

Ancient ST 2391

Chapter 2391 Unable to withstand a single blow, Qing Shui's Crushing Force

"We need to execute Brother Poison Wolf's orders well. We'll leave that pretty boy half dead and crippled, to then send him back to the Divine Rain Sect." The strong man who spoke seemed to be of decent standing in their ranks.

"Will Brother Poison Wolf be here?" A man with slightly upturned eyes asked.

"Brother Poison Wolf has some other commitments and won't be coming. He's not in the Forsaken Earth Region now," The strong man said.

"Alright, let's go. We'll beat up those people who are so hated by Brother Poison Wolf. Why do you think he hates them so much? I heard there were a few beauties among them," A young man said with a lewd smile.

"This is not the time to have any other motives. Brother Poison Wolf wants us to kill the men among them but didn't mention a word about the women. Once we take them down, we can ask Brother Poison Wolf," The strong man answered after some thought.

"I'll be willing to lose ten or even fifty years of my life if I can have a woman like one of them." The lewd man sighed.

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Qing Shui and his companions stopped. He knew that they were being watched now and could sense that none of them were human. However, they were still far away and were great at concealing their presence. They weren't slow either. Qing Shui didn't wish to be lured away from his territory and decided against giving chase.

"We seemed to have been surrounded," Qing Shui said as he watched the people around him.

They were merely surprised but didn't hold a hint of fear. To them, there was nothing to worry about as long as Qing Shui was with them. Hao Tian laughed and said, "What are they to surround us? Are there many of them?"

"There's quite a number of them and they're likely not human. Their scent is ambiguous, they are great at concealment and are quick. Be on your guard against sneak attacks. They have poison, too." Qing Shui thought of the Poison Wolf King and thought that there might be one here as well.

Poison wasn't multifunctional. Warriors had an ability to resist poison. Besides, there was always a warning sign that came from poisoning others. For example, one could not eat poisoned food, nor breathe when the air is poisoned. It would be useless if a poisoned weapon couldn't land a hit on its target.

There was also the poisoning of blood. This was a long-distance type of poison, but it would be useless if it couldn't reach its target. Hence, one's ability was important when it came to wielding poison or it wouldn't have a chance to take effect.

In a chaotic battle, poison was still effective. Some poison couldn't be defended against, like exploding poison mid-way, increasing the speed of these venomous powders, or widening the impact area. Injuries were common in a fight and once the weapon was tainted with poison, then the result was evident. After all, the discrepancy of abilities between either party wouldn't be drastic.

The Wolf Kings began moving at midnight, surrounding the tents of Qing Shui and the others. The moon above illuminated the Earth below with a layer of silver sand. While it wasn't as bright as daylight, it was still exceptional. Even normal people would be able to see each other's face clearly.

Whoosh...

The sound of movement shook the Earth. Qing Shui and the others had come out from their tents and looked to the distance. Innumerable Wolf Kings rushed towards them. They were all huge, over hundred meters in size and coming in large numbers. From a glance, they seemed to cover the mountains and plains, like a beast tide.

Tsk, tsk...

Horrifying and unpleasant cries pierced painfully through their eardrums. It was like scratching nails down a chalkboard, making you feel pain in your nails and an aching, cringing feeling in your jaws.

There were many cries, filling and shaking the skies. It was uncomfortable even with Qing Shui and his comrades' abilities, but that was the extent of it.

Area Dominance!

Qing Shui watched the pairs of his opponents' red eyes. Wolves were naturally cunning creatures. He didn't waste any time either, announcing to his surroundings, "Attack. They won't be able to infiltrate for the moment anyway. You can only attack from here."

Qing Shui reserved a direction, like a door. From here, the two sides could attack each other. This wasn't like the idiom with one man holding against ten thousand enemies, but Qing Shui and the others could still guard against a single entry. Of course, Qing Shui and the others still didn't know the powers of their rivals. Who knows, they might not be able to withstand a single blow and the formation wasn't necessary. There was also the possibility that their opponents were formidable, and they wouldn't be able to counter against them.

The battle began. Qing Shui attacked with Nine Waves Great Golden Buddha Palm.

A golden palm rushed forward with a force which could seemingly topple mountains and overturn the seas.

Boom!

The Wolf Kings which were on the frontlines cried out from the attack, but only two retreated from the impact. This gave Qing Shui the feeling that there were several formidable opponents.

Stellar Transposition!

Qing Shui pinpointed one who he thought might be the strongest and unleashed the Stellar Transposition.

Qing Shui was still the only one launching the attacks.

Like a milky way, the magnificent scene drifted from the skies as everything in its surrounding vanished.

Qing Shui was stunned. As it turned out, the Stellar Transposition wasn't just targeted at one person. It could attack its target and anything in close range.

This attack made their opponents shrink in fear. The one who just got killed was one of their strongest contenders. Not only had it been killed in an instant, but the other strong warriors around it were also critically injured. Their survival was still a question unanswered and they suspected their capabilities would take a huge decrease.

Wolf Kings were unyielding and with their numbers, they suddenly rushed towards Qing Shui, leaving a trail of billowing smoke. In that moment, one would feel extremely tiny.

Still, Qing Shui didn't panic but merely raised his hand into the Mountain Push Stance.

Mountain Push Stance!

The pack of Wolf Kings gushed towards Qing Shui like a deluge, but the Mountain Push Stance wasn't something they could contend against.

Rumble, rumble, groan...

Crush. The Wolf Kings were pushed back by the force, but there were many others who were still rushing forward from between. It was through this setup that the Mountain Push Stance became a crusher, squashing the Wolf Kings within a few thousand miles.

Every Wolf King was about a hundred meters long, and this motion crushed a few hundred Wolf Kings...

With that, the Wolf Kings had completely lost their guts. Who would still have the courage to stay after being completely crushed? They fled, and Qing Shui didn't chase after them either. He didn't think that the Mountain Push Stance would be able to annihilate so many of them.

In certain places, the Mountain Push Stance could become a crushing machine.

"You're still the most commanding. You managed to make them flee despite fighting alone." Hao Tian clicked his tongue.

"Have you stopped calling me Brother because you have a beauty in your arms?" Qing Shui smiled.

"How can that be? You're my brother, my blood brother!" Hao Tian thumped his chest.

Tang Xi had a smile on her face as she watched them. She had immersed herself into the group these past few days. Most of them were Battle Gods and they were just like siblings. She also got the chance to understand the Palace Lord, Qing Shui. He was kind, and strong...

Tang Xi felt the warmth here, just like real family. Besides, she found a man too and had her sights set on him. Their progress wasn't bad, but they merely held hands or exchanged kisses at best.

Hao Tian wanted to take it to the next stage, but Tang Xi felt it was too soon...

Hao Tian respected Tang Xi's decision and thought that it worked well too. If they progressed too fast, then they might find something lacking. This was how it was like to date. There was a process in place, and a little acclimation. Only in this way would they treasure each other and settle down.

Chapter 2392 Thousand Miles Waft of Fragrance, Shameless Flaunting

There was just an interlude, but Qing Shui was on high alert against the Poison Wolf King who hid in the dark,

He had heard from the woman at the Divine Rain Sect that her senior, the Poison Wolf King, was especially formidable in the area of poisons. While Qing Shui had great knowledge towards the topic, it didn't mean he didn't fear it.

Qing Shui didn't interrogate the previous Wolf King for information about the Poison Wolf King, as he didn't deem it necessary. After all, his level of strength now was drastically different than from the past. Qing Shui was confident in going up against the Poison Wolf King, but he didn't know where they would meet.

Forsaken Earth Region's city!

It was the third day of Qing Shui and his company's arrival to the city.

They settled down in an inn. From the Exploding Arrow Battle God, they were aware of a Demon Gate in this region and the lack of a Divine Palace. However, this didn't mean that there wouldn't be any Battle Gods in sight. Moreover, the Demon Gate might be strong, but they were not City Lords, and neither were they rulers of an empire.

This was the Northern Ocean Empire, a powerful empire. Since an imperial city was also a region's city, the Northern Ocean Empire was the Forsaken Earth Region's strongest existence.

The inn where they stayed for the past three days was the region city's best inn, the Northern Ocean Inn!

It was said that the Northern Ocean Inn was founded by a nobleman, an aristocrat who could stay in the empire.

Most aristocrats and others of similar standing stayed far away from the Imperial City.

All this was of little interest to Qing Shui. He had no intentions of expanding in this area, but he did want to seek out more information of the Demon Gate's status. For example, which powerful warriors had the closest relations with the Demon Gate in this area.

Checking out the extent of might these warriors attained was also a way to probe the strength of this area.

