

Emperor 3311

[Chapter 3311: Highest Record](#)

“What about sixty steps?” A disciple asked.

“Very few among the first generation of disciples can do so.” The elder flatly answered in a blunt yet truthful manner.

“Thirty is the passing score, sixty is highly satisfactory, ninety means that you’re a genius. One twenty means that you’re peerless. This is a gauge for the third generation.” The elder in charge revealed.

“So we can be considered a genius at ninety steps?” The new examinees looked up the steps with anticipation.

“Is it really that hard?” One of them wondered.

“How many have climbed up to that point before?” Another young one became curious.

All eyes turned towards Gong Qianyue who was sitting in a corner. She has always been distant from others.

Normally, gazing at a beauty was a pleasant thing, just not today because Li Qiye was resting on her thigh again.

Her admirers, especially Huang Ning, didn’t take this too well. Unfortunately, she turned a blind eye towards them. Her focus was on Li Qiye’s ordinary-looking face as if it was an unsolvable puzzle.

This only served to further exasperate her fans. Of course, this had nothing to do with Li Qiye’s attractiveness. She was merely trying to extract more information regarding recent events.

“I will get to ninety!” Huang Ning proudly declared for all to hear.

That would be the “genius” classification. All turned towards him. No one thought that he was boasting because he was only second to Gong Qianyue in their sect.

“You can definitely do it.” A disciple from Thousand Demons immediately supported.

“Victory is yours once you get there. Others definitely can’t compare.” Another demon said while glancing at Li Qiye, on purpose or otherwise.

The demons didn’t care that Li Qiye was the son of miracles. They would always stand on Huang Ning’s side against a human.

“Victory is yours!” Many shouted to voice their support. Huang Ning clearly had a prestigious status in the sect.

“The sect will have a special reward for those who make it that far. Any merit law at the same level.” Zhang Yue nodded.

“Any earth-level merit law?” The crowd clamored as a result after hearing the potential reward, only second to heaven-level laws.

In fact, Gong Qianyue might be the only member of the third generation to cultivate heaven-level laws. The protectors didn't have access to them either. The earth level was already the highest for them.

The next question became obvious for most. They turned towards Qianyue and started wondering about her result.

She was stronger than Huang Ning so how many steps would she be able to climb?

"Qianyue, what is your challenge this time?" The elder in charge asked.

"One hundred and ten for sure, then I will be challenging one twenty." Qianyue pondered for a bit before replying.

"That's a lofty goal, even the sect master didn't dare to be so bold during his youth." An elder laughed.

"Senior Sister Qianyue is definitely our top genius." One disciple said.

"Yes, she can do it if she tries." Others joined in.

Huang Ning was relatively annoyed at his spotlight being stolen by Qianyue. However, it wasn't too bad because she had an inborn true fate. No one could compete with this.

Qianyue remained aloof to the praises and continued to stare at the sleeping Li Qiye.

Now, the crowd's next question became Li Qiye's goal but no one came up to ask.

"Young Master, what is your target?" Qianyue eventually inquired.

Many didn't like her addressing him as "Young Master". Huang Ning and the other fans scowled in response. How could their goddess call someone else "Young Master"?

"How is he qualified to be a young master?" One disciple scowled.

"It's because the elders are calling him this. Senior Sister Qianyue is trying to be considerate here." A fan consoled himself.

"What's the reward for three hundred?" Li Qiye lazily opened his eyes.

"Three hundred steps?" Eyes widened as a result and shifted back and forth between Li Qiye and the elders.

"No one can get to two hundred steps without being at the sacred level. Ludicrous!" One old disciple showed his skepticism.

"All the way to the top?" The elders began talking. Zhang Yue's eyes became bright while glancing at Li Qiye.

"Heaven Climb relies on power alone, nothing else. Your own power and your merit laws' profundity determine how far you can go." Zhang Yue elaborated: "I'm stronger than Qianyue due to age and I can reach one twenty. Three hundred is simply unheard of, at least in my memories. Right, elders?"

“Yes. We had some Heavenly Sovereigns before and South Conch Forefather. They never attempted this again after making a name for themselves. In theory, they should be able to do it. There’s just no record about someone being able to go all the way up.” The elder in charge replied.

“How did South Conch Forefather do during his youth?” One disciple asked.

They were referring to South Conch Dao Lord. Though the divine beast, Black Tortoise, was the patriarch of their sect, some actually said that the dao lord was stronger.

“Hmm...” The elders contemplated.

“South Conch Forefather is the most talented disciple in the history of Divine Black. No one else comes close.” The elder in charge finally answered.

