beihuang Fan's body twitched and she hugged Qing Shui tightly. With the thing that had happened earlier, in addition to the last push at the back, Beihuang Fan exploded.

A faint and strange scent was sent out, and Qing Shui once again smelled this familiar aroma. It came the other time as well, but he didn't say anything. She really was a great piece of work. To think that she had such wonderful fragrance. This was Primordial Yin.

Her beautiful face was flushed red, and she rested in Qing Shui's chest, not daring to raise her head. She once again felt as if she were going to fly. She knew that this was a feeling that one could only get when a man and a woman were together. However, she had yet to become a true woman.

At the thought of this, she felt a little strange. Would there come a day where she'd live under one roof with a man?

Qing Shui didn't move anymore but just hugged her silently. He thought about a lot of things and there were times he didn't know if he was right. He had no idea why just like how it was now. Earlier on, the reason why Beihuang Fan was angry was because of a mental state, an attitude.

Right now, Qing Shui had made his attitude clear. It could be because his action of biting her earlier was too flippant. Until now, Qing Shui still felt a little in a trance.

Beihuang Fan raised her head and looked at Qing Shui, "Were you angry earlier?"

Qing Shui shook his head, "I wasn't. I just felt my heart aching. It was very upsetting to see you crying. I had wanted to treat you as my woman from a long time ago, that's why I treated you like that. I admit that I'm very frivolous, but I don't do this to every woman."

"You dare say that? What did you do to me on our first encounter? Don't tell me that you liked me since the first time we met?" Beihuang Fan was stunned.

"I was also very shocked the first time I met you. I'm very strange. I don't have a strong heart but when I saw you, I really liked you. I don't know why either." Qing Shui smiled awkwardly.

Beihuang Fan smiled and looked at Qing Shui. "I might have owed you in my previous life. I even suspected that I neither liked men nor women, as I've been in the Divine Connection Realm for very long, thinking that I won't ever have a breakthrough in this lifetime. Because, to attain a breakthrough I would require to fall in love with a guy. I've attained a breakthrough now. Are you happy?"

"I am. It's not because you've attained a breakthrough, but for having a beautiful woman like you falling in love with me." Qing Shui hugged her even tighter.

"I'm going to change my clothes. I don't feel very comfortable." Beihuang Fan said in a very soft voice.

"Then tell me, did you feel very good earlier?" Qing Shui smiled and said next to her ear.

"I'm not saying!" Beihuang Fan said, embarrassed.

"It smells very nice somewhere. Do you smell it?" Qing Shui said next to her ear softly.

"You aren't allowed to say it!"

"Then tell me if it felt good earlier. If you don't say, I'm going to touch." Qing Shui enjoyed this feeling. He knew that the burden in Beihuang Fan had been removed and their relationship was confirmed now. They were only short of a formality.

For existences like themselves, formality wasn't important. It was more important that they liked each other.

"I'll say it. You aren't allowed to move!" Beihuang Fan quickly said.

"It felt good..." Beihuang Fan's voice was like that of an insect next to Qing Shui's ears. However, the charm in her voice made Qing Shui numb all over.

Qing Shui now felt very amazing, having a great sense of achievement. He carried Beihuang Fan in his arms and spun a few rounds before placing her down.

...

The others left, and so did Beihuang Fan. She had attained a breakthrough and headed back to stabilize her realm. Another thing was that she wanted to continue to attempt further breakthroughs. She had been in the Divine Connection Realm for too long, and she would probably obtain a further breakthrough within a short period of time.

It was said that there had been someone who had reached ten caves before achieving breakthroughs to the greater realms thereafter. However, there were also people who managed to attain breakthroughs for the realms later after reaching one cave. If one wasn't willing to, they could forever stay at their current realm if they didn't intentionally try to break through to later realms.

This was the Heavenly Dao Realm, and the more caves one achieved at the Cave Realm, the stronger they would become when they achieved the later realms. It was the same for their foundation. Therefore, most people would stop there for a very long time and would continue to break through after reaching four caves. After all, the caves at the later phase were increasingly harder to achieve, and they couldn't possibly spend a large part of their lives onto them.