"Qing Shui, I just received news regarding the Sect Leader of this Demon Gate." Nuo Lan spoke up at the sight of Qing Shui.

"Oh. Let me hear it." The reason for Qing Shui's stay in this region city was the Demon Gate. Otherwise, he would have proceeded directly to the Forsaken Heaven Region.

“The identity of this Demon Gate’s Sect Leader will shock you. She’s a Culinary Demon King, nicknamed The Culinary Empress. She has great cultivation, along with equally impressive culinary skills. She is also proficient in poison and other mystifying techniques.

“For example, she can complement ingredients together and present something which seems perfectly normal when in fact, the dish is laced with fatal poison or could make someone lose certain abilities.”

Nuo Lan’s words did surprise Qing Shui. Regardless of Demon Kings or Battle Gods, they came from all walks of life. However, these Demon Kings belonged to the non-combat type. Qing Shui had some information about the Culinary Demon King, the Tailor Demon King and others from his inheritance memory. Even if they were Demon Kings, they wouldn’t be able to train.

“Interesting. I must have a look.” Qing Shui smiled.

“This Culinary Demon King has opened an inn in the region city, named the Thousand Miles Waft of Fragrance.” Nuo Lan mirrored his smile.

“Thousand Miles Waft of Fragrance... what an exaggerated name. No scent can travel a thousand miles, regardless of how fragrant it is.”

“Is this considered an exaggeration? There are others named Ten Thousand Miles Waft of Fragrance, yet you say that no scent can travel that far.” Nuo Lan seemed to grow curious.

“I have a spice named thyme which I know wouldn’t reach a hundred miles despite the claims. However, it would be able to reach thirty miles. It’s among the things I’ve given you and the best spice I have ever seen.” Qing Shui spoke the truth. Regarding the existence of the Thousand Miles Waft of Fragrance, he hadn’t seen it for himself but who could say it didn’t exist in this mysterious world?

With nothing more to do in the afternoon, Qing Shui left. He had identified the location of the Thousand Miles Waft of Fragrance and decided to pay a visit, as well as to check out what sort of person the leader of Demon Gate was.

Thousand Miles Waft of Fragrance!

The scent from the Thousand Miles Waft of Fragrance didn’t drift that far but its aroma was strong. One would be able to pick it up from a great distance away. It permeated the area with its fragrance, a thickness that one wouldn’t grow sick of, and a truly decent scent when it came to cuisine.

The effect of the smells from the Thousand Miles Waft of Fragrance only permeated a kilometer away, but even this distance implied a strong aroma from what was inside.

The scent wasn’t constant. There were only a few dishes’ scent which drifted in the wind and into the distance, but didn’t smell that strongly within the several miles circumference.

The Thousand Miles Waft of Fragrance wasn’t a huge inn. It was five levels high, about a hundred thousand square meters per level, and three hundred meters in both width and length. Such an inn wasn’t considered huge in the Nine Continents. Considering the Demon Gate’s abilities in this region city, this was a small establishment.

A few beast carriages were parked at the plaza in front. Most of them were dragon-type beasts, with some ancient beasts and such. The people who visited the inn were reputable; riches wouldn't be enough for you here, as abilities were the most important.

Two neat rows of serving ladies stood by the entrance, each as pretty as the next. They weren't beauties who could bring down a nation, but there was no doubt that they were the cream of the crop.

The women were uniformed in their working attire; a low-cut top with a cape, slender waists and an enchanting snow-white skin. Their perky chests lined up when seen from afar, like peaks of a mountain range.

They wore shorts below, flaunting snow-white legs with thighs as skinny as their calves. Their legs were long and straight, and their feet were bare. A long roll of red carpet extended for miles.

People who visited weren't just normal folk, and most didn't have a single smudge on them. In here, the men loved to stuff banknotes down the valleys of the women's chests, taking in their warm and exquisite feeling.

Coquettish sounds from the women were ceaseless. While these women were touched by the guests, none of them went overboard. For example, no one would take them away to play. They restricted themselves to taking advantage while stuffing the notes.

"Welcome!"

The women at the entrance bowed when Qing Shui approached the entrance. The visual impact of it gave men great satisfaction. Even Qing Shui was shaken a little by the image. There were twenty-five beauties wearing sexy attire in each row, fifty in total.

Qing Shui didn't lack money, but he wasn't that affected to the point of taking it out. His wives were even more beautiful than them, and he didn't have to stoop to such a point.

"Don't come if you have no money," An arrogant voice rang out. A young man was stuffing a note in the chest of one of the women.

No man here would give money to every women present. Usually, they would pick out one who appealed to them the most and seize the opportunity to touch them...

Qing Shui didn't feel a need to fight with the man over a sentence. He didn't spare any feelings towards a person like that and didn't even spare a glance.

Qing Shui's silence was deemed as a weakness for the other party said as he laughed, satisfied with himself, "Are you going to let these women bow to you for nothing? You have failed as a man if you've reached this stage."

Chapter 2393 Comparing Riches with Qian Duoduo, Beautiful Culinary Demon King

Qing Shui was speechless; the man wanted to compete in everything. These were the Nine Continents, though the same goes for anywhere else. It was rumored that such occurrence was normal in his previous life, but Qing Shui wasn't able to even go near such circle of society then.

The young man was stunned by Qing Shui's words and hesitated as though there were words stuck at the tip of his tongue. Qing Shui took out a huge stack of banknotes then and distributed it. Naturally, he handed them over to the women's hands. He had too much of these and had many Interspatial Silk Sachets full of them. Coincidentally, Qing Shui was at a loss as to what to do with them, finding it a pity to throw them away.

The notes were gone after distributing out to more than a dozen people before he set his attention back at the young man. Qing Shui hadn't wanted to provoke him, but he truly disapproved of such losers.

"Have I surpassed you now? Am I a man now? Why the pretense of riches when you have no money? Hurry up and scram, don't embarrass yourself any further." Qing Shui smiled as he waved his hand dismissively.

"Alright, rascal, you want to compare riches with me? Then let's do it. My surname is Qian. I'm Qian Duoduo." Holding up a huge stack, he distributed it out. However, he stopped after giving out to twenty people.

Qing Shui held out another stack and matched the twenty headcounts as he gave them out. This way, Qing Shui would have distributed to thirty people. At the sight of it, Qian Duoduo took out another stack and gave them out to his fortieth.

Soon, both sides had given out to fifty, not a cent less.

The situation attracted a crowd and news of it had reached the boss of the Thousand Miles Waft of Fragrance, the Culinary Demon King. She didn't come out and had instead switched to a room which allowed her to watch the scene.

"They're all men, I wonder who would back down first," said someone in the crowd as though they were afraid that the situation wouldn't worsen further on its own.

"Qian Duoduo's family has an endless amount of money. Qian Duoduo has always spent money like water; spending money recklessly isn't uncommon for him. Who is this young lad? How did he get involved with Qian Duoduo?"

"Regardless of his identity, anyone who clashes against Qian Duoduo is a fool, especially when it's about money."

"The Qian Clan is a super clan in this region, with loads of money and formidable warriors. I wonder how they produced an offspring like Qian Duoduo. This loser is greatly doted on by the Qian Clan's Elder. Elder Qian is always elated after Qian Duoduo has squandered his money. There are many who don't understand the situation."

"The Qian Clan is mostly filled with busy warriors. To some extent, a character like Qian Duoduo can spread the reputation of the Qian Clan. This was a form of declaration. Without Qian Duoduo, who would have known that the Qian Clan was rich? This is a message; Qian Duoduo's well-being would also prove that the Qian Clan was fine."

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With a smile, Qing Shui held out another stack of money, double the thickness from before and distributed all of it. Such a huge stack was at least a few million taels. It was practically a windfall.

Qian Duoduo watched Qing Shui give them out without even batting an eye.

Although Qian Duoduo spent money recklessly like water, an amount above million taels was still significant. He had already given out 520 thousand taels previously. With the number of people surrounding them, along with his prideful nature, he continued distributing in huge stacks.

Once he was done, Qian Duoduo tilted his head upward as he regarded Qing Shui. "You have guts. Continue, then!"

Qing Shui took out five million taels at that. Right in front of Qian Duoduo, he gave them out in an instant. "Man up if you're one. Don't embarrass the Qian Clan."

Qing Shui smiled warmly.

Qian Duoduo's body swayed slightly. The Qian Clan was rich. Forget five million, they would have been able to fork out 500 million taels if they wanted. However, Qian Duoduo as a single clansman couldn't. Currently, he didn't have five million taels on him. He only had a little more than three million taels left.

