

Ancient ST 2271

Chapter 2271 - Yin Yang Fusion, Eight Caves, Slaying the Demon Patriarch

Qing Shui was surprised at the shadow. The savage explosiveness within was far too potent, so Qing Shui had to preemptively block as he summoned a sword to receive it. It shone with a golden luster as it generated a golden light to match the sword Qi.

Pai!

The shockwave of the massive collision was like an explosion, as the origin Qi reverberated like sound waves throughout the area, creating a zone where people's speed and reactions were dulled.

The Demon Patriarch cleaved out another bout of sword Qi aimed at Qing Shui, one even faster than before.

Qing Shui didn't plan on receiving it head-on anymore as it would explode and disperse more frozen Qi to completely freeze the area.

Qing Shui dodged, expecting it to rush towards him. However, it merely exploded, much to his surprise. The explosive, crazed power even created ripples in space, giving people a strong feeling that they were stuck in a spider web.

Qing Shui prepared to escape the slowing effect, as the Nature Energy swiftly coursed through his veins, completely soothing his discomfort as he used a single Nine Palaces Step to charge towards the Demon Patriarch.

The Nine Continents Mountain already manifested above Qing Shui.

The Demon Patriarch didn't panic. His Yin Yang Longsword flourished as two streams of Origin Qi began to surround Qing Shui.

Peng peng peng...

The crossing of fire and ice, seemingly turning the entire the area into a living hell. Qing Shui felt simultaneously frozen and scorched. Luckily he could handle the heat due to his body, or else he would be suffering even more.

This kind of power was extremely mystical. It was a very tyrannical Minor Heavenly Technique. If it were even stronger, it would be a true Heavenly Technique. At the Martial Saint stage, this was practically a Sure Kill move.

Qing Shui could ignore 70% of the scorching heat, and was able to withstand the rest. However, there was still the power of the frost. This made Qing Shui half freezing and half burning. If it weren't for his resistance, half of his body would've been scorched.

Though he could block the heat, the frost was only barely manageable due to his bodily strength, otherwise he would quickly freeze and even implode.

This could not be allowed to drag on as Qing Shui would gradually feel the effects. The Demon Patriarch was truly powerful at the Martial Saint stage. This was a bit ridiculous.

“Your strength seems to have exceeded the peak of Martial Saint.” Qing Shui seemed to be in a tight position as half of his body had frozen over, stiff as a rock.

“Haha, it’s already too late. I have a special item capable of stealing the creation of the heavens, allowing my strength to be raised by half a level. I’m at the mid-Martial Emperor Stage because of that.” The Demon Patriarch felt assured of his victory and began flaunting his treasure, smugly presenting it.

He even took it out. It was a beautiful rainbow-colored, chicken-egg sized object.

It was a rainbow stone, perhaps related to the five-colored stone that repaired the Heavens (A legend related to Sun Wukong and Nuwa in Chinese Mythology), which would explain its ability to ignore the Heavenly Dao’s rules.

It had a very pretty exterior. Though it wouldn’t be that useful elsewhere, it was extremely terrifying here as the gap between a peak Martial Saint and a Martial Emperor was simply impossible to bridge.

An immense pressure came from all angles as Qing Shui felt the cold half of his body on the brink of an actual implosion. His movements then dulled.

He couldn’t go up against this pressure, as the gap between them was too big. He had a slight feeling of powerlessness seeing how he couldn’t even escape.

His body was getting even number. He forced himself to calm down. He was getting warmer, and getting colder by the minute. However, he still shocked the Demon Patriarch with his bodily resilience. If his strength hadn’t exceeded the Martial Saint Realm, he would be unable to accomplish this.

As he began to calm down, he traced the invading frigid Qi and scorching Qi, and began to adjust his own Origin Qi to tackle the frigid Qi, as it was the biggest threat to him.

It was extremely difficult at the start, but when he began to divert the scorching Qi from outside his body, his numbing body began to regain its functions, slowly beginning to contribute. By now, the Caves had already begun manifesting behind him.

Seven Caves started a stream of endless energy, replenishing Qing Shui’s energy.

The two foreign forces clashed with themselves. Although this state continued for a while, before long, the two forces began to fully fuse and no longer mutually reject.

Hong!

Something exploded behind Qing Shui’s back, as another Cave popped up.

Eight Caves!

He had directly broken through, perhaps due to the balancing of Yin and Yang. Qing Shui felt weird, as the object flowing through his body was an independent power that didn’t mix in with the others, slowly accepting Qing Shui’s control.

Feeling his strength increase, the surrounding restrictions began to loosen. He then heard a clear sound resonating within his body. He was stunned to see that at his Dantian, it was no longer a Dantian but rather a purple Cave with his Paragon Vessel sitting within, possessing Yin and Yang Qi in its body.

Qing Shui suddenly felt like his surroundings had changed drastically, as if there were no longer any restrictions.

The Demon Patriarch was also shell shocked, as this man could make a breakthrough under these circumstances, forming a new Cave and even allowing Yin and Yang to harmonize.

His killing move had been neutralized and Qing Shui quickly rammed the Nine Continents Mountain towards him.

Peng peng!

A series of explosions rang as Qing Shui used the Nine Palace Steps and Stellar Transposition to launch a relentless onslaught.

Qing Shui had no need to hold back anymore. He had tempered himself and made a breakthrough in the harmonizing of Yin and Yang and even opened a new Cave. Wealth was to be sought amidst danger, and the risk was proportional to the reward.

Pai!

The Demon Patriarch couldn't believe his eyes before he was thrown backward. As he spurted out blood uncontrollably with his severe injuries, Qing Shui quickly displayed the Dragon-capturing Hands to choke him, snapping his neck and forced him to fall unconscious.

Qing Shui was a peak Martial Saint while his opponent was a mid-level Martial Emperor. Qing Shui's Stellar Transposition would've immediately crippled his opponent otherwise. It was hard to suppress Qing Shui in battle, so the threat of Stellar Transposition was still very potent.

The rainbow stone was a good bounty, so he grabbed it and immediately left, settling this matter permanently.

The matters at the Primordial Tomb and this fruit forest were handled beautifully.

Eight caves, basically the pinnacle of human cultivators, as only pure-blooded desolate beasts could reach nine Caves, while the ten Caves level was simply a legend recorded in the annals of history, with no witnesses to its truth.

Chapter 2272 - Nine Grade Grand Completion Heaven Shaking Drum

The Sky-Obstructing Crow didn't tell him how much he had to be tempered. He merely told him to return whenever he felt ready, so Qing Shui just continued.

This was a little abstract, but Qing Shui knew that there were definitely reasons for it. This tempering was mainly for himself, so he didn't summon his Demonic Beasts.

This battle had caused him to be truly exhausted. After leaving the forest far behind, he came across a massive, clear lake with countless willows along the lakeside. There were even other trees, such as the Japanese pagoda tree much like the ones in his previous life, though there was no comparison in terms of size.

Things similar in appearance between the two worlds would usually have massive size differences.

Qing Shui saw the fish swimming in shoals and schools with many wild, flying beasts and demonic beasts gathering at the lakeside. It was a massive lake, with the end not in sight, as if it were a small sea. Qing Shui didn't even set down a tent but directly entered the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal.

Qing Shui would always rest in the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal so when he entered, he just went through the motions, refining his treasures.

Ding!

The crisp bell sound surprised Qing Shui. The Heaven Shaking Drum had reached the Ninth Grade Grand Completion. Previously when the Spirit Gathering Lamp had reached Nine Grade Grand Completion, Qing Shui was ecstatic, eagerly awaiting the follow-up from the Heaven Shaking Drum in a few days. Days had turned into months until half a year had passed.

Qing Shui gave up on his optimism as it was too tiring. He simply continued refining it, regardless of whether there would be a breakthrough.

Heaven Shaking Drum!

Ninth Grade Grand Completion Stage.

Permanently doubled the attacking power of the owner's demonic beasts, usable on demonic beasts of any level. Passive, zero consumption.

Qing Shui was elated. He immediately decided to take out the Rainbow Stone for some analysis.

Rainbow Stone!

A broken fragment of the Heaven-repairing Divine Stone, able to increase strength at designated areas where the Heavenly Dao rules suppress strength.

Can be used as a weapon crafting material and used to raise the grade of certain treasures. Exact effects were dependent on the quality and current grade of the treasure.