Qing Shui also needed to study the Cave Realm. This time around, the breakthrough came very suddenly. Moreover, there was one cave that was golden and the other two which weren't. The golden cave seemed a lot stronger than the other two.

In the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal, Qing Shui looked at the three caves behind him. The mysterious caves had something like a vortex that was foggy and glistening, tempering Qing Shui's body and replenishing it with Origin Qi incessantly.

Qing Shui's body also seemed to be tempering the caves. However, he suddenly discovered that his Dantian was unlike how it was before. He hadn't noticed this previously. The Dantian was now also a cave.

This was a violet-golden cave...

The violet-golden cave had boiling violet molten lava, with violet electricity darting about. His Divine Weapon Flying Sword, the Emperor Qi's Pellet, the Five Elements Divine Flags, and the paragon vessel were all inside, receiving great nourishment.

Right now, Qing Shui had one more thing to cultivate—his caves. He was going to explore more caves. The fourth cave already had a structure and although it was very faint, it should be created very soon.

With each additional cave, one's strength would become a notch stronger. The number of caves also determined how strong one would be in the future. Usually, the more the caves, the further one could progress in the future.

Chapter 2238 - Grade 19 Divine Weapon, Wanting to Make a Move on the Five Tiger Immortal Palace

Without realizing it, four months passed by. And right now, Qing Shui had established his fourth cave. He was now in the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal, looking at the Hundred Treasure Chest. Its fourth level had opened up, and the things inside were the same as the third level's, but more. Qing Shui was still satisfied with it.

There were 240 Aptitude Pills, 240 Potential Pills, 240 Growth Pills, 600 Divine Square Cauldrons, 600 Divine Weapon Crystals, 60 Cultivation Pills, one Grade Offensive, Defensive, Movement, Recovery, Endurance, Power, Tenacity, and Evasion Talisman Stones respectively. They increased 7% of a Divine Weapon's basic attributes.

Next, he would need to increase the quality of the Hundred Treasure Chest and the Treasure Basin.

The increase in the Divine Weapon Flying Sword's grade made Qing Shui heave a sigh of relief. Raising its grade to the 17th, 18th, or 19th grade would require the same number of Divine Square Cauldrons and Divine Weapon Crystals. Each grade required 200 of each.

This amount was what it was required after the Treasure Basin and the Hundred Treasure Chest increased their grades.

With that, the 600 Divine Square Cauldrons and Divine Weapon Crystals, which he obtained this time around, would be just enough for him to increase three grades for his Flying Sword and allowing it to reach Grade 19.

After improving the quality of the Divine Weapon Crystals and the Divine Square Cauldrons, Qing Shui went to work on improving the Divine Weapon Flying Sword.

Big Dipper Sword, Divine Weapon Flying Sword!

Grade 19!

Allowing members from own party to receive 10% less damage. The effect will be sustained throughout the entire battle.

Increase 19% of self-recovery speed, all attacks, and defense by 3.8 billion Dao Force, reducing additional damages by 3.8 billion Dao Force, and reducing 19% of damage received.

Divine Weapon Seal: Activated. Can be embedded with Talisman Stones.

Attack, defense, avoidance, recovery, endurance, speed, flexibility, and violent strike increased by 7%.

The Divine Weapon Flying Sword's greatest part was that it reduced the damage inflicted onto oneself. Right now, it could reduce about 30% of the damages received and this was definitely very terrifying. Moreover, the increment to his attacking prowess was considered good to Qing Shui. Another thing was that the Divine Weapon Flying Sword's own attacking abilities were also very heaven-defying. That, together with the damage reduction were its most terrifying effects.

The improvement to his Cave Realm, in addition to the breakthrough to his Divine Weapon Flying Sword, made Qing Shui's strength increase.

His own defense reached close to 250 billion Dao Force. Breaking through to the fourth level of the Cave Realm increased this by about one billion Dao Force. In addition to the Divine Weapon Flying Sword's 600 million Dao Force, as well as the effects of the Defense Heavenly Fate Treasure Pagoda and the Parry Heavenly Fate Treasure Pagoda which included reducing additional damages, Qing Shui's defense was currently at about 320 billion Dao Force.