Qian Duoduo had brought a total of five million taels at first, and that was no small amount. Even indulging in drinks and pleasures, it would have been enough to last him for three to five years.

Watching the beads of perspiration on Qian Duoduo's forehead, Qing Shui mocked. "Walking around like a boss when you have no money, aren't you embarrassed? You've run out just like that and yet you had the cheek to ridicule others? Why don't you shove it up your ass and scam? Seeing that face of yours is so disgusting."

"Ah, I'm going to kill you! All of you, kill him!" Qian Duoduo became hysterical, growling as he lunged towards Qing Shui.

Qian Duoduo's lackeys followed suit.

Qing Shui raised his hand and began whipping them across the face, just as how normal people fought. It wasn't quick, and normal folks would be able to see it clearly. Qing Shui whipped them across their faces in sequence. One was cast aside from the impact, leaving only a few teeth left in his mouth.

"What are you doing? Don't you know the rules of the Thousand Miles Waft of Fragrance? Go far away if you want to fight, I have a business to run." A mature yet elegant voice rang out.

Qing Shui was stunned as he caught sight of the mature woman. He couldn't tell her age but could speculate that she wasn't young. Even so, there wasn't any sign of wrinkles on her. She was mature, just like a ripened peach with a well-rounded bottom. She was tall even compared to Qing Shui; her features exquisite with a gaze as deep as a bottomless ocean.

She had a sharp nose and a pair of proportionate lips which were on the thicker side. It didn't affect her beauty and had instead increased her alluring factor. She had a long neck, as well as a huge and perky chest. That was the first thing men would have noticed when they saw her.

It left people with dry mouth. This was only natural as the woman was alluring, sexy and mature, tempting to men at any stage.

“Ah, Boss Chen. Sorry, sorry!” Qian Duoduo bowed in apology.

“Say, Master Qian, forget it. What are you all waiting for? Quick. Thank Master Qian for his generosity. Master Qian, why don’t you head back and rest first?” the woman sighed.

The serving girls bent at their waist and thanked Master Qian gleefully once more.

Qian Duoduo glared at Qing Shui with an indescribable resentment in his eyes then bowed to the woman before taking his leave.

Qing Shui could now confirm that the woman was the Culinary Demon King, but she didn’t have the Demon King’s blood in her. This confused Qing Shui. Wasn’t this something that Demon Kings should have? A necessity?

Qing Shui knew that the woman was the Culinary Demon King because of her body. He could feel that she once had had the Demon King’s blood, and it should still be there in her body. Yet, as unique as it was, it was no longer the Demon King’s blood. It had an ability which was even stronger than the Demon King’s blood but without its corruption.

Qing Shui’s thoughts shifted; perhaps the hope for Tantai Lingyan resided in this woman.

“We don’t welcome you here. You should leave!” The woman directed her words at Qing Shui, her gaze ice cold.

Qing Shui knew that the woman had figured out his identity. “This is the first I’ve stooped to this level. Are you saying that you’re chasing me off even after the amount of money I’ve spent?”

“What are you all waiting for? Thank him.”

The serving girls bowed to Qing Shui. “Thank you, Sir, for your reward.”

Qing Shui rubbed his nose. This woman was blunt. After the amount of money spent without touching anything, he still couldn’t enter the Thousand Miles Waft of Fragrance. Still, the woman had some secrets to her which made him unwilling to try any tactics for now.

Chapter 2394 Culinary Competition, Green Divine Pepper

“You clearly know why. I don’t want us to be forced to make a move.” The woman didn’t favor Battle Gods, just as Battle Gods didn’t favor Demon Kings.

“Senior, you seemed to be prejudiced against me.” Qing Shui smiled.

The woman was displeased at being addressed as senior by Qing Shui. She was mature, but she didn’t wish to admit that she was old. Her tone wasn’t friendly when she replied, “Do you know who I am?”

“The boss of the Thousand Miles Waft of Fragrance!” Qing Shui feigned ignorance.

“Say, why are you feigning ignorance? You have been trying to seek out information about me before.” The woman watched Qing Shui. This man was truly thick-skinned.

Qing Shui snickered. "Actually, I'm hoping to engage with you in a culinary competition. Cooking is a hobby of mine."

This time, the woman had utterly felt the extent of Qing Shui's thick skin. "Not interested!"

"I'm serious. Even if our identities aren't exactly ideal, it doesn't mean that our first meeting would have to end in slaughter. We can try to interact with each other. Besides, I really am interested in the culinary arts, and I've not met my match thus far." Qing Shui replied seriously.

"I've seen a number of Battle Gods, but you're the only one who's this sneaky. Aren't Battle Gods open and upright? What are you playing at?" The woman sized Qing Shui up, attempting to unravel whatever he was hiding.

"You're a Culinary Demon King, but you don't have any demon attributes. I truly do not have any ill intentions toward you. Besides, a lifestyle Demon King like you isn't a threat." Qing Shui brushed off the Culinary Demon King's abilities as if they weren't worth mentioning.

The woman couldn't help but laugh at Qing Shui's derisive statement. Yes, she was a Culinary Demon King, but her abilities left many of the stronger Demon Kings gasping in awe. How would she become the Sect Leader of the Forsaken Earth Region's city Demon Gate otherwise?

"Name it, then. How will we compete?" The woman responded.

"Let's hold a competition first. We can decide on the stakes when it's concluded. What do you think?" Qing Shui smiled.

"Oh, there will be stakes? What is it? Let me hear it." The woman grew curious.

"Can we talk about it after we're done?" Qing Shui spoke up after some pondering.

"Who would discuss stakes only after the competition? If I were to speak without thinking at that point and claim your life as stakes, do you think that would be appropriate?" retorted the woman casually.

"Alright. Since that's the case, then let us decide on the stakes first. Should we get a judge?" Qing Shui asked.

"There's no need for a witness. I believe we'd be able to tell which is better on our own. If you really are better than me or just on par with me, then we'll treat it as your victory," the woman said confidently.

Qing Shui nodded. "I won't hide this from you. My wife is a Demon King Inheritor, and I want to know how you managed to cleanse your Demon King's blood. I had once cleansed her from it once, but she actually has the Demon Saint Blood and the purification didn't have any effect. I wonder if you'll have a way?"

The woman was startled at that moment, shocked by the fact that the wife of this Battle God was a Demon King Inheritor and one with Demon Saint Blood at that. If it was the Demon Saint Blood, the Nine Continent's Demon Gate Sect Leader had that very same bloodline, but the Sect Leader was old now. Perhaps, his wife would be the next Sect Leader of the Nine Continents Demon Gate...

The woman sighed as her own line of thoughts was preposterous. However, she couldn't help but put her sympathetic glance toward Qing Shui...

“Don’t look at me like that. I’m not pitiful...” Qing Shui was speechless.

“There’s no way to cleanse Demon Saint Blood, or at least, I can’t. So, let’s not compete anymore, I can’t help you.” The woman shook her head.

“Even so, let’s compete. I really do have a bit of culinary skills. Hmm, how about this? If there’s anything you want, I can give it to you if I lose.” Qing Shui thought about it before speaking.

“There’s nothing I need. Since you’d like to compete, then let’s do it. However, we’ll make it simpler. Choose a dish from my inn, and we’ll make one each. From there, we’ll see who made the better dish. What do you think?” The woman smiled.

“Alright!”

Arriving at the woman’s exclusive kitchen, there was hardly a spot of dust. It wasn’t a kitchen, more like a palace. All the ingredients were displayed neatly, and the kitchen’s temperature was perfect. With this environment and temperature, the ingredients could be kept for a long time. Furthermore, all the ingredients were fresh, such as meat and vegetables.

“What a great place!” Qing Shui exclaimed. Regardless of things, their grade would increase once they reached a certain level. The same went for the kitchen.

There were many sets of cutting tools, and there were all uncommon, plus utensils, ingredients, plates, and more.

The competition between them started with just a word, without judges and spectators.

Qing Shui spotted two potatoes. Many of the items in the Nine Continents were named similarly to those in his past life.

Sliced in shreds!

At Qing Shui’s level, even those without culinary skills would be able to slice them in equal portions.

Hence, unlike to his previous life, cutting skills weren’t worth a mention in the Nine Continents. It was a great selling point in the past where chefs would need to spend much time and effort practicing.

In the Nine Continents, controlling fire was the most important, as well as understanding the composition of ingredients and shapes. With a lot of spices and good ingredients, even those without culinary skills would be able to cook something delicious, but they would be drastically different from those who did know how to cook.