As Qing Shui took out the Rainbow Stone, he felt his strength dramatically increase, but decided to not rely on it for the sake of tempering himself. He would only take it out when absolutely necessary. This thing could even be used to increase the grade of certain treasures.

Qing Shui would consider this wasteful, as this item had its uses and could be considered a treasure in its own right. This world was chock-full of Heavenly Dao restrictions. This item could be held and used by anyone. It could even recognize its owner, and usable solely by its owner barring the owner's death or the disappearance of his mark, which would cause it to revert to an ownerless state.

The Demon Patriarch who had just been killed had been the owner of the stone, so it became an ownerless item once more.

Qing Shui didn't do it, as it would increase his strength even from the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal.

He decided to leave it alone because using it to increase a weapon's grade, like the Divine Soldier Soaring Blade, would be decadent and wasteful. This was an item surpassing the Divine Grade. It certainly had its own uses.

Leaving the Rainbow Stone for now, Qing Shui inspected his own strength. He had two golden Caves and recently just opened the Eighth Cave.

Qing Shui's attack force was 66 billion Daos. His defense had reached a total of 660 billion Daos.

With the Heavenly Fate Treasure Pagoda of Defence adding twenty percent more to his defense, it became 792 billion Daos.

Moreover, the Heavenly Fate Treasure Pagoda of Violence and the Parry Heavenly Fate Treasure Pagoda also added 66 billion Daos of blocking strength. His defense was now practically 860 billion Daos.

This was the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal where he was unfettered. Now that there were no pressing matters, he could peacefully refine the Origin Essence Pill for the Diamond White Tiger King, the Golden Scaled Dragon Elephant, the Dragon Slaying Beast, the Dark Phoenix, the Dragon Spider, the Thunderous Beast, and the Black Ice Divine Worm.

With the power of the Heaven Shaking Drum, Qing Shui's demonic beasts had all received a massive boost in strength.

This Primordial Gold Grizzly's Origin Essence Pill, combined with countless medicines, had a frightening effect, allowing the Diamond White Tiger King's strength to leap to 210 billion Daos. The increase was more than a third. With the Heaven Shaking Drum in play, it shot up to 420 billion Daos.

The Golden Scaled Dragon Elephant's strength likewise rose to 90 billion Daos, having a greater increase with reference to its original strength compared to the Diamond White Tiger King, probably due to its Primordial Bloodline. With the Heaven Shaking Drum in play, its strength became 180 billion Daos.

Qing Shui was a little skeptical, as this tempering journey had been going too well.

The Dark Phoenix was originally stronger than the Golden Scaled Dragon Elephant, yet it had been surpassed. It had reached 60 billion Daos in strength, doubling to 120 billion with the Spirit Gathering Lamp. Its powerful attack techniques allowed its strongest attack to which doubled it even further, reaching 240 billion Daos.

The Dragon Spider had exceeded Qing Shui's expectations. It was already pretty strong, and it had a major leap to 150 billion Daos. Under the influence of the Heaven Shaking Drum, its strength reached 300 billion Daos. However, it was still incomparable to the Diamond White Tiger King.

The Thunderous Beast had undergone many tribulations, and since the lightning in the sky had been gathering for a while, it took a tribulation Evasion Pill, growing to become an adult.

The Thunderous Beast's strength had reached 10 billion Daos, 20 billion with the Spirit Gathering Lamp, which still excited Qing Shui. He knew when to be satisfied, and as the Thunderous Beast had entered a growth spurt, its strength would only increase from here.

The Dragon Slaying Beast was unfathomable, but its speed had increased by half. Other than that, there didn't seem to be many changes. He couldn't see through this fella, but it didn't rely on pure strength to be effective anyway.

Qing Shui didn't forget about the Hell Nightmare Beast either. Having eaten the Origin Essence Pill born from the Primordial Gold Grizzly, it was basically a strong rock. Its cognitive abilities didn't improve however, as it seemingly peaked.

Qing Shui was satisfied, storing away the remaining Origin Essence Pills. Their effectiveness was truly astonishing, and the harvests of this tempering experience were truly far too bountiful.

A month had passed.

Qing Shui had remained by the lake for a month, though he would quickly return through the Nine Continents Steps if he had left the area. The Spiritual Qi here was exceedingly abundant, so he would carelessly practice boxing and meditating. He observed the lives of the fish as part of his life of serenity training, quietly experiencing a calm lifestyle. He still occasionally took off to battle with powerful demonic beasts.

Qing Shui had gradually felt a sense of satisfaction and fulfillment as the harmonization of Yin and Yang previously thought impossible prior to his bout with the Demon Patriarch, had been completed.

Bathing in the sunlight, Qing Shui sat at the lakeside. Watching the tiny fish swimming around, his heart became calm. He had constantly been on a knife's edge, and this was a rare opportunity for him to relax.

Chapter 2273 - Two years later, Demon's Gate invading the Nine Domains

The sun was glaring with tens of thousands of strands of golden light falling onto the entire lake and the surrounding greenery. The air smelled like fresh grass. A light breeze blew by. Though it was slightly cold, everything here was as usual.

Myriad things will recover. The recovery of life would be strongest at this time.

Qing Shui sat down on the grass, leisurely looking at the clouds up in the sky. A few deer were making merry a distance away and ants were slowly crawling up next to him. An eagle was soaring high in the sky while Qing Shui, bathed in the glowing rays of the sun, seemed to let off his own glow.

Golden Brilliance Dao!

Qing Shui felt the limitless power of the sun's rays, bringing forth endless vitality. The beings on this earth had their own circles and relations, seemingly linked and yet unrelated, constantly breeding and growing, constantly passing onto each new generation.

This was a Heavenly Dao rule, the Golden Brilliance Dao.

Qing Shui had stayed here for quite some time, killing beasts, observing the birth of plants, demonic beasts, wild beasts, and flying beasts. He also spectated battles and the peace after the battles, the continuation of life, from withering to thriving, returning to withering...

There would be disappearances. There would also be unbelievably low troughs, which would be followed by brilliant, incandescent peaks. Qing Shui most frequently observed the ants and learned the most from these ants.

Two years had passed in a flash.

Qing Shui had been here for two years and he had reached the Ninth Cave Realm a year and a half ago. He had been constantly observing the Heavenly Dao, comprehending it as he tempered his body and underwent battles. The Tenth Cave never budged, but he didn't despair either.

The Tenth Cave Realm was a fabled realm. Even pure blooded Desolate beasts undergoing weird phenomena to reach for it would fail miserably. One might even turn into ashes if they were careless.

Hence, the most exceptional humans would only open eight or nine caves and then enter the next realm, while pure blooded Desolate beasts would almost all open nine, with some with weaker talent opening eight, and then charging right into the next realm.

Eight Caves was the sign of a monarch of an area, while a single Nine Caves expert would appear in a million mile radius. Counting premature death and other situations, it would be 1 in a hundred million living beings.

The Caves Realm was preceded by the Divine Connection Realm, hence it was difficult to enter to begin with.

Peng!

Another one of the Caves behind Qing Shui's back was turning golden. He smiled, seeing that he had finally grasped a strange rule. Qing Shui had nine Caves and five of them were already golden.

The next one was successfully refined into gold.

Qing Shui understood that the Ten Caves Realm was something that could be met but never sought after. It seemed high time for him to return. Qing Shui had also returned a few times before since it didn't take more than a few days. Anyway, with the Sky-Obstructing Crow present, he could be at ease.

Qing Shui's Cave turning golden allowed his strength to improve by leaps and bounds, but most crucially, the Caves were part of the Heavenly Dao Realm. Therefore, this was an improvement in his Heavenly Dao Realm.

He used the Nine Continents Steps to leave.

Qing Shui wanted to wait for all nine caves to turn golden before returning.

However, this sort of thing required some level of luck. Fortunately, this wasn't exceptionally difficult to accomplish. It merely required time. It could even stagnate, with decades passing before a Cave turned golden. With his current attainments, Qing Shui didn't have anything to complain about.

On the fourth day of his journey, he arrived at the Divine Palace. This place was still the same after half a year.

The Sky-Obstructing Crow took one look at Qing Shui and said: "Not bad."

"Senior, I have some medicine here. Please see if you can use it." Qing Shui took out the super Origin Essence Pill.

"What a strong Origin Essence." The Sky-Obstructing Crow was astonished.

“This is the skull of a Primordial Gold Grizzly. Perhaps it can be of use to you.” Qing Shui passed the skull of the Primordial Gold Grizzly to the Sky-Obstructing Crow.