The Nine Continents Mountain didn't attain a breakthrough and was still at Grade 7. It could explode with five times of his physical strength, reaching an attacking prowess that was slightly over 20 billion Dao Force. Qing Shui was very satisfied with it.

Right now, the realm he was at wasn't that bad and there weren't many people who could suppress him. Even if they could, there would be a limit to how much they could do so. For example, when he had encountered that old Golden Yaksha who had the Golden Wolf the other time, Qing Shui hadn't been able to hurt the old man even with his Stellar Transposition. Right now, his Stellar Transposition might be able to kill the old man instantly.

This was their gaps. This was what a breakthrough meant. Moreover, Qing Shui also discovered a problem. His gold cave and the violet-gold cave in his Dantian seemed to have a domineering power.

What Qing Shui found strange was that after he had attained a breakthrough to the Cave Realm, his Emperor Qi's Pellet also seemed to have gone through some kind of breakthrough. It filled Qing Shui up with a sovereign's aura that could be used to suppress others. After all, it was the Emperor's Qi.

Legends had it that in ancient times, there were humans and gods. Human Emperors were said to be existences that could be a match for Divine Kings, Divine Emperors, Demonic Kings, and Demonic Emperors.

Qing Shui wasn't sure if it was that the Cave Realm brought about the breakthrough of the Emperor Qi's Pellet or that the Emperor Qi's Pellet brought about the breakthrough to the caves. However, it was a good thing overall, and he now had the Emperor's Might. The "Emperor" ruled over all lives in the world, and as long as one's Emperor's Might was strong enough, a person would be able to suppress his opponents.

Qing Shui's Emperor's Might wasn't especially terrifying yet, but he could definitely stop the pressure from other people except for Royal Kings and above. He might even be able to suppress Royal Kings a little.

The violet-gold cave's vortex swallowed and released energies, emitting essence that nourished Qing Shui's body. Right now, the Emperor Qi's Pellet was getting increasingly brilliant and glistening, and the violet-gold cave reflected a faint violet-gold glow onto it.

Although it still only reduced 20% of all the opponent's abilities, the Emperor's Might was extremely powerful. In the future, it could be used to suppress the opponent, allowing Qing Shui's strength to be displayed at an extraordinary level.

During the few months' time, Qing Shui had stayed in the Imperial Cuisine Hall to cultivate, occasionally treating patients and experiencing life. Beihuang Fan hadn't appeared once these few months as she had gone into a very long secluded cultivation. When a person went into seclusion, it wasn't that they wouldn't eat or drink, but that they would look for a quiet place where they wouldn't be bothered by others. They would then comprehend the Heavenly Dao, cultivating and meditating in peace and silence.

The Golden Yakshas, one of the four great clans, had disappeared. Although they weren't completely wiped out, there weren't many of them left. The remnants wouldn't have many chances to rise up in the Nine Continents anymore and even if that day were to come, it would be many years later.

Right now, Qing Shui felt like making a move on the Five Tiger Immortal Palace.

He felt that his strength was about there and during this period of time, he had undergone a terrifying change, a qualitative improvement. He felt that he might be able to fight it out with the Five Tiger Immortal Palace now, but just wasn't sure what kind of Guardian the Five Tiger Immortal Palace had.

This was what Qing Shui had been the most concerned about. Therefore, he planned on making a trip to the Divine Palace to get some information about it. It had been very long since he had gone there.

Although Zhang Yue wasn't very strong, the Imperial Cuisine Hall was now a property of the Divine Palace. Moreover, the Imperial Cuisine Hall belonged to Qing Shui whose reputation was no longer like what it had been before. He was now well-known and was also seen as a miraculous physician.

Right now, the Imperial Cuisine Hall was also considered to be a sacred place.

Qing Shui wasn't worried that other people would lay their hands on the Imperial Cuisine Hall. Right now, he had many things in his hands. For example, there were some people who he had yet to fully treat, and they wouldn't let anything happen to the Imperial Cuisine Hall. Even if the patients had been fully treated, no one would guarantee that they wouldn't get injured or have other problems in the future. Therefore, the Imperial Cuisine Hall's safety could be said to be guaranteed.