Qing Shui’s culinary skills went without saying. This was an ability gained from the inheritance. He would be able to maximize each use of all ingredients, along with his own unique types of spices.

Qing Shui could already smell the alluring and refreshing fragrance. With a turn of his head, he spotted the woman making Steamed Bear Paws.

Those tender bear paws had become golden in color, emitting a faint glow.

Qing Shui prepared Stir-Fry Potato Shreds, a common home-cooked dish in the Nine Continents. This was the lowest form of a dish which could be prepared decently by even common folk. Of course, for those who were truly great culinary chefs, even this simple dish was vastly different from them.

As for Qing Shui, this went without saying. He added his own spices and the specially prepared Green Divine Pepper.

This was Qing Shui's favorite. Its taste was beyond words, and the Divine in its name was aptly given.

Once the aroma of Qing Shui's dish flooded the room, it suppressed that of the Steamed Bear Paws completely.

The woman was shocked. Although it might not taste as great, there was a saying that suppression of smell was half the journey to winning. That was especially applicable to the fact that it was a dish of Stir-Fry Potato Shreds which suppressed Bear Paws.

The fire. Qing Shui had brought it to the point of perfection before blowing it out, then he stopped.

The woman stopped as well.

"The spices you used aren't mine." The woman looked over at Qing Shui.

"I used my own. As a chef, a personal stock of spices is a must." Qing Shui smiled.

The penetrating smell filled the woman with an appetite. The potato shreds had a jade-like glow to it and placed proportionately atop its plate. There weren't any shapes to it, but it was tidy, giving a feeling of 'less was more'. At this point, the woman thought it was possible for this simple dish to clinch victory over any glamorous and rare delicacies.

Chapter 2395 I lost, the Qian Clan overestimates their abilities

The dish made by the woman was excellent even by Qing Shui's standards. From his point of view, she had lost due to his choice of spices, especially the Green Divine Pepper. When in combination with shredded potato, it was truly divine. In fact, the ingredients' natural value would complement with many types of food.

The tasting of dishes was even more interesting. The two dishes were served on the table with both contestants sitting across each other. When they started eating, they didn't stop till the dishes were almost finished. Qing Shui mainly ate the bear paws while the woman focused on the shredded potato.

"I lost!" The woman spoke up honestly.

"You didn't!" Qing Shui replied after some thoughts.

"I know I did. A loss is a loss. You were able prepare a common dish like shredded potato to this extent, so I willingly admit defeat." The woman maintained her serious demeanor.

"You lost on spices. If you don't believe me, you can try cooking with my spices; you'll be able prepare dishes at the same level." Qing Shui was honest as well. After all, this was a fact known to all. In his past life, there were secret seasonings. Past a certain level of skills, the only difference was the ingredients used.

“Perhaps. Even so, I’ve lost regardless. It was a pity that I can’t help with the issue you mentioned earlier. Demon Saint Blood is incomparably obnoxious but there’s something you shouldn’t worry about. Her amnesia towards you is only temporary. Everything will be fine once she regains her memory. Demon Saint Blood won’t change her nature, so I don’t think you have to worry too much about it.” The woman reassured.

Her words stunned Qing Shui and a bubble of glee expanded within him. It would be great if the circumstances between him and Tantai Lingyan were only temporary. Once she recovered, everything would be back to normal and she’d revert to the Tantai Lingyan he knew.

“Thank you for today. It’s getting late, I should go.” Qing Shui took a glimpse outside.

“I wanted to ask, would you make a move on the Demon Gate?” The woman questioned.

“During this period, I’ve realized a lot. Your organization and the Demon Gate are innately different. I won’t make a move and will be leaving soon. I’m going to look for my wife.” Qing Shui smiled.

“Then I’ll wish you a smooth journey. Goodbye!” The woman nodded her head with a smile.

Qing Shui mimicked her gesture. “Goodbye. Take this as a gift since you’re someone who is fond of the culinary arts.”

Qing Shui gifted the woman with a bunch of spices.

Qing Shui had an abundance of spices. Like gifting a treasured sword to a hero, these spices were the most suitable gift for her.

The result he achieved during this visit was truly surprising. Perhaps this was the reason why the existence of a Demon Gate here wasn’t matched with a Divine Palace.

Back at the inn, everyone was prepared to leave. However, it was at this moment when they were surrounded. Qing Shui soon realized the reason when he spotted a familiar face among them.

Qian Duoduo!

“Hello, we meet again!” Qing Shui smiled as he greeted Qian Duoduo.

Qian Duoduo seemed to be in a sorry state. He looked as though he couldn’t wait to take a bite off Qing Shui. With a glare, he shouted, “How dare you lay a hand on me. I’ll have you meet a tragic end today!”

“Why must everything end in life or death? How unharmonious. We can talk anything through.” Qing Shui waved his hand, signaling for the others to continue packing.

“We’re done. Are we leaving now?” Shen Huang asked.

“Leave? You wish.”

At Qian Duoduo’s words, he turned towards an elderly person. “Third Uncle, you must help me obtain justice.”

“Young lad, admit your mistake to Duoduo and I’d let you leave. What do you think?” The old man spoke gently.

The elderly looked dignified, paired with a luxurious attire. He had an air of glamour. Even though his tone was mild, it was still enough to make others cower.

“Third Uncle, I want to kill him. Kill him.” Qian Duoduo seemed reluctant.

“Oh, why should I apologize? I thought the Qian Clan was decent at first. Now, it seems like you’re really too inferior to be shown to the public. How about this? Since I’m in a good mood, I’ll forget about the matter if you cripple him now.” Qing Shui was serious about his proposition.

Qian Duoduo was rendered speechless, staring at Qing Shui in disbelief. He thought he had misheard Qing Shui.

The elderly burst out laughing. “Hahaha, young lad. This is the first time I’ve met a young man with character. How good it is to be young, you can spout anything you want.”

Qing Shui laughed along. “You know what I hate most? People who flaunt their seniority based on age, especially those without abilities. Do you really think everyone would cower in your presence?”

The elderly was stunned. A murderous glint fleeted across his eyes. “If that’s the case, then I’ll have you experience your own ignorance.”

The air in the surroundings seemed to have cooled down by many degrees. Gusts of cold wind lifted the elderly like an eagle as he lunged towards Qing Shui.

Qing Shui shook his head slightly.

Without any hesitation, he attacked with Taichi Cloud Hands.

The silhouette of a palm left a trace before landing on the elderly’s cheeks, much to the spectators’ surprise.

Slap!

It was a crisp sound which sent the elderly flying from the impact.

Qing Shui’s Taichi had long been merged with his Berserk Dragon Force, and his Taichi benefited the defender. Besides, Qing Shui knew that his realm was higher. Under such circumstances and with the addition of Taichi, it was normal that the elderly would be thrown aside. This wasn’t his full strength either. He was afraid the elderly’s skull would burst under his full strength.

Silence filled the air, so much so that they would be able to hear the fall of a needle.

“How can this be? That’s Qian Clan’s San Yanwang. How could he be reduced to this state after just one attack?”

A few of the elder’s teeth fell out after Qing Shui’s slap, as blood dripped from both his lips and nose. He looked like he was in a terrible state, but they were merely superficial wounds, nothing serious.

The old man was dazed from the attack as well, only regaining his composure after a moment as though he couldn’t recall the previous moment. He didn’t know how he was slapped by Qing Shui.

“You’re using demonic arts.” The elderly spouted.

Qing Shui laughed. Demonic arts. If this world had demonic arts, then every attack could be attributed to that. They even had a Demonic King, what were demonic arts compared to that...?

Even the elderly knew that the words he spouted had demerited him, and he didn't know why he said them either. Once he did, he rushed forward to kill Qing Shui. If he didn't kill this youngster, both his honor and the Qian Clan's reputation would be destroyed.

Qing Shui mimicked his moves and another unbelievable scene appeared. The crisp sound of the slap sounded once more, the force greater than the previous. With it, the elderly no longer had any teeth left in his mouth.

"It will happen again and again. If you attack again, you better be prepared for me to kill you." Qing Shui said when he noted the elderly's intention of rushing forward again.

The elderly halted in his steps, realizing that the young man's abilities far surpassed his own as he broke out in cold sweat.

"I've always believed that one has to be responsible for his every action. Being impetuous will have its punishment, otherwise it would have been too easy on you. I'll wait for three breaths of time. If you can't satisfy me, then I'll take action myself." Qing Shui spoke softly.

The elderly's eyes darkened. He held out a blade, severed his own arm and then approached Qian Duoduo.

"Third Uncle, Third Uncle, don't kill me..." Qian Duoduo's face paled in fear.