Qing Shui had been constantly meditating on its skull and had no more use of it. As the Divine Protector of the Divine Palace, the stronger the Sky-Obstructing Crow was, the better it was.

It was very shocked when it examined the Primordial Golden Grizzly’s skull. It paused for a long while before saying: “You’re letting me meditate on such good stuff?”

“This isn’t much. Senior’s strength is linked with Divine Palace’s prosperity.” Qing Shui stated matter-of-factly.

This made it sigh in its heart. The new Palace Lord not only possessed exceptional talent, but also had a great heart. He had a charismatic way of doing things that would ensure his future success.

“Senior, there are many people who want this thing. Even someone from the Nine Continents’ Martial Gate died for this. Let us sneakily meditate upon it, for the sake of a future where we can fearlessly stand our ground.” Qing Shui spoke after some thought.

“I understand. We are never to leak the existence of this thing, no matter how strong you’ve become. Even if you learn it, people can’t just steal you away, but they can think of all sorts of dastardly plots to try and steal an item, even through murder,” the Sky-Obstructing Crow said with gravity.

Qing Shui would naturally understand this. He solemnly nodded his head.

The Sky-Obstructing Crow used the super Origin Essence Pill, its strength had increased by half, and even its bloodline had increased by fifteen percent. Its body had some degree of Primordial Blood but it still couldn’t be considered a pure-blooded Sky-Obstructing Crow. Even with that said, It was still definitely stronger than other Sky-Obstructing Crows.

Meditating on the Primordial Gold Grizzly’s skull, it was a massive chance for it. It was extremely grateful to Qing Shui. This sort of thing was irresistible to him. It must’ve been the luck carrying over from previous lives which gave him such a golden opportunity.

Qing Shui had returned to the courtyard with Beihuang Fan and Shen Huang both waiting there. They were elated to see him. He took no time and ran up to hug each of them. Perhaps he gained bravado or perhaps it was because he didn’t see them for a while. Either way, the two women were even happier and slightly embarrassed.

“I’ve been thinking about you two all this time. Did you miss me?” Qing Shui pulled the two along, one with each hand as he happily spoke.

The two women didn’t respond, which was just as Qing Shui expected. This was basically him touring around his own courtyard.

“Have there been any incidents lately?” Qing Shui hadn’t returned for a while, so he asked.

“Nothing much, but the Demon’s Gate is getting stronger. Your woman has already entered the Nine Continents Star Ocean Domain.” Beihuang Fan said.

Qing Shui rubbed his nose, recalling his first meeting with Tantai Lingyan. He couldn't believe that she had already reached that area and brought the Demon's Gate to battle with some of the great powers of the Nine Continents.

Qing Shui was not surprised by the pace of her progress, mainly due to her Demon Saint Blood. If her strength didn't improve dramatically then it would be surprising.

Qing Shui's current strength was exceedingly powerful, but whether he could match up to her was still unknown. He shouldn't be far off. He was currently holding off and waiting, but he felt like it would be soon until he had to pick a side amongst the great powers of the Nine Continents. A sense of heroism was welling up in him.

"Qing Shui, the Divine Palace's improvements have also been pretty good. Many strong existences have come by to visit, wanting to see if our Divine Palace has any hope," Shen Huang said.

"Wanting to visit me, that would be good, when is it happening?" Qing Shui didn't feel that it was unnatural to join up with a few stronger Divine Palaces, as they weren't the only ones.

Chapter 2274 - Golden Winged Roc Battle God Hao Tian, Who's More Handsome?

One on each side, the two women carried with them an immortal grace. He still felt that the situation before him was truly unreal. His two hands were holding onto petite, jade-like hands. This situation felt ethereal every time.

These two women were on the level of the Portraits of Beauty, with slightly cold personalities. It was truly shocking that they would willingly be dragged along by someone.

Qing Shui was shocked, but equally so were the women. They could disregard Qing Shui's other women, as they understood that the man they signed up for couldn't be owned by any one woman.

They wouldn't restrict him, but with another girl around them, they were too intimate. Both of them felt that the situation was slightly unbelievable.

The crux of the issue was that the two were good friends that had been living together for such a long time. They were practically sisters, with no forbidden topics between them.

They had discussed Qing Shui's matters, and even some of the female matters, always joking with each other even without Qing Shui present. If he were around, it would've been even worse.

"They have ten people, all of them led by the Golden Winged Roc Battle God who trains in the Golden Winged Roc's techniques. This fella is really just interested in Fan'er. You had better not lose, or else Fan'er would just get stolen away," Shen Huang said.

Qing Shui was stunned. Beihuang Fan was quick to follow up, "Qing Shui, if another man was going after me, do you think he wouldn't go after big sis?"

"I thought we got a new helper, but it's actually a bunch of fellas trying to steal my women. I'll give them a good beating," Qing Shui said fiercely.

"He didn't go overboard, but his strength is nothing to scoff at either. No one at our Divine Palace can match up to him," Beihuang Fan said.

“Is he handsome?” Qing Shui asked.

Beihuang Fan was confounded. She replied, “He can be considered handsome, I guess...”

“More handsome than I am?” Qing Shui asked again.

“Truthfully speaking, more handsome than you are, yes.”

Qing Shui then turned to Shen Huang.

Shen Huang nodded and said, “More handsome than you!”

Qing Shui cackled and said, “What a gigolo. This kind of man is really unreliable. A pillow with an embroidered case, totally unreliable and useless. Men cannot count on their faces to eat. Being handsome is useless. Men need to be strong and charismatic, like a golden spear, unyielding...”

“Stop. Hold on. I still think that you’re more pleasing to the eye,” Beihuang Fan frantically replied.

Qing Shui turned to Shen Huang again.

Shen Huang nodded.

“Let’s go and see those guys. I want you to see how charismatic and strong I am, how infallible I can be.” Qing Shui dragged the two ladies out.

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Hao Tian was waiting at another courtyard in the Divine Palace, looking at the fish in the pond. He had stayed here for half a year now and had never seen the Palace Lord. The rest were not his match so the only reason to stay was, naturally, the two ladies.

They were the most beautiful ladies he had ever met, as beautiful as celestial fairies, pure and holy. This was the kind of women he liked the most, especially since there were two of them and they weren’t truly women yet. He was most agitated by this fact.

Those who could protect their bodies until now were naturally not as receptive to men, or else they would’ve lost it already. So he patiently waited, hoping to gradually make a move on them.

He had thought of many plans, but none of them had worked so far. The two were far too cold and introverted. Hao Tian would ramble on and feel like a clown talking to himself. The other party just didn’t seem interested in him, and he didn’t know where to start.

“Still thinking of those two guardians?”

Another youthful, handsome man walked over. He still wasn’t comparable to Hao Tian though. Hao Tian had a sharp yet handsome look, his deep eyes and great strength giving him confidence. With each action he took and each word he spoke, he exuded boundless charm.

This man was strong, easily able to charm and make others submit. He was a natural leader, making others feel like they wanted to follow him.

“Zi Ye, where do you think I’m detestable? Why do those two seem totally uninterested in me?” Hao Tian looked at this young man and asked, confused.

“Haha, Brother Tian, didn’t you once state that there isn’t a woman you can’t handle, whether old or young?” Zi Ye jokingly said.

“Who says I can’t handle them? The difficulty is a little high, you see,” Hao Tian said again, frustrated.

“Brother Tian, I don’t think it’s a flaw of yours, but you’re too exceptional in every area, making people think that you’re not very real. Think about those two guardians, saintess-like characters. Which of the men chasing after them isn’t a handsome dandy and has a graceful bearing? Do you think they’d care for your words?” Zi Ye smiled.

“En, you make a lot of sense.” Hao Tian gazed strangely at Zi Ye.

Zi Ye saw this and was slightly creeped out, urgently stating, “I’m a man!”

“Scram kiddo. You’ve probably got it right. Then what do you suggest I do to pique their interest?” Hao Tian asked.

“When ordinary strategies don’t work, you have to use uncommon means,” Zi Ye spoke with the air of a love sage.

“If you keep beating around the bush, I’ll give you a bashing,” Hao Tian looked at Zi Ye’s flamboyant behavior and wanted to punch him.

“Make yourself less exceptional. You need to know that performing too well, such as dressing well, acting elegantly, seriously and chivalrously would give people an impression that you’re just faking it. They’d think that you’re good to look at, but you’re just one of the many. You need to express your true self,” Zi Ye said with a hint of profundity in his speech.