Divine Palace!

Seeing Qing Shui's arrival, many people greeted him happily. There weren't many people in the Divine Palace and all of them were now aware of Qing Shui's powerful abilities and medical skills. They also knew that the old Golden Battle God had always wanted to hand the position of Palace Lord to Qing Shui, but the latter was insistent in rejecting.

Qing Shui greeted the others on the way and made his way to where the old Golden Battle God was.

The old Golden Battle God was just about to step out from the hall when he saw Qing Shui and broke out into a smile. "Why have you thought of coming to visit this old man?"

"Old Master, I'd always thought of coming, but my plans had been delayed by some matters and I'm only able to come now." Qing Shui walked up to the stone table in the courtyard and poured two cups of tea.

"Go on, I know that you'll probably not come if there wasn't anything bothering you. What do you want to know?" The old man was getting on in age and thus could tell what was going on. He actually felt very happy. At least, his judgment was still good and he was very satisfied with this young man before him. Qing Shui could really be called an unparalleled existence of a generation.

"I want to know if the Five Tiger Immortal Palace's Guardian is strong."

Chapter 2239 - Eight-Legged Jiao Tiger, Half-Blooded Sky-Obstructing Crow

"I want to know if the Five Tiger Immortal Palace's Guardian is strong."

Qing Shui didn't beat around the bush and went straight to the point.

The old Golden Battle God hadn't expected that Qing Shui would ask this. He gave it some thought and said, "Qing Shui, the reason that the Five Tiger Immortal Palace is able to exist for so long and become allies with the Demon Gate isn't just because they are strong. It's also because of their Guardian Beast."

Qing Shui understood upon hearing this. Their Guardian Beast was very strong. However, he asked once again, "Can Old Master please tell me what that Guardian Beast is?"

The old Golden Battle God sighed and added, "It's an Ancient Rare Species that is in the prime of its age. It's an Eight-Legged Jiao Tiger."

The Eight-Legged Jiao Tiger... Qing Shui wasn't familiar with this demonic beast. He asked, puzzled, "Even if it's a mutated Dragon Tiger, it can't be that strong, right? Jiaos aren't that strong either."

"Qing Shui, you underestimate demonic beasts too much. There are also Jiaos that have surpassed actual dragons. The Eight-Legged Jiao Tigers were also terrifying existences back in ancient times. They are a species that can reach the eighth level of the Cave Realm. This is an extremity. Only pure-blooded

and powerful species can reach the ninth level of the Cave Realm. For the others, the eighth level is already the limit," The old Golden Battle God looked at Qing Shui and said.

The eighth level of the Cave Realm... Qing Shui was currently at the fourth level and was still some distance away from the eighth level. Fortunately, he had the Emperor's Might and wasn't afraid that he'd be suppressed. However, he wasn't sure if this Eight-Legged Jiao Tiger was still at the Cave Realm and he had no idea of its exact strength.

"Old Master, what's our Divine Palace's Guardian?" Qing Shui asked curiously.

"I thought you knew. Our Divine Palace's Guardian Beast is a Half-Blooded Sky-Obstructing Crow." The old Golden Battle God smiled and said.

Qing Shui knew about the Sky-Obstructing Crows. They were also powerful existences back in ancient times. It was said that the Sky-Obstructing Crows were also descendants of phoenixes. However, there was nothing to prove this. Dragons were known to have a lot of descendants, but the same went for phoenixes. Eagles, sparrows, Luans, rocs, swallows, and other species had a faint hint of phoenix blood in them. This was what some of the historical books wrote.

Half-Blooded. The Divine Palace's Sky-Obstructing Crow was only half-blooded. Wouldn't it only be half as powerful of a full-blooded one? Wrong, being half-blooded would mean that it would be several times weaker. However, even a Half-Blooded Sky-Obstructing Crow was already a powerful existence.

"The Divine Palace's Half-Blooded Sky-Obstructing Crow has protected the Divine Palace for many years ever since this Divine Palace was founded. However, our Divine Palace hasn't been founded for that long. The reason we can have a standing in the Northern Emperor Domain is also because of it." The old Golden Battle God was very respectful at the mention of the Half-Blooded Sky-Obstructing Crow. After all, it was older than everyone here.

"I'd like to go take a look at it," Qing Shui gave it some thought and said.

"Go on, it's at the back of the mountain," The old Golden Battle God said.

Qing Shui went to the back of the mountain but didn't see the Guardian Beast. However, his strength was unlike what it had been before, and his Spiritual Sense was very strong. Thus, he could sense that powerful aura.

To be able to stand up against the Five Tiger Immortal Palace in the Northern Emperor Domain... This meant that the Divine Palace's Sky-Obstructing Crow was very powerful and was definitely not weaker than the Eight-Legged Jiao Tiger. Therefore, Qing Shui came to take a look at the Divine Palace's Guardian. He wanted to see if he could get this powerful existence to help him.

Qing Shui stood there quietly. After about an hour, Qing Shui raised his head and looked toward a mountain peak. There was a large bird that was pitch-black like ink. It wasn't really that big and was only about two meters tall, emitting a faint cyclone that was like black clouds. Its eyes gleamed.

Qing Shui flew straight toward that mountain peak and said, "Qing Shui pays respect to Lord Guardian."

"Haha, so you're Qing Shui. There's no need to stand on ceremony. I've heard your name many times but hadn't expected you to be so young. Not bad, not bad. The Divine Palace might be able to take flight because of you." A deep, middle-aged male voice rang out.

There was nothing special about this voice, but it gave off an amiable feeling that made him seem very easy to get along with and that people would be convinced by him.

"Lord Guardian is too kind. I have some things here as a gift." Qing Shui brought out some stuff. There were the Bloodline Pellets, Ancient Demonic Fruit, and others. Each of the items was priceless.

Qing Shui had heard what the old Golden Battle God had mentioned previously that this was a Half-Blooded Sky-Obstructing Crow.

The Sky-Obstructing Crow didn't seem to show much reaction to these things but looked calmly at Qing Shui and asked, "You want my help?"

Qing Shui shook his head. "Lord Guardian, you think too much. Don't think of me as those kinds of people. It's just to a part of my sincerity that I want to give these to you. There are definitely no other hidden intentions behind them."

Qing Shui wanted to get the Sky-Obstructing Crow to help him but hadn't wanted to use anything to control it. It wasn't about whether he could do this or not, but that he hadn't thought of doing it. Moreover, Qing Shui really respected this powerful existence.

"I believe you, but these things are too precious. I can't take them," The Sky-Obstructing Crow said very seriously.

"Please accept them. I don't just have this one set. I'll be able to prepare another set if given the time."

The Sky-Obstructing Crow didn't reject any further and received these things. At the very least, these things could raise his bloodline's purity by 10% or even more. He was only of a half-blooded lineage and if he could reach 80% of his blood lineage, then his abilities would be able to increase a lot.

When Qing Shui prepared to leave, the Sky-Obstructing Crow said, "Right now, the most important thing for you is to cultivate. When you're strong enough, there's nothing you'll need to struggle over."

Qing Shui went back after staying in the Divine Palace for half a day.

He believed in Sky-Obstructing Crow's words. It showed that the Sky-Obstructing Crow knew what he was thinking of doing, thus Qing Shui decided to wait a little.

A few days later, someone came to the Imperial Cuisine Hall. Qing Shui was stunned as a lady walked in.

She had a slender figure, like a fairy who had descended from the vast starry skies. Her aura was graceful... and the word dignified wasn't enough to be used to describe her. Qing Shui felt that she could only be described as a celestial being.

Her eyes were like the bright moon in the sky, pure yet deep, impressive and intelligent-looking to the extent that it was hard for one to look at her in the eyes. Even now, Qing Shui still felt astonishment and ashamed of his unseemliness.

There seemed to be a faint layer of fog around her.

She wore white clothes with an image of a snow-white Divine Phoenix. She emitted strong power and gave off an intense aura.

Shen Huang. To think that she gave Qing Shui a surprise once again. She had been able to find him previously, and this time around, she found him once again.

When Qing Shui had left the Phoenix City, she was in seclusion and thus he only left a letter. He didn't know where he would be and thus, didn't tell her anything about his whereabouts. He merely told her that he would be heading north.

Back then, he had planned to open an Imperial Cuisine Hall in the Northern Blue City which was next to the Phoenix City. However, after finding a place and before the business could even start, Qing Shui had left the place.

Qing Shui stood up happily and asked, "You've come out from your seclusion? How did you find this place?"

"I have no idea either. I keep feeling an indescribable connection and didn't waste any time to come to this Northern Emperor Domain. It's too easy to find you upon reaching here. You've caused too much of a commotion," Shen Huang smiled and said.

"I'm truly elated." Qing Shui carried Shen Huang up happily and spun a few rounds.

Qing Shui had just put her down and looked toward the door when he saw that Beihuang Fan was standing there. Right now, she was looking at Qing Shui and Shen Huang.

Chapter 2240 She's a Demon Lord, She Had Started Her Revenge

Beihuang Fan didn't know when she had arrived, but since then, her eyes had focused on Qing Shui and Shen Huang.

Qing Shui wasn't actually afraid of them meeting each other. After all, unlike his previous life, this world didn't have a system of monogamy. They also knew that they weren't the only ones and so he had nothing to hide.

"Fan'er, Young Mistress, let me introduce."

As Qing Shui began, he tugged Shen Huang with one hand and Beihuang Fan with the other and walked towards the backyard.

Beihuang Fan standing alongside Shen Huang was a sight to behold. They were both as resplendent as the moon, reflecting their beauty off each other.

The two ladies were equally shocked by each other's beauty. Beautiful women such as themselves were conceited, but it was the first time in their lives when they thought someone else was better looking.

In all honesty, Qing Shui couldn't choose who was more beautiful between them. They were both flawlessly beautiful.

“This is the Young Lady of the Taiyi Immortal Palace, Beihuang Fan. She’s Shen Huang of the Phoenix Organization,” Qing Shui gave a simple introduction.

“How do you do? You’re really beautiful,” Beihuang Fan complimented her with a smile.

“Not at all. I was just thinking that your beauty outshines mine,” Shen Huang reciprocated sincerely.

“You felt that way too?” Beihuang Fan asked, mirroring Shen Huang’s tone.

Shen Huang was stunned for a moment before breaking into a smile “Who knew that a jerk like him could make you be devoted to him.”

“I was just about to say that.” Beihuang Fan thought they got along well.

They cast Qing Shui aside and continued chatting. As though they were suddenly reminded of his presence, they turned around to see him drawing. He drew Beihuang Fan previously, and now he was drawing Shen Huang and a miracle appeared once more.

He drew another Portrait of Beauty.

Qing Shui was dazed and shocked as he watched the painting in front of him. There were twelve portraits previously and now there were fourteen. It was a dazzling sight, with each beautiful enough to cause the downfall of a city.

“These are?” Beihuang Fan was startled.

The two women found themselves among the paintings that Qing Shui drew and concluded that the others must have been his women too.

“My wives, just like you both,” Qing Shui smiled and replied.

With nothing more to say, he kept them. The portraits were barely enough to capture the beauty of those ladies or their traits.

Beihuang Fan had seen Yiye Jiange, Qing Hanye, and a few others. However, there were other women she had never seen before.

After coming out from her seclusion, Qing Shui was shocked by Shen Huang’s abilities. He had never figured out her strength before and never thought that she was much stronger than he was. Now that he found out, he was surprised to know that she was equal both in strength and cultivation to Beihuang Fan.

Beihuang Fan had also just finished her secluded cultivation.

The two ladies were naturally not a match for Qing Shui, but they were still pretty strong.

There was no doubt that they would be on equal footing with those top experts in the powerful clans.

After a trip to the Divine Palace, he was aware that his abilities now wouldn’t have allowed him to defeat Five Tiger Immortal Palace. At the thought of the Five Tiger Immortal Palace, Qing Shui’s mind drifted to Tantai Lingyan. He wondered if she was there now, if her abilities had soared since their last meeting, if she was succumbing to the demon blood.

While Qing Shui was thinking of her, the Demon Lord, Tantai Lingyan was at a secured land, safe from the outside world. She stood between Heaven and Earth.

Her long hair was flowing in the color of blood, with her face as fair and cold as snow. She was just standing there like an ice sculpture. Her body was slender, and her eyes were like a drawing. They were beautiful and calm. However, people could see a cold world inside of them.

If Qing Shui had seen her, he'd be rendered speechless. She was Tantai Lingyan, the woman who had disappeared. She held the Goddess Sword in her hand, the sword which combined all of the Nine Continent's Coldfrost. Snowflakes decorated its surface.

Old Turtle watched Tantai Lingyan from afar, his eyes filled with a hint of misery. The gigantic body seemed to have aged as he lifted his head to the sky. "In the end, she still ended up in this path. Old Master, I've failed you. Young Lady still took this path in the end."

The enormous Old Turtle was like an Old Man crawling atop the great Earth.

"Father, Mother. Your daughter will make them pay for the blood debt they had with our Tantai Clan. But... why does it suddenly feel as if your daughter has lost something?"

Tantai Lingyan tilted her head towards the sky; her words were like the cold breeze of winter and calm like the sea.

She seemed to have forgotten about a lot of things these days. There had been a blurry silhouette which would appear at the start, but even that disappeared with time. However, somewhere deep in her soul, the blurry silhouette remained. It felt so familiar, but she just couldn't put a finger on it.

She was the Demon Lord, the true Demon Lord. She was about to make them pay for the blood debt before returning to the Demon Gate. It belonged to her.

No matter how many times Old Turtle mentioned Qing Shui, Tantai Lingyan couldn't seem to remember. He reminded her countless times and told her that Qing Shui was an important person.

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Five Tiger Immortal Palace!

Five Tiger Immortal Palace had been passed down for many generations, with a great Guardian Beast as its protection. It was like a utopia; no matter how chaotic it was out there, it was always peaceful in here thanks to the protection of their Eight-Legged Jiao Tiger.

Hundreds of years ago, the Tantai Clan was the most possible candidate to take over the Demon Gate. The other contender was the Mo Clan. It was said that the Mo Clan's ancestors were among Demon Gate's most powerful clans.

The competition to be the Demon Gate's Palace Lord had had the Mo Clan forming an alliance with the Beiwang Clan of the Five Tiger immortal Palace. Thereafter, they had annihilated almost all of the Tantai Clan. There were only a few who had survived. Old Turtle had saved a drugged Tantai Lingyan back then.

Tantai Lingyan had been drugged by Beiwang Miaoyuan of the Beiwang Clan. He was the Fifth Young Master of the clan and was their prodigy. It wouldn't be surprising for him to take over the Beiwang Clan, perhaps even the Five Tiger Immortal Palace would be his.

He had always been enamored of Tantai Lingyan's beauty, but the latter wouldn't even spare him a glance. He had been rejected without hesitation when he had confessed, and this left Beiwang Miaoyuan raging about his humiliation, bearing the grudge ever since.

There were others who participated in the massacre at that time, such as those in the Green Dragon Continent who were destroyed by Qing Shui.

Tantai Lingyan could remember it as clear as the day when she returned.

There was a celebration at the Five Tiger Immortal Palace today; it was the Beiwang Clan's Fifth Master, Beiwang Miaoyuan's wedding. This would be his tenth wife and many others from the Demon Gate had come to attend. None of their allies in the Northern Domain would risk not attending.

Even if their allies, the Golden Yakshas, had disappeared, there still wasn't anyone who could rob the Five Tiger Immortal Palace of their position. While their Guardian Beast was around, this was their haven. No one would be able to lift a finger against them.

Hence, the Beiwang Clan sat comfortably at the top. Amidst the exchange of wine and goblets and the bustling excitement, there was a sudden gust of winter breeze.

"Why did it get so cold?" Someone spoke up as they trembled.

"I wonder. No matter how cold it got around here, we've never felt it. Strange. Any ordinary human would have been frozen to death."

"Odd. How very odd."

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Swish!

Following a flash of light, a crisp sound rang out. The light reflection from a sword sliced down from above.

The two legs of Beiwang Miaoyuan were dismembered just as he was enjoying his wine.

Ah!