The elderly didn't kill Qian Duoduo but severed the latter's arm before looking back to Qing Shui.

Chapter 2396 Forsaken Heaven Region's Zhongyuan City, Meeting Luan Luan

Qing Shui and the others left, heading towards the Forsaken Heaven Region.

This was the last region in the Middle Three Regions and the strongest. It was different from other regions, providing a link between the Lower and Upper Three Regions since there were people from both the Lower and Upper Three Regions in the Forsaken Heaven Region.

Of course, this wasn't a common sight. Other than that, the place was unique with crooks being mixed in with honest folk. The region was close to the Upper Three Regions and was dense in Spiritual Qi. It was said that the Forsaken Heaven Region's Heavenly Dao Realm was suppressed at the level of Cave Realm. Anyone at a higher level would be reduced to the latter.

This was the reason why many strong warriors and unique people of the Upper Three Regions chose to stay in the Forsaken Heaven Region. For example, those with unique abilities and were at the Cave Realm would stay in the Forsaken Heaven Region and freely slaughter some of the Nurture God Realm warriors from the Upper Three Regions.

This was the amazing thing about the Forsaken Heaven Region, which was why powers were able to move unhindered. Competition was even more intensive here than in the Upper Three Regions. The Forsaken Heaven Region was basically another territory on its own where even the Upper Three Regions had no control over, unless one could become invincible here in the Cave Realm.

Qing Shui looked forward to coming here because he was also startled when he heard the news. He was at the Ten Caves Realm and they were all Golden Caves at that. It was without a doubt that he was the first to achieve this among those in the Cave Realm. Hence, Qing Shui felt as though he would be able to go on a rampage anywhere upon his arrival.

After a few months, Qing Shui and his comrades arrived at the Forsaken Heaven Region. They bumped into some troubles along the way, but they weren't too much to handle. Those were resolved easily, and they managed to enter the Forsaken Heaven Region.

The moment they stepped into the Forsaken Heaven Region, Qing Shui could feel his cultivation being suppressed. His perfect defense status was left with just 10 trillion dao or less. It seemed that the strongest within the Forsaken Heaven Region would be around 10 trillion Dao within the Cave Realm.

This left Qing Shui in a dilemma as to whether to be happy or not. Since strength was limited here, along with the Forsaken Heaven Region's weakening, his supportive abilities would be useless now and this dampened his mood. However, the Divine Soldier Soaring Blade's reduction ability should still be usable. This ability was terrifying, allowing Qing Shui to be as resilient as a cockroach.

There were pros and cons to everything, but Qing Shui thought this world had more pros for himself than cons.

Qing Shui didn't know the origin of the Forsaken Heaven Region's name. There was a myriad of rumors floating around but no definite answers. It was said that its name was related to the Forsaken Earth Region and that they used to be connected. For some reason, they separated somewhere down the line like Heaven and Earth, and the ground drifted apart. The Forsaken Earth Region was the one which shifted away, being regarded as a desolate land afterwards. After an unknown amount of time, the Forsaken Heaven Region flourished to the way it was today.

Besides that, another saying regarding the Forsaken Heaven Region was that the restriction of abilities here was due to the Heavenly Laws. Meaning to say that this place was a slice of the sky, like an independent world but still had to follow this rule.

Qing Shui didn't think that any of the rumors mattered so he just merely listened. Like reading history books in his previous life, he just thought it sounded interesting.

After a couple of months, the people around Qing Shui had quite an improvement in abilities. They were in an accelerated space although they didn't have a lot of people. No one would even bat an eye at them when they travelled in a group, given how common it was for a group of hundreds to travel together.

They had already been through dozens of cities. This world was too big. Typically, they would pass through the cities and gather some information, staying for a few days to sightsee if the city was beautiful.

This was like a form of vacation. In all honesty, vacation wasn't popular in the Nine Continents due to the dangerous nature of their world. Hence, most people would regard the world as an adventure, or would just live within an area. The place was too big after all; any city here was several times larger than those from his previous life. Thinking back about the few places he visited then, they were only about several dozen miles wide.

Adventurers were prone to walk a lot. Since being on adventure was associated to a share of dangers, many of them perished on a daily basis.

Qing Shui and his companions weren't much different from those adventurers. If they hadn't been strong enough, a number of them would have died along the way.

Zhongyuan City!

This place was aptly named. Qing Shui and his companions arrived at the central Forsaken Heaven Region after a few months. This was a unique city. Just like Chaos City, it didn't belong to any empire, and it was huge. There were great stretches of empty land and mountains around it.

It was because of this emptiness that after Qing Shui used his Nine Continents Steps, he had to ride on the Primordial Dragon Elephant for two hours before spotting the city.

It was only after they entered when they realized the vastness of the city and got to know its name as Zhongyuan City. This was the third largest city within the Forsaken Heaven Region.

It wasn't just the area that was the largest, but even their strength was immense. This was even more crucial than space alone.

Zhongyuan City didn't belong to any empire and it was its unique point. The one with the most power here was the City Lord. Despite the title, he was practically the Emperor here.

After understanding the situation, Qing Shui decided to make a stop at Zhongyuan City. They had been rushing through their journey for the past few days. It wasn't hard or tiring when just using Nine Continents Steps for their journey, but they spent most of the time training, resting for a day or so to explore occasionally.

"Daddy!"

Out of the blue, a familiar voice reached them. Qing Shui turned back in disbelief, seeing a beautiful girl gazing back at Qing Shui with the same expression of disbelief and shock.

Luan Luan!

This girl was Luan Luan. Qing Shui smiled as she lunged into his embrace, holding him tightly.

"Why are you here, girl?" Qing Shui recalled that she was at the Northern Underworld Immortal Palace, and a Vice Palace Lord under Beiming Xue.

Hao Tian looked at Qing Shui, puzzled. This was his daughter?

"It's a long story, I'll tell you later. Father, why are you all here?" Luan Luan spoke with glee lacing her voice.

Qing Shui explained briefly before starting the introductions.

Everyone was shocked to know that this was Qing Shui's daughter. Luan Luan tugged at Shen Huang and Beihuang Fan. "Aunts, you're so beautiful."

"You're beautiful too. We feel old just by looking at you." Shen Huang smiled.

After an exchange of polite words, the group headed to an inn for food.

It was then that Luan Luan explained her side of the story. She was still the Vice Palace Lord of the Northern Underworld Immortal Palace, but she had complete freedom. Beiming Xue identified her gift and chose not to restrict her.

Luan Luan left to make her mark in the world, relying on her strength and numerous demonic beasts to arrive at Zhongyuan City. Within Zhongyuan City, she established a branch for the Northern Underworld Immortal Palace and had been here for two years.

Chapter 2397 Zhongyuan City Lord's Child, Su Chun

Though it had been a long time since they had last seen each other, it didn't affect their relationship. Qing Shui was naturally happy to meet her again. Although they weren't blood-related, Qing Shui had long thought of her as his own child.

After their meal, they understood the situation. Luan Luan established a branch for the Northern Underworld Immortal Palace there, but it couldn't be considered as invincible. While Luan Luan's abilities were great, the same couldn't be said for her subordinates.

Luan Luan had decent strength, and Qing Shui already noticed this without the need to probe her. At least, she had reached a level that wasn't inferior to Shen Huang and Beihuang Fan. Moreover, she was a beast tamer and also the most powerful kind at that.

Qing Shui wasn't surprised by Luan Luan's abilities and thought it was normal. Even Qing Shui didn't know what sort of demonic beasts Luan Luan possessed now, and the extent of power they had.

Luan Luan led Qing Shui and his company towards the Northern Underworld Immortal Palace.

It was located at the southeastern side of Zhongyuan City, along a busy street and taking up roughly fifty thousand square meters of space. This was the branch outlet of the Northern Underworld Immortal Palace in Zhongyuan City and was considered small. However, to Qing Shui's knowledge, it would be difficult for the Northern Underworld Immortal Palace to shift here.

Qing Shui grew curious. "Little girl, what's your plan, establishing the Northern Underworld Immortal Palace here?"

Luan Luan sighed, "I did it for fun initially, but it's impossible to stop now. I made a bet with someone, and I would lose if the Northern Underworld Immortal Palace doesn't survive in Zhongyuan City for three years."

Qing Shui was even more intrigued now. "How did that happen?"

"There's a disciple from the City Lord Manor who wants to marry me. I'm not his match even if I make a move against him, but he wasn't too strong by much. He didn't do anything overboard as of now and has a good reputation in Zhongyuan City. Due to this, he would find some trouble with me from time to time, and without realizing it, we grew familiar with each other this way."