Hao Tian seemed to realize that these observations were quite astute, so he asked out of curiosity, “Have you done an experiment on this?”

“No,” Zi Ye stated decisively.

“Then how do you know all this?” Hao Tian asked again.

“I guessed. What do you think? I’m quite accurate, right?” Zi Ye joyfully replied.

Hao Tian sent him flying with a kick.

Still, Hao Tian realized that Zi Ye made a lot of sense. Suddenly, a sound rang out.

“If you came to my Divine Palace just for the two of them, I’ll beat you up and throw you out.” Qing Shui walked in with the two women.

He wasn’t angry, as gentlemen would always seek out maidens. This Hao Tian didn’t go overboard and didn’t rely on force to do anything, so Qing Shui didn’t have a bad opinion about them.

“You are the Palace Lord?” Hao Tian said, shell shocked as he saw the two women.

Qing Shui beamed as he nodded his head: “I’ve just returned today. I heard that you wanted to meet me, so I’m here now. How is it? Aren’t I more handsome than you?”

Hao Tian was stunned that the Palace Lord would be this young and that he would speak so casually. He couldn't adjust. No matter how young he was, those that sat on the Palace Lord's seat needed to act with a sense of seniority, even if it was fake. He didn't expect this youth before him to be so casual. More importantly, he couldn't accept that this guy declared himself more handsome. Even if he were the Palace Lord, there needed to be some truth to his words.

"I'll have to say with full honesty and sincerity that you aren't as handsome as I am," Hao Tian returned to his senses and angrily said.

Chapter 2275 - Primordial Gold Grizzly Versus Golden Winged Roc, One Single Move

"I'll have to say with full honesty and sincerity that you aren't as handsome as I am," Hao Tian returned to his senses and angrily said.

"What, a little gigolo like you dares to say you're more handsome than me?" Qing Shui also got mad.

"What, me? I'm a gigolo now?" Hao Tian's eyes were as wide as saucers.

"Men need to be a little harder than that," Qing Shui said seriously.

"Nope. I need to fight you. You can insult me, but you cannot insult my body." Hao Tian was getting more and more heated.

Qing Shui didn't expect this graceful, handsome-looking man to have such an aspect to him, and he couldn't tell if this fella was acting. His skills were pretty good if he were.

Beihuang Fan and Shen Huang were both speechless, seeing these two fellas running high on adrenaline.

"Right, we need to fight," Qing Shui directly stated.

"Since you are the Palace Lord, if you lose, you can't stop me from pursuing them," Hao Tian said.

"Usually, who you pursue is none of my business and I wouldn't stop you. However, you're going after my women. Why do you think I'm just gonna let you do as you please?" Qing Shui said mockingly.

"What, they're BOTH your women? How is this even possible?" Hao Tian exclaimed in surprise.

He was really anxious. They were the type of lady that he liked the most. The purest, flawless women he would sacrifice everything to have as a wife. Now someone was claiming that both of them were his women. How could he accept this? Both of them were still virgins to boot.

"Why is it impossible? No matter what happens, you can't harbor any designs, or else I'll peel your hide.

Hao Tian wouldn't just give up this easily. He was the Golden Winged Roc Battle God, a leader amongst the Battle Gods! He wasn't a lustful person, but he did have some women, or else the flames of desire would've charred him to death. He didn't have many though, having never met one who would make him fall head over heels for.

He had finally met them, or else he wouldn't have stared at the Divine Palace. Not to mention that they were pure. Even if Qing Shui had some relations with them, he would try his best to vie for them. This kind of supreme beauty, causing his heart to flutter uncontrollably, could not be passed up on.

“I know you guys haven’t gotten married. I don’t know how you guys are, but I like them, so I’ll compete with you.” Hao Tian said very solemnly.

Qing Shui was truly enraged. He had already made it clear that they were his women and the other party still wanted to compete. He stepped forward and said, “Let’s not discuss this any further. We’ll fight first. Watch as I turn you into a pig head.”

“Even if I win, I won’t be the Palace Lord. I’ll still stay here and I’ll chase after them. I really do love them,” Hao Tian said stubbornly

“You can talk about that after you win. If you lose, you won’t just take a beating, but a really nasty one.” Qing Shui immediately sent a fist straight at Hao Tian.

Back Connecting Fist!

Qing Shui’s Back Connecting Fist was not some run-of-the-mill technique. He had practiced the Yu Emperor Fist, which wasn’t an offensive skill, but boosted all other Fist arts.

His strength coursed through his back, a stream of golden power coursing through his body, extending to his arm as his fist shot out like a bullet.

Hao Tian became a blur as he sent a fist flying straight at Qing Shui with many powerful maelstroms around it, carrying the power to shatter the skies as he punched Qing Shui.

Qing Shui didn’t retreat, meeting him head-on. He had been forced back as a result but was totally unharmed due to his overwhelming defense.

Gouging Strike, Cloudhands!

Pai!

Qing Shui was still using fist arts, complemented by his Nine Caves Realm. Their battle was relatively even. Hao Tian’s Caves weren’t as powerful as Qing Shui’s.

Hao Tian was directly sent flying backward when Qing Shui used the Windwhisk Willow unleashed a powerful hook to Hao Tian’s nose.

Even strong cultivators were extremely sensitive here. He started bleeding from his nose, tears welled in his eyes and his ears rang.

Dragon-capturing Hands!

Directly clashing, Hao Tian was able to receive it this time, but he was once again stunned. Qing Shui then used an appropriate amount of strength to hit him at his Taiyang Meridian.

This sent him flying once again, his thoughts and eyesight were completely jumbled up as if he were having a headache. Qing Shui held back, but it was still a very painful experience.

Qing Shui had been using his fleshly body to fight for the past two years, so the control of his body was skillful. Though his attacks themselves weren’t especially damaging, his strong defense allowed him to stand his ground without being sent backward.

Qing Shui could hence display his strength fully, and his attacks carried a degree of defense bypassing, able to hit a cow through a mountain.

Adding on to the Windwhisk Willow's effect, he was able to stun Hao Tian until he couldn't fight back.

Peng!

Hao Tian had finally grasped an opening, leaping up into the skies as a massive pair of golden wings unfurled behind him. However, his handsome face had become like a pig's head and his nose was still bleeding.

There were many spectators here. Hao Tian had beaten down many of the Battle Gods here, to see Qing Shui get revenge was very satisfactory.

Hao Tian's entire aura turned golden as his two fists were clenched tightly. He said, "How could you go for the face? I'll hit your face too then."

His massive wings flapped and the sky turned dark. Hao Tian's body soared like a streak of lightning charging toward Qing Shui; his fist was like a lightning bolt ready to smash Qing Shui.

"Not bad!" Qing Shui's eyes lit up.

Suppress him for me!

The Nine Continents Mountain appeared above Qing Shui and it charged toward the giant golden hand, sending it to the ground.

Hong!

A massive light enshrouded the entire area. A group of demonic beasts that were just passing by was grounded into dust.

Hao Tian's eyebrows locked, as a Cave came out. A massive Roc within it, golden yellow with an aura of tyranny and hegemony unfurled its wings and flew out, blotting the sky.

Qing Shui saw this and thought, comparing Caves, let's see whose is better!

A golden Cave was opened up behind him, much larger than the one behind Hao Tian. Soon, a massive Primordial Gold Grizzly appeared, soaring straight up to the sky, not at all inferior to the Golden Winged Roc.

The Golden Winged Roc let out a massive screech while the Primordial Gold Grizzly let out an earth-shaking roar.

Screech!

The Golden Winged Roc's wings flapped as it left behind a shadow in its wake, its sharp claws aimed straight at the Primordial Gold Grizzly, looking to tear it apart.

The Primordial Gold Grizzly let out a cluster of grey qi with its massive claws fluidly moving to intercept

Peng!

The golden light intensified, even making the Sun lose its brilliance. A sharp cry was heard and the Golden Winged Roc had disappeared, returning to Hao Tian's Cave. He could only bring it out tomorrow.

The gap was too large. The golden Cave and the base strength of the Primordial Gold Grizzly, all this contributed to a comprehensive strength gap, which doomed the fate of the Golden Winged Roc.

Chapter 2276 - Heading to the Sea King's Palace, Qing She

A single move! The Primordial Gold Grizzly only used a single move to dissipate the Golden Winged Roc. This made Hao Tian's face turn as pale as sheet; he finally understood the gap between them.