“If I remember correctly, his best result during his youth was one hundred and fifty-six steps, yes?” Another elder recalled.

“That sounds right.” The elder in charge nodded.

Attention turned towards Qianyue again. If she could successfully finish her challenge, there was a chance of her becoming a dao lord in the future.

After all, this wasn’t her limit. She could still improve in the near future.

“See? South Conch Patriarch’s record is one hundred and fifty-six steps. I’m sure no one can beat this. Please be responsible when you brag.” One disciple sarcastically told Li Qiye. Many others shared the same thought.

“What a waste of time, if there’s no reward for this, I rather go to sleep on a beauty’s thigh.” Li Qiye lazily said.

“Hmph, you can’t get up there even if there’s a big reward.” Huang Ning couldn’t help attacking.

Unfortunately, Li Qiye didn’t respond to him. Meanwhile, the elders quietly talked among themselves.

“There is no precedence set for three hundred steps in our sect but we have discussed this. If anyone can surpass South Conch Forefather’s record, they’ll get the highest reward possible.” The elder in charge said seriously.

“The highest reward possible?” The disciples took a deep breath and started fantasizing.

“No one can do it anyway, hmph.” One said.

“I don’t think it’s possible.” An elder told his peers.

[Chapter 3312: Difficult Climb](#)

Not to mention the disciples, the elders themselves thought that reaching the top was impossible.

They were aware of Li Qiye’s devilish and mysterious abilities. However, this climb required one’s own power. Treasures and other means were of no use here.

“No way.” An elder directly denied. Not even Ping Wuoweng with his current cultivation could do this.

A disciple like Li Qiye had no chance regardless of how mysterious he was.

"I doubt he can get up three hundred steps." Even the humans didn't buy it, let alone the demons.

"He'll embarrass himself soon enough." Another sneered.

Huang Ning and Zhan Nu naturally liked this development. In actuality, Huang Ning was worried that Li Qiye might come up with something to surpass him and go up farther.

But now, the guy said that he wanted to climb all the steps. This puts them in an advantageous position.

He could beat them but there was no way he could carry out his claim. He would turn into a clown laughed at by all.

"So ambitious, can't wait to see you try." Huang Ning said sarcastically.

The elders and Zhang Yue didn't mock Li Qiye but still found the task impossible.

"Three hundred steps, that's a miracle for the ages. Just don't force it because given your current cultivation, thirty steps would be amazing enough. Sixty steps would be a miracle." The elder in charge shook his head, trying to help Li Qiye.

He extended a ladder for the guy to step down without facing humiliating scrutiny. He discretely suggested for Li Qiye to stop boasting before it's too late.

"He's right, just pick a smaller goal. Focus on thirty then try to challenge sixty. Your points are already enough to go to the fifth trial." A human elder said, wishing to protect Li Qiye.

"A miracle for the ages? Fine, I'll create one for more points. Getting up there is no big deal anyway." Li Qiye declared with a wide smile.

The two elders didn't expect him to ignore their suggestion and kept on showing off. They glanced at each other and smiled wryly. The words have come out of the guy's mouth and they couldn't push them back in.

"Three hundred steps? He doesn't know his own limits, we'll see what he is gonna do then." A disciple snorted.

Just think about it, the most talented dao lord of their sect only made it past one hundred steps. How could an Iron Skin disciple go all the way? What a joke.

"Girl, do you think I can do it?" Li Qiye smiled and asked Gong Qian Yue.

She stared at him and found his smile to be confident and natural with no sign of arrogance. His eyes looked deep and firm. This was unshakable confidence stemming from the bones.

"I do. You will stay true to your words, Young Master." She eventually nodded, being won over by his confidence.

She looked like a maid right now to the astonishment and chagrin of the crowd. Normally, she wasn't an arrogant person but still maintained a distance from everyone else.

Now, she seemed so docile and obedient when around Li Qiye. This came unexpected and incited plenty of jealousy. Many disciples wanted to be in Li Qiye's shoes.

"Ahem." Zhang Yue ordered: "We'll start now in order."

The examinees shifted their focus and took a deep breath in order to assume their best mental state.

"Liu Xingyan." The first disciple was called and he stood before Heaven Climb Steps.

He felt great pressure despite being an excellent member of Divine Black. This wasn't his first time either.

The previous experience of the difficulties here made him more nervous. He eventually took a deep breath.

"Buzz." He channeled his merit laws and started pulsing brightly as he took the first step up.

Others didn't notice anything but he could feel his shoulders being pushed down as if he was holding a carrying pole with two loads weighing a thousand pounds.