Qing Shui observed the expression on Luan Luan's face and realized just how much she had grown. Qing Shui wouldn't pry about her personal life and only smiled. He said, "Oh, what's this? My little girl fell for him."

A rare look of embarrassment took over Luan Luan's expression as she shook her head. "No, I just think he's decent and strong. He doesn't have a bad reputation nor is he already married. He's also the one who declared to all Zhongyuan City that he wouldn't wed before me."

"He seems rational. He didn't insist on you not marrying at all. Let me meet him when the opportunity arises, and I'll check him for you. What do you think?" Qing Shui smiled.

Qing Shui was still Luan Luan's father at the end of the day, and as the saying goes, nobody understands a child better than the father. Qing Shui could guess Luan Luan's thoughts; she must have liked the man but didn't want to take the step this easily. This was like a test for both sides.

"Alright, I'll have someone inform him and have him come see you." Luan Luan smiled.

Qing Shui froze before breaking out in a smile. "I see your words have weight to it. Tell me, at what point are you two at? Sigh... My little girl is all grown up now."

Luan Luan flushed red as she clung onto Qing Shui's arm. "We're nowhere. We're just friends! Daddy, you must help me decide. I'll listen to you."

"Alright, you don't have to worry about that." Qing Shui smiled gleefully.

Qing Shui's children were all grown up now, especially Luan Luan. Yuchang was married and might even be a mother now. Luan Luan's time was here too and with her attributes, it was truly difficult to find a suitable companion.

Luan Luan's talent was too great, and no one around her age would be able to compare to her. Moreover, Luan Luan's beauty was in no way inferior to those from the Portraits of Beauty; plus, she came from a strong background like the Qing Clan to boot.

Entering the Northern Underworld Immortal Palace, the interior was decorated in a luxurious fashion. It was tidy and clean, without even a speck of dust. There were women of all ages and appearances present.

Anyone who crossed Luan Luan's path would politely address her as Palace Lord.

While it wasn't grandly decorated, it didn't lack much. There was a fragrance lingering in the air from a huge garden afar.

"Luan Luan, is there any Divine Palace or Demon Gate in Zhongyuan City?" Qing Shui just recalled the question he hadn't asked.

"No. The power play here is complicated, but I've never heard of the Demon Gate nor about the Divine Palace here. There is one of each at the Forsaken Heaven Region's city though," Luan Luan answered without hesitation.

The information saved Qing Shui much effort in finding out about the Demon Gate and the Divine Palace. Hence, he decided to resolve Luan Luan's issue here. If she really wanted to wed into the Zhongyuan City Lord's family, then he would have to check out what kind of people they were.

While the Northern Underworld Immortal Palace was a distance away from the City Lord Manor, the guy Luan Luan mentioned shouldn't have been far away; they met after merely six hours.

The man was young, but he was probably not much younger than Qing Shui. In fact, they might have been the same age. Qing Shui looked young too, but the charm and grace he carried was far more mature than his actual age.

But this fellow was a handsome man too, standing at around Qing Shui's height. His eyes were clear, and he looked like a clean man. The cleanliness was a sort of mannerism; Qing Shui felt that the man was like him. There was familiarity between them as though he was looking at himself.

"Su Chun, this is my father," Luan Luan introduced.

The man named Su Chun froze but soon recovered as he bowed in haste to Qing Shui. "How do you do? You look really young, Uncle."

Qing Shui smiled. "Hello to you too. Luan Luan told me a lot about you."

Qing Shui, Luan Luan, and Su Chun sat down at the pavilion in their backyard.

Su Chun's abilities were on par with Luan Luan, perhaps slightly higher. However, it would be hard to tell who was stronger if they had to go all out, considering Luan Luan was a Beast Tamer.

"I've heard that Mr. Su had been forcing my daughter." Qing Shui smiled.

"Uncle, do call me Su Chun or even Little Su. How could I ever force Luan Luan?" Su Chun answered frantically.

"You don't have to be cautious, just speak as you wish." Qing Shui's cold gaze was fixated on Su Chun; his imposing manner suppressed the latter as Su Chun broke out in cold sweat.

Su Chun was shocked. He had thought that Luan Luan's father would be a common man. Of course, he would still pay his utmost and most sincere respect, but he wouldn't be as nervous as the typical man meeting his father-in-law.

Now, he realized he had misjudged Qing Shui. By using just his imposing manner, Qing Shui was able to suppress him to the point of being unable to breathe. In the Forsaken Heaven Region, Su Chun thought that maybe not even his own father was stronger than this man.

"Uncle, I wish to take Luan Luan as my wife. I hope you will agree." Su Chun calmed down quickly. He knew that he had to solve the issue now, even if there was a possibility that he had no hope.

"I don't know what right you have in liking my daughter. Why don't you tell me?" Qing Shui retracted a bit of his mannerisms, but he still didn't smile. He could naturally tell that this fellow was good at scheming.

Chapter 2398 Luan Luan's Issue, Su Clan's Clan Head

Su Chun was still very worried. He felt as though the man in front of him could feel his thoughts as well; there was no other reason his attitude would change otherwise. Su Chun's feelings were all over the place. He liked Luan Luan and felt he would go insane if she were to leave.

Su Chun replied cautiously to Qing Shui's question. He knew that speaking about his background might achieve the opposite result than desired. He wasn't any second-generation forefather to his clan either,

and couldn't play to that strength. Looking at Qing Shui, he spoke slowly. "I like Luan Luan very much. My cultivation is barely enough to be compatible and I'm not a saint, but I am not a bad person. I don't have other women. I only want Luan Luan as my wife. I will work hard. As long as I live, I won't let Luan Luan suffer."

Qing Shui watched Su Chun. "What kind of guarantee do you have? If I'm a bad person, what do you have to protect her?"

Su Chun knew that his abilities were drastically lacking in comparison to Qing Shui's. Perhaps it'd be difficult to even strike. However, they had a generation between them and so he didn't feel that depressed.

"I'm not much older than you. Did you think you wouldn't be any weaker than me once you're at my age?" Qing Shui continued.

Qing Shui's observation skills were still sharp. He continued when he observed Su Chun's surprise. "Such thinking will make you a good-for-nothing forever. You think you're a genius but you're far from it. Forget about the rest. My daughter is much stronger than you even though you're over ten years older. Once she reaches your age, she will have no issues casting you down ten streets."

Qing Shui continued his attack with the truth.

Su Chun knew it too. Luan Luan's innate abilities far surpassed his, but she was also someone he liked, so he wasn't jealous. Rather, he felt fortunate and had even satisfied his own desire of conquering, feeling as if it became part of his own.

"Senior, I..."

Beads of cold sweat covered Su Chun's face from panic. Marrying Luan Luan didn't seem as easy now. He used to be content with his current abilities. He would improve gradually with time and become Zhongyuan City's top warrior. Now, though, he was being described as a nobody by Qing Shui's words.

"I'm not attacking you. You're young yet you have no ambitions, which is the scariest. My daughter won't marry a good-for-nothing. She has the freedom to decide her own marriage, but I will not let her marry a good-for-nothing. Even if the person is a common man with a strong character, I wouldn't object. Not only are your abilities unacceptable, with that attitude, I think you're even more useless." Qing Shui retracted his suppression after he was done.

"Father!" Luan Luan stood alongside Qing Shui.

"Little Girl, you're not young. If you insist on it, I won't object. As long as it's someone you like, I'll support you." Qing Shui smiled.

"Since I've let Father check, I'll listen to you." Su Chun's attitude had relaxed during this period. "Nobody's perfect. Father, would you give him another chance?" Luan Luan asked gently.

Qing Shui might have said a lot, but he didn't actually object to them. Hence, at her words, he nodded. "I can give you another chance."

"Please tell, Senior," Su Chun answered agitatedly.

“I have a set of movement techniques. I’ll give you three months’ time. I hope you’ll be able to practice it to an extent I’ll be satisfied with,” Qing Shui said after some thought.

The technique Qing Shui passed down was Windwhisk Willow. When he taught it, Luan Luan followed suit in learning as well.

Su Chun was a smart man. He understood Qing Shui’s intentions and knew that he didn’t object. Otherwise, he wouldn’t have said so much and taught him the technique. Su Chun hadn’t mastered it but he knew that the technique was not inferior to a minor Divine grade. The idea of learning a Divine grade technique left him agitated. Where did the man come from to have such a terrifying technique to give out?

He knew this was all for Luan Luan. Watching Luan Luan who was like a goddess among men, Su Chun felt as though this was the fortune he reaped from a previous life. However, he knew that he had to work hard now to please this man. The latter wasn’t warm, but he hoped for himself to stand at the peak as well. If he had Luan Luan in the future but her abilities surpassed his by too much, he felt that others may look down on him for it too.