Qing Shui simply waited, and only after some time did Hao Tian speak, "I admit defeat!"

He had completely lost without any room for doubt, but saying these words were still agonizing to him as Qing Shui seemed to be about the same age as him. He had always believed himself to be the pinnacle amongst the younger generations. A genius with no worthy opponents, yet he had been easily beaten down now.

Hao Tian's swollen face looked as downcast as it could be without any hint of the charm that he had before.

"I already said that I'm more handsome. Oh, don't believe me. Please ask your friends. See if they think I'm handsome," Qing Shui smiled and said.

Anyone, who was beaten up until the face looked like a pig head and swollen all over, would look ugly, no matter how handsome they had been. So, Qing Shui was naturally the better-looking one at the moment.

Beihuang Fan and Shen Huang were truly speechless as they stared at Qing Shui. They were still happy in their hearts; this man had become even stronger, capable of carrying the Divine Palace with him. They loved the position they were in, as the protectors appointed by him.

"Why, do you have anything to say?" Qing Shui smiled at Hao Tian.

"No, just... would I be considered a part of the Divine Palace in the future?" Hao Tian looked at Qing Shui.

"This would depend on you. If you're sincere, you are naturally part of our Divine Palace. But if you don't want to join, we will not force you. Joining the Divine Palace is like being part of a family, and you can't harbor any negative thoughts on them. Though you won't succeed anyway, I just don't like it," Qing Shui said lightheartedly.

"Then I'll join the Divine Palace. I know how to act properly." Hao Tian was still downtrodden.

"Keke, good. We'll hold a little ceremony for you tomorrow," Qing Shui happily said.

Injecting some fresh blood into the Divine Palace would allow it to grow, especially since they were pretty strong. Hao Tian himself, though he lost miserably to Qing Shui, he was still a peak expert. It was unfortunate for him that Qing Shui was indeed stronger.

Qing Shui wasn't worried about Hao Tian chasing after the two ladies so long as he didn't use any underhanded methods. Anyway, the two girls had many treasures such as the Star God Pendant and the Sacred Jade Divine Stone with them, capable of helping them escape even if he were to try something.

Qing Shui also believed that Hao Tian wasn't that sort of cheap fella; he trusted in his judgement, so he allowed him to stay.

Two days later, Qing Shui headed for the Southern Sea's Sea King Palace.

With the Guardian Vine, the Sea King Palace's strength was increasing gradually each day. They were already a titan in the Southern Sea with many wandering experts joining their ranks.

There would be a ceremony for joining the Sea King Palace, including: chanting vows, acquiring the Sea King Palace's brand, and obtaining the Guardian Vine's approval. Only with a strong guardian, could one thrive in this environment.

Once he entered the vicinity, Qing Shui could sense the Guardian Vine's raging vitality, seemingly improved from two years ago where it began a phase of rapid growth.

A doll-like, handsome child was playing around. He was wearing a black shirt with loose pitch black hair left unchecked; they were growing to his neck. His interest and suspicions were piqued with Qing Shui's appearance.

Qing She!

Qing Shui immediately knew that this fella was his and Qing Hanye's child. Qing Hanye just happened to walk out, spotting Qing Shui as she ecstatically shouted, "Qing Shui!"

Her movements were still filled with grace. Her beautiful beady eyes, seemingly entranced in a layer of mist, looked at Qing Shui, and he felt so comfortable at this moment as if he was in a fleeting dream.

She pulled Qing She in and came over.

Qing Shui directly hugged Qing Hanye and Qing She. "Ye'er!"

"When did you return? It's been so long since I last saw you." Qing Hanye was still very joyful.

"You miss me that much?" Qing Shui smiled and kissed her forehead before kissing the little fella's face.

The little fella was staring at Qing Shui without any hint of rejection, only a slight sense of distance.

"She'er, he is your daddy. The person you love the most." Qing Hanye smiled as she explained to the little boy.

Qing She was still rather young when he left two years ago. That was why today Qing Shui was almost unable to recognize him.

"Daddy!" Qing She's smiled as he spoke.

"En, good boy, your talent is naturally exceptional." Qing Shui cheerfully said. He had already gotten a rough feel of Qing She's natural talents. The gestation of a child born from Nine Yang and Nine Yin was truly amazing. This kind of talent was the one Qing Shui had never seen before.

Qing Shui had seen countless talents and geniuses, but none as outstanding as Qing She.

He felt that giving him the name She for amnesty and forgiveness was truly a good call. He was destined for great strength, but it was a hope that he would grow up with a compassionate heart, or else he would be numbed by his strength and become a soulless demon.

“What should he learn in the future?” Qing Hanye thought of Qing She’s circumstances and asked.

“We don’t have to teach. He naturally has our legacies, and they’ll be awakened with age. Until then, he can cultivate by himself. You just need to teach him how to read and how to act properly,” Qing Shui smiled and said.

“If that’s the case, then that’s good. I was worried about finding him a good master.” Qing Hanye said merrily.

“The master points the way, and the individual goes down the road. The most important aspect is still one’s self, and you are his first master. Once he grows up a little, our foundations would be more solid and his ascension would be unstoppable.” Qing Shui was completely assured in regard of Qing She’s cultivation.

Qing Hanye also relaxed after hearing that. Looking at Qing She, there were many similarities that could be found between Qing Shui in his youth and him. Their elegance, stubbornness, and flexibility melded together.

Qing Shui quickly met up with Yiye Jiange and Qing Xiu.

A pair of eyes which appeared as radiant as the moon, giving her a transcendent feel and aura. Her hair was long, held back only by that ivory-like white jade hairpin.

She had an indescribable otherworldliness. Just like a saintess that had escaped the mortal dust, her long body covered by her feathery coat, revealing those smooth curves.

She had the most ideal body curves, with a little more being too long, and a little less being too short. Those perfectly accentuated curves made her feel more elegant than any other girls. They even seemed snobbish and vulgar in comparison! Her fullness and roundness were just right, full and mature but not fat.

She was like an immortal goddess descending upon the mortal world, giving people a sense that she had lived in seclusion forever.

Qing Xiu was already a youth now, but his feminine looks made him look like a girl. He happily called out, “Father!”

Qing Shui gave him a strong hug. Having not seen him for two years, he had grown a lot taller. The rest of Qing Shui’s women like Luo Qingcheng, Muyun Qingge, and Di Chen were all present. This was basically another Qing Clan manor.

With the Guardian Vine, The Sea King’s Palace was very secure. There were so many of Qing Shui’s women here, and they had all parted ways with their sects after finding suitable successors.

This place was very near the Divine Palace, so it was extremely convenient for Qing Shui to visit. He was tempted to move the whole Qing Clan here, but it was still an underwater world, the Southern Sea. He just felt like it wasn't comparable to being on land, so he held off on the idea.

Chapter 2277 - The Guardian Vine's Gift, Peace and Quiet

Qing Nuo and Qing Xian were also here, and Qing Shui wrapped them in his embrace. Qing Shui always felt like he had treated these two girls poorly. They were of the same age as Qing Xiu, yet he had rarely been with them. He felt like he was an unqualified father.

"Daddy!" Qing Nuo pulled on Qing Shui's hand, slightly reluctant to part with it.

This daughter was more familiar with him. So, it was Di Chen's daughter Qing Xian that he practically didn't see often. She was slightly younger but had already begun taking after Di Chen, maintaining her aloof, untainted personality as her clear, apathetic eyes made people feel distant.

Qing Shui rubbed Qing Nuo's head, as he pulled her forward and squatted before the both of them.

His other hand held onto Qing Xian as he smiled, "What's with our little princess? Who was it that didn't use his eyes and offended Xian'er... tell Daddy, I'll go vent for you."

"None of that sort. Just that your sudden arrival... it makes me slightly uncomfortable." Qing Xian said lightly.

She did not smile or laugh, only said her words lightly which carried her anger. Nonetheless, Qing Shui was still happy; he already knew that he wasn't a qualified father. It was understandable that this child didn't even want to call him daddy.

"Little lass, don't you always clamor for daddy? Yet, now that he's here, you don't want to call him." Di Chen also squatted down, pulling on Qing Xian's other hand as she smiled, a hint of worry could be seen in her gaze. She was young, but she was always aloof and independent.

"I just can't say it, mother." Qing Xian curled her lips.

"Chen'er, it's fine. We'll take things slowly. Let's go! Whatever you guys want to eat, I'll personally prepare it for you." Qing Shui carried each of them in one arm as he walked.

"Big sis, don't be too worried. Xian'er takes after you, and Qing Shui is a good father. She'll get used to it pretty quickly, relax!" Di Qing lightly said.

"I know!" Di Chen smiled. She knew that Qing Shui would always spoil and pamper the girls while being super strict on the little boys.

Qing Shui felt like he was still rather fair. He had never scolded the children, and they were indeed worthy of being his children, not needing others to worry about them. He wasn't at home most of the time anyway, so he wouldn't go and lecture them just like Qing Ming of the past.

Qing Ming had a weird personality and loved to rebel. He was the hardest to handle as tough love and goading wouldn't work, and violence would make things even worse. Mingyue Gelou would frequently hit him, but he feared nothing, just laughing it off, making even the raging Mingyue Gelou unable to react. So even hitting him was pointless.

Qing Shui didn't scold or hit him either, letting him live freely so long as he pleased. He would teach him the things he already liked, making Qing Shui the hero in his heart. Every child's hero would always be their father, capable of everything.

And Qing Shui was indeed capable of everything.

Qing Yu too...

Qing Shui would feel especially blissful thinking of these matters, but time passed quickly as Qing Ming and Qing Yu were growing up, almost ready to spread their wings and fly off.

As he was busy working in the kitchen, Yiye Jiange came over to give him a hand.

"Xian'er has a little bit of a loner personality, you need to slowly teach her," Yiye Jiange spoke softly.

"En, I will." Qing Shui smiled as he quickly prepared the food, even making many snacks. They usually didn't eat these, so having them once in a while was actually preferable to proper meals, not to mention the effort Qing Shui put forth.

A decadent feast was served up with many small sides and snacks together. There were vegetable snacks, meat snacks, stuff like hotpot and hot dogs, naturally at a much higher level despite the similar appearance.

The kids ate happily, including Xian'er. The allure of food was truly the greatest, especially since she was still a kid, so he specially made special snacks for her.

"Daddy, you're really biased!" Qing Nuo protested.

"I also feel this way," Qing Xiu smiled as he replied.

The rest simply watched the kids speak, finding their conversations very interesting.

After dinner, Qing Shui handed out many gifts, especially to the small kids, giving them a Constitution Nurturing session, teaching them the Yu Emperor Fist, and helping to cleanse their impurities.

With nothing to do in the afternoon, Qing Shui went to the back to look at the Bloodthirsty Demonic Vine

The Bloodthirsty Demonic Vine didn't seem to undergo any major changes, but the bloody red mist surrounding its body seemed to float around in some sort of rhythm. Others would not even realize that this was an extremely powerful Guardian Vine.

"Your improvement is truly astonishingly fast!"

The Bloodthirsty Demonic Vine actually spoke first, much to Qing Shui's surprise.

"Is my current strength sufficient to enter the Nine Continents' Nine Domains?" Qing Shui asked after some careful deliberation.

"You can enter four of them, but it's better for you to avoid the rest," The Bloodthirsty Demonic Vine said after some delay.

"Okay, then I'll continue waiting!"

.....

Qing Shui had nothing to do, so he just moved back into the Sea King's Palace, enjoying the pinnacle of life at night with the most beautiful women, and enjoying the thrill of parenting in the day.

Xian'er became especially attached to Qing Shui, as there would be good food, fun games, and she could even learn powerful battle skills, drawing, and music. This father was simply omnipotent; a few days caused the little lass to basically stick to Qing Shui. She was brimming with joy.

She was the youngest so it seemed like an obvious result and Di Chen was also happy to see this development. But she felt that he was spoiling her too much, as whatever she asked for, Qing Shui would give it to her, within the realm of reason of course. Qing Shui wasn't strong enough to pluck the moon to give to her if she asked for it.

Staying for two months, he decided to return to the Divine Palace and said farewell to the Guardian Vine.

"Wait, this is a little gift for you!" The Guardian Vine's blood red vines entangled Qing Shui's arm, as dozens of red liquid drops fell into Qing Shui's arm, dissolving into his body. Qing Shui suddenly felt the power in him flow through his body like a raging torrent, madly running around.

His Caves appeared and two of them quickly turned gold...

"I saw that you were already on the verge but didn't expect that you would leave before breaking through. That's a wasted opportunity."

Qing Shui expressed his thanks as his seven golden and two ordinary caves boosted his strength even further. He even wanted to step into the realm of Ten Caves, but it seemed nigh-impossible. He planned on waiting until each of his Caves turned golden before considering his next move.

Qing Shui was really eager to open the Tenth Cave, the aspiration of all cultivators. The key is that not just any cultivator could open it. Qing Shui however, decided to try since he already had seven golden Caves. He was already an existence as rare as phoenix feathers or Qilin scale in the Nine Continents.

Bidding farewell to the Bloodthirsty Demonic Vine, he returned to the Divine Palace where it was the same as before. The Northern Emperor Domain Divine Palace and Taiyi Immortal Palace were far above the rest, and the Northern King Domain's ruler was the Demon Gate whose main battle force was probably entering the Nine Continents' Nine Domains.

Chapter 2278 - 27th Grade Divine Weapon, heading to the Nine Continents' Nine Domains

Qing Shui knew that he wouldn't stop at the Northern Emperor Domain for long, eventually he would head to the Nine Continent's Nine Domains.

The Nine Domains represented the pinnacle of the Nine Continents, whereby the quality was the highest, in terms of food, art, doctors, all sorts of aspects were all covered in the Nine Domains.

The Nine Domains represented the pinnacle of the Nine Continents' society; this was a cultivator's world, built on the basis of martial dao, so any of the fields would eventually lead back to the martial dao. Hence, it wasn't one of the key fields in the Nine Domains, but rather a precondition for any that wanted to thrive.

This was the gap, like how only government officials could access certain facilities in his previous world.

In this world, it was the martial dao. Only with the martial dao could prosperity and growth be guaranteed.

Tantai Lingyan had already brought her people to the Nine Domains, perhaps the last time he had encountered her she was on the way there. Qing Shui tilted his head; he didn't have a reason to enter the Nine Continents' Nine Domains.

For Tantai Lingyan's sake?

Qing Shui had already learned to let go most of his mortal obsessions, and he could put down most things, but if there was still a knot in his heart, it would be the situation with Tantai Lingyan.

She had already gotten her own revenge, so the matters from yesteryear had already reached its conclusion. Qing Shui's worries were already dispelled as the martial dao was boundless. He personally wasn't bent on reaching the top.

Hence, Qing Shui had always been reconsidering. The Demon Gate and Divine Palace were destined to have a final clash, and control over the Demon Gate would most likely fall to Tantai Lingyan. However, could he have all of the Divine Palaces in the Nine Continents heed his call?

Even if he could, facing her was truly a weird experience. Just thinking about it was strange as nobody could ever have guessed such an ending.

A few days later, Qing Shui happily looked at the gains he made when the Hundred Treasure Chest's grade rose in the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal.

Hundred Treasure Chest sixth level opening.

The fifth level was opened two years ago and had only a few but very useful rewards.

Three hundred Aptitude pills, three hundred Potential Pills, three hundred Growth Pills, eight hundred Divine Square Cauldrons, eight hundred Divine Weapon Crystals, Eighty Cultivation Pills, sixth grade Attacking, Defensive, Movement, Recovery, Endurance, Power, Tenacity and Evasion Talisman Stones, increasing the base stats of Divine Weapons by eight percent. Three Heavenly Limit Soulstones, able to absorb soul and spiritual energy.

Qing had received two hundred and forty Aptitude pills when opening the fourth level. Now it was at three hundred. The gap between the different tiers of rewards was getting smaller which was not really relevant to Qing Shui since these kinds of pills were about the same and Qing Shui just didn't care for them.

The Divine Square Cauldrons and Divine Weapon Crystals had increased quite substantially, increasing by two hundred pieces.

It was slightly insufficient as just the Flying Sword would require two hundred Divine Weapon Crystals and Divine Square Cauldrons for each upgrade. Thus, the Flying Sword was upgraded four times with the opening of the fifth layer. Qing Shui was now focusing on the Sixth layer.

Three hundred Aptitude Pills, three hundred Potential Pills, three hundred Growth Pills, eight hundred Divine Square Furnaces, eight hundred Divine Weapon Crystals, Eighty Cultivation Pills, Seventh Grade Talisman Stones of the Attacking, Defensive, Movement, Recovery, Endurance, Power, Tenacity and Evasion categories. Increase the base states of Divine Weapons by nine percent. Three Heavenly Limit Soulstones, able to absorb both soul energy and spiritual energy.

This was the Hundred Treasure Chest's sixth level rewards. Other than the increased Talisman Stone grades, the rewards were identical to that of the fifth level's.

Qing Shui directly ranked up his Divine Weapon. He had used the Fifth Grade Hundred Treasure Chest's loot to raise the grade of the Flying Sword to the 23rd Grade. Luckily, each upgrade still required two hundred Divine Square Cauldrons and two hundred Divine Weapon Crystals.

The divine weapon, Flying Sword was already a terrifying weapon.

Big Dipper Sword, Divine Weapon Flying Sword!

27th Grade!

Allows the damage taken by the user and his allies to be reduced by 10% throughout the battle.

Increase self-recovery rate by 27%, increase 5.4 billion Dao of attack, 5.4 billion Daos of defense, and 5.4 billion Daos of deflecting damage. Reduces 27% of damage taken by the user.

Divine Weapon Seal: Open, can be socketed with runes.

Attacking power, defensive power, evasion, recovery, endurance, speed, tenacity and explosiveness increase by nine percent.

Qing Shui had already collected six unused Heavenly Limit Soulstones. It was strange. His arrival in this world seemed inextricably linked to the soul, but he never really touched anything related to the soul.

He now had seven Golden Caves as the ones that the Guardian Vine helped to convert had finally been fully refined, boosting his strength significantly once again.

Qing Shui now had 110 billion Dao of attacking strength, with 1100 billion Dao of defense.

The Heavenly Fate Treasure Pagoda of Defense increased his defense by 20%, causing his defense to rise to 1330 billion Daos.

While the Heavenly Fate Treasure Pagoda of Violence and the Parry Heavenly Fate Treasure Pagoda added 110 billion Daos of blocking strength, so Qing Shui's defense was more accurately evaluated to be at 1440 billion Daos.

Qing Shui's divine weapon could block or deflect 5.4 billion Dao, and with the 5.4 billion Daos of comprehensive defensive increase, Qing Shui's defense reached around 1445 billion Daos.

With the Nine Continents Mountain's attacking buff, his attack strength was now at 550 billion Daos.

Following the massive leap in strength, Qing Shui found it really unbelievable. Most importantly, the Divine Weapon Flying Sword could decrease damage taken by 37%, with 27% of its original effect, plus 10% as a buff that could be applied onto everyone on his side.

The Emperor's Qi was already a tyrannical ability, capable of weakening the opponents' status by 20%. With this change, the opponent's attack would basically be rendered to half of its potency. The scariest thing was that Qing Shui's defense was already heaven-defying to begin with.

Qing Shui didn't know if it was time for him to head to the Nine Continents' Nine Domains for some fun.

He didn't know if the Guardian Vine had been aware of his Divine Weapons, and its evaluation of Four Domains was prior to his massive power-up. Perhaps he could enter five, six Domains now?

And he still wasn't sure if he wanted to go.

Qing Shui felt that he wasn't suited and wasn't very capable as a Palace Lord. So, he decided to have a discussion with the Sky-Obstructing Crow. It had lived a long life and could definitely provide some guidance in these matters.

Chapter 2279 - The Nine Continents Star Ocean Domain is the first of the Nine Domains

"Senior, do you think I'd be capable of surviving in the Nine Continents' Nine Domains?" Qing Shui quickly fired off the question upon meeting the Sky-Obstructing Crow.

"Do you know what's the first of the Nine Domains?" The Sky-Obstructing Crow countered with another question.

Qing Shui was stumped. He really had no clue and didn't even think about this issue, he mocked himself. "Pray tell, senior."

"The Nine Domains are all on the Nine Continents, but to head there, you needed to fulfill certain conditions. Only if you meet the criteria can you enter, but the same goes for their inhabitants, only those that meet the criteria can leave. The first Domain is the Nine Continents' Star Ocean Domain, as well as the massive continent next to it," replied the Sky-Obstructing Crow.

Qing Shui was once again stunned, as he didn't expect the powerful Nine Continents Star Ocean Domain to simply be the first Domain, the weakest one. However, he was happy with this revelation.

"The Nine Continents Star Ocean Domain is the first, and to enter the rest of them, you need to go from there. The Nine Continents Star Ocean Domain's size is comparable to the continent's. If you keep heading North from here, you'll see a Heavenly Gate as the entrance to the Nine Continents Star Ocean Domain. You can enter the Nine Continents Star Ocean Domain once you truly step into the Heavenly Dao Realms."

Qing Shui recalled that there were many underwater beasts that could not meet this requirement but could still leave, he asked, "Other than reaching the required realm, are there any other methods of entry?"

"Yes, transmission arrays and plaques." The Sky-Obstructing Crow said.

Bringing up plaques, Qing Shui recalled the plaque Yunlong had given him to grant him entry into the Nine Continents Star Ocean Domain. He hurriedly took it out. "Would this work?"

"Yeah, there is a powerhouse's intent sealed within which is able to withstand the Heavenly Laws just for a second, just enough for one entry." The Sky-Obstructing Crow began to explain.

There were many loopholes usable for entering the Nine Domains. Qing Shui didn't continue asking as he decided to head over to the Nine Continents Star Ocean Domain before talking about anything else.

The rise of the Divine Palace was meteoric as Hao Tian and gang gradually eased into the Divine Palace. His confidence had been dealt with a heavy blow, and he spent all his time cultivating. He had never received such a blow before, and now he didn't care for women any longer.

Other Battle Gods in the Divine Palace were also growing quickly, especially the Hill Moving Battle God and the Diamond Battle God. However, the fastest rate of improvement could be seen in the Beast King Battle God and the Mighty Strength Battle God's progress.

Qing Shui had given them two super Origin Essence pills, and the Nine-Headed Golden Lion's heads were simply growing bigger. With the Jiao's head, its ability to control the battlefield was also outstanding with every aspect undergoing a massive improvement. The Beast King Battle God's strength received a massive boost, as he had treasures to increase the strength of his demonic beasts.

The Mighty Strength Battle God's strength had also undergone a qualitative transformation with each passing meeting. He could use about 70% of his strength now, a massive increase from his pitiful 20% in the past. His Inheritance would only allow him to use up to 80%, so getting any stronger was truly difficult for him.

He was still in a good mood, and his strength had reached a ridiculous level. His Realm of understanding had improved greatly in the two years, and even the Hill Moving Battle God could only tie him in physical strength. The Mighty Strength Battle God, however, was still young and could progress further eventually.

Qing Shui recalled that the Demon Gate was still in the Northern King Domain, still remaining a branch of the main Demon Gate established by the elite few who had entered the Nine Domains. It was like a fast-food chain; the two were not mutually exclusive. Besides, the main goal of the Demon Gate was to swallow up other Demon Gate and grow stronger in the Nine Domains.

If Qing Shui were to enter the Nine Domains, he would be unable to bring a large crew as he needed people to keep watch over the Divine Palace. Hence, Qing Shui needed some time to ensure the prosperity of the Divine Palace, only bringing a few experts and leaving the rest to hold down the fort.

Qing Shui didn't plan on bringing Yin Tong and the rest and didn't want to involve the Sea King's Palace either as they were already a paramount existence in the Northern Sea. As for entering the Nine Continents Star Ocean Domain, that would be at a later date for them.

In the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal, Qing Shui was looking at the nine Black Ice Divine Worms. They had only been alive for three years in the outside world, but in here, they had already become adults, having lived for thousands of years. However, their lifespan would not abruptly end as it adhered to the natural time outside of the Realm.

Their bodies were kept at a reasonable three meters long, healthy and strong, capable of shooting up to hundreds of meters in battle. They contained a powerful toxin in their bodies, but they were nothing compared to their parent.

The Black Ice Divine Worm had incredible defensive abilities and powerful speed, but their most terrifying aspect was still their poison. Qing Shui even had the Divine Soldier Soaring Blade to allow their strength to be even more pronounced. Hence, they were an integral part of his extended arsenal.

Many days later, Qing Shui decided to depart for the Nine Continents Star Ocean Domain in half a month, bringing Hao Tian, the Beast King Battle God, the Mighty Strength Battle God, the Mighty Spear Battle God and Zi Ye, as well as the two ladies for a total of eight people.

He decided to have the others remain and even left two Black Ice Divine Worms. He let Yin Tong and Lan Lingfeng bind them, allowing them to freely grow here before passing on his Palace Lord position to Yin Tong.

He had originally planned to pass it to the Hill Moving Battle God, but he wasn't willing as he just didn't suit the role, so Qing Shui didn't force him either. He just told them that they needed to protect this area and when the other side had calmed, they could go over as well.

Qing Shui had already granted them too much, and his sincerity begat sincerity from the rest as they agreed to it without any considerations. Anyway, their accomplishments were only due to Qing Shui's help.

Giving Yin Tong and Lan Lingfeng the Black Ice Divine Worms was a little bit of compensation and anticipation for the future. Due to their brotherly relationship, the two were initially reluctant to accept, but Qing Shui was simply too worried about them and the powerful Black Ice Divine Worms would allow him to feel safe and secure about the Divine Palace.

He suddenly recalled the Fragrance Wine that Nalan Qing had given him the recipe for, telling him to brew some for her. It was ready after fermenting for a thousand years. It had good ingredients, and some even had special stuff in it.

Thinking about going to the Nine Continent's Star Ocean Domain, Qing Shui decided to resolve the matter and just pay her a visit first so that he could discard this issue.

Qing Shui headed to the Pure Domain the next day, at the spot not far away from the Northern Death Demon Mountain. Hence, a single trip would require a few days, but there would be no problems. Though he had set the date to be half a month later, a few days late wouldn't be an issue. Qing Shui even wanted to return to the Qing Clan, so he would be even later than expected.

He had arrived at the Pure Domain and wasn't sure about whether or not to visit Young Master Tai since they were good friends and his son was Qing Shui's godson.

Chapter 2280 - Returning to Taiqing Immortal Palace, Fragrance Shack

Qing Shui eventually decided to go to the Taiqing Immortal Palace. Once he was at the Pure Domain, he could get anywhere in a short while.

With the keepsake of the Taiqing Immortal Palace, he could find anyone with ease and even received a warm welcome.

It wasn't long before Qing Shui saw Young Master Tai flying here. As usual, he gave Qing Shui a bear hug, "Wow, you're actually here to visit me. I'm simply overjoyed, I've been missing you to death."

Qing Shui looked at the overreacting Young Master Tai and was still really happy seeing him as this man just didn't disgust him, making him feel comfortable. Hence, he patted the young man, "Why have your tastes changed recently, starting to become interested in men?"

"Hell, don't be so disgusting, let's just go and have a good drink!" Young Master Tai wrapped his arm around Qing Shui's shoulder, ushering him into his courtyard.

Qing Shui first went to visit Young Master Tai's father and casually gifted him some tea and wine, causing the Taiqing Immortal Palace Master to be elated before going to Young Master Tai's courtyard.

Tai Yijian saw Qing Shui and yelled with elation, "Godfather!"

Qing Shui saw this boy who had already turned into a charming youth.

Qing Shui happily rubbed on his head. "You have grown quite a bit."

"Godfather, I've been stuck on the things that you taught me recently. I just can't seem to break through." Tai Yijian was both hardworking and exceptionally talented. He was also the hope of his generation, receiving the personal tutoring from the Tai Clan's Old Ancestor.

"Try it once, I'll take a look!" Qing Shui smiled and said.

"Okay!"

Tai Yijian displayed the Taichi Fists, shocking Qing Shui as this little kid already had a deep understanding of using his strength, borrowing strength of the others and even had a very calm, boulder-like heart. He was truly a rare talent.

Qing Shui nodded as he watched, while Young Master Tai was also elated to see the pride of his life.

"Come, try and hit me!" Qing Shui told Tai Yijian.

"Okay!"

Tai Yijian immediately rushed towards Qing Shui, displaying the Taichi Cloud Hands.

Qing Shui also used Taichi Fists, directly meeting him head-on, using the same amount of strength and speed, basically the same attributes except for the different levels of enlightenment.

With a single collision, both sides were knocked away. Tai Yijian's face shone as his body moved, and he used a Taichi Single Whip straight towards Qing Shui.

Qing Shui was just receiving Tai Yijian's strikes.

Tai Yijian completely let loose, being sent flying time and again, making him even more excited that such strength could display such power, especially since the amount of strength used was identical each time.

The fella was young, but he had a stubborn personality, constantly standing up and continuing, learning along the way and never falling down in the same way.

Only until he was panting crazily did Tai Yijian happily say, "Thank you, godfather. I've already thought it through and broken through, feels like everything makes so much sense now."

Qing Shui gave him some Constitution Nurturing Pills as he needed to establish a strong foundation, while other medicines to directly increase strength were not good for him.

“Ole brother, you’ve probably come here on some business again, let me wager a guess.” Tai Yijian had left, so it was just the two of them drinking.

Qing Shui smiled, “Can’t you believe that I came specifically to see you?”

“It’s not impossible, but it’s probably a roadstop, or else you wouldn’t have come,” Young Master Tai chuckled and said.

“I came to deliver wine to Nalan Qing, so I wanted to bring you along,” Qing Shui smiled and replied.

“En, Beauty Qing is a real fairy. I wonder which lucky bastard would be so fortunate,” Young Master Tai said emotionally.

Qing Shui was stunned before he nodded his head. “Yeah, the red strings of fate tie lives together, an ordinary man cannot withstand this.”

“Hehe, no one dares to marry her. I told you already, her family clan is very prominent, while her previously dead husband’s clan is even stronger, so she’s basically fated to be single,” Young Master Tai said thirstily yet sadly.

“Let’s go take a look, I still need to rush back,” Qing Shui stood up and said.

“That soon?” Young Master Tai was gobsmacked.

“After a while, I’ll head to the Nine Continents Star Ocean Domain.” Qing Shui didn’t plan on hiding this, and maybe he could even obtain some useful information from him.

“Going to the Nine Continents Star Ocean Domain? I get it now. You were gonna enter there eventually, pity... I’m of no use there, I can’t even enter.” Young Master Tai was once again melancholic with this little brother around. Today, he found himself sighing with emotion more than ever.

“It’s not like I can’t return after leaving. We can still drink and if you want to go in the future, I’ll just bring you there.” Qing Shui smiled.

“Good, you have to put your money where your mouth is.” Young Master Tai’s eyes lit up.

“Of course, rest assured. Even if I don’t bring you there, Jian’er can definitely do so.” Qing Shui thought of Tai Yijian who had an inestimable future. He had a rare Dao Body which was suitable for Taichi, containing the mysteries of the Dao.

Young Master Tai’s eyes were glistening once again as he wouldn’t suspect Qing Shui of talking gibberish. He even had a fervent belief in them. Hearing these words made him unable to hold back his excitement; he pulled Qing Shui in for three more drinks before going to the Fragrance Shack.

The streets here were bustling, but the Fragrance Shack was still a peaceful place, giving Qing Shui a vague sense of discomfort and coldness which only amplified in that supreme beauty’s presence.

She had a very full body, but she wasn’t fat at all, especially her firm chest, raising her clothes up. Those kind of peaks were especially stimulating.

With a tall figure, her long, slender legs, she didn't seem like a widow at all. And she technically wasn't as she didn't have the chance to consummate the marriage.

The most beautiful feature of her was the face and her pitch-black eyes; they were contrasting like the moon in the sky, just that her eyes were cold as if she was born to look down on the world.

A jade-white face, straight-nose, long, and jet black hair, giving her the feel of an educated master.

Seeing Qing Shui and Young Master Tai for the first time in over two years stunned her slightly, but she quickly remembered who these people were.

"Miss Qing, how are you!" Young Master Tai didn't speak and Nalan Qing either, so Qing Shui had to break the ice.

"Please enter!" Nalan Qing said before turning and going back in.

Qing Shui was stunned; this woman was still the so-called ice beauty. Young Master Tai winked at Qing Shui which Qing Shui selectively ignored. Seeing the beautiful, tall person ahead of him, with her slender waist, beautiful arms and charming walk, everything exuded a fatal charm.

She was cold as usual but could rouse people's souls. These two were seemingly contradictory, yet complementary. Not seeing her face would spark a fire in people, but seeing her face and hearing her speak would ground them in reality, making them ashamed of their inferiority, unable to think about anything strange. It wasn't that she wasn't beautiful, but that they weren't worthy of her even in their own eyes.