

Ancient ST 441

Chapter 441 - Beast tamer Chi Tianhao, Tigon Beast

The discussion grew fierce as Qing Shui and Xi Ri were being followed by a stream of people. Some were even discussing topics concerning Qing Shui.

Although a lot of people had already seen Qing Shui before he left the Heavenly Palace, they were still quite excited about his return.

“Haha, Qing Shui has come back. We can finally kill them during the competition. This would be our time to shine,” one of the Heavenly Palace disciples shouted agitatedly.

“Yeah, Qing Shui is the strongest amongst our generation in the Heavenly Palace,” another disciple immediately followed up. He looked like he had the desire to cause trouble and chaos.

“Qing Shui has finally come back. Haha. Kill them and turn them into shreds and dust.”

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“Hahaha, this is too funny!” A towering voice abruptly interrupted the disciples’ enthusiastic cheers.

The laughter instantly died down. As they turned towards the direction of the voice, they could see a crude youngster standing in plain sight. He had a pair of bright wide eyes, thick brows, and a straight nose. His beard was shaved cleanly except for an area with a bunch of dark blue hairs, which gave an impression of an aggressive and barbaric man.

“Are you a member of the Mythical Beast Sect?” someone from the crowd curiously asked as they saw the crude youngster’s Mythical Beast Sect uniform.

Beast tamers and alchemists of the same level co-existed in harmony since a long time ago. Usually, alchemists would not be very useful in a battlefield because of their limited skills. However, an excellent alchemist would always be prepared with special medicinal pills to enhance their power greatly in a short amount of time. Other than medicinal pills, an alchemist would also prepare some unique medicinal powders to decrease the effectiveness of the opponent’s abilities.

Beast tamers were known to be excellent warriors even without their beast companions. They could also perform better without commanding the beasts to do their bidding. Moreover, the beast tamers would never battle alone since their demonic beasts would always act as supporters. In normal cases, beast tamers could only tame demonic beasts of the same level as themselves. However, there would be some special beast tamers who were able to tame demonic beasts of higher levels without any difficulty. Because of how versatile the alchemists and beast tamers were, martial warriors would generally develop an admiration towards them.

Many people respected alchemists because of their skills. Beast tamers were also respected naturally by many, not just because of their skills, but also their strength!

This was why the disciples did not scorn the crude beast tamer when he appeared. Most of the beast tamers were easily accepted into the society without problems, especially if they had an overbearing aura of tremendous strength.

“Do you think you can defeat Qing Shui?” a disciple asked unconvincingly as he thought about Qing Shui’s strength.

“Haha, you are all so naive. You guys don’t even understand how powerful a beast tamer can be. You see, competition and murder are two different concepts. This is not a competition between two people. Today, it will be a killing spree. Some people have false reputations generated by rumors. What you see on the outside doesn’t mean what it is on the inside.” The young man spoke at a slow pace, but his tone was powerful.

The young man was open about his opinion. He was proud and arrogant, but he had an air to him that others did not find unpleasant.

It might have been his sense of perception towards others, or his spiritual values, or maybe it was just his unique personality!

“Brag somewhere else!”

“Yeah, I used to have high respect for beast tamers because they have beast companions assisting them on the battlefield. They are strong, and it’s easy to find women as a beast tamer. But after I have seen Qing Shui’s power, I realized that martial warriors can also be extremely powerful. It is possible to kill demonic beasts as a martial warrior,” another person refuted the crude youngster.

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Humans have always been a feeble creature. As soon as someone else showed their arrogance and pride, they would try to put others down to make themselves look and feel better.

It was crucial for a person representing their own sect to not disrupt the sect’s prestige. Otherwise, they would become the butt of a joke. The crude youngster, however, had received a stream of mockery and sarcastic remarks from the crowd.

The crude youngster did not retaliate, but gave the crowd a smile without moving an inch. He looked down on the crowd like he was looking at a bunch of ants. Then, he turned around and left.

“What’s this? He ran away because he couldn’t fight back.”

“Yeah, one look at him and you already know how weak he is. Pitiful!” a young man with long sideburns said with despise in his tone.

“Yeah, he is more pitiful than us, pretending to be a hot shot, what a clown!”

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The crude youngster took every one of their words into his heart. His smile did not falter one bit as he said to himself, “What a bunch of trash. They can only use their insults as a way to cheer themselves up. They will always be losers!”

Qing Shui and Xi Ri found a suitable location to stop for a while. There was a large crowd gathered in the middle of the big public square. The members from the six sects came in a large number as well. After all, they would be able to learn and gain some important knowledge and experience by spectating the competition.

The members from the Nine Halls of the Heavenly Palace stood together at the east side of the arena. They stood out because of they had the largest amount of people around the arena. There were a few Elders sitting at the back, and a few Supreme Elders could be seen chatting with each other.

The south side of the arena was occupied by members of the Sword Tower. They had the second largest number of members in the arena. The members wore swordsman uniforms accordingly to their respective towers. Even though each of them wielded different sizes and types of swords, they seemed to complement each other.

Behind these warriors were the Grand Elders and Supreme Elders. Qing Shui looked around their group and could not find the two Grand Elders from before. Perhaps they were ashamed from the last incident and decided not to attend.

Huang Qing was nowhere to be found as well. Although Qing Shui already knew the reason for her absence, he was not surprised by it. Huang Qing was never concerned with matters involving Sword Tower, so it was normal to not see Huang Qing anywhere near them. Qing Shui rode on the Firebird and finally made it to the Heavenly Palace very quickly but calmly.

Qing Shui passed by the disciples of the Sword Tower as he moved through the crowd. It could have been because because of the massive number of people shuffling about, but he did not see the seven disciples from the original nine disciples as he passed by.

Qing Shui quickly searched around the moving crowd. He had a certain technique for finding people, especially when his target was an outstanding person who stood out in the crowd, as if they have a ring light around them.

“Hmm, ring light?”

Qing Shui closed his eyes slowly and expanded his spiritual sense around the area. In this spiritual sense, Qing Shui was able to see multiple luminous particles floating about like fireflies in the dark. These luminous particles represented the “spirit” of every living person. The brighter these particles were, the stronger their “spirit” would be. And naturally, their strength would be more powerful as well.

However, there was a limit to his spiritual sense; Qing Shui would not be able to detect these particles if they were located too far away from him.

The unfathomable elderly men who stood at the back row had “spirits” the size of a light bulb. These bulb-like “spirits” covered the other small luminous particles around them. However, all of the bigger “spirits” were the size of a light bulb, but the light emanating from each “spirit” was different in luminosity.

Could this be the mark of a Peak of Martial King “spirit”?

Qing Shui tried to sense the lights around him once more. Xi Ri who stood beside him has a “spirit” the size of a light bulb. Could it be that the level of Martial King corresponded to the size of the “light bulbs”? And those who could enter Xiantian has the “spirit” the size of a firefly?

He analyzed the lights to reaffirm his theory. When Qing Shui saw Canghai Mingyue and Huoyun Liu-Li, he used his spiritual sense to examine their lights. Canghai Mingyue who had recently entered the realm of Martial King had a “spirit” of a “15 degrees light bulb”. The elderly men’s “spirits” he had sensed

earlier were all around “100 degrees” or higher. The difference between Mingyue’s and the elderly men was vast.

It seemed that the size of “light bulbs” were connected to the “spirits” of the Martial Kings and Peak of Martial Kings. The brighter their “light bulbs” were, the stronger they seemed to be. Qing Shui was pleased with his discovery since it would be a great help in analyzing the strength of his opponents accurately, even if they had a skill that hides their true power. After all, only Martial Saint warriors would be able to use this type of spiritual sense. Even though Qing Shui’s spiritual sense was not as strong as the Martial Saint’s, he was able to upgrade it slowly as he grew stronger. Eventually, his spiritual sense would be able to expand further.

Qing Shui had a sudden thought, “It would require an enormous strength and power to have a spirit as radiant as a “bright moon” or a “mini sun”.”

“They would have to be a Martial Saint, or maybe something greater...”

“Qing Shui, look. That guy is Chi Tianhao from the Demonic Beast Sect. He is the youngest member as well as one of the top three important figures in the sect.” Xi Ri pointed at the west side of the arena. The young man he pointed out was very conspicuous.

Qing Shui observed him. He looked quite big and tall, at least taller than Qing Shui by a head. His shoulders were abnormally wide, which could be compared to the size of a small mountain. His eyes were as sharp as a knife, and he gave out a fierce aura like a beast from his whole body. He also wore a fullbody of black battle armor and battle boots.

“If you try to compete with him, how will it go?” Qing Shui stared at Chi Tianhao while asking Xi Ri.

“If I were to battle him, there’s no telling who would win or lose, but if his demonic beast assists him during battle, I will definitely lose badly and quickly.” Xi Ri did not hesitate as he replied.

“Is his demonic beast that strong?” Qing Shui felt envious about being a beast tamer. They had the ability to make their beast listen to their every command. Moreover, they were able to battle at the back line so they would not be able suffer damage from the front. It would be an ideal tactic if he could use his hidden weapons and strike a sneak attack to create an opening for his beast to launch a follow-up attack. Qing Shui felt awesome as he thought about it.

Suddenly, he remembered his Diamond Demonic Boar. It might be too hasty to refine the “Divine Marionette” since it was made specifically for those with the strength below a Martial Saint.

Qing Shui quickly dispersed his thoughts. He should not regret what he had already done. After all, his favorite Diamond Demonic Boar was different than the others. Qing Shui had been giving the beast some “Beast Pills” to increase its strength. He was not sure whether or not it would continue to evolve further.

“He only has one demonic beast so far. It’s the 7th Grade Martial King “Tigon Beast”!” Xi Ri did not explain further because it was a well-known beast in the world of martial arts.

Of course, Qing Shui knew about it. Tigon Beast was the most iconic beast a beast tamer could ever acquire. Many of the Peak of Martial King beast tamers had already owned at least one Tigon Beast.

A Tigon Beast consisted of a tiger head, lion's body, tiger's tail, and tiger's claws. It had a body five metres in length, and two metres in height. Their strength could vary from 1st Grade Martial King to 10th Grade Martial King. Meanwhile, a 10th Grade Martial King Tigon Beast would be known as Tigon Beast King.

There would always be one Tigon Beast King in every 10 Tigon Beasts. Tigon Beasts survived together as a group with one of them being the strongest one. However, there would only be one Tigon Beast Champion in every ten thousand Tigon Beasts. A Tigon Beast Champion was considered to be in the level of a Peak of Martial King.

Tigon Beasts lived together as a group of thousands. However, there would be a few Tigon Beasts that acted as vagabonds, drifting away from the group. Typically, a Tigon Beast King and a Tigon Beast Champion would always be surrounded by high levelled Tigon Beasts, which explained why no one was able to tame a Tigon Beast Champion. Despite that, some beast tamers were able to tame a number of Tigon Beast Kings. One example would be the Supreme Elders from the Demonic Beast Sect who were able to tame more than one Tigon Beast King successfully.

Qing Shui was shocked to know that Chi Tianhao was able to tame a 7th Grade Martial King Tigon Beast since they would rarely appear alone. In certain cases, Tigon Beasts that were kicked out from the group would mean that it was once a Tigon Beast King. This would also mean that it had been replaced by a newly appointed Tigon Beast King. Beast tamers would often luck out because they were able to catch the abandoned Tigon Beast easily instead of facing thousands of Tigon Beasts in one go. Otherwise, beast tamers would have no choice but to escape as quickly as possible.

A Tigon Beast King would often be challenged by stronger Tigon Beasts, and if they lost the challenge, the former Tigon Beast King would be kicked out, whilst its female companion would be given to the newly appointed Tigon Beast King. However, the challenger would most likely end up dead if it were to be defeated by the current Tigon Beast King.

This was the law of nature of the Tigon Beasts. Regardless whether the Tigon Beast Champion was challenged and vice versa, they were natural born leaders and champions. Some would say that they had better genes than other Tigon Beasts, giving them the starting line ahead. Most Tigon Beast Champions typically had faster growth as they could reach twice the size of a Tigon Beast when they reached adulthood. Moreover, normal Tigon Beasts had fiery red coats while Tigon Beast Champions had deep purple coats.

As mentioned before, Tigon Beast Champions were born natural leaders, which was why no Tigon Beast would ever challenge them. Furthermore, they would always have one offspring with a deep purple coat. The other Tigon Beasts would naturally protect the Tigon Beast Champion offspring until it reached adulthood. Otherwise, if the offsprings were not protected carefully, the wild Tigon Beasts would devour them.

The Tigon Beast Champions had an unnatural talent - once they reached adulthood, they would be able to gain the strength and power of a Peak of Martial King! They were natural born hunters as well. No other Martial Saint would be able to tame the Tigon Beast Champions because of the companions of other Tigon Beasts surrounding the champion.

Tigon Beasts had a huge range of growth. A Tigon Beast would eventually evolve into a Tigon Beast King, so in any circumstances, a Tigon Beast would be able to gain the power of a 10th Grade Martial King in due time under certain favorable conditions.

Most beast tamers - especially those who were able to tame Martial King level demonic beasts easily, hoped to tame a Tigon Beast successfully one day. This was because a Tigon Beast had the highest chance of evolving into a Tigon Beast King among other demonic beasts.

Moreover, a 7th Grade Martial King Tigon Beast would be able to take on an 8th Grade Martial King martial warrior. This showed how powerful a demonic beast could be, and how remarkable a beast tamer would be if they were able to tame it successfully.

This beast tamer was actually pretty skillful. If he were to compare himself with a martial warrior of the same level, he would be able to battle a dozen warriors with ease. An abnormally powerful beast tamer had the capability to tame multiple demonic beasts. He would be able to tame about a dozen of them without any problems.....

“Have you found the youngster wearing silver armor?” Xi Ri turned to Qing Shui and asked as he flashed a smile.

“Yup!”

Qing Shui replied with a short response and looked at the handsome young man with a full body of silver armor. He looked about thirty years old, which was around the same age as Xi Ri. He had a rigid facial structure, but his eyebrows looked elegant and refined. His eyes were as bright as stars, and the corners of his lips arched slightly upwards. He had a straight nose bridge as well. Most importantly, he looked quite handsome wearing a full body of shining silver armor, and he would always show a smile on his face.

He was the most handsome man Qing Shui had ever seen in his lifetime. This man may be even more handsome than Canghai himself, but he was less manly. However, it did not matter because there were a lot of infatuated women staring at this young man lovingly.

Chapter 442 - Hai Clan’s Pride, Hai Long, Feng Clan’s Elder Yun, Disastrous

“In another 10 years, he’d be even more attractive to women than Canghai!” Qing Shui thought while looking at the youth who should be from the Hai Clan.

“That’s the most talented one from the Hai Clan. The first among the younger generation, and also considered to be the most outstanding one among the entire Greencloud Continent.” Xi Ri turned his head around and told Qing Shui.

“Even you think so highly of him. Seems like he’s really not that weak after all!” Qing Shui smiled at Xi Ri.

“That’s not all. For a mere 35 years old to be at the peak of Martial King, although just barely, he has already left the rest far behind him.” Xi Ri added with a slightly bitter tone.

“Peak of Martial King?” Qing Shui was shocked too. The disparities between them were simply too great, so Qing Shui wasn’t able to sense his strength at all. He thought about his own situation. He had quite a lot of heaven-defying opportunities, but he had only barely made it to the peak of Martial King even

when he had utilised all of them. However, he knew that he would also be able to officially squeeze himself into the peak of Martial King ranking very soon.

“That’s right. He even put a lot of geniuses to shame!” Xi Ri said bitterly.

Qing Shui wondered if that included Xi Ri himself among them. But he could tell that Xi Ri admired that person from the bottom of his heart, to the extent of worshipping him.

“His future achievements will be boundless!” Qing Shui smiled, sighing inwardly to himself that the waters of the World of Nine Continents were indeed deep. He had thought that he wasn’t in any way inferior among the cream of the crop from the younger generation with all that he possessed right now, even though he still couldn’t compete with those bunch of old monsters.

He had also believed that he was bound to be standing at the highest summit eventually someday. But now, his faith had been wavered slightly. Cultivation was indeed difficult!

“Not only boundless. Hai Long can most likely become a Martial Saint grade cultivator. His Hai Clan should really be thankful for having someone like him in their clan.” It was difficult to tell if Xi Ri was insinuating anything from the tone of voice.

Qing Shui wondered how many people would be shocked again if news about him also being barely at the peak of Martial King had gotten out.

“How strong is the Hai Clan?” Qing Shui was completely clueless about it. Hai Long was the only person he knew for now.

“In terms of inheritance, the Hai Clan is inferior to the Heavenly Palace and the Sword Tower. However, the Hai Clan is very powerful. It holds even greater potential than the Heavenly Palace and Sword Tower. Not only Hai Long, the other young disciples among the six sects are very excellent. The Hai Clan’s weakness is that it is small.”

“Thank you. Seems like you have cleared your misunderstandings towards me.”

Qing Shui had gained quite a lot of knowledge from Xi Ri. Besides, he had never really hated this man who reeked of blood from the Starmoon Hall since their first encounter. As for the battle last time, it was merely a way of exchange between them.

“I have actually never misunderstood you. I was merely giving myself an account last time. I’m sure you will understand my circumstances, and I should thank you for going easy on me that time.” Xi Ri smiled at Qing Shui.

Qing Shui only smiled back without saying anything. But he could feel the mutual understanding between them, or should he say the friendship between them. Most of the time, friendships weren’t just something verbal, they were a kind of feeling and tacit support.

“It’s about to start!”

“It’s starting!”

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Voices of discussions rang out. Qing Shui lifted his head and saw a person of moderate build with completely gray hair and beard standing on the arena. His snowy white hair hung down to his waist.

“Welcome to the Heavenly Palace. Since this is not the first time the six sects have competed with each other, I shall make this short. I will repeat the contest rules one more time. Violators of the rules will receive the most severe punishment. Number one, the moment you step into this arena, you are responsible for your own life and death. Number two, you may use anything in this arena, as long as they belong to you. Number three, you are not allowed to have an assistant and you are not allowed to battle in a group. Number four, the challenged may refuse a challenge with his right fist. Number five.....”

Qing Shui realised that there were quite a number of rules. Although they were mostly superfluous words, they could be quite useful!

“Damn, he said he’d make this short. My ass. It’s like this every year.”

“Damn straight. The sun is already this high in the sky and he’s still not done yet. He’s indeed long-winded.”

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“Alright, that’s about it. We’re going into free mode. Whoever wants to issue challenges now may stand on the arena and shout out the opponent’s name,” the elderly man finished his sentence with a smile and stepped down.

This statement was like a melody to everyone’s ears.

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An unexpected brief silence instantly followed. Many were looking at the arena while some were scanning their surroundings, trying to see if anyone was going to walk up the arena.

“Brother Xi, it’s been awhile now. Why have no one taken any initiative?” Qing Shui realised that 10 minutes had passed and no one had made a move yet. Discussions were starting to fly around them now, causing a chaotic scene.

“Don’t panic. Very soon. People tend to be more prudent about battles of life and death.” Xi Ri laughed as though he had seen this kind of situation many times before.

Qing Shui could only nod and observe his surroundings. His gaze once again stopped at the Misty Hall. Canghai Mingyue and Huoyun Liu-Li were standing there conspicuously. Everyone else around them were all girls, and everyone single one of them were gorgeous, making for an attractive sight. Qing Shui could see that almost everyone had their attention in that direction too.

The Misty Hall’s Palace Mistress was absent, but Qing Shui knew that she wouldn’t appear in events like this. He shifted his gaze towards the others from the Heavenly Palace and saw a few familiar faces. Among those who crossed gazes with Qing Shui, some smiled at him in return, whereas some immediately averted their gazes.

The master of the Emperor's Audience Hall was Jin Changzheng, who was also an heir of the Jin Clan. The tall and handsome youth nodded to Qing Shui with a smile when their gazes met.

Qing Shui naturally responded with a smile too. On the other hand, Song Lang, who was now the Chief Senior Disciple of the Starday Hall, had an immense hatred that could devour Qing Shui alive with his gaze when he saw him. But Qing Shui calmly disregarded it and pretended he didn't see him. Just when he was about to take a glance at the other halls, a woman entered his line of sight. A very familiar woman.

She had crossed paths with Qing Shui before. The woman who had a one night stand with him before!

She was that woman from the Feng Clan!

Although she was far away, Qing Shui could still clearly see her beautiful face. Just the sight of that slender, well developed body figure and her plump breasts that held her dress up made one's mouth go dry.

Her waist was beautifully connected to her rear like a piece of fine art, making her rear appear full and plump. Her legs were gracefully long and well shaped.

Just then, the woman lifted her gaze up and met Qing Shui's. He felt a little nervous in his heart and had some other strange sensations.

The woman's gaze was a little complex with slight contempt. She stared at Qing Shui briefly for a second before looking away. There wasn't any hatred nor admiration in that gaze. It was just like the way Qing Shui had looked at Song Lang earlier.

"So this is how being ignored feels like....." Qing Shui smiled wryly and rubbed his nose.

"Someone's going up! Look, someone's going up!"

"Someone really went up there!" A yell was heard!

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Qing Shui looked towards the arena and discovered that it was a man who appeared to be middle-aged, but his sideburns were gray. His body size was normal, and he looked ordinary too. Qing Shui only had one comment about him - that he looked extremely balanced. Not particularly handsome, but just pleasing to look at.

"Qi Xingui, come up here if you're still a man." The man calmly said without even looking down.

"Who is Qi Xingui?"

"Who knows?"

"Qi Xingui is the Elder from the Sheathed Sword Tower of the Sword Tower!" Someone yelled.

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Not long after that, almost everyone knew that this Qi Xingui was the Elder of the Sheathed Sword Tower of the Sword Tower.

Right at this exact moment, Qing Shui realised the reason behind the popularity of this Six Sects Tournament. It was almost impossible to reject a challenge. Rejecting would not only mean losing your own reputation, but also the reputation of the whole sect or clan.

As expected, a tall and powerful-looking middle-aged man walked up the arena after a short while. Qi Xingui's hair was like the mane of a mighty lion, and his body seemed rather extraordinarily well built. The long changshan fitted well on his body, though his sleeves were a little too long.

"Since you want to die so badly, I shall grant your wish today," Qi Xingui said coldly to the man across him.

"It's uncertain who will emerge as the victor. You killed my son. So it's either you die or I die today. Whatever the outcome is, I'm happy." The man spoke through clenched teeth.

"Enough with your rubbish. I shall send you on your way now."

Qi Xingui frowned. He immediately hopped towards the middle-aged man as soon as he finished his sentence.

He hopped like a rabbit, agile and nimble. At the same time, the man across him bended his torso and abruptly sprang up. His arms were akimbo and his legs were taut, throwing himself at Qi Xingui like a falcon.

"Elephant form fist!" Qing Shui watched the two person fighting on the arena with a smile on his face.

Bam bam!

Gigantic noises rang out from the arena endlessly. The man's technique were mostly executed from a higher to a lower position. Qi Xingui's, however, carried the feeling of a "rabbit ascending a falcon".

Whether it was the falcon catching the rabbit or the rabbit ascending the falcon, it all came down to their strength in the end!

The man had his five fingers curled inwards into the form of a claw. Faint green qi was visibly circulating around them. His whole palm looked abraded, but every attack was filled with enough force to sever iron.

Peals of deadly noises filled the arena!

"DIE!"

The man leapt high into the sky once more. When Qi Xingui was evading, he was caught off guard by the man's midair kick to his body. He struck like a snake with the speed of lightning and grabbed Qi Xingui by his throat.

His moves were silent yet deadly.

The expression on Qi Xingui's face changed, but his sleeves suddenly puffed up and a ray of light shot out! Like two meteors, they shot out towards the man's eyes.

Swords in his sleeve?

Qing Shui clearly saw two silver “swords” that weren’t much bigger than his own Gold Needles. Cold, sharp and also quite exquisite.

The look in the man’s eyes turned fierce, his hand remained on his throat and his taut legs abruptly struck out like a giant attacking a snake!

Bam!

AH!

Everything turned peaceful again within an instant. The man’s feet landed a blow on Qi Xingui’s chest, but his eyes were pierced through into the brain. The first round ended with a double death.

Some were fired up while others grieved in silence!

Chapter 443 -Debut, Women of the Hai Clan, Trouble?

Qing Shui looked to the stage where the two dead warriors were being carried off, the workers mercilessly efficient. In just a jiffy, not even a bloodstain remained.

“Brother Xi, that man earlier on, to which sect does he belong?” Qing Shui thought it likely that it was someone currently in a feud with Sword Tower or harboring a personal grudge.

“He is actually from Heavenly Palace, except that he is no longer with us. However, he can still participate in this sort of tournament,” Xi Ri chuckled as he replied.

Startled when realizing that the warrior was a renounced disciple of Heavenly Palace, Qing Shui could not help but think of Cang Hai, who was in the same plight.

In the World of the Nine Continents, even if one had been renounced by a major sect, one’s status would still be exceptional, because in some aspects, a renounced disciple was unable to cut off all ties to their sect completely.

Should a renounced disciple die in the hands of a rival sect, his former sect would also be shamed. Hence, whether a renounced disciple lives or dies could only be decided by his former sect; an outsider would have no authority.

“Actually, there are not only people from the Six Sects here. See, over there? Those people are also from a major clan in this region, but it’s just that they are subsidiaries of the Hai clan.” Xi Ri pointed to the ones behind the Hai people.

After processing this information, Qing Shui understood. The Six Sects comprise the strongest sects and clans around the region, but there were some who entered the tournament under the pretext that they were related to the Six Sects indeterminately.

In name, everyone thus belongs to the Six Sects, hence they all stood in the interests and reputation of the Six Sects!

Once again, silence descended on the arena, but conversation momentarily resumed as small groups started whispering among themselves. Gradually, the discussion intensified.

“Heavenly Palace and Sword Tower are still on par with each other!” A short-haired youth from Alchemist Sect whispered.

“Is it even a wonder? This result is expected given how many years they have been fighting each other.” A youth with beady eyes commented, squinting his eyes as he spoke.

“Brother Dongguo, do you think that no clear victor will emerge today as well?” The previous youth questioned calmly.

“I don't think so, haven't you heard? That person is back.” Dongguo Yu blandly replied.

“You mean that Qing Shui?”

“Other than him, who else in Heavenly Palace could oppose those two from Sword Tower, and the rest from Hai Clan and Demonic Beast Sect?” Dongguo smiled as he answered.

“You mean he has the capability to go against Hai Long from Hai Clan in addition to those two from Sword Tower?”

“Conversely, Hai Long can no longer be categorized in the same group, even though he only managed to narrowly edge into the peak of a Martial King, which is already a great honour and most likely nobody will challenge him for the time being. However, geniuses with extraordinary talents tend to die easily,” Dongguo smiled as he pondered.

“How about you, Brother Dongguo? You are after all the leader among the youths of our great Alchemist Sect,” the youth gazed enviously at him in admiration.

“Me? Pft!” Dongguo burst out cackling. “I am just a mere alchemist; perhaps I know a couple of killing blows, but my specialty is still concocting medicines.”

“How can it be? Brother Dongguo, you are already the leader of the younger generation with your combat skills. If you use that special ‘medicine’ of yours, you would definitely be ranked within the top few. With your outstanding skills as an alchemist, you won't even need to get involved in combat,” the youth cajoled.

Dongguo smiled wordlessly, those beady pair of eyes shining with an unfathomable light.

“Wow, the ‘Ferocious Lion’ Kuang Shi from Demonic Beast Sect is up next. This is too unexpected.”

“Wow, it really is him!”

“Shocking! Right at the start too!”

“I wonder who his opponent is!”

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In an instant, speculation ran rife among the audience. The Demonic Beast Sect was a force to reckon with on the Greencloud Continent, especially with the up-and-coming generation. There were two Beast Tamers from the older generation who owned Demonic Beasts at the Peak Martial King level and had regrettably passed away, leading to the drastic decline of power for the Demonic Beast Sect.

To make matters worse, Heavenly Palace and Sword Tower owned a large number of “high-level demons”. Consequently, after the passing of the two Peak Martial King Beast Tamers, the Demonic Beast Sect was only minutely stronger in comparison to those two sects.

Moreover, their heritage was much shorter in comparison to that of Heavenly Palace and Sword Tower, which was evidence of their stunningly fast progress and the power of the Beast Tamers.

Qing Shui watched the young man on the stage, the one they addressed as “Ferocious Lion”. Kuang Shi with his thick brows, big and bright eyes, and moustache appeared barbaric. His muscular bulk made him look especially aggressive, as if always ready to attack.

“He is the Demonic Beast Sect’s Kuang Shi?” One of the youths who had earlier mocked him exclaimed in surprise.

” “How can this be? And we even claimed he was incapable...”

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“Brother Xi, this Kuang Shi looks pretty famous,” Qing Shui chuckled.

“The man built like a mountain from just now, Chi Tianhao, has a steady position among the top three of the Demonic Beast Sect. And this Kuang Shi is surely ranked among the top three within the youngest generation, too.”

“His beast is not of the Tigon Beast breed, is it now!” Qing Shui casually asked.

“No, but he has three beasts, all of which are very useful. Many would rather be facing Chi Tianhao as their opponent than Kuang Shi,” Xi Ri replied.

“What do you mean? You seem quite familiar with him.”

“Somewhat, because his three beasts are actually a lot weaker than Chi Tianhao’s Tigon Beast, but at the same time, they are three Martial King Grade Six beasts that are undaunting in the face of death, namely the Golden Haired Ferocious Lions.”

“Three Golden Haired Ferocious Lions of Grade Six?”

” Xi Ri caught Qing Shui’s dubious expression and explained, “The Golden Haired Ferocious Lion is a Martial King Grade Six beast that is of similar size to the Tigon Beast breed, fiery red from head to toe, with the exception that it has a lush, gold mane. They are bloodsuckers and fierce, but more importantly, they are adept at team combat. If they should coordinate well, three of them could easily match up to a Grade Seven Tigon Beast.”

“Ah, to be a beast tamer,” Qing Shui sighed ruefully.

“Jin Changzheng, you won’t come out till I call for you, isn’t it?” Kuang Shi’s voice was not loud but rather a low rumble.

Qing Shui had barely finished sorting out his thoughts when Kuang Shi declared the name of the one he wished to challenge.

Amazing!

Jin Changzheng was indeed the young master of the Golden Throne Palace of the Heavenly Palace's Nine Halls. Qing Shui's impression of him was still very clear - a young and sunny, dashing young man in gold armour.

Qing Shui had quite a good image of him, masculine and principled, likely an upright man with righteousness showing through his eyes. This was what Qing Shui genuinely felt from him, but his judgement might be wrong if the man feigned well.

Besides the fact that he had a brief understanding of Jin Changzheng, what surprised him more was his power. The opponent was ranked among the top three of the Demonic Beast Sect and specifically called him out... This must indicate that Jin was equally strong as well.

"Brother Xi, how does Jin fare among the youths of Heavenly Palace?" It was at this moment that Qing Shui became conscious of the fact that his understanding of Heavenly Palace was limited to Starmoon Hall, at most extending to Misty Hall, Starday Hall and Constellation Hall superficially. The rest mostly remained unknown to him.

"The weakest in Heavenly Palace's Nine Halls would be us, Starmoon Hall, so relatively speaking, he also belongs in the top three positions. He is the chief disciple of Golden Throne Palace and also the successor of the Jin Clan, the number one expert among the youths of Golden Throne Palace."

Qing Shui was aware that Xi Ri was of Martial King Grade Six level, a breakthrough that was induced by Qing Shui himself, possessing the Gigantic Spirit Divine Fist of Legendary Grade and the powerful Heavenly Thunder Slash. He was not in the least inferior to any Martial King Grade Seven Warrior, hence the uncertainty in the outcome of the battle with Chi Tianhao, assuming that he would not be using any demonic beast.

The Gigantic Spirit Divine Fist of Legendary Grade could increase the attack by threefold, but that was the most extreme aspect of it, whereas the disadvantage was that it expended a tremendous amount of energy. However, Xi Ri took thirty years of cultivation to reach this state solely because of this characteristic. Moreover, the requirements to practise this skill were very stringent and people who were not suited to its practice could end up hurting the meridian channels in their body. This was a method that can be practiced only by the Xi Clan, as the Giant Spirit Divine Fist originated from the Gigantic Spirit Clan and only their descendants could be its practitioners.

As Qing Shui turned his attention back to the arena, Jin Changzheng had already gone up to take his place, as dazzling as the sun in his golden armour as opposed to the wild and intrepid Kuang Shi. A state of frenzied female gasps and cheers of admiration ensued.

"Such masculinity!"

"He must be very strong..." A woman who looked young and married stared at Jin Changzheng, infatuated.

"You have tried him?" A middle-aged man sniggered vulgarly at her.

The woman turned to the man, the infatuation in her eyes switching to loathing, and then turned her attention back to the stage without bothering to acknowledge the man.

"I am actually very strong too. If you do not believe my words you can always try me." The vulgar man persisted in trying to catch the attention of the woman.

The woman suddenly shot a sweet smile at the middle-aged man. Her looks were slightly above average, but she was buxom and ripe for plucking, and her flirtatiousness let the imagination of many men roam.

The men surrounding her were instantly captivated by her sweet and flirtatious smile, not to mention the vulgar, middle-aged man.

"Go try your mother, bastard! Scram!" In a moment, the coquettish woman in front of their eyes turned into a snarling monster.

The admonished man startled and turned pale, retreating under the disdainful looks aimed his way.

The woman returned to her original sweet form, but the number of men who were brazenly ogling her bountiful figure now declined.

Jin Changzheng was holding a cutlass, with the blade measuring longer than a meter and slightly curved. Sparkling and translucent like the moonlight, a chilly aura emanated from it.

The cold and clear night, the moonlight illuminates her brows, her smile directing the way to the Netherworld...

Cold Moon!

This was the second time that Qing Shui had seen such a powerful weapon. The first was the Nine Heaven Immortal Silk belonging to the palace lord of Misty Hall. If his capricious memory served him right, Jin Changzheng's Cold Moon topped that almost by an entire grade.

A worthy mention was his very own Big Dipper Sword, which had completely outperformed its so-called grade, but he believed that the Cold Moon was stronger than that.

However, Qing Shui had already abandoned all his preconceptions, because what he had experienced personally had overturned all of that; furthermore, his memory was just a drop in the ocean in this World of the Nine Continents.

Qing Shui was a fair distance from the arena, but he could feel the dreary, murderous aura of the Cold Moon that was in contrast to the justice and righteousness that simultaneously radiated from the cutlass.

Kuang Shi lifted his head and roared when Jin Changzheng stepped into the arena. Three fiery red Tigons appeared, a mixed breed of a tiger and a lion. 5 meters in length and 2 meters in height, they stood imposingly with a ring of golden mane around their neck.

The Golden Haired Ferocious Lion was no different from Xi R's description. Qing Shui observed Jin Changzheng who suddenly appeared much smaller. Jin Changzheng did not look flustered and his smiling expression did not waver, but he was clenching tightly to his Cold Moon.

"You better leave Hai Ciya alone. The loser of this battle today should back out!" Kuang Shi hollered.

"Hai Ciya? Is she from the Hai Clan?" Qing Shui asked as he kept his eyes on the arena.

“Yes, she is Hai Long’s sister.” Xi Ri replied as he continued watching the duel.

“Brother Xi, do you know who she likes?” Qing Shui asked with a smile.

“Yes!” Xi Ri laughed out.

“Well, is it Jin Changzheng or that Kuang Shi?” Qing Shui asked with interest.

“The person that Hai Ciya likes is Tan Yang from Sword Tower.”

The last sentence was stuck in his head. Repressing his boiling anger, he asked, “You are saying that Tan Yang and Hai Ciya are together now?”

“Hai Clan is very popular now, with everyone vying to associate themselves with them. There is no better form of alliance than marrying the daughter of their Clan head, Hai Long’s sister.” Xi Ri noticed Qing Shui’s slightly unnatural reaction to what he said.

“Why are the two of them dueling? Don’t they know about Hai Ciya and Tan Yang. Besides that, Brother Xi, how long have Tan Yang and Hai Ciya known each other?” Qing Shui forced a smile to mask his anxiety, aware that he appeared overly concerned.

Perhaps sensing Qing Shui’s impatience, Xi Ri simply said, “Both of them know about the relationship between Tan Yang and Hai Ciya. But they are only qualified to challenge Tan Yang after their match is over. They are proving to Hai Clan that they are up to the task. Tan Yang and Hai Ciya have known each other for 4 years.”

Chapter 444 - Cloud Piercing Arrow, Golden Thread Armor

Qing Shui shook his head thinking about his troubles. When he thought about Mingyue Gelou, he lamented the shamelessness and fragility of human nature.

For his own interest, Tan Yang forsook not only Mingyue Gelou, he even forsook his own flesh and blood. Since women from the Hai Clan absolutely refuse to share their man with any other women, Tan Yang had to abandon Mingyue Gelou and his own daughter.

Qing Shui had a spell of headache as he thought about the women that surrounded him. He called Tan Yang a scumbag. Unfortunately, even if he will never be as heartless as him, he felt that he himself was no better.

A man can walk through a field of flowers without a blade of grass on him. That’s bullsheet

He knew that Mingyue Gelou will suffer even if he brought her away right now. He clenched his fist subconsciously.

“Brother Xi, if the current duel on the arena ends, will Tan Yang appear?”

Xi Ri looked at Qing Shui for a while and said, “Not necessarily. Don’t be rash. Even though Tan Yang’s strength is below that of Hai Long from the Hai Clan, he is considered to be a Grade 10 Martial King level expert. Don’t be too impulsive.”

“Thank you, Brother Xi. I know what to do.” Qing Shui knew that Xi Ri was sincere. Qing Shui could tell that Xi Ri was a person who has his likes and dislikes clearly defined. Once Xi Ri acknowledges someone

as a friend, he will treat them wholeheartedly. Even if Yan Ling'er did not look for Qing Shui then, Qing Shui will not kill him because he was Xi Yue's brother and was not entirely unredeemable.

Qing Shui already witnessed Tan Yang's formidable strength previously. This was why Sword Tower valued Tan Yang. He might not be as powerful as Hai Long but he was already a demon level genius. There were probably less than 3 people in Sword Tower who possess the same level of talent.

Xi Ri looked at Qing Shui without saying a word. He might have been defeated but he reckoned that Qing Shui's current strength was at Grade 8 Martial King if pushed to his maximum potential so he advised Qing Shui not to be too hasty.

Xi Ri's estimation was not inaccurate. When Qing Shui returned to Hundred Miles City, he was comparable to a Grade 9 Martial King even though he was only at the peak of Grade 8.

However, Qing Shui's strength had far surpassed that stage with the help of the realm of Violet Jade Immortal, Spirit Concentrating Pill and his various fortuitous encounters. It was a pity that Xi Ri had yet to discover this fact. There were only a handful of people who was aware and who knew better than the Sword Demon, Huang Qing.

The thunderous tiger roar from the arena jolted Qing Shui back to reality. Qing Shui could easily guess what went on in their conversation despite not hearing it.

Two enormous Golden Haired Ferocious Lions flanked Jin Changzheng as they attacked him with the speed of wind. The clouds command the Dragon whilst the wind commands the Tiger but the Golden Haired Ferocious Lions were like a violent whirlwind.

Nimble sidestepping with his Cloudmist Steps, Jin Changzheng wielded his Cold Moon in a ray of moonlight, his armour refracting the moonlight in a brilliant aperture.

"The Sacrificial Moon Hack!"

As he executed his stroke, it was as if the cold moon itself physically manifested between the two lions.

Bang!

The intense wave of force thrust the lions in opposite directions and Jin Changzheng took the chance to close in on Kuang Shi in the back at lightning speed using his Cloudmist steps.

It was then Qing Shui saw Kuang Shi's weapon of choice, a copper azurite shield!

A shield as his chosen weapon?!

Qing Shui suddenly thought of his own Shield Strike that has risen to Grade Two. Will the Strike be magnified via a shield?

Qing Shui saw that the shield was radiating a greenish vapour and as Kuang Shi faced the oncoming hack from Jin Changzheng's cutlass, he unhurriedly bowed his body over to block off the attack.

Clink!

At this point, the only remaining lion dashed towards Jin Changzheng from the side, its roar thunderous.

It was a howl that utilized a Demonic Beast's core!

The two lions that were previously thrust aside also took advantage of the opening, charging towards Jin Changzheng.

Clink clink! The shrill jingles rang out.

The sound was crisp and clear and Kuang Shi was being forced to retreat under the rapid succession of Cold Moon's strikes from Jin Changzheng. It was only the resistance presented by the lion in the middle that prevented him from cutting an even sorrier figure.

The brilliant aperture surrounding Jin Changzheng's armour produced dull thumps whenever a strike hits, possibly increasing the defense level.

Roar!

Where any normal blade could not possibly have harmed a hair on the Ferocious Lion, dark red blood now flowed from the beast's head after being struck by Cold Moon.

Roar! Roar!

Picking up on the fresh scent of blood, the lions went into a frenzy and pounced all at once.

Jin Changzheng, you were protected by your Moonlight Guardian once already, what can you do now?" Kuang Shi's low voice held a tinge of violence.

"No need to concern yourself with that, even without Moonlight Guardian, you can't touch me." Jin Changzheng's steps were nimble and he moved at the speed of light. The World of Nine Continents has always valued speed over skill, warriors who have reached a certain level were definitely equipped with some of the fastest skills.

The Cloud Mist Steps from the Heavenly Palace was basically like stepping the clouds, not only was his speed fast, the direction of his movements were as unfathomable as floating clouds. Qing Shui's current movement techniques contained a large portion of the principles from the Cloud Mist Steps incorporated with his other movement techniques earlier/

Qing Shi gauged that Jin Changzheng was at the peak of Martial King Grade 7, maybe even at the edge of Grade Eight, most importantly, his armour that was termed Moonlight Guardian seemed to have the same function as his very own Big Dipper Armour.

However, his Moonlight Guardian seemed like it would not hold out for much longer!

"Quit your babbling and consider how you are going to block my Cold Moon!" Jin Cangzheng seemed unperturbed as he avoided the charging lion with ease; in contrast, the Cold Moon he brandished swung down in full force towards Kuang Shi.

"Ding!"

"Devouring Moon Slash!"

Unlike the Sacrificial Moon Hack that was executed previously, the Devouring Moon Slash this time round fell silently on Kuang Shi's shield, with none of the dramatic thumps from earlier.

Taken aback, Kuang Shi sensed something amiss and hastily retreated. Cold Moon had actually managed to cut through his shield and though he had retreated fast, his armour was likewise damaged. He managed to escape suffering any injury but his current predicament was enough to send sweat down his back.

Jin Changzheng was about to cash in on the situation but found himself surrounded by the three lions, one of which spat out fiery red flames towards Jin Changzheng.

The Golden Haired Ferocious Lion belonged to the fire genus and could fire up an attack from its core; typically a beast's best attack.

"Crap, the Moonlight Guardian is disappearing fast!" The armour was being devoured by the flames from the beast and in a desperate move, Jin Changzheng swiped his Cold Moon in a move meant to annihilate the three lions.

When battling a Beast Tamer, it was most irksome to have to deal with pesky beasts, Jin Changzheng thought angrily.

Roar!

One forelimb of the Golden Haired Ferocious Lion that had been held captive since earlier was severed by the tremendous force from Cold Moon, rendering the remaining forelimb useless.

Plop!

The beast collapsed helplessly to the ground.

Roar!

It was a deafening and piteous roar of anguish.

At this moment, the brilliant aperture surrounding Jin Changzheng's Golden Thread Armour wavered one final time before dissipating. His Cold Moon did however managed to severely injure another lion.

Kuang Shi's expression was pained as his heart ached for his beasts. The tamed beasts were almost a Beast Tamer's life to him, and out of the three of them, one was maimed and disabled, and the severely injured one would have to recuperate for several months.

Kuang Shi glared vengefully at Jin Changzheng, then drew a copper azurite bow from his back, the diameter almost measuring that of a baby's arm.

His move drew stunned gasps from the audience, who did not even realize that he was in possession of it, due to the fact that it was perfectly camouflaged against his armour.

Qing Shi saw the bow as well, an old-fashioned design with decorative patterns on it. Though it looked simple and shoddy, it felt anything but ordinary.

Qing Shui smiled as he watched this progression, unsurprised that Kuang Shi would pick a long range weapon such as that. Archers were a common sight in the World of the Nine Continents as it was a very functional weapon that could cause serious damage from a long distance, especially when they had to

deal with flying beasts. Poison and anaesthetics could also be applied to the arrowhead as further precaution.

Most Beast Tamers were well-trained in archery; after all they could sneak an attack under the cover of their beasts.

Kuang Shi then followed up by drawing a jade green arrow of under a metre from his flank, glowing prettily in an eerie fluorescent light.

“The Cloud Piercing Arrow!” Cries of shock rang out.

“It really is the Cloud Piercing Arrow!”

“Jin Changzheng is definitely in peril now!”

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Jin Changzheng’s expression grew solemn as he watched Kuang Shi reveal the Cloud Piercing Arrow, but his gaze burned into Kuang Shi. The remaining lion stood guard at Kuang Shi’s side.

“Brother Xi, this Cloud Piercing Arrow seems formidable.” Qing Shui was largely unfamiliar with this field. Though he could forge a bow in theory, he had never put it to practice as he had his own Technique of Concealed Weapons that outperformed the bow and arrow.

“The Cloud Piercing Arrow is said to have been formed from the bones of the Silver-armoured Digger, a beast of Martial King Peak Grade, with strong penetrating force and could inflict serious damage.

Qing Shui felt cornered, the World of Nine Continents had many precious materials and the highest quality and quantity came from Demonic Beasts.

A Demonic Beast’s core, bones, tendons, blood, skin and even flesh, they are all precious commodities, the higher the quality the more expensive it gets. The material from Demonic Beasts of different genera also has different characteristics and effects when made into weapons.

For example, the Golden Armoured Digger belongs to the genus Metal, best suited to making arrows due to its habitat in the soil but to make the Cloud Piercing Arrow, only the bones of the Silver Armoured digger would do.

The attribute of Ice belongs to the Water genus and has the effect of reducing speed, whereas the Fire genus has strong attack power, and the Earth genus has great stability and would make for good defense.

All living things, by convention, belongs to one of the five genera. Even Thunder is classified under the Fire genus, except on a even more frightening level.

The five elements by nature reinforces and counteracts one another. There might be additional complements like Water-Fire genus but there was no absolute formula where a stronger beast would defeat a weaker one; ultimately the genus of a beast would affect its characteristic.

“Jin Changzheng, it was carelessness on my part earlier that you were able to hurt my beast, but now, I would like to see if your Golden Thread Armour can endure the penetration of my Cloud Piercing

Arrow!" Eyes wild and expression malevolent, Kuang Shi swiftly nocked his arrow on his bowstring, and drew it taut.

Creaking with tension, his bowstring and bow were like a full moon, arrowhead aimed ruthlessly at Jin Changzheng!

At this moment, the entire arena fell into silence; some were concerned, others gloated, while the rest could not wait for the event to unfold.

Chapter 445 - Jing Changzheng, Qing Shui, I want to challenge you!

The Cloud Piercing Arrow pointed at Jing Changzheng. At this moment, the whole battle stage was dead quiet as a lot of people realized that something there was something special about this arrow.

"Father, shall we let Zheng Er admit defeat?" A courteous and handsome middle-aged man asked the grey haired old man beside him. They were not panicked even under this kind of situation.

The old man had a head full of grey hair and even his eyebrows were snow white in color. His eyes, however, looked bright as they seriously observed everything going on on the battle stage.

"It's not necessary! Zheng Er will do just fine!" The elder said confidently. He did not actually look at the handsome middle-aged man beside him. Both his eyes did not leave the battle stage for even a second.

"You can choose to admit defeat now!" Kuang Shi knitted his brow and told Jing Changzheng.

"Give me it you got! Just don't complain about it when you lose later," Jing Changzheng said casually. When he finished talking, a beautiful golden light fluctuated from his body.

It was accompanied by a scattering formidable wave-like aura. The people surrounding them looked at Jing Changzheng in amazement because they could feel his strength constantly and rapidly growing.

"Jing Clan's Art of Golden Thread!"

"Art of Golden Thread!"

"He had actually mastered the Art of Golden Thread of Jing Clan's up to this extent!"

Qing Shui had heard about the "Art of Golden Thread" before. He did not find it unfamiliar as he already heard a few topics related to Jing Clan's Art of Golden Thread even before he met the people from Jing Clan.

The people in charge of the Golden Throne Palace was Jing Clan. They cultivated the Art of Golden Thread. Only people who were direct descendants of Jing Clan could cultivate the Art of Golden Thread. However, the "golden light fluctuation" that occurred on Jing Changzheng previously was considered to be one of the most rebellious kinds among the Art of Golden Thread. It was a technique that could instantly increase one's strength.

It could temporarily promote one's strength up a grade from their current cultivation.

For example, Jing Changzhang, who was at his early eighth grade Martial King stage had, for the time being, increased his strength up to the early ninth grade Martial King.

Of course, if one was at the pinnacle of their Martial King stage, they would not be able to be promoted to the Martial Saint stage. However, the amount of strength that increased would still be equivalent to the strength that they had for their cultivation at that time.

The price was that their body would exert five times more energy, hence it would be hard for it to last long!

A brilliant light flashed through Kuang Shi's eyes. The Cloud Piercing Arrow in his hand shot towards Jing Changzheng like a Green Flaming Aura which was crossing the horizon. At that moment, it was as if time had stopped. Even the weather seemed to be changing.

Jing Changzheng looked at the arrow that was flying towards him. He was well aware it was something that he would never be able to avoid no matter what he did. He waved the cold moon in his right hand conventionally.

An even more powerful sword afterimage swung out. That slash contained an abundant smell of destruction. This was Jing Changzheng's most powerful attack. It was also a slash that was only usable when his strength was increased.

Destruction Slash!

At the same time, a thread of golden light flickered from Jing Changzheng's body.

Heavenly Protection!

At this moment, Qing Shui witnessed Jing Changzheng using Heavenly Palace's most powerful defensive technique.

Beng!

Pu!

Jing Changzheng was hit directly by the cloud-piercing arrows and the impact flung his body backwards. He regurgitated a huge amount of fresh blood in mid-air. However, after his strength was greatly enhanced from the effect of the Art of Golden Thread, he was two grades higher compared to Kuang Shi. He then slashed apart Jingzong Kuangshi, who was at Grade Six Martial King, with a single cut and his powerful blade qi carried on and hacked off an arm from Kuang Shi behind.

Jing Changzheng dropped out of the battle stage. Even though he had both the Golden Thread Armor and the formidable "Heavenly Protection" on, the defensive essence of his Heavenly Protection was still penetrated by the Cloud Piercing Arrow. His shoulder was badly mutilated, but when compared to Kuang Shi who had one arm directly blown away, he was already considered to be in a much better condition.

Similarly, Kuang Shi was also pushed out of the battle stage by the formidable sword qi.

There was an uproar at the bottom of the stage. It was just that coincidentally, Jing Changzheng, who got blown out of the stage, was heading directly towards Qing Shui. His body that got bombarded by the Cloud Piercing Arrow was flying at an extremely fast speed with a formidable screeching force. If he had crashed into a person or the ground, there was a high chance that he would have damaged his brain or

even died on the spot. After all, the current him basically did not have any strength left for the time being.

Xi Ri extended his hand hesitantly. However, he knitted his brows tightly. He wanted to catch him, but he did not dare to because he felt that if he were to catch him under this impact, he would not only injure himself, but he would not be able to guarantee Jing Changzheng's safety.

Right at the time when Xi Ri was at a loss, a hand extended out.

It was Qing Shui's hand!

Qing Shui used the Taichi Diversion technique and directly spun Jing Changzheng three times in his hand before putting him down.

Jing Changzheng was not actually unconscious. After seeing that it was Qing Shui who saved him, he smiled and said, "Thank you, I will remember this!"

"This Cloud Piercing Arrow was indeed violent!" While Qing Shui was saying this, he took out a bottle of "Golden Sore Ointment" and poured it onto Jing Changzheng's shoulder. He poured out the entire bottle.

"Zheng Er....." Everyone was restless. A group of people consisting of both men and women proceeded quickly. Their speed was even faster than the running speed of a normal person.

"What are you doing? We, the Jing Clan have medicines, we don't need yours," A charming middle-aged woman shouted out agitatedly when she saw Qing Shui giving him medicine. She reacted as if the thing that Qing Shui was pouring was poison.

"Shut up!" A handsome man shouted out.

Qing Shui lifted up his head and looked calmly at the woman who screamed previously. After that, he looked at the man who screamed at her again. Through their facial features, Qing Shui could already confirm that Jing Changzheng was their son.

"Zheng Er....." The woman stopped saying anything more. She only weeped as she approached Jing Changzheng.

"Mother, I am fine, it's this brother of ours that saved me."

After he finished speaking, Jing Changzheng turned around and told Qing Shui, "I'm really sorry, it's because my mom is also really worried about me. Sorry for the inconvenience!"

"Yeah, thank you for saving Zheng Er. She is a woman who hasn't been exposed to the society. Little brother, don't lower yourself to the same level as her." At this moment, the man smiled bitterly at Qing Shui as he thanked him.

"It's fine. I feel really good that she reacted that way. She is really good to her son," Qing Shui said with a smile. He quickly poked Jing Changzheng's shoulder a few times behind them.

"Little brother, I am going to bring Zheng Er back to treat his injuries first. Do come to Jing Clan when you have time. We will welcome you at any time," The man politely said.

.....

“Qing Shui, I have noticed how deep and immeasurable your strength was.” Xi Ri looked at Qing Shui and smiled.

“You are in luck! Finally, a slight breakthrough!” Qing Shui chuckled.

One of Kuang Shi’s three Golden-haired ferocious lions died. The other one was disabled whereas the remaining one was heavily injured. Kuang Shi had really been careless for this match. If he had used the Cloud Piercing Arrow earlier, this would not have been the way it ended.

“It actually ended up as a draw!”

“This Cloud Piercing Arrow was indeed powerful!”

“Jing Changzheng indeed deserved to be called one of the most powerful teenagers among the new generations of Golden Throne Palace.”

.....

Later on, the battle stage became really active. The contestants kept on changing frequently. This had also made Qing Shui understand the relationships between the six sects. Heavenly Palace, Sword Tower and Mythical Beast Sect shared gratitude and grudges with one another. The remaining Qing Clan, Hai Clan and Academy of Demon Refinery were neutral.

But this did not actually mean that Qing Clan, Hai Clan and Academy of Demon Refinery would not go up the battle stage. They were still beating the exchanging fist sign and challenging one another. It may seemed like they were interacting with each other, they were still taking responsibility for their own life and death.

From the battle, Qing Shui noticed that the three neutral sects and clans also shared a few gratuities and grudges. This was because if there happen to be any casualties in the midst of the battle, it would cause them to accumulate grudges between one another. Even though they didn’t express it out, they would still hold a bit of resentment deep in their heart. After all, it’s still a battle of life and death. Hence, they would still try their best to heavily injure their opponents.

The level of the warriors that went up later on were limited. Hence, Qing Shui discussed other matters with Xi Ri. When a startled and cheering noise rang up in the surrounding, Qing Shui once again looked at the battle stage.

At this moment, a woman who looked like a portrait was standing on top of the battle stage. She had an exotic beautiful face and slender and fertile body.

Her plump breasts supported up her clothes. It made people feel dry just by looking at it. The connection from the waist down to the butt was like the work of god, making the butt look plump, round and smooth. Her legs were slender and straight. She managed to give out a unique charm just by wearing a set of simple clothes.

“Such a beautiful woman! She is a mature and sophisticated woman!”

“Elder Yun from Feng Clan! Such a clever person!”

“This is the true Sister Yu! From her body all the way through her heart!”

“This kind of woman has actually made guys from all ages obsessed with her, this is truly interesting.”

.....

“It’s actually her, who does this woman want to challenge? Does she hold any grudges towards anyone?” Qing Shui knitted his brows. Qing Shui did not know the reason, but he subconsciously did not like the fact that she was standing on top of the battle stage.

It’s just that when Qing Shui looked at the woman, he noticed that she was also looking back at him. Her eyes were incomparably complex. When Qing Shui locked eyes with her, he felt strange.

“Qing Shui, I want to challenge you!” The elegant and attractive voice rang up!

The sweet-sounding and captivating voice had actually shocked almost everyone. She wanted to challenge Qing Shui. It was not that the people from the same sect could not challenge each other. This woman was from Starsun Hall. Qing Shui on the other hand, was from Starmoon Hall. It did not matter if it was the Starsun or Starmoon Hall, they were still allowed to challenge one another.

It was just that no one could figure out why this elegant woman would challenge Qing Shui. At this moment, a teenager from Feng Clan stared at Qing Shui maliciously. He looked like he was itching to pull out Qing Shui’s tendons and peel his skin off.

“She wants to challenge Qing Shui; could it be that Qing Shui had done something to her before?” There were people whispering and speculating.

“It couldn’t have been that Qing Shui actually abandoned this woman before? How would he be so willing to give up such a great woman? How great would it be if I could be abandoned by him for just once.” A pretty and flirtatious woman with eyes of a fox whispered.

“Such a whore.....” A man shook his head and said softly.

“Your mom is the whore! Your whole family is filled with whores.....”

The man was silent.

Xi Ri looked at Qing Shui mockingly. Even though he said nothing, Qing Shui could already tell what he wanted to express just by looking at his eyes. He could not help but also think about how juvenile he used to be when he was young. In the past, it was him who was always clinging to women. Now he was the one avoiding them instead.

Qing Shui smiled bitterly as he looked at Xi Ri. After that, he slowly approached the battle stage.

Qing Shui’s figure was decent and well proportioned. His face looked a bit delicate and pretty, but there was an additional trace of maturity upon experiencing many things. The good-looking eyes of his looked clear, making it difficult for people to hate. The light purple colored mole that was the size of a bean and at the area between his eyebrows had somewhat made him look a bit bewitching.

He was not really considered handsome, but he had a bewitching look. He had a decent manly feeling. But all of these combined together also made him not much inferior compared to Hai Long from Hai Clan. It was just that Qing Shui and Hai Long were two different kinds of men.

Hai Long would drive women crazy with just a glance. Qing Shui did not. Qing Shui belonged to the type that would progress at it little by little. He was more like a kind of wine. One would only notice that it became more tasty as time passed.

When Qing Shui stood on top of the stage, the noise of people's discussions became even louder. A lot of people were deeply curious about this teenager from Heavenly Palace who emerged suddenly like a comet. They were all thinking about what kind of a guy he was.

Qing Shui kept on walking until he was three metres away from the woman before coming to a stop. From the beginning up till now, his eyes never left hers.

The woman, however, looked at Qing Shui without any sign of making concessions. Her hands were still grabbing the long sword tightly.

As the people at the bottom saw this turn of events, they all became agitated. It was impossible to not drive someone with wild and fanciful thoughts with this kind of subtle atmosphere between a man and a woman. Let alone other people, even both Canghai Mingyue and Huoyun Liu-Li noticed that there was something going on.

"Sister, this bastard must be having an affair with this woman." Huoyun Liu-Li pouted and told Canghai Mingyue.

"Liu-Li! Don't spout out nonsense!" Canghai Mingyue softly told Huoyun Liu-Li as she looked at the suspicious expressions around them.

"Guys, look, is this a martial arts tournament or a date?"

"Haha, how great will it be if I can go up and share gazes with that woman....." A middle-aged man said casually.

"You, just forget about it. Just look at your eyes, can it be compared to Qing Shui's?" A person immediately offended him.

"Your gaze is like that of a wild beast, how can you even lock eyes with the gentle gaze of the woman....."

.....

"Why?" Qing Shui asked with his brows knitted.

Qing Shui was truly frowning. The incident last time was a deal. Other than that, he had never interacted with her. At present, her challenging him was definitely for the incident last time!

"There is no particular reason for it. I just want to challenge you. In fact, I will kill you." At this moment, there were no changes in the woman's eyes. She looked at Qing Shui calmly. That expression was still like before, the majority of it consisted of complexity.

“Alright, stop joking around, I don’t have time for this!” After Qing Shui finished speaking, he was about to go down.

A lot of people at the bottom still heard Qing Shui’s words. Immediately, people started discussing with one another the things that were going on on top of the stage. This time, everyone knew that the relationship between the two on the stage was extraordinary. They were throwing tantrums at each other.

“Wow, I would have died of happiness if there is a mature lady like this throwing tantrums at me!”

“Yeah, that’s why you are still alive,” A teenager said in a joking manner.

The people were startled. Everyone roared with laughter.

However, on the battle stage, an outrageous situation arose, so much so that it instantly stunned everyone.

The woman looked on as Qing Shui was about to leave the battle stage. Generally speaking, whoever that walked off the stage first would be considered to be humiliating themselves. However, at present, Qing Shui didn’t feel humiliated in the least despite what he said before and him walking off the stage. The woman on the other hand, she behaved in a way that looked more and more like she was throwing a tantrum to the man.

At the moment Qing Shui took two steps forward, the woman suddenly stabbed Qing Shui’s back. It was a direct thrust, the most important thing was that she actually pierced through him.

Furthermore, it penetrated deeply!

Very quickly, the fresh blood had already dyed Qing Shui’s clothes red. Qing Shui took one more step forward, making the sword that pierced through his body to leave it. He did not bother about the wound on his body. As he turned around to look at the woman, she was already frozen in shock.

“I will consider this thrust as returning you the guilt that I used to have towards you!” Qing Shui said with a smile. From the woman’s perspective, his smile was a bit cold.

This thrust had caused the guilt that Qing Shui held towards her to completely fade away. At this moment, Qing Shui’s heart was as if it had let go of an extremely large burden. Qing Shui did not thought that he would ever be cold and ruthless, just like how he would hold a sense of guilt even just by the deal he made with this woman. He kept thinking of making it up to her whenever he had time.

But at this moment, Qing Shui felt just how unfamiliar the woman right in front of him was. The bite mark that she left previously was as if it was also fading at this moment. Qing Shui had all along been controlling himself to not let the bite mark fade away. But now, he felt that the fearsome recovery ability of his body slowly healing the bite mark. Very quickly, it had already disappeared.

Chapter 446 - A silent pain. The despicable Zuo Shandiao!

The woman stared at Qing Shui in shock. Fresh blood dripped off the long sword in her hand. The sheer redness of that fresh blood made it unpleasant to look at. It made her feel reluctant to open up her eyes.

At this moment, she felt her heart aching a lot. It was compounded by Qing Shui's statement just now. Even though at that time, he made love with her she had never once thought of herself liking this man. For some unknown reasons, however, upon hearing the things he said, she felt that it sounded as painful as when he "went into" her body back then.

At that time, it was like her body was being torn apart. Now on the other hand, she felt as if her heart was the one being torn apart.

She came here with the purpose of killing him. But why would she feel flustered? Why didn't he avoid it? She finally managed to pierce through him, but why didn't she feel as happy as she thought she would be?

The woman slowly turned around in shock and gradually walked down the battle stage. Qing Shui continued standing in the same spot. For a moment, it made everyone in the plaza felt burdened.

"I feel like crying!" A woman looked at the woman who was slowly walking down the stage.

"I don't have any idea what is going on between those two on the stage. It feels like they're in love with each other, but why are they hurting each other instead?"

"Qing Shui is too harsh. Why is he treating himself like this? Doesn't he know that she would feel even more hurt than he himself?"

"It's just difficult to be a man huh!" Complained the man who envied Qing Shui before.

.....

"A man who only knows how to bully women! Do you think that you will be able to lie to all of us just by pretending to be miserable? Today, I am going to fight for the right that woman deserves!" The voice of a man could already be heard before he showed up.

The person who walked up the stage was a man dressed up in the attire of Starsun Hall. He carried two dark-gold colored hammers that were about two feet long on his back. Each of them was the size of a human head. Their handles were also as thick as the arm of an adult.

Qing Shui lifted his head up and looked at the man who was quite near to him. He looked around thirty-five to thirty-six in age. He was tough and powerful and looked really valiant. It's just that he was a bit short, causing him to look a bit strange.

"Haha, it's Zuo Shandiao again. This despicable man must have spotted Qing Shui's injuries. That's why he came to take advantage of the situation." The people below said in disdain.

"Brother Zuo Ming, you're right. Zuo Shandiao has always been using the excuse of being a hero to do stuff that only nasty people will do." A big fellow added. The most obvious feature about him was the net-like sideburn of his.

"Even though this is the case, Zuo Shandiao does have a few things up his sleeves. After all, he has even defeated a warrior that was once at the seventh Martial King Grade. Even though he did it with difficulty, this is still enough to prove his strength."

“Do you know why Zuo Shandiao wants to stand up for the woman?” An exciting atmosphere would never lack people participating. It would also never run short of stupid questions.

“Perhaps, this woman is Zuo Shandiao’s lover?”

“Even if Zuo Shandiao had wanted a lover like this, he would still have to see if that person was willing to do so.” A man in the Starmoon Hall attire said mockingly.

“Hehe, I know. This question is already considered to be quite common. Zuo Shandiao has gone after this woman before, but it’s just that he got rejected in the end. Today, he saw this woman having tender feelings for Qing Shui, so it might be that he felt jealous. Moreover, as he saw Qing Shui get injured, he most likely showed up to release his frustration.”

“Indeed, nothing can get away from your sharp ears.”

.....

“To be bullying a woman like this, are you still considered a man?” Zuo Shandiao pointed at Qing Shui and spoke as though the injustice he had witnessed made him feel indignant.

If it was someone who wasn’t familiar with him, they would have thought of Zuo Shandiao as a righteous person. People who had experienced this countless times knew that he was someone whose glib talking skill exceeded even his personal seventh grade Martial King strength.

Qing Shui took a quick glance at this chattering, tough man. After that, he casually took out a Golden Sore Ointment and poured it on his back.

“What’s wrong? You have nothing left to say after I figured out your tricks? Do you think that you will be fine by keeping quiet? Where did that arrogant look of yours when you were bullying women go? Bring it out!”

.....

“You are such a despicable person!” Qing Shui couldn’t help but retort faintly.

“That person has always been a despicable person from the very beginning!” Some people from below immediately carried on and said.

“Beat him to the point where even his mom will not be able to recognize him! Seriously, I have never seen such a cheap person before!”

.....

“You dare accuse me? You actually dared to accuse me?” Zuo Shandiao was waiting exactly for this moment. At this moment, he feigned his anger to the point of shaking all over. He looked as if he had lost his ability to reason as he took out the two dark-gold hammers from his back.

“My god! He is always like this! Does he still think so highly of his own pathetic tricks?”

“Qing Shui, be careful. Zuo Shandiao does have a few skills up his sleeves.” Xi Ri shouted at Qing Shui.

Perhaps, Zuo Shandiao wanted to take advantage of Qing Shui's injury to defeat him. By doing so, it would not only enable him to establish a place for himself in the Starsun Hall, it would also help him spread his name across the continent. Something like this, which could help him hit two birds with one stone, why would he not go for it? That's why he had been so impatient to come up as soon as the woman had stepped down from the stage.

His eyes were sharp. He could see through the severity of the injury as a result of that thrust. If it had been an ordinary warrior, their strength would definitely drop significantly, so much so that if they operated their martial art, they would increase their blood flow and as a result die of blood loss.

Zuo Shandiao was still considered to be quite a well-known person. His skill in terms of using wicked methods had definitely reached the point of perfection. He didn't bother the least about the derisively taunting audience. For now, he only had one goal, and that was to defeat the man in front of him and establish himself on the totem pole.

But now, Qing Shui hadn't accepted his challenge. Therefore, he acted like he had been through a huge suffering with only one purpose, which was to force Qing Shui to accept the challenge. Otherwise, all of his preparations would have gone to waste.

Half of Qing Shui's body had long since been dyed red, making it look really morbid.

"Qing Shui, come down! Stop fighting! Come down!" Without anyone noticing, Huoyun Liu-Li had already run to a place close to the battle stage. She lifted up her head and looked at Qing Shui, who was still on the battle stage. She seemed to be sobbing as she spoke.

Canghai Mingyue didn't say anything. She only anxiously looked at Qing Shui.

"Qing Shui, the only thing you are good at is bullying women, especially letting them down! You always try to confuse them first and then wait until the end to abandon them! Say! A guy like you, just what kind of face do you have standing here? If you still consider yourself to be a man, fight me fair and square!" Zuo Shandiao once again screamed holier-than-thou. His voice was incomparably loud and clear.

"Shut up about fighting you fair and square! You filthy thing!" Huoyun Liu-Li directly scolded Zuo Shandiao.

Zuo Shandiao: "....."

All along, Zuo Shandiao had been pretending to be a gentleman. So even when he was being scolded by Huoyun Liu-Li, he also couldn't fight back. Or else, the "elegance" that he had accumulated so far would have all been for naught.

For a woman as beautiful as Huoyun Liu-Li to open up her mouth and accuse him in front of so many people, not only did the crowd not find it abnormal, they even found her to be courageous. She not only had good looks, she also had a good heart! A lot of people envied Qing Shui's luck with women. At the same time, they were also accusing Qing Shui for being insensitive.

"Since you want to challenge me so badly, I will realize your wish!" As Qing Shui looked at Huoyun Liu-Li and her eyes that were filling up with tears, he felt painful but at the same time happy. He felt really blessed.

After getting Qing Shui's approval, Zuo Shandiao was overwhelmed with joy in his heart. However, he couldn't express it. He looked on as Qing Shui stood there empty-handed and said once again: "I will not take advantage of you. Reveal your weapon!"

"My god! He is so despicable! Qing Shui, what weapon do you need? I will give it to you." People immediately started to console him.

"You scum! When will you die!"

"Qing Shui, don't kill him! Disable him! I'd like to see the face he makes when he can't get the things he wishes for." A humorous teenager shouted out suddenly.

.....

"Then I am going to bring out my own weapon!"

"Wow! He has an Interspatial Silk Satchet! If only I had one, I wouldn't have to carry so many things no matter where I go." A well-endowed woman said infatuatedly.

"Damn it. In the future, I will definitely give you an Interspatial Silk Satchet." A man said as he stared at her huge breasts.

"You? Get lost!"

.....

The huge and black Heaven Shaking Hammer gave out a sharp killing aura. It even had an aura.

After Zuo Shandiao saw Qing Shui's hammer, his eyes showed a trace of excitement. Following that, he started being more cautious. Qing Shui carried the hammer in his hand as he gradually employed his Ancient Strengthening Technique.

The wound at the back of his shoulder was also slowly healing. If Zuo Shandiao had known about Qing Shui's recovery speed, he would definitely not wait any longer.

Zuo Shandiao held the hammers with both of his arms. Both of the dark-gold colored hammers were shining with a faint dark-gold colored light.

The technique that hammer-users would normally cultivate was the Earth Elemental Technique.

"Ah!"

Zuo Shandiao shouted out loudly as he stomped on the ground.

Beng!

After a huge explosion, Zuo Shandiao charged at Qing Shui like an arrow that had just left the bowstring. His already short and stocky body became even more robust and short. His whole body was like a huge spinning bucket.

From the very beginning, Qing Shui had already despised this person. He found this kind of fake person who only knew how to take advantage of other people's losses was the most hateful kind of individual.

Therefore, as Qing Shui looked at Zuo Shandiao, who was closing in on him, he didn't have the slightest thought of holding back.

Zuo Shandiao was just like a whirlwind. His double-hammer dance was so intricate that not even rain and wind could pass through it. The sharp, jarring noises could pierce through one's eardrums.

Qing Shui calmly operated his Qi of the Ancient Strengthening Technique.

Nature energy!

Immovable Mountains!

Diamond Qi!

Qing Shui also didn't want to act recklessly. He struck out heavily using the Thousand Hammer Technique.

Hengshan Tiger Technique!

Dong!

Ding!

The huge explosion caused the whole arena to shake slightly.

At the moment when Zuo Shandiao arrived at his side, Qing Shui used the huge Heaven Shaking Hammer to stop Zuo Shandiao's attack. His hammer collided with his opponent's hammers.

The opponent's spinning hammer was nothing compared to Huang Qing's Volution Force.

Qing Shui didn't move an inch. Zuo Shandiao on the other hand, got pushed back three steps by the strong impact. Exactly at the moment when he was overwhelmed with shock, Qing Shui made his move.

He launched the attacks of the Thousand Hammer Technique when it was at its peak. They were like hurricanes and Fierce Thunderous Beast. A huge black curtain enveloped Zuo Shandiao.

Ding-ding-ding.....

The people below could almost only see intensive afterimages of the hammers and hear the noises of the intensive hammers colliding together.

However, the people who possessed formidable strength could clearly see that each and every one of Qing Shui's hammer swings forced Zuo Shandiao to collide with them, forcing Zuo Shandiao to go all out and defend with all his might, so much so that he wasn't even able to speak. Under those circumstances, so long as he made a mistake, he would be knocked down by Qing Shui's Heaven Shaking Hammer.

Chapter 447 - Leaving the stage, Enter Tan Yang and the Iron Spine Falcons

Fifteen minutes later, Zuo Shandiao turned pale and began to sweat all over. The area around him turned into a puddle of water, and at this rate, even if he was not beaten to death, he would die of dehydration

"Pu!"

Qing Shui had proficient control over his strength, so even though the hammer strike landed on Zuo Shandiao's shoulder, it did not result in a fracture, but it basically left a weak crack on the bone

"Pu!"

.....

Zuo Shandiao clenched his teeth and fist because those insufferable hammer strikes would only keep coming, enough to put him six feet under. However, humans have always been incredibly resilient creatures

Zuo Shandiao regretted his decision. This time he had kicked an iron plate.

"Hit him to death!"

"For this kind of thing, it is best not to kill it; it is better to let everyone see that ugly mug of his!" A humorous youth shouted with enthusiasm.

"Right, cripple him!" The people who were previously calling for his death yelled loudly

.....

"Pu Pu!"

Zuo Shandiao flew back in reverse, blood leaking from the corner of his mouth. Qing Shui just stood at the far corner and did not kill him; this was not because of soft-heartedness, but because Zuo Shandiao would not live past three days from now.

Qing Shui had earlier severely damaged all his bones, meridians and internal organs. Qing Shui realised that the "Minute Subtlety" realm could be used like that, where he could have an extremely precise control over the damage done, to the point where even the slightest bit of damage would result in an immediate death.

The current Zuo Shandiao could barely be said to be able to move. However, there no longer existed anyone who could bring him back from the dead, unless there was a divine medicine as such the Bones of the Living Dead. Only then could he be saved.

Capable of bringing someone back from the dead, medicine of Bones of the Living Dead's caliber would be mostly the talk of rumors and long-standing legends.

"Haha, look at that silly look on Zuo Shandiao."

"Where did your earlier look of high spirits go!"

"Look at the Feng clan young master's face - could it be that he sent Zuo Shandiao to challenge Qing Shui? If that is the case, then it is too shameless and despicable." shouted the humorous youth from earlier.

This shout of his caused many people to glance thoughtfully towards the chief disciple of Starday Hall, who averted his eyes from their gazes with resentment.

Everyone present knew a lot of things, but no one would speak of it. There was a saying that went ‘you will eat well if you have thick skin, but you will be insufficient if you have thin skin’, which made a lot of sense.

Many people despised the method Zuo Shandiao had used, but Qing Shui himself had not. If he had lost due to lacking strength, many people would talk about how shameless Zuo Shandiao had been. However, this was also what was so good about him.

Sometimes, the simpler a person was, the more they would receive, whereas sometimes the most direct method was also the best method, and of course nothing was absolute.

Just like how Zuo Shandiao could never have imaged how the results of today would have played out!

The defeated will forever have a loser’s exit, so Zuo Shandiao’s entrance and exit were in the polar opposite ends, with the exit accompanied by the blaring noise of ridicule.

For every cause, there is an effect; the situation that occurred today was not strange, for even if he did not meet Qing Shui today, he would end up meeting someone else who would do the same to him.

After Zuo Shandiao exited the arena, Qing Shui also moved to exit the arena. However, at this moment, there was another unexpected voice that caused Qing Shui to come to an abrupt stop.

“Didn’t you wish to challenge me the last time? Now you have an opportunity; I am standing right here. I do not wish for there to be any room for gossip, so the grudge between us can be settled today if you want to. It is up to you. We can do it today or another day. However, I am usually quite busy and do not have a lot of spare time.”

Under the arena stood a handsome, roughly thirty years old man dressed in gleaming silver armour, helmet, and boots; on his waist was a gold belt as wide as his palm; with a straight-looking nose, accented by the thin lips beneath it.

Tan Yang!

Even as his enemy, Qing Shui had to admit that this man was very handsome. Tan Yang had a kind of devilishly handsome countenance, giving off a feeling that he was somewhere in between evil and good on the moral compass.

It appeared that Hai Shiya favoured him for a reason. Compared to Tan Yang, Jin Changzheng had a type of attractiveness that was able to attract mature women rather than younger women.

“Damn! Since when have these kinds of shameless methods become popular!?” Someone from the Starmoon Hall shouted.

“Could it be that the Starmoon Hall is collaborating with Sword Tower?”

“Brother Cai, be quiet! You can eat whatever you want, but you have to watch what you say.” A youth with a distinctly scholarly air advised the other.

“Isn’t it so? Damn his granny, did someone not bully the people from starmoon Hall?”

.....

恐怖，脸色苍白，但青水眼睛却是灼热的盯着微笑着的谭洋，盯着这个对一切事仿佛都握在手中的男人。

Qing Shui's upper body had almost turned completely red, and he looked as though he was in terrible straits, his face pale. However, Qing Shui's eyes had a fiery look in them as he stared at Tan Yang, the man who had everything within the palms of his hands and was smiling.

This was a dangerous man. Qing Shui still clearly remembered their last encounter.

"Qing Shui, right? Let me inform you that the woman beside you has already been legally married to me, Tan Yang. Are you trying to steal my woman?"

"Qing Shui, I know you are from the Heavenly Palace, and not only that, you are also the youngest elder from the heavenly palace, but I am from Sword Tower. Are you trying to start a war between Heavenly Palace and Sword Tower?"

"Let go of my woman, or else don't blame me for annihilating your Qing clan."

"I challenge you. The loser leaves Mingyue." Qing Shui shouted to Tan Yang with bloodshot eyes.

"Challenge? The day will come, but this challenge I am not accepting. She is already my woman, so why should I bet with you?"

"State your conditions, I will accept anything."

"Not interested!" Tan Yang simply stated.

Qing Shui felt that this was the most embarrassing moment in his life. He knew this guy was not simple from the onset. If Qing Shui was in his shoes, he was not sure if he could tolerate his woman acting like that, let alone if he could do the same as him.

He was a clear-headed person but also a heartless person

"Never mind, looks like you are not able to do it today. I retract my words. We will see again next time if you still want to challenge me." Tan Yang's words had been leisurely and calm throughout and, most importantly, put emphasis on Qing Shui challenging him.

Qing Shui knew that it was just his wishful thinking. However, he felt that it was not easy to pass on the chance he had today, or else he would not be able to undo the knot in his heart

The sky changed as it seemed to near noon. Between now and Jin Changzheng's battle with the Ferocious Lion, the other boring battles whom Qing Shui had no interest in, filled up the time in between that.

Since the appearance of that woman, up till now, Qing Shui felt that his mental status was not in a good state. At the same time, he was surprised at the control Tan Yang had over his emotions.

He could tell that he was more exhausted mentally than he was physically.

“No need, since you are here today, let me get some pointers from you!” Qing Shui smiled lightly at Tan Yang, who was below. From the looks of his attire, it appeared he had been prepared long ago. However, Qing Shui still insisted on challenging him.

Qing shui was still standing on the arena.....

Qing Shui issuing the challenge rapidly caused the people around him to panic, but this was because their understanding of Tan Yang was deeper than Qing Shui’s.

They all remembered from the inter-sect competition that had been held in the time Qing Shui had left the Heavenly Palace. In that competition, Sword tower had sent someone again, and that person was Tan Yang. However, there was no one else in Qing Shui’s generation that could beat him, and the attire he wore then was the very same today.

“Are you sure you want to challenge me?” Tan Yang asked as he frowned.

In the eyes of others, it looked like Tan Yang was feeling that it was unfair to Qing Shui, but only Qing Shui knew that Tan Yang was trying to demoralize him, trying to agitate him.

“Definitely!”

Qing Shui calmly stated! Or maybe he was trying to keep himself calm!

Tan Yang frowned and thought for a moment. He then slowly made his way up the arena.

At this moment, Qing Shui took out his battle armor, helmet, boots, and greaves and started putting them on in an unhurried manner. Qing Shui did not dare to be careless when going against Tan Yang.

Tan Yang could be said to be one of Sword tower’s most outstanding talents. At his age, he was already a level 10 martial king, inferior only to Hai Long even amongst all the promising youths in Cang Lang Country.

“Looks like Sword tower already made plans early on. Last time, Qing Shui caused them to lose face to the heavenly palace, and originally they wanted to take revenge in the Heavenly Palace’s Nine Halls Competition, but Qing Shui had already left.” A slightly old, gentle-looking man said.

“Uncle Yun is right — even though Tan Yang was in the limelight last time, Sword Tower will never regain their face if he doesn’t defeat Qing Shui.

“Xiao Song is right, for within the current six generations, it does not matter who is stronger amongst the ancestors. As long as they don’t step into the Martial Saint Level, then there is nothing to speak of. Amongst the six generations, the most important is the youngest generation, for it is them that can continue to pass down the legacy of the sect.” Uncle Yun said merrily.

“Then Uncle Yun, are you saying that Qing Shui is able to defeat Tan Yang?” It appeared that the one known as Xiao Yun idolized this Uncle Yun.

“haha, you overestimate your Uncle Yun. With my level of abilities, how can I tell who is stronger.” Uncle Yun shook his head while smiling.

.....

“Young Master Hai, how many moves do you think Tan Yang will take to defeat that fellow?” A man equally handsome as Hai Long asked.

Hai long just stood there, looking intently at Qing Shui, who had already donned all his equipment, and ignored the youth.

When that handsome youth saw the serious look on Hai Long’s face, he could not help but look towards Qing Shui and Tan Yang on the arena...

“I don’t know. I feel that things are not as simple as they seem.” Hai Long finally replied and looked at that handsome youth.

“Hai Long, could it be that you cannot tell how many moves Tan Yang will take to defeat that Qing Shui?” The handsome youth said in shock.

“I am saying that I don’t know who would win!” Hai Long said with a complex expression on his face.

The handsome youth was in shock, because did this not mean that Qing Shui’s abilities were not below the 10th level of martial king? Furthermore, Qing Shui was currently injured.

Qing Shui slowly arranged his armour neatly and then swapped out the Heaven Shaking Hammer for the Big Dipper Sword, looking towards Tan Yang, who had arrived within ten metres of him. Qing Shui could feeling his blood boiling.

Qing Shui’s armour was made from the skin of the Golden-Ringed Snake King. After he put it on, he looked dazzling, with only the Big Dipper Sword looking simple and dark.

Tan Yang wore a flowing silver armour. In his hands was an azure longbow that was of an incomparable quality.

Qing Shui watched, and Tan Yang stopped walking when he got within ten metres. On his back was a sword of about 90 cm, but Qing Shui knew that his opponent intended to use the bow against him.

Tan Yang waved his hand!

“Ming.....”

“He actually summoned out three Iron Spine Falcon!”

“Iron Spine Falcon!”

“Martial King level Iron Spine Falcon!”

“Is this Tan Yang a beast tamer?”

“Some expert from Sword Tower probably gave it to him!”

“This time Qing Shui is in danger!”

“Probably not. It’s just three low-level Martial King beasts, so where is the danger?” Muttered someone in return.

“Stupid cunt!”

“Stupid cunt!”

.....

Qing Shui looked at the three Iron Spine Falcon circling Tan Yang’s head and frowned. He was familiar with this beast. An Iron Spine Falcon was about a metre tall, its wingspan about four metres, and it could not be ridden on for long-distance travel, and on its back was a section of protruding spines as hard as steel, hence the name ‘Iron Spine Falcon’.

The Iron Spine Falcon was as black as ink from head to tail, and in addition to its cold black eyes, it was definitely a demonic beast. Furthermore, since it was an elementary Martial King beast, its speed was like the wind. its claws and beak were its most lethal weapons, and at the same time, its defence was superb.

At this moment, Qing Shui finally felt the danger and did not dare to display any weakness. He hurriedly summon out the Firebird in response. However, despite its strength, it could probably only deal with two of the Iron Spine Falcon on its own.

“A mutated Red Luan!”

“They are both playing big!”

“Today truly opened my eyes. Even this level of mutated beast has appeared.”

.....

Qing Shui knew that Tan Yang was intending for the Iron Spine Falcon to distract and tie him down, but the true killing weapon would either be his bow or the sword on his back.

The Diamond Demonic Boar was also summoned out by Qing Shui. Although it was only a peak Xiantian-level beast, it should have the power of an elementary Martial King, with its defence being the prime reason for Qing Shui’s confidence.

“Be a meat shield. At least you can interfere with Tan Yang’s actions!”

“Another mutated beast.....”

“Strong, too strong. Today is going to be a battle of the titans.”

“That might not be so, as it’s hard to judge who will come out on top.”

.....

Qing Shui continued to take out two talismans, and without any further sounds, he slapped them onto his own body. The two talismans were the Godly Force Talisman and the Divine Shield Talisman!

Qing Shui did not feel any heartache over the usage of these talismans, for he currently had a decent stockpile of those in his Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal. Each of them were actually able to last thirty minutes each; this, and the results of their effects, led Qing Shui to suspect he actually drew 2nd grade talismans. However, he could not have learnt how to draw 2nd great talismans from the get-go.

Tan Yang pulled out an arrow from behind his back!

A pitch-black arrow!

Although it did not cause as big an undulation as the Cloud Piercing Arrow, many people could still feel the destructive power of the arrow.

“Seven Star Armored Vest!”

Qing Shui activated the Seven Star Armored Vest at this moment, temporarily feeling comfortable as his body grew stronger.

“Ming!”

The first to attack were the three Iron Spine Falcons!

The Iron Spine Falcons moved like lightning and left a black shadow in the sky.

“Ming!”

The Firebird flapped its huge wings, causing a huge purple tornado to spin towards the Iron Spine Falcon. The Diamond Demonic Boar also charged towards one of the Iron Spine Falcons.

“Xiu!”

Tan Yang fired his first arrow, and its target was actually the Firebird that was in the midst of battle with two of the Iron Spine Falcons!

“Beng!”

“Ming!”

The Firebird gave out a cacophonous shriek.

Fresh blood began dripping down, and Qing Shui frowned. The destructive power of this arrow was overwhelming, and he did not even know if it was poisoned or not.

Chapter 448 Breakthrough for the Diamond Demonic Boar, The Prowess of the Mighty Elephant Stomp

Qing Shui let the Diamond Demonic Boar charge towards Tan Yang in tandem with himself. But how could Tan Yang allow Qing Shui to get near him? He shot out an arrow to stop Qing Shui while he let one of the "Iron Spine Falcon" dive towards the Diamond Demonic Boar.

Screech!

The Diamond Demonic Boar's speed could not rival that of a flying demonic beast's. It was scratched by one of the claws of the Iron Spine Falcon, and a piercing sound that was like tearing metal rang out.

Roar Roar!

A deep roar escaped from the Diamond Demonic Boar's mouth. Qing Shui saw that scratches had appeared on the Diamond Demonic Boar's back, and light yellow-colored blood immediately dyed its whole body.

"These Iron Spine Falcons are truly powerful. Such small-sized flying beasts are not only fast, their sharp claws and beaks can also tear apart metal and jade. To think that it could even inflict scratches on the Diamond Demonic Boar despite its monstrous defence."

Qing Shui was pained, but there was nothing he could do now. Tan Yang's arrow was locked on to him, and they were all in a precarious situation in that moment.

Qing Shui did not wish to take any risks at the moment. It was because he felt that that archery technique was different from the Cloud Piercing Arrow from earlier, and it was likely even more vicious. Qing Shui did not wish to try out that arrow, which had strong spiritual energy and was flickering with a black glow.

The Firebird and the two Iron Spine Falcons were locked in a fierce battle with neither side gaining advantage over the other. Even the Firebird could not do anything after being tangled up by such small-scaled demonic beasts in a restricted area. If they were further apart, it might have a better advantage, but it had none of that at all now. Moreover, those two Iron Spine Falcon were not of a lower level than the Firebird.

The Firebird was also just an elementary Martial King level demonic beast.

Everyone's gaze gradually turned towards the Diamond Demonic Boar, which had been scratched with wounds all over and was shrieking in agony.

If anything were to happen to that Diamond Demonic Boar, then Qing Shui would really be in danger. When that time comes, the Iron Spine Falcon would come to interfere with Qing Shui, and Tan Yang's fatal arrow would shoot out at Qing Shui without any hesitation.

Qing Shui could imagine that there was no way he would be capable of dodging the arrow in such close quarters. In the face of such a powerful arrow, this distance could be covered in just the blink of an eye, or even less.

If he was not disturbed, Qing Shui, who had a strong Spiritual Sense, would be able to use his Big Dipper Sword to block the arrow and reduce most of the damages.

"Roar roar!"

Ning ning!

Qing Shui was in a panic, but there was nothing he could do to help. He was even grabbing onto a rock and wanted to throw it at that Iron Spine Falcon.

"Wu wu!"

Qing Shui's brows were tightly furrowed together. He planned to shoot down that Iron Spine Falcon even if he had to forcefully hold up against one of Tan Yang's arrows with his powerful defences.

But just then!

"Roar!"

A loud, piercing bellow rang out!

The Diamond Demonic Boar emitted a strong golden light all over!

It broke through...

Tan Yang's face turned pale, and his arrow suddenly shot out towards Qing Shui!

Clank!

Qing Shui blocked it with his Big Dipper Sword but was pushed backwards as a result. The strong impact caused Qing Shui to feel that his organs were turning topsy turvy, and blood trickled down from the corner of his lips.

It was too fast and too fierce! To think that even with his strong defences, and with the Divine Arm Clearing at the large success stage, after blocking with his Big Dipper Sword, he had still suffered from injuries of such an extent.

Boom!

Qing Shui flew out for over ten meters before landing on the arena and then slid towards the back.

And at that moment, the Diamond Demonic Boar grew to the size of a calf from its original one-meter long body. It looked very powerful and domineering, and had a nose which was about half a foot long.

Roar!

It let out another cry which pierced through the clouds, stomping down on the ground, and then pounced on the Iron Spine Falcon which had yet to take flight. With a shrill screech filling the air, the Diamond Demonic Boar attacked with its mouth and feet, as if it was unleashing the pent-up grievances from earlier. In just a short amount of time, the Iron Spine Falcon became a pile of torn up bird flesh.

Astonished. Everyone was astonished. To think that the Diamond Demonic Boar, which was struggling under the Iron Spine Falcon's claws earlier, had managed to tear it apart completely in mere moments.

What level was it at to be able to have such strong teeth and claws...

Qing Shui smiled as he looked on at this scene from a distance. He made the right choice to use the Divine Marionette on it. The Diamond Demonic Boar's progress was truly too fast.

At that moment, Tan Yang shot out another arrow once again. But this time, it was towards the Diamond Demonic Boar - towards its eyes!

Even though the Diamond Demonic Boar's level had improved greatly, it was unable to fully dodge it. However, it could still dodge to reduce the damage received.

Clank!

Wu!

Boom!

The Diamond Demonic Boar was sent flying, and even the fences on the side of the arena were smashed. However, what amazed Qing Shui the most was that this Diamond Demonic Boar did not suffer much injury. The arrow could go no further than two inches into its skin.

"What a monstrous boar!" Seeing how the Diamond Demonic Boar stood up and appeared to be fine, many people shouted out.

And the Diamond Demonic Boar once again charged towards Tan Yang.

Bang!

This time around, it was sent flying again with Tan Yang's palm. However, what amazed everyone was that the Diamond Demonic Boar once again stood up with great tenacity.

Qing Shui knew that the Diamond Demonic Boar's strongest point was still its defences even after it had attained the breakthrough. While its strength and speed and other attributes had also improved tremendously, they were not comparable to its defences.

Misfortunes could be hidden blessings in disguise!

Earlier, when Qing Shui was just about to throw everything aside to save the Diamond Demonic Boar as it was being hurt badly by the Iron Spine Falcon, the Diamond Demonic Boar had attained a breakthrough.

Qing Shui held onto the Big Dipper Sword. Just as the Diamond Demonic Boar once again pounced towards Tan Yang, the rock Qing Shui was holding shot out towards the other two Iron Spine Falcons in the air.

Bang!

The rock shattered, but the two Iron Spine Falcons were unharmed. They continued to engage in battle with the Firebird. Loud screeches filled the air!

Qing Shui saw that the Diamond Demonic Boar was still charging towards Tan Yang, appearing inexhaustible. He did the same, and when Tan Yang attacked to push back the Diamond Demonic Boar once again, Qing Shui attacked as well.

Swoosh swoosh!

Silver needles shot out from his left sleeve!

Ding ding!

It was a pity that that flash of light was blocked by the silver-colored armor. However, Qing Shui had just about reached next to Tan Yang!

The Big Dipper Sword he was holding slashed out!

All of his strength was gathered to its limits!

It was slightly more than the strength of a "country"!

Qing Shui was bent on killing Tan Yang with his sword, and thus used his full powers without any reservations.

This attack made the world lose its colors. The majestic ancient sword exuded an overwhelming aura, causing the blood to drain from the faces of everyone present, especially that seventy years old white-haired elder.

Tan Yang's expression changed. He quickly drew out the three-foot Greenedge Sword on his back. It had the same flash as his armor before he swung it down hard and let out a loud bellow!

So close yet so far!

In that moment, an invisible wall appeared around him. It was as thick as an ancient city wall, and although it was a transparent wall of light, it looked especially sturdy.

Nature Energy!

Burst!

Boom!

With a loud sound, the Big Dipper Sword clashed down hard onto that thick and sturdy wall of light!

After hanging on for a moment, the wall of light shattered. The Qi of quickly circulated his Qi of and slashed towards Tan Yang who was thrusting his sword towards him!

Fourth Wave of the sword!

When Qing Shui had used almost all his energy to smash the wall of light, Tan Yang, who was behind the wall, had launched his attack. This attack was sent out with the full power of a grade 10 Martial King. With the further enhancement from his armor, weapon, and maybe some mysterious items, his power had exceeded that of a grade 10 Martial King!

The Sword Tower had invested heavily in Tan Yang. Firstly, it was for their own honor, and secondly, it was for Tan Yang's safety!

Tan Yang had grabbed the right time to attack, but he had underestimated Qing Shui's abilities!

Clank clank clank clank!

Loud clashing sounds rang out and Qing Shui retreated two steps, his vital energy and blood swirling around furiously!

Tan Yang was shaken off the ground and retreated backwards in a gliding manner!

"Hahaha, I've underestimated you. To think that you're also barely at the pinnacle of the Martial King level. It's a pity that my "Starmoon Battle Armor" is just able to block off your attacks. You're not able to break through my defences. Today, I'll enjoy myself killing someone at the pinnacle of the Martial King level!" Tan Yang laughed out maniacally in mid-air.

Cloudmist Steps!

Qing Shui stared at Tan Yang as he chased after him. His speed was fast like the surging river water, and what was most important was his aura!

Unmoving Like A Mountain!

Nature Energy!

Frenzied Bull's Strength!

Heavenly Thunder Slash!

Diamond Qi!

...

Qing Shui circulated each of them one by one, and also took out a Godly Force Talisman and slapped it onto himself! Everything was so that he could raise his aura to its limits!

He was getting closer to Tan Yang, and the latter was also about to land!

Roar!

Mighty Elephant Stomp!

Qing Shui's loud tiger's roar cut through the clouds, and at the same time, he brought forth his Mighty Elephant Stomp, which was at the large success stage, at Tan Yang!

Boom!

The strong tremors created a crater several tens of meters deep on the arena!

"Since you're a tortoise with a hard shell, I'll shake up all your organs and Dan Tian!" Qing Shui looked at Tan Yang, whose face had turned as pale as paper and was spewing out fresh blood from his mouth. He felt a great sense of satisfaction.

Qing Shui knew that Tan Yang was done for, completely wasted. It was even hard to tell if he could still survive. Qing Shui lamented on how powerful the "Starmoon Battle Armor" was.

The vast field was now so quiet that one would even be able to hear the sound of a falling pin. The stomp Qing Shui executed earlier had already reached the level of two "countries" and had even created such a deep crater on this specially made arena.

"Are my eyes playing tricks on me? Qing Shui has won against Tan Yang?!"

"Someone! Hit me!"

"Seems like it's true! You can feel the pain!" Someone spoke out with joyful tears.

"Damn it, why didn't you hit yourself?"

"It's too awkward to hit myself. I'm used to hitting others."

...

"Elder sister, Qing Shui won!" Huoyun Liu-Li tugged on Canghai Mingyue and said, smiling. The traces of tears on her face had not dried yet.

"Mmm, won, he won. I knew that he'd win." Canghai Mingyue smiled and nodded.

...

"Haha, to think that our Heavenly Palace has produced such a heaven-defying talent. Haha, Old Mo, Grand Ancestor must be so happy." A person who looked like a Supreme Elder turned towards another elderly and said.

"Tonight let's look for Old Cang for a drink. He really has good fortune." The old man called Old Mo said happily.

...

An elderly person at the back of the crowd from Sword Tower turned as pale as a piece of paper, and his hands clenched tightly, his whole body trembling as he stared daggers at Qing Shui with his eyes.

Chapter 449 Condition, The Return of Mingyue Gelou

"Old Tan, what do we do?" The slightly younger elderly man asked anxiously.

"Save Yang'er at all cost!"

"Roger!"

.....

Qing Shui was patiently trying to hit the Iron Spine Falcon that was soaring in the air with stones. Nothing was impossible for a willing heart. He eventually managed to hit the eyes of the Iron Spine Falcon, and it was then slapped to the ground by the Fire Bird's enormous wings.

The Demonic Diamond Boar immediately dashed towards it like a gust of wind and started wrecking it. Anguished screeches rang out but were soon enough silenced.

The remaining Iron Spin Falcon didn't last long either as it was quickly roasted to a crisp by the Fire Bird's Violet flames. Fire Bird let out a reverberating cry, as if it was declaring its victory.

Qing Shui beckoned forth his Demonic Diamond Boar which was now twice its previous size with a smile. It was approaching Tan Yang, who couldn't stand up in the distance.

"Don't kill me..." Tan Yang trembled when he saw the Diamond Demonic Boar already sprinting towards him.

Tan Yang had lost count of how many times he had sent this Demonic Diamond Boar flying earlier and made it shriek miserably in pain. So now, even without Qing Shui's order, it would immediately sprint towards him. It opened its jaw wide and bit onto Tan Yang's hand as it was exposed!

Ka-cha!

"AAHHHH!"

"Good sir, please have mercy....." A yell rang out urgently from below the arena. Unfortunately, Tan Yang's hand was already badly mangled beyond recognition.

Qing Shui summoned his Diamond Demonic Boar back with a smile and gave a look of suspicion to the elderly man below. The elderly man's hair was gray. He had a pair of deep eyes and looked wise.

“Sir, there’s a rule in the arena too. Why don’t you tell us on what condition you are willing to spare Tan Yang’s life?” The elderly man spoke in a neutral tone. His voice was very comfortable to listen to.

“Condition?” Qing Shui stared at the elderly man without batting an eyelid.

“Yes, though on the arena you have every right to kill him right now. However, we can negotiate. If you are willing to spare his life, we will fulfil some of your conditions. What do you think?” The elderly man calmly pointed out at Qing Shui.

Qing Shui was going to outright reject the offer. Since wiping out the Sword Tower was part of his future plan, there was no reason to spare this Tan Yang. Furthermore, it would be difficult to dispel the hatred in his heart if he didn’t kill him.

Then he suddenly remembered Mingyue Gelou!

He wasn’t capable enough to save her back then. For him to wipe out the Sword Tower, he’d at least need a few years or even longer. So when the elderly man allowed him to set his conditions, his heart raced.

“I only have one condition!” Qing Shui looked at the elder.

“What is it, good sir? As long as it is within our capability, we will agree,” the elder smiled at Qing Shui and secretly felt relieved.

“Sever his ties with Mingyue Gelou. From now on, he has nothing to do with Mingyue Gelou and Little Yuchang,” Qing Shui softly said.

“T-This... can it be something else?” The elderly man instantly looked troubled.

This was because this kind of thing was a great humiliation in the World of the Nine Continents.

Qing Shui summoned the Demonic Diamond Boar!

It immediately went off and chewed on Tan Yang’s other hand until it was beyond recognition!

“Ahhh, I will agree. I will agree to your terms.....”

“15 minutes. If I still don’t see them, I shall kill him,” Qing Shui asserted.

“Hurry, Uncle Yao. Hurry...”

The elder named Uncle Yao quickly left!

“Who is Mingyue Gelou?”

“Who is Little Yuchang?”

“You guys didn’t know about this, right?” a middle-aged shorty sneered.

“And you do?”

.....

Many instantly crowded over with questions.

“Keep quiet everyone, let us listen to this man first!” A tall and powerful looking man reprimanded in his deep voice.

“Mingyue Gelou is officially the wife of Tan Yang, and Little Yuchang is his daughter!” The middle-aged shorty blurted out. Perhaps he was intimidated by the sight of the towering man.

“His wife and child?”

“Isn’t he with that woman from Hai Clan?”

“Why would Qing Shui want his wife and child?”

.....

“Shiya, you should have given up by now,” Hai Long gently said to a girl standing on his right.

The girl had a height that wouldn’t lose to an ordinary man and a full body figure. She had shapely eyebrows and almond eyes. She could waver any heart every time she blinked those large eyes with those long and dark lashes.

Her skin was soft and delicate. Her lovely nose was sharp and straight, as if carved out from white jade. She pursed up her little red lips as she watched Tan Yang who was on the arena. Her delicate body was quivering.

“I know about it, but I still like him. Brother, am I foolish?” The girl murmured while looking towards the arena, her big eyes were filled with tears.

“There’s no such thing as right or wrong in love, or foolish or not foolish. No matter what you do for the sake of the person you like, as long as you are willing, then it’s okay. This is also why your brother supports you. I didn’t even stop you though I knew he is a cold and ruthless man. I want you to realise and see for yourself what kind of a man he is.” Hai Long told the girl with a smile.

“Thank you, brother!” Her beautiful smiling face was unable to conceal that trace of loneliness behind it.

“Shiya, even you deceive yourself when it comes love. Seems like love is indeed a hurtful thing!” Hai Long looked up at the arena with a frown.

“Brother, you will understand when you meet someone who would make you deceive yourself someday. Even though it could be difficult to bear, I still feel very blessed.” Hai Shiya absent-mindedly said.

Fifteen minutes quickly passed. The cry of a flying beast that looked like an eagle filled the sky. Then a woman and a little girl appeared.

The woman was shabbily dressed, yet this was unable to conceal her beauty, especially her holy and dignified aura. It was a pity that there were some bloody scars on her face. She was dressed in old and shabby garments, her face was also covered in dirt.

Mingyue Gelou!

The little girl holding her hand wasn’t any better. Her small face was filthy. No words could describe the heartache from seeing her little pitiful appearance!

Qing Shui's heart ached. The pain in his heart was enough to make his whole body tremble. He had already expected this to happen because the Tan Clan was an influential clan. For all the young master of Tan Clan's woman had done, nothing good would come out of being brought back. Even if she was an unwanted woman of the Tan Clan, they would make sure no other man would touch her.

Mingyue Gelou was clueless as to why she was brought here all of a sudden. This place was crowded. Even if she was a Xiantian cultivator, being here still made her a little uncomfortable.

Little Yuchang huddled within Mingyue Gelou's arms tightly as she observed the crowd around her with frightened eyes.

Qing Shui watched Mingyue Gelou as she walked over. He was guessing that they didn't have enough time to allow her and the little lass to change their clothes due to the tight schedule. This had clearly shown Qing Shui how Mingyue Gelou had been living and how much she had suffered.

"Mother, will that bad guy beat us again? I miss daddy," Little Yuchang's tender voice was very soft, yet it resonated far and wide.

"Yuchang is a big girl, be strong and obedient. Mother will stay by your side always."

The gentle voice resonated within the heart of many.

"Who the f*ck could be this heartless enough to torture this pair of mother and daughter? Are they even human?" Someone yelled in a loud voice.

This voice was like a stone that was thrown into the calm waters. Although it didn't generate violent waves, it was enough to generate ripples that could gently spread to every single corner.

"It could be Tan Yang's wife!"

"What? This beast could actually bring himself to do this?"

"This is too inhumane! The child is innocent! How could they even do this to their own flesh and blood? The Tan Clan is lower than an animal!"

.....

"Shiya, do you still like Tan Yang now?" Hai Long gently asked the question again.

"I don't know. I feel so conflicted," Hai Shiya replied in agony.

"It's normal to feel conflicted. For you to say that you don't know how you feel means Tan Yang's position in your heart has changed. Remember, if our Hai Clan lost the influence we have today, you will end up like that girl." Hai Long chuckled. No one knew if he was rejoicing or laughing wryly.

Hai Shiya understood what he meant. However, sometimes one would still want to persist even when they knew it was a mistake. It was like dying horribly with no regrets.

The whole arena and its surroundings were in a chaotic situation. Animated discussion could be heard everywhere!

The face of that elderly man of Tan Clan from Sword Tower darkened. It was uncertain if he would still want to rescue Yang'er at all cost if he had known that Qing Shui would come up with such a condition.

"Daddy! Mother, look it's daddy! It's Daddy!" Little Yuchang exclaimed cheerfully as soon as she lifted her head and saw Qing Shui who was on the arena.

Her exclamation instantly caused an uproar!

"Whoa, damn this guy is admirable! He actually cuckolded the Tan Clan!"

"All hail this guy. He has not only cuckolded him but also actually fought him today to openly take them away."

"I'm feeling extremely sorry for this Tan Yang guy right now....."

.....

"Did you bring the stuff?!" Qing Shui asked the elderly man who walked up.

"Please have a look!" The elderly man handed over a small box to Qing Shui!

Qing Shui opened it slowly and saw Tan Yang and Mingyue Gelou's wedding documents along with some other things in it. He immediately applied a little force with his hands!

Bang!

The small box was immediately crushed!

"From now on, Mingyue Gelou and Yuchang are no longer related to the Tan Clan!" Qing Shui softly announced. But he didn't say anything else. He had only liberated Mingyue Gelou in front of all these people.

"Yes, yes. She is no longer related to me."

Trying not to pass out, he promptly responded to Qing Shui. Tan Yang had suffered excessive blood loss and sustained critical injuries that disintegrated his dantian and meridians. There was probably no one who could heal him in this World of the Nine Continents.

Mingyue Gelou stayed below the arena and didn't go up from there. Tears were streaming down her cheeks while the little lass kept shouting for her daddy.

She had never thought that this day would come so soon. She watched the man on the arena, his upper torso was completely drenched in fresh blood while his face was already drained of all colour.

"Sir, can we leave now?" The elderly man asked Qing Shui.

Qing Shui nodded. It no longer mattered to him whether Tan Yang could survive, because even if he did, he would only be a useless cripple. However, he was still very certain that the Sword Tower and the Tan Clan would never let him get away with this.

The elderly man had Tan Yang in his arms and quickly carried him off the arena. Tan Yang had a very complicated look in his eyes when he passed by Mingyue Gelou. There was bitter resentment, unwillingness, and humiliation.

However, the look in his eyes unexpectedly softened when he saw Little Yuchang who held onto Mingyue Gelou's arm. As if being able to sense it, the elderly man slowed down his footsteps.

Tan Yang didn't say anything. He just silently watched her for awhile before softly saying, "Let us be off."

.....

"Haha, Qing Shui is really too powerful. He is indeed the pride of our Starmoon Hall!"

"Qing Shui is the bane of Sword Tower. He has greatly humiliated the Sword Tower."

"Showing off one's ability may not necessarily be a good thing to do. Haven't you heard that the tallest tree in a forest is always the first to be blown down by the wind?" An elderly man shook his head with a sigh.

"I don't think so, grandfather. Do you think the Heavenly Palace would allow anything happen to Qing Shui after this?" A refined youth grinned.

"Stupid brat, don't you know that there is no such thing as an absolute defense?" The elderly man scolded.

"True, true. Since grandfather is old, you are always right!"

.....

Canghai Mingyue and Huoyun Liu-Li were already standing by Mingyue Gelou's side. They had quite a strong and favourable opinion of this woman whom they've previously spent some time with before. This was because she had almost no flaws, or at least they hadn't seen any yet.

Only Qing Shui could understand Mingyue Gelou. However, her emotional support was not him but rather the little lass in her arms. She was her flesh and bones. As long as the little lass was around, she would be strong. She was able to live strongly because her pillar of support was the little lass.

"Let's go. We should return first." Canghai Mingyue told Mingyue Gelou with a smile.

"Alright, thank you!"

Qing Shui slowly climbed down the arena. He felt extremely exhausted right at this moment, yet it was as if some burden was lifted off his shoulders. Both the Demonic Diamond Boar and Fire Bird had been put away back into the Realm of Violet Jade Immortal.

No one stopped Qing Shui, and he wasn't challenged again. No one wanted to be the second Zuo Shandiao. Qing Shui sighed in relief as soon as he had gotten off the stage.

He was well aware of his current condition. If another Martial Grade 10 cultivator challenged him, he was going to suffer a defeat. After all, his body was not made of steel and he was a little dizzy from the excessive blood loss.

When walked away from the arena, he was showered by applause and cheers. They were not only from the Starmoon Hall but almost the entire Heavenly Palace. Even the other sects seemed to be showering him in accolades too.

.....

Qing Shui returned to Cang Wuya's residence because he knew that the two ladies had brought Mingyue Gelou there. As expected, he could see the three ladies and Little Yuchang from a distance.

After getting the dirt washed off them, Mingyue Gelou and Little Yuchang looked like different people compared to earlier! But there were still some faint scars and bruises on their faces.

"Daddy!"

Little Yuchang flung herself into Qing Shui's arms!

Qing Shui could only hold the little lass in his arms because he didn't want her to touch the bloodstains on his body. He smilingly tossed her into the air two times. The little lass had so much fun that she couldn't stop giggling.

"Play with your mother first, lass. I will play with you after I get changed."

Although Cang Wuya's residence had only three floors, there were quite a lot of rooms. Even with Qing Shui and the two ladies having each a room for themselves, there were still quite a number of empty rooms.

The moment he saw Mingyue Gelou, who was watching him with a smile, Qing Shui felt extremely serene in his heart. He wanted to so badly pull her into a tender embrace.

Chapter 450 - Distraction from loneliness, a child?

Mingyue Gelou's eyes had turned red. She laid on Qing Shui's chest and began sobbing. He didn't push her away even when her clothes were stained by the blood on his armor.

"Does it hurt?" Qing Shui gently caressed the wounds on her face.

"No, it doesn't hurt. But it's more painful looking at you like this." Mingyue Gelou touched the bloodstain on Qing Shui's armor.

"It's dirty!"

"It's not dirty at all..."

"Just wait for a while, I will go take a bath and change my clothes!" Qing Shui hugged Mingyue Gelou while whispering in her ear softly.

"But your wounds..."

"It doesn't matter!"

When Qing Shui lifted his head, he noticed that the ladies were nowhere to be found. The two ladies had already gone back to the living room. Qing Shui rubbed his nose and proceeded towards the living room as well. He felt quite uncomfortable wearing the bloodstained clothes.

As expected, as soon as he entered the living room, Huoyun Liu-Li gazed at him intriguingly. Suddenly, he realized he had been ignorant about a lot of things before.

Qing Shui felt like he might have neglected them for some reason. He recalled about his relationship with Huoyun Liu-Li; they had never gone to the next step of their relationship, yet she has never kept any secrets from Qing Shui. Huoyun Liu-Li was able to bare her soul for him openly.

As for Mingyue Gelou, they were in an intimate relationship before, which happened a long time ago. Qing Shui showed a pained expression and a subtle smile towards the two ladies before he went upstairs.

He went into an unfamiliar room and locked the door. After that, he went into the Realm of Violet Jade Immortal; he washed his face and changed into his casual clothes. Qing Shui also washed the battle armor he took off before he came out into the room once again.

When he came downstairs, Canghai Mingyue and Huoyun Liu-Li were playing with Yuchang while Mingyue Gelou went upstairs to change her clothes because of the bloodstains. As soon as Little Yuchang saw Qing Shui, she quickly ran up and gave him a hug.

“Daddy!”

“Hehe!” Qing Shui laughed out heartily as he hugged Little Yuchang. Huoyun Liu-Li was surprised at his expression, as she had never seen him laughing with sincerity. Canghai Mingyue was also shocked, fixing a stare at them.

Canghai Mingyue reminisced about the days when she would cling to her father like Yuchang. She would always be by her father’s side whenever she saw him. Even when she grew older, she would often cling to him like she would as a child.

She used to have her parents at home to greet and support her whenever she went back. But now, she had lost everything; her heart felt empty. She couldn’t help but reminisce about the precious memories of her parents as she saw Yuchang’s happy face.

“Qing Shui, don’t you think our future daughter will be this cute too?” Huoyun Liu-Li asked Qing Shui with a calm expression.

Qing Shui was startled by her question, but he managed to pull off a smile and said: “Of course, our daughter will be the cutest...”

Just then, he noticed Canghai Mingyue’s blank expression. He felt an ache in his heart as he held Yuchang in his arms. Then he walked to stand in front of her.

When Canghai Mingyue felt Qing Shui’s presence as he got closer, she finally snapped back to reality. She looked at both Qing Shui and Huoyun Liu-Li while showing an awkward smile. She had a pretty smile nonetheless, but it harboured an unspeakable pain and sorrow.

“Mingyue, everything will be fine. You still have Liu-Li and I. We are a family now.” Qing Shui said in a serious tone while looking into her eyes.

“Yeah, sis. You won’t feel lonely anymore once you give birth to an adorable baby girl with Qing Shui, hehe!” Huoyun Liu-Li looked at Canghai Mingyue and Qing Shui playfully.

Qing Shui felt helpless as he stared at this she-devil. She took her previous sentences and replaced them with Canghai Mingyue's name. Regardless, Qing Shui was actually grateful to Huoyun Liu-Li, because she always knew the exact words to say to Canghai Mingyue.

Qing Shui would never give up on Canghai Mingyue, regardless of the circumstances. However, her heart had been filled with loneliness due to the death of her parents. In order for Canghai Mingyue to recover quickly and adapt to her new environment, it may be the best idea for her to conceive a child as a distraction...

It may not be an appropriate idea, but it was the same with Mingyue Gelou. Qing Shui understood the situation very well in his real world. There was a girl who grew up not realizing her parents were not her biological parents. When she found out the truth, she felt lonely, even though she knew how much her adoptive parents loved her. Still, she felt extremely lonely. But when she got married and conceived a child, she realized that the world was not as lonely a place as she initially thought.

Bloodline and legacies would not be possible without passing them down to the descendants. A descendant wasn't just a result of a sacred gift from the Heavens, but it was the result of love. However, no matter how much two people loved each other, they would eventually feel a gap between their relationship; it would not be perfect if they didn't have a child to conceive.

Canghai Mingyue did not disprove what Huoyun Liu-Li said. While she was looking at Qing Shui, her cheeks gradually turned red. She blushed with an expression full of shyness, panic, and anticipation.

Just then, Cang Wuya and Fei Wuji walked in!

"Grandfather!"

"Elder!"

"Elder!" At that moment, Mingyue Gelou came down from upstairs and softly called out.

"Hello, martial uncle!"

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"Haha, hello to you too!" Cang Wuya laughed out happily!

"Hello, grandfather!" Yuchang said in a clear childish tone.

Cang Wuya was startled by the child's voice. He picked her up happily and asked: "Hello, what's your name?"

"My name is Yuchang. Mmm, wait. My name is Qing Yuchang. I follow daddy's surname."

Everyone was shocked at her words. They tried to look for a reaction from Mingyue Gelou. Qing Shui was the only one smiling as he asked Yuchang: "Why does Yuchang want the surname Qing?"

"I don't know. I don't have a surname. Someone said my surname is Tan, but I don't want to have the same surname as the bad people. I want to be a Qing like daddy." Yuchang looked at Qing Shui with a serious expression.

“Haha, you are my daughter, of course you will always be a Qing.” Qing Shui chuckled as he patted Yuchang’s head. He was the one who saved her life, so naturally, he had already treated her as his own flesh and blood. Qing Shui would give everything he had for Yuchang.

The two ladies laughed as they thought of Yuchang as a funny girl. Who knew she would be so devilishly clever.

“Father, Gelou will be staying at your place for a while!” Since Canghai Mingyue was present, Qing Shui had to refer to Mingyue Gelou as “Gelou” to avoid confusion.

“There are so many rooms here, so feel free to stay. The more the merrier. Plus, old people like me love the lively atmosphere.” Cang Wuya chortled.

Afternoon had just passed. Cang Wuya chuckled, “I will go make food, stay here and have a chat with everyone.”

“Grandfather, since we are here, we can do that. You can go and rest.” Huoyun Liu-Li tugged Cang Wuya’s arm and halted him from going further. After that Huoyun Liu-Li, Canghai Mingyue, and Mingyue Gelou went into the kitchen together.

Meanwhile, Yuchang ran up and down playing by herself. Once in awhile, she would run into the kitchen to check up on the ladies!

“Qing Shui, when did you break through to the Pinnacle of Martial King?” Fei Wuji chuckled. Only three people remained in the living room.

“Just recently. I can feel my powers have greatly increased, but I am still uncertain about the level of my strength and what kind of power I have.” Qing Shui said truthfully.

“Well, you have to be careful from now on under these circumstances. Keep on training as well. Those people from Sword Tower will never let you go, but you don’t have to worry about them too much.” Cang Wuya was proud of his disciple. Mingyue was blessed to have Qing Shui by her side...

“Hmm, father, what do you think of Tan Clan’s power? Do they have a big influence on Sword Tower?” Qing Shui knew Heavenly Palace would guard over him after the incident with Sword Tower. Although being watched all the time by other people felt uncomfortable, at least he was well-protected.

Qing Shui decided to increase his power and strength as soon as possible. As long as he became powerful enough, everything else would be effortless. Power meant everything to this world. Justice and morals would not be possible without the foundation of power; no one would follow a man devoid of power and control.

One part of achieving victory would be justice. However, power would be the determinant regardless of the sentiments and support from other people.

Moreover, there were evidence of history records that detailed how the evildoers monopolized the entire nation back then.

20,000 years ago, the “Dark Emperor” ruled the world of nine continents together with his Black Wing Sect for about 300 years. They were evil and merciless, and they would kill anyone regardless of their

innocence. Because of their enormous power and authority, many people who disobeyed them either ended up dead or were forced to submit under their abuse.

No matter what angle one looked from, as long as they were able to defeat their opponents to achieve their goals, they would regard themselves as the strongest warriors in the continent. Most people would focus on the result instead of the progress in achieving the said result. Regardless how diligent or hardworking one was during their progress, it would be nothing if they were defeated or lost in a battle.

“Tan Clan is one of the strongest clans in Sword Tower. There are about 20 Tan members as Supreme Elders, and a few as Elders. They are all descended from a pure lineage. I am sure Tan Yang knows about it. They do have a high influence on Sword Tower, but there’s someone else holding them down.” Fei Wuji said.

“Those people holding them down, do you think they are like the old ancestors of Heavenly Palace?”

“More or less. But since the defeat of Tan Yang, everything has changed. Tan Yang is the most outstanding young disciple of Tan Clan who will take over as the clan master one day. Tan Clan is very ambitious, and the one who will decide the future of their clan is none other than Tan Yang.”

The idle chat continued for a while. An aromatic smell filled the air from the kitchen. They couldn’t wait for the food to be served.

“Qing Shui, come with me and meet someone this afternoon. He wants to see you.” Fei Wuji said unexpectedly.

Meanwhile, Cang Wuya only flashed a smile and remained silent.

“Who?” Qing Shui was curious, because he felt odd about the situation.

“The old ancestor of Heavenly Palace - the real master of Heavenly Palace.” Cang Wuya laughed out heartily.

“The real master of Heavenly Palace?” Qing Shui asked with a surprised tone. Wasn’t he one of the top martial warriors of Greencloud Continent?

“Yes. Just go and meet him. He might be able to benefit you in some ways.” Cang Wuya smiled.

However, Fei Wuji remained silent. He appeared perplexed. Cang Wuya sighed when he saw Fei Wuji’s expression!

“Okay!”

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Lunch was sumptuous. It was all thanks to Mingyue Gelou’s culinary skills and the procurement of the freshest ingredients. Everyone had a delightful meal, especially Qing Shui. The cord in his heart seemed to have loosened quite a bit. At least he won’t be suffering like he used to.

It still pained Qing Shui to remember the scenery where Mingyue Gelou and Little Yuchang left him, especially the words Mingyue Gelou said to him before she went away with Yuchang. However, it was never too late to mend things with them now that the three of them were back together again.

“Qing Shui, let’s go and pay him a visit!” After lunch was over, Fei Wuji smiled as he stood up and called out to Qing Shui.