Su Chun left!

Qing Shui smiled at Luan Luan.

“Thank you, Father!” Luan Luan said happily.

“Why the formality? That kid is decent. He’s almost compatible with my daughter.” Qing Shui smiled.

Luan Luan smiled in embarrassment.

After a chat with Luan Luan, Qing Shui got to know that Su Chun was the City Lord, Su Clan’s fifth generation disciple. He was ranked eighth in the clan, and was well respected in the Su Clan. Su Chun was the direct descendant of the Su Clan.

The Su Clan was Zhongyuan City’s City Lord Manor, and the strongest in the city as there were two strong warriors in the Su Clan. They were a mystical existence within the Cave Realm, unmatched within it. This was also why the Su Clan had such powerful influence over Zhongyuan City.

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City Lord Manor!

The City Lord Manor was to the north of Zhongyuan City, in the most central position. The mountains of Zhongyuan lined the place and the huge City Lord Manor of the Su Clan was built nearby.

The Su Clan was Zhongyuan City’s ruler. The number of people in the clan was high, with many members. There were many members even by just counting direct descendants alone and it was one of the reasons for their strength. There was nothing to worry about. It was only natural to say ‘the more the merrier’; increasing the probability of producing gifted people and being able to tide through inevitable deaths.

Su Chun knocked on the door to the study room at that moment.

“Come in!” A dignified voice rang out.

One couldn’t decipher age from the voice alone, but it was charming.

Su Chun pushed the door open and stepped in. The study room was huge, stretching a few hundred meters in length. The shelves on all four walls were lined with books. There was an enormous table and chair not far away from the door, where a refined man was currently sitting, reading a book.

“Father!” Su Chun greeted softly.

“Chun’er, have a seat. I can tell you have something to say.” The man spoke casually while he lifted his head and looked at Su Chun.

“That father... Luan Luan’s father came to Zhongyuan City.” Su Chun smiled.

“Your girlfriend’s father. Hm, how did the talk go? Do you need me to help you settle this marriage?” The man smiled as he watched his son. Among his sons, the one in front of him might not be the strongest, but he was his favorite. There were few who could keep their conscience, and only this son of his was able to. He might not be the strongest now, but he would definitely be the one to bring the Su Clan to another level in the future.

“Father, I want to invite you to have a look. Luan Luan’s father isn’t simple. Just by his spiritual pressure, he could immobilize me,” Su Chun recalled and said.

In Zhongyuan City, powers were all restricted to the Cave Realm and there were only a few who would be able to suppress Su Chun with just that, which was why the man was very surprised to hear it. His expression became more severe as well. “Let’s go. Let’s pay this future father-in-law of yours a visit.”

“Father, you’re not planning on fighting him, are you?” Su Chun hesitated before speaking.

Chapter 2399 Mythical Fire Dragon, Su Xianjun’s Challenge

Qing Shui didn’t lodge at the Northern Underworld Immortal Palace. Instead, he and his company settled at a manor not far away. It was bought by the Northern Underworld Immortal Palace, but was left vacant.

The group noted the cleanliness of the place. It had two yards, front and rear, and over ten tinier courtyards. Each was two levels high with fresh flowers, ponds and a pavilion.

It wasn’t considered anything luxurious, but it was decent. Qing Shui wasn’t picky with their lodging. Beihuang Fan, Shen Huang and he stayed in one of these courtyards.

Hao Tian had progressed in his relationship, sharing a courtyard with Tang Xi.

Luan Luan stayed here as well, at a courtyard near Qing Shui.

Once they tidied up everything, Qing Shui saw a huge dragon-shaped demonic beast heading towards them from afar. At the sight of Su Chun, he understood what was going on; it was something he had anticipated.

Qing Shui had decent eyesight. Watching the red dragon, he figured that its blood must be pure. It was a Fire Dragon, but even pure Fire Dragons had strong and weak variants. This one in particular was pretty good; it should be capable of spitting Mythical Fire.

The Mythical Fire Dragon was a decent demonic beast. After all, it belonged to the dragon species and a pure-blooded one at that, which was rare. It wasn't any of those blue or green dragons which weren't that strong.

The dragons in this world weren't like the sacred creatures in Qing Shui's mind, but more like dinosaurs in western terms. Hence, Qing Shui's knowledge was restricted to it being a strong demonic beast, in that it wasn't green or blue. If it were like the Divine Dragons, then it would surely astonish Qing Shui.

Qing Shui could already feel the aura of the man riding upon it from below. He was strong and there was a sense of exhilaration. Qing Shui already figured out the identity of the man. It was Zhongyuan City's City Lord, a genius. Su Xianjun was well known in Zhongyuan City.

Qing Shui didn't like looking up at people, but their visitors didn't seem to have any intentions of disembarking. Qing Shui turned on his heels and headed to his room. There were only a few people outside as it was and with his gesture, no one lingered on...

Su Xianjun had wanted to test Qing Shui's reaction. Who knew he'd be the one left out to dry?

Su Chun descended from above, just as he had wanted to from the start. He was, however, stopped by Su Xianjun and could only let out a bitter laugh. He was nervous.

Reaching the entrance to the manor, there wasn't any guard to stop him and so he continued his approach. "I'm Su Xianjun. Is Mr. Qing here?"

"What's the ruckus? Just because you're Su Xianjun, you can intrude on a civilian's house? Don't you know how to yell from outside?" Hao Tian walked out and spoke in a tone that was less than pleasant.

Hao Tian was outside and had seen everything. This wasn't being petty. Since it was a confrontation, he had naturally been rude towards them.

"Haha, alright. You have an attitude. I like it. Seems like he will only come out after I defeat you." Su Xianjun chuckled at Hao Tian.

"Hm, you are? Why do I find you familiar? Have we met before?" Qing Shui walked out and asked in surprise.

Su Xianjun's face turned stoic as he nodded. "We should have."

Qing Shui nodded along. "That must mean we've met. Like I said, you seemed familiar. What's your name?"

"Su Xianjun!" Their visitor replied, smiling even happier than before.

"Uncle, I'm sorry about this. It's just..." Su Chun spoke up at that.

"What have you got to apologize for?" Qing Shui asked.

“Come, come. Let us have a drink. I’ve brought two pots of great wine. You’re in for a treat,” Su Xianjun interjected Su Chun and placed an arm around Qing Shui’s shoulders, guiding him towards the stone table to the side.

Qing Shui didn’t realize that Su Xianjun was comfortable with others on his own. He must be confident but then again, it was only natural for him to be. As the City Lord of Zhongyuan City, who would believe in him if he wasn’t.

His ability was at 10 trillion dao, his cultivation was at the Peak of the Cave Realm.

Qing Shui and Su Xianjun sat there. While the former measured him up, Su Xianjun was likewise looking at Qing Shui. He realized he couldn’t see through him and shook his head at last. “I realized I can’t see through your depth.”

“Why do you have to?” Qing Shui smiled.

“Let’s drink first. This is the specialty of Zhongyuan City. Only the Su Clan has this Tyrant Wine.” Su Xianjun brought up an unappealing jug.

“What an arrogant name. I wonder if it will be as good as its name advertises.” Qing Shui retained his smile.

“You’ll know once you try!”

Su Xianjun poured two bowls, one for each of them, then held up his. “Cheers. To be able to meet is fate in itself.”

Qing Shui laughed and held up his own. With a clink, he chucked down its contents in a gulp.

The wine was like a whirl of fire, burning through the mouth to his stomach. Even though it felt hot and burning, it left a fragrance in his mouth. It was indescribable. With their might, the strength of this alcohol still wasn’t much, but just a single bowl might be fatal for the common folk.

The scalding feeling dulled and became refreshing. Its warmth dissipated, replaced by an unfathomable comfort.

“Good wine!” Qing Shui complimented sincerely.

“It is, isn’t it? There’s too little of such stuff and even I can’t bear to drink it. It was also because of your honor that I get to drink some today,” Su Xianjun spoke nostalgically before pouring another cup for them.

“It’s your wine. Why would the honor of a stranger like me be the reason you can drink it?”

“Isn’t it all for that son of mine? How is it? Will we be able to settle it today?” Su Xianjun looked at Qing Shui.

“There’s no rush. I still don’t have a good understanding of the Su Clan yet. I can’t be irresponsible and let my daughter marry just like that.” Qing Shui waved his hand and smiled.

Su Xianjun froze as he observed Qing Shui. “Mr Qing, are you looking down on the Su Clan?”

"I won't look down on anyone, even if it's a beggar on the side of the street." Qing Shui kept his smile as he returned Su Xianjun's gaze.

"You're the first person to compare the Su Clan to a beggar." Su Xianjun was very calm.

"Beggars are people too. They're not any lower ranking than anyone. Why is the City Lord Su looking down on beggars, or those weaker than you?" Qing Shui smiled at Su Xianjun calmly without wavering.

"There's no meaning to this question, don't you think? Anyone can be good at spouting good words. Have you done anything for beggars or sat with them? How long did you sit with them for, what did you talk about? Have you had a meal together?" Su Xianjun asked as he retained his attention on Qing Shui.

"True, but why did you claim that I was looking down on the Su Clan. Isn't this the same?" Qing Shui smiled.

Su Xianjun was stunned. Beating around the bush, he caught himself with his own words in the end.

"I wonder how Mr. Qing plans to understand the Su Clan?" Su Xianjun asked.

"This requires time. There's a saying that you'll see a person's true nature with time. I'll naturally understand in the future." In truth, Qing Shui had Nuo Lan observe the Su Clan in secret, to check out how the entire clan was like.

"Why don't you understand my abilities first?" Su Xianjun watched Qing Shui, a fire igniting in his eyes. It was a desire to battle.

"Your abilities aren't much. To be honest, I'm not that interested." Qing Shui met Su Xianjun's eyes and shook his head with a smile.

Chapter 2400 Despondent Su Xianjun, He Also Has Ten Caves Realm

"I challenge you!" Su Xianjun remained calm as always, not angered by Qing Shui's words. At this level, manners were something he definitely retained.

Su Chun was nervous now. He knew that his father loved combat and anticipated this happening but he didn't have any way to stop him.

Qing Shui smiled at Su Xianjun. "Combative people are either confident in themselves or like the feeling of being stronger than others. They use these methods to fulfil their own vanity. Which one are you?"

"I'm whatever you think I am. Why? Are you afraid to fight against me?" Su Xianjun replied.

"Why must I fight?" Qing Shui asked.

"Some things do not require rhyme or reason. If everything required that, then it would be far too cumbersome." Su Xianjun smiled.

"You lack restraint, or perhaps you're lacking a baseline for morality. Such a person isn't good news." Qing Shui frowned. Su Xianjun was too casual. This was normal too. After all, the latter was a ruler of Zhongyuan City. On the contrary, it wouldn't be normal if he didn't have such a personality.

Su Xianjun frowned. "I do have a baseline; I will not willfully slaughter the innocent, nor would I do anything which would incur the wrath of the Heavens. Otherwise, I wouldn't be where I am today."

"The good don't live long while the bad live a thousand years. There are many evildoers who have reached this level of abilities. So, be it wrath of the Heavens or a calamity, they aren't too amazing either way," Qing Shui spoke up again after some thought.

"Fight with me. This will be a good practice for both of us. Is it really that hard? It's not like we're fighting to the death," Su Xianjun proposed once more.

"If that's what you want, then let's do it. However, please don't be too demoralized if you lose too severely," Qing Shui replied.

"I'm not trying to brag, but there are few who can make me lose severely in the Forsaken Heaven Region. In fact, I feel like I have yet to meet anyone who can do so," Su Xianjun responded confidently.

"That's because you haven't met a truly stronger fighter. Alright, let's start!" Qing Shui and Su Xianjun stood in mid-air.

"You first. You're the guest," Su Xianjun offered.

Qing Shui didn't stand on ceremony. He wanted to check if his Emperor's Qi was still effective as well and launched the attack.

A reduction!

Qing Shui took a sensing of his opponent's abilities. It didn't make any recovery. For example, one who had 12 trillion dao was suppressed to 10 trillion dao here, but with Emperor's Qi, they were further suppressed to 8 million dao. That 2 million dao of discrepancy wouldn't be unleashed.

Yet, to Qing Shui's surprise, it didn't recover. The suppression of 10 trillion dao meant that he just had exactly that, and even if it was weakened, there wasn't any strength to be unleashed.

Su Xianjun was shocked by the weakening of his powers by 20% from Qing Shui. The latter knew that his abilities were still useful and didn't bother with anything else. He lunged a fist towards Su Xianjun.

Immortal Lord's Palm!

At the sight of Qing Shui's fist, he swung a graceful palm.

Qing Shui's punch was focused on its ferocity. Although it didn't reach 10 trillion dao, it was still about 1 trillion dao in strength. Compared to Su Xianjun, it was still a tad stronger.

Immortal Lord's Step!

Su Xianjun's footwork was profound. Qing Shui was not the only one who had strong battle techniques. As the Zhongyuan City's City Lord, Su Xianjun's abilities were naturally nothing to scoff at. Through this battle, Qing Shui realized that Su Xianjun was strong.

Boom, boom...

Both parties were ceaseless in their attacks at an incredible speed. In just that short period, their attacks had already collided more than thousands of times, igniting a series of crackling sounds in the air just like thunder.

Qing Shui didn't pull out his trump cards and it seemed like the same went for his opponent as well.

Suddenly, a smile appeared on Qing Shui's face. Without dodging, he allowed Su Xianjun to land an attack on him. After being weakened by 20% and on top of the Divine Soldier Soaring Blade's weakening powers, his attack didn't pose a threat on Qing Shui's body.

Su Xianjun was startled and in that time, Qing Shui landed a punch, causing the former to fly back on impact.

Boom!

Qing Shui didn't dodge and struck with his Combination Punches. Su Xianjun was continuously thrown back. It was a chain of almost fifteen attacks from Qing Shui before he escaped from it.

Su Xianjun was dazed. What kind of technique was that? Like a downpour, there was nowhere to hide, making his incredible speed seem insignificant.

He had the Immortal Lord's Step, but Qing Shui also had his own Windwhisk Willow as well as the Heavenly Vision Technique to boot. This increased Qing Shui's speed by a lot.

The power of this chain of attacks could be easily used as long as Qing Shui's powers and speed were on par with his opponent's.

Gouging Strike!

Boom, boom...

Buddha Bright Seal!

Boom...

Qing Shui always stunned his opponent before unleashing a chain of Combination Punches. Sometimes, he would use Mountain Push Stance to pave the way.

Buddha Wisdom Seal!

Su Xianjun was completely exhausted after this. He unleashed the Immortal Lord's Critical Strike, landing the attack on Qing Shui's body but it only managed to make the latter retreat by a few steps. It didn't injure him despite the magnitude of its power. While his abilities were limited, the Immortal Lord's Critical Strike's damage level and restrictions weren't too affected.

However, even this attack wasn't enough to injure Qing Shui.

The Buddha Wisdom Seal could reduce the damage of attacks upon Qing Shui. With the addition of the Divine Soldier Soaring Blade and the weakening of powers, Su Xianjun's attack didn't have much effect towards Qing Shui's defense and his Nine Yang Golden Body. It was like punching a person in the chest. He may feel a little pain at first, but it'd be fine after a few breaths. With such attacks, it wouldn't be fatal even if Qing Shui stood there unmoving.

Dragon-Capturing Hands!

Just like that, Qing Shui continued fighting until Su Xianjun eventually realized that he had no more strength to retaliate. He was like a punching bag for Qing Shui.

Qing Shui controlled his strength and spoke only after a long while. "This has no meaning. Let's stop."

Su Xianjun wanted to cry but there were no tears. There was not much damage to being punched but the effect it had on his mind was the greatest. Besides, he was on the receiving end of the attacks.

"I told you that you weren't my match, but you wouldn't listen." Qing Shui smiled.

Su Xianjun was a little embarrassed. Behind him, the caves began to appear. One, two, three...

Ten!

There were ten caves, and the tenth was gold in color.

"I don't understand. How can I lose if I have ten caves? If you have ten, then I will accept my loss wholeheartedly. Otherwise, let's go again." Su Xianjun said seriously.

Qing Shui watched Su Xianjun. He knew that if he didn't let the latter know about his caves, then he would remain incomparably sullen. Qing Shui did it for Luan Luan when he revealed the caves behind him.

There were ten, all gold in color. Compared to Su Xianjun's, they were even bigger.

Qing Shui's ten golden caves made it impossible for Su Xianjun to compete.

Before, Su Xianjun's ten caves had already been surprising to others. After all, people in such a realm only appeared once in a thousand years. However, now there wasn't any glory to it compared to Qing Shui's. In fact, it seemed a little miserable...

Su Xianjun was relieved but still startled as he kept his eyes fixated on Qing Shui. "How did you do it?"