His chaos true energy started their rotation and stabilized his stance. He took the next step forward.

On the second step, the invisible weight on his shoulder instantly doubled. He could still withstand this and aimed for the next.

"Five, six, seven..." He quietly counted, the same with the many spectators below.

"Thirty..." Some started cheering.

"Senior Brother Liu, you're making our Thousand Demons Peak proud!" A demon shouted.

Unfortunately, his speed and recovery rate became slower at this point.

"Forty..." The spectators were still shouting, especially those coming from Thousand Demons.

This disciple could hear his bones grinding together by the pressure at the fortieth step. It wished to crush him down.

"Boom!" He turned ablaze. A great bull appeared in the fire and boosted his power.

"Mad Fiery Bull! A mid-level black mantra." The crowd called out. Some were very envious due to the high level of this mantra.

"Boom! Boom! Boom!" His power surged after activating the mantra and he climbed up ten steps in no time at all.

"Fifty!" He seemed to be out of strength at this point, completely stopping and gasping for air.

He tried to use his mantra again but it didn't have a strong effect. The pressure was too great at this point.

He tried to step on the fifty-fifth step but his legs felt as heavy as a mountain. He still persevered.

"Fifty-eighth!" He gritted his teeth. The bones all over his body were issuing noises now.

“No need to force it if you can’t.” An elder below reminded.

Nonetheless, he didn’t want to give up and used his mantra again. The flame around him ignited only to be extinguished by the pressure.

“Six-sixty!” The disciple made it to the sixtieth step and vomited a mouthful of blood. He fell down the stairs and was caught by an examiner.

The spectators were moved. Those who haven’t done this before thought that it would be very easy.

However, this powerful disciple only barely made it that high. He was one of the best in Thousand Demons.

“Bai Hangkong.” The elder named the next.

He took the first step but unfortunately, this was his first time here. His cultivation was also shallow so he stopped after nine steps.

He couldn’t help but cry after getting down because he had lost the opportunity to move on.

[Chapter 3313: Ninety-nine](#)

This trial was eliminating disciples at a rapid rate. The majority couldn’t make it past the tenth step. Those capable of getting to thirty were all top disciples of the five peaks.

Very few made it to the sixtieth step. These were definitely among the top ten of this generation.

More than half were done at this point. The first-timers were sad because they lacked both experience and power, unlike their senior brothers and sisters. This meant that they couldn’t participate in the fifth trial.

The older ones who only managed to reach the thirtieth step was fine with it due to the point system. They got fifty and this was enough to move on. The fifth trial was the most desired one anyway.

Zhan Hu had an impeccable showing. He had no problem moving up the first sixty steps.

The spectators from Jade Bird naturally clapped and cheered for him. Some from Furious Tiger joined in as well.

“First Brother should be able to do eighty steps.” One member of Jade Bird praised after seeing his effortless ascend.

“No, I think eighty-five.” An older senior brother speculated.

Zhan Hu started slowing down after seventy steps. Each subsequent step became difficult.

A regal aura oozed from him just like a dominating king. He wanted to use his power at this point.

“Raaa!” A tiger roar chased away the clouds above. A tiger totem emerged, looking fierce and stately.

“Skyroar Divine Tiger! A high-level black merit law from Iron Rod Demon King’s branch.” Many shouted after seeing this.

His lineage’s merit law empowered him and quickened his pace.

The spectators became envious once more. Zhan Hu came from a prestigious clan. The members of this clan could learn their clan's merit laws along with Divine Black's. This put Zhan Hu at a great advantage compared to other excellent disciples.

"Eighty!" Shouts came about from the demons.

Zhan Hu had the best result so far in this trial in the most dazzling manner. Those from Furious Tiger and Jade Bird took pride in this.

However, he started slowing down despite the totem empowerment. Sweat beads could be seen everywhere from the overwhelming pressure.

"Eighty-five!" His body trembled while the crowd cheered.

"Eighty-six!" He still took another step and finally gave up at this point.

"First Brother, you're something else. Eighty-six is the best result so far." One junior cheered.

"Still not ninety." He replied with a tinge of regrets: "It's up to you, Senior Brother Huang Ning."

"Don't worry, I will try my best to not let you down." Huang Ning smiled in response.

They have let go of their competition and formed an alliance to deal with a common enemy - Li Qiye.

Huang Ning really didn't disappoint. He easily climbed up seventy steps as his robe fluttered in a cool manner.

He had a transcending aura like a crane among a flock of chicken, truly a handsome and elegant man.

"He's so handsome." Many girls from the five peaks were enamored with him since he looked so cool while climbing up the steps.

"He's definitely the best looking in Thousand Demons." The ones from Thousand Demons were the biggest fans.

"Yes, a man like him is the center of attention anywhere. He's so perfect and his charisma far surpasses others yet a few still want to challenge him, so ignorant." One girl said while glancing over at Li Qiye with disdain.

"Isn't this good? We need blind people like that to challenge Senior Brother Huang Ning. That's when he'll really shine. He might be nice but if they ask for it, don't blame him for crushing them." Another said.

These girls were fans of Huang Ning and naturally disliked Li Qiye.

Huang Ning started slowing down after making it through eighty steps. He also activated his totem - the great figure of a demon king with an imposing presence.

"Luminous Vine Demon King." Some said with respect.

Everyone knew that he had the bloodline of this demon king. With his mantra activated, the power in his blood also rushed out.

“Ninety!”

“Senior Brother, you can do it! You’re the strongest and most handsome in Thousand Demons! You can do it! Infuriate that toad!” His fans started chanting.

Some male disciples enjoyed this as they glanced at Li Qiye. Everyone knew who the chant was referring to.

Alas, Li Qiye was still sleeping on Qianyue’s thighs. She didn’t care either and continued looking at him as if nothing in this world was more attractive.

“Ninety-five!” The girls below clenched their fists, feeling even more nervous than Huang Ning.

“He can definitely make it to one hundred! One hundred!” Some started praying for him.

“Ninety-seven..” Huang Ning had a tough time by this point. Bean-sized beads formed on his forehead as he was drenched from top to bottom.

“Ninety-eight!” Others were counting. If he were to make it to one hundred, he would be the first to make it this far for this trial.

“Ninety-nine!” He was pale and shaking. This next step was extremely hard.

“Pluff!” He eventually faltered and vomited blood. He fell down and was caught by an examiner.

Many felt bad for him, even the human disciples.

“This is already an exceptional result.” An elder praised. Huang Ning surpassed expectations and solidified his status as a genius.

“What a shame.” Huang Ning looked up the steps with regrets after recovering.

“It’s okay, you’re the strongest in Thousand Demons and the second-best in the sect.” The girls came up and consoled him.

“Right, your score is more than enough to beat the random nobodies. Just wait for him to embarrass himself.” Another said.

Huang Ning glared over at Li Qiye and couldn’t wait to see the guy try.

The elders wanted to leave Li Qiye and Gong Qianyue for last. The reason for Qianyue was obvious. She was their best disciple so they wanted her to be the last on stage.

As for Li Qiye, they were doing him a favor. They wanted him to watch the senior brothers and sisters try first so that he could mentally prepare for the trial. Alas, he has been sleeping the entire time.

This made them shake their head while feeling helpless.

[Chapter 3314: Gong Qianyue’s Result](#)

The disciples in front quickly finished their turn and only two were left - Li Qiye and Gong Qianyue.

The fourth trial eliminated numerous disciples. Only a hundred or so managed to make it up to sixty steps, the majority of whom being older disciples. First-time attempters were nearly non-existent. Some

were sad and became dispirited after losing. However, they told themselves that this wasn't their last examination.

On the other hand, for those like Huang Ning, this might actually be their last chance. They have been in Divine Black long enough to begin taking up roles and positions.

With only two remaining, Huang Ning currently had the best record at ninety-nine steps.

All eyes were on Li Qiye and Qianyue now. It was a matter of course for her to surpass Huang Ning because she was at the Yin Yang Celestial realm. The difference of a full realm was insurmountable.

Therefore, she should have no problem breaking the one hundred mark. The question became, how many steps in total?

As for Li Qiye? They sneered at him, thinking that his tricks and methods wouldn't be able to help him here. He had no chance of beating Huang Ning.

Zhang Yue and the elders stared at the two and didn't call for one to come.

"Ladies first." Li Qiye got up and smiled.

She walked towards the steps like a kingdom-toppling goddess. Her distant temperament made her even more desirable to the male disciples.

She seemed like a floating beauty up in the clouds, unstained by the dust in the mortal world. Both her appearance, temperament, and actions captivated the spectators.

Her ascend was a gorgeous dance in their eyes, a visual feast demanding all of their attention.

"So pretty." The ones who didn't have romantic thoughts about her were still impressed.

"Yes, not only is she the strongest, she's also the most beautiful." Her admirers naturally praised while being fully immersed.

The powerful ones like Zhan Hu had powerful mental fortitude. Nonetheless, they were still affected by her.

"We really can't compare to Senior Sister Qianyue." Many female disciples felt inferior. The ones who were jealous of her had to admit their inadequacies in comparison.

"There's no shame in admitting that she's the number one beauty in our sect." A female disciple confident in her own appearance accepted defeat.

"One hundred steps!" An elder interrupted them with a shout.

The ones in a daze calmed down and saw how far she had made it, still effortlessly.

"I'm really weaker than Junior Sister." Huang Ning himself said.

Zhang Yue and the elders expected this since they were confident in her abilities.

"Looks like one hundred is definitely possible." The elder in charge nodded approvingly, thinking that she had calculated this goal first.

“One ten!” Someone shouted.

“Senior Sister, you can definitely make it to one twenty!” More cheered.

“One twenty is nothing for you, Senior Sister!” Everyone started cheering for her due to their admiration for her abilities. No one would question her power and thought that she would stay true to her claim.

When she got to one eleven, she seemed to finally be facing resistance. However, she could still handle it unlike Zhan Hu or Huang Ning during the final stage.

As expected, she finally made it past one twenty.

“She did it! Will she break the record that has been kept for several generations?!” The crowd erupted.

“One thirty, she’s challenging it right now!”

However, Qianyue found herself in trouble after entering the one-twentieth step.

“Boom!” A holy aura permeated the area. Flames started jumping around her; heat waves oozed out. This was the samadhi flame but it wasn’t the thing frightening people.

A black tortoise emerged with a universe around it. It lifted its head and looked like the ruler above the myriad laws.

“Black Tortoise Imperial Art!” Many disciples were moved at this sight and felt the urge to prostrate before the great entity.

“The technique of our patriarch.” They became envious as well.

This was one of the strongest merit laws in Divine Black passed down by its progenitor since the ancient era. It was considered a high-level heaven law by future generations.

According to the legends, after their patriarch created this law, it also received guidance from the great immortal. The merit law changed from being complicated to simple - something far superior than before. The tortoise then passed it down to its disciples.

“When will I be able to learn it?” Some wondered.

“Getting it is one thing but can you actually learn it? There are others with top laws but it’s still useless.” An older disciple stared at them and said.

This group turned towards Li Qiye after hearing this. Everyone knew that he got the Nine Primeval Laws, another top merit law of their sect. Alas, he couldn’t learn it anyway.

They had no chance of cultivating heaven laws before reaching the sacred level. One exception was to have an inborn true fate.

“Boom! Boom! Boom!” Each of her steps had the power of a Black Tortoise. The world trembled, unable to withstand the force.

“So powerful.” The spectators felt as if she was capable of opening a path to heaven at this point.

“Boom!” She made it to the one hundred and thirtieth step.

The place became quiet. Even the elders were moved.

“Incredible.” Zhang Yue said. He might not do better than her despite his current cultivation. Remember, he was one generation older with a full cultivation realm advantage.

Unfortunately, she was shaking and drenched with sweat. Everyone could see that this was her limit.

“No need to keep going, you’ve already broken the record.” The elder in charge said.

[Chapter 3315: My Turn](#)

One thirty was one of the best records in Divine Black. She had surpassed many before her.

This was virtually unbeatable for those present. They could become stronger later and might not be able to beat this number.

Gong Qianyue was pale, clearly unable to go on. Nonetheless, both the juniors and seniors were convinced by her prowess.

She still didn’t give up and gritted her teeth, wanting to move forward.

The elders exchanged glances and understood why. This was her last examination so she wanted an even better record.

It would be meaningless to try again after her cultivation became better in the future. Thus, this attempt had great significance for her.

“Buzz.” Her true fate flew out of a fate palace. It looked like a miniature copy of hers - cold and distant.

It was resplendent with rotating halos. An archaic aura existed along with the power of the dao. It seemed to be one with heaven and earth.

“An inborn true fate...” This archaic aura and bright radiance were different from everyone else’s true fate.

Being born with this true fate meant boundless potential. This was the case for Qianyue.

Others needed to learn merit laws in the right order. On the other hand, she was completely free from this rule.

She could still cultivate a high-level heaven law while being a Mortal Shell. This was the best thing about having this inborn true fate.

Just imagine, being at the lowest realm and cultivating the best merit laws - this was a higher starting point than anyone else.

Her true fate combined with the imperial law allowed her to enter her strongest state. She became spirited again and took several more steps.

“136, 137, 138...” The spectators counted every time she took a step.

Zhang Yue and the elders became anxious while watching this.

“139...” She was staggering back and forth at this point.

Everyone watched with bated breath; no one dared to rush her.

“140...” This step was extremely difficult but she persevered and attempted to gather more strength.

“141!” The crowd shouted.

She mustered more power at this point. Her foot was only a little bit off from the next step. Alas, the suppressive affinity at this point was too much for her.

“I give up.” She had no choice.

“141st step!” The ancestral peak became filled with shouts and cheers.

“141...” The seniors exchanged glances and became emotional.

“Congratulations, Senior Sister. You’re really the number one of our sect.” Everyone rushed over and gathered around her.

She simply nodded as an expression of gratitude, not showing arrogance and pride.

“Simply amazing.” The elder in charge walked over and told her: “Only South Conch Forefather has done better than you in the history of our sect, you are in second place. This will be recorded in the sect’s annals.”

Everyone thought that this achievement was worthy of pride.

“You’ll definitely surpass the sect master.” An older elder stroked his beard, looking quite pleased.

“In my opinion, you’ll be at the sacred level in less than a century.” Another elder added.

The entire sect had high hopes for her. It was only a matter of time before she surpassed Ping Suoweng.

The elders from the five peaks rarely agreed on one thing but this time, it was unanimous. Having another cultivator at the sacred level was a big deal for Divine Black.

She remained calm and came over to Li Qiye who didn’t have a big reaction to her achievement.

“Your turn, Young Master.” She wanted to see a miracle. Intuition told her that he would definitely beat her record despite being an Iron Skin. He would beat the dao lord’s record as well.

“Sure.” Li Qiye smiled and walked over to the steps.

The crowd wasn’t as nice to him as they were to Gong Qianyue.

“Junior Brother Li, I’m waiting for you to make it to the final step and become the number one of our sect.” One Senior Brother sarcastically said with a sneer.

“Yes, the number one in history.” Others started laughing.

Zhang Yue and the elders didn’t say anything. They stared intensely at Li Qiye and held onto a sliver of hope for a miracle. Perhaps this inscrutable youth would surprise everyone again.

“I’m waiting for you to beat me. If you can’t make it past one hundred, get the hell out of Divine Black.” Huang Ning snorted.

“Senior Brother, you’re making it hard for him.” A good friend of his added: “I think he can make it past ten steps but one hundred? That’s harder than reaching heaven itself.”

“Right, I would bet on ten being the max.” One more looked down on Li Qiye.

“Good dogs don’t block the way.” Li Qiye smiled and didn’t bat an eye from the offensive comments.

Huang Ning’s expression became ugly. He still walked away and watched with both hands in front of his chest from a distance.

When the guy lost, he would need to leave Divine Black. That’s when Huang Ning would make mincemeat out of him.

“Hmm, wonder how hard this will be.” Li Qiye stretched and decided to play with the crowd for a bit.

He took his time taking each step and faked the difficulty.

“One, two, three, four...” He seriously counted each step, struggling to get the word out.

Once he got to the fifth step, he shook back and forth, nearly tumbling over.

“Watch out now, don’t lose to the sixth step.” Some below burst out in laughter.

“Six...” Li Qiye finally made it here.

“Hmph, his limit is ten. I’ll eat a rock if he can get eleven.” One disciple sneered.

“Young Master, you can do it, get to three hundred!” Only the children from Liu Village actively cheered for him.

[Chapter 3316: Have To Rest](#)

“Young Master, you can do it! Become the best by reaching the top!” The children cheered for him.

“Young Master, first place is yours for the taking!” Lu Daowei couldn’t help but join. He didn’t know how many steps Li Qiye could do but since he benefited so much from Li Qiye’s help and the previous bets.

He bought everything for the number one spot and earned so much. Thus, even if Li Qiye couldn’t get the top three spots right now, he already won enough and had nothing but gratitude towards Li Qiye.

Some peers stared at him as if he was an idiot but he didn’t stop shouting for Li Qiye.

Many demons viewed him not only as a fool but also as a traitor. They certainly hated Li Qiye mainly because of Gong Qianyue. In addition, he was also Huang Ning and Zhan Hu’s enemy.

Those two represented the side of the demons so Li Qiye was naturally their enemy as well. Now, a demon like Lu Daowei was supporting Li Qiye? “Traitor” seemed like the right word here.

That’s why they threw an aggressive glare at him, no longer considering him as one of their own.

“Sigh, can’t move at all, gotta take a break to catch a breath first.” Li Qiye seemed powerless after reaching the tenth step, heaving for breath while sitting down.

The ones below started laughing at him.

“Hahaha, finally. See, I told you that he can’t go that far with his cultivation. Ten steps is his max.” A demon guffawed.

“Hmph, can’t believe he challenged Senior Brother Huang Ning, what an ignorant fool.” A friend of Huang Ning sneered.

“Get the hell out of the sect to save yourself from further embarrassment.” Many demons and some humans showed their disdain. The latter joined in out of jealousy because of Gong Qian Yue.

Li Qiye ignored them and took a deep breath. He smiled and said: “Gotta keep going, can’t give up that quickly.”

“Eleven, twelve, thirteen...” He counted. Each step required so much effort. He needed to breathe at least three times before barely moving on.

The ones laughing suddenly stopped since they were caught off guard.

“Hmph, the last struggle, so futile. Let’s see how far you can go.” One disciple snorted.

“He’s at his limit, twenty is the very max.” A demon added.

“Ninety, twenty...” Li Qiye’s hands were on his knees while being drenched in sweat. Another step seemed impossible.

“Dang, too tired, I gotta rest for a bit.” He heaved for breath and sat back down.

“Haha, see, I’m right.” The demon earlier laughed: “He won’t be able to make it past this.”

“Congratulations on your victory, Senior Brother.” A few started flattering Huang Ning before an actual conclusion.

“It’s still too early.” Huang Ning replied but there was already a smile on his face.

The guy looked finished at the twentieth step. His best would most likely be thirty steps and even that was pushing it. Victory seemed to be up for grab.

The smile turned into a smirk; his eyes flashed with murderous intent.

“Just accept defeat and roll down already, don’t waste everyone’s time.” Another disciple scowled.

“Okay, got some air back, time to continue.” Li Qiye ignored them and said. With that, he aimed for the next step.

“Twenty-one, twenty-two, twenty-three...” He counted each step just like before.

“Okay, let’s see how long you can last for.” One disciple uttered.

“Well, thirty will be as high as he can go, no more. That’s still useless though.” A demon said with scorn.

“Thirty.” Li Qiye made it up to this step and massaged his waist while lamenting: “Sigh, just eighteen yet already feeling old with aches everywhere. This isn’t good, I need to rest.” He sat down again.

This was his third time resting. The spectators started talking about it.

"I doubt he can stand up or keep going anymore!" One of them asserted.

Li Qiye immediately proved him wrong by standing up and patted his butt: "Have to move on, there are still two hundred and seventy steps left."

"Thirty-one, thirty-two, thirty-three..." The same thing repeated.

The one who spoke earlier turned red, speechless with embarrassment.

"So what, he's not gonna get to one hundred." He added.

But by this point, those who made fun of him earlier stopped and became awkward.

The majority of them couldn't make it to thirty. In fact, some lost after ten steps. How were they qualified to make fun of him?

"Forty." Li Qiye loudly lamented at this point: "Sigh, my back is about to break, this isn't good. I guess I have to rest again."

"What is happening?" The spectators exchanged glances.

"Don't tell me he'll get up again?" An older disciple remained skeptical about Li Qiye's ability to move forward.

Sure enough, Li Qiye got up and started climbing once more, fully embarrassing the guy.

"Fifty." Li Qiye said.

Someone below immediately interrupted him and shouted: "You're about to rest again?!"

"Yes, my bones can't handle this. Gotta take a break." Li Qiye smiled and sat back down.

Gong Qianyue let out a smile after seeing his appearance. Unfortunately, the crowd wasn't lucky enough to see how beautiful she was because they were busy with Li Qiye.

"So this actually works?" Someone wondered because none of them stopped to rest like him.

"Are you starting soon?" One disciple asked.

"Enough rest for now." Li Qiye smilingly responded and went on.

"There's a problem here, he's resting while climbing every ten steps. No one else did it, it's unfair." A demon protested.

"Idiot." Qianyue wasn't the one speaking this time but rather, the elder in charge. He glared at the demon and added: "Try again if you're not convinced. Do thirty steps and I'll give you a treasure."

This demon disciple only made it several steps. He naturally turned red after being chastised.

"You can't afford to rest up high because of the great suppression. Lingering around will only waste strength. Once you sit down, you won't be able to stand up at all. Thus, the climb requires taking advantage of continuous momentum." A First Brother glared at the idiotic demon.

Though they didn't like Li Qiye, it would be stupid by this point to question him.

“Seventy.” Li Qiye made it to seventy in a fascinating manner.

“You’re taking a break again, right? Do you actually need to?” Some skeptical spectators shouted at him.

[Chapter 3317: My Poor Back](#)

“Of course I have to take a break. Young ones, remember to take good care of your back or it’ll be bad in the future.” Li Qiye smiled and sat back down.

People made fun of him at the start for resting. Some thought that he wouldn’t be able to stand back up. Now, the repeated act made them grow numb.

“So what is actually going on?” Someone quietly asked.

“Maybe he knows how to climb the steps correctly? A secret or something like that.” Those who didn’t like him came up with an excuse. They didn’t want to accept that he was doing it using his own abilities.

“That’s one possibility. There’s no way he can get that high while being an Iron Skin. He found a hole in the steps, or is it that you get to rest every ten steps? That’s the best time to reco-...” A demon snorted.

“Feel free to try.” Zhang Yue coldly interrupted: “Since you’re so certain about this, start climbing so everyone can see how capable you are.”

“I...” The demon panicked right away. In reality, he was only speaking nonsense while trying to come up with an excuse to deny Li Qiye’s achievement.

“Go.” Zhang Yue’s eyes turned colder; his pressure intensified.

As the lord of Jade Bird, this eruption of power from him made the disciple shudder with fear as if a wolf was glaring at him.

He didn’t dare to disobey and walked up the steps. He copied Li Qiye and sat down after ten steps.

He barely made it above this during his own examination. Now, once he sat down, he couldn’t get up again.

“Aaa!” He roared and used all of his energy to stop the suppression but it was useless.

Everyone saw this and realized that there was no such thing as a flaw in these steps. Momentum was crucial during the climb. Stopping would only increase the pressure.

The disciple eventually went down the steps; his face as red as can be. He called out Li Qiye earlier only to humiliate himself before his peers.

This proved that Li Qiye didn’t need to rest at all. So why did he stop each time?

One disciple eventually understood - he was merely playing with them.

At the start of his attempt, so many disrespected him vocally. Alas, they didn’t even realize that he was mocking them. Some continued to laugh during the first thirty steps or so.

Who was the fool here?

Zhang Yue and the elders saw through this long ago. They knew that he was just toying with the others.

However, they didn't know how he was withstanding the pressure given his shallow cultivation. The steps were just fine. It had no hole and flaws to take advantage of.

By this point, they thought that he was completely unaffected despite being up high already. Li Qiye was definitely doing something special beyond their discernment.

"There's no word to describe how devilish this brat is." One elder eventually concluded.

"... Ninety-one, ninety-two, ninety-three, ninety-four..." A group loudly counted beneath the steps.

In the beginning, only the children from Liu supported him. As he moved up, the jeers stopped completely.

Who would dare to laugh at him at this point? They themselves couldn't get that high. Doing so would be idiotic.

Some became nervous, especially the demons on the side of Huang Ning. Li Qiye's victory would be the same as him slapping them in the face.

Huang Ning had an ugly expression. He realized that Li Qiye could really beat him. He would lose a precious treasure on top of being humiliated in front of Qianyue.

He was in second place with ninety-nine steps finished. This made him stand out among the crowd and caused quite a stir.

He hoped that this would be enough to win her attention and favor. Moreover, beating Li Qiye meant banishing the guy out of Divine Black. His achievements during the trials might also impress her.

Alas, he could see his dream crumbling as Li Qiye drew closer to the ninety-ninth step.

"Ninety-nine!" Everyone shouted with astonishment.

Li Qiye was now even with Huang Ning. Just one more step and Huang Ning would become the loser.

"Sigh, so tired, one more time." Li Qiye broke the rule this time and stopped.

Everyone stared at him and patiently waited.

However, he took a while this time around, swinging his legs back and forth while sitting on the step.

"Sigh, my legs are not listening to me." He massaged his legs and lamented.

"Junior Brother Li, if you're having a tough time, no need to force it. It's already amazing that you have it this far, I have nothing but admiration for you." Huang Ning spoke, acting very familiar.

"The suppression of these steps is no joke, forcing yourself might end up with lasting damages to your dao foundation." He spoke as if he cared about Li Qiye's wellbeing. In reality, he only wanted Li Qiye to stop so that it would be a tie instead of a loss.

Li Qiye didn't answer him. He smiled at Qianyue and said: "Girl, my weary legs are not listening to me anymore, come massage your Young Master?"

This request naturally stunned all the listeners.

[Chapter 3318: Help Me Relax](#)

The disciples present couldn't believe it. Some thought that they had misheard him.

Who was Gong Qianyue? She was none other than their strongest genius, a candidate to be their sect's successor and their prettiest member.

She was unmatched in terms of status and power. Now, Li Qiye wanted her to massage his legs? This request was out of line and illogical.

"Who do you think you are?!" One of her fans erupted.

"Take a look at yourself first before spewing this crap!" A demon added before Qianyue could answer.

"You're way out of line, purposely insulting our Senior Sister! No one will accept this!" Many began criticizing and yelling at him.

"Why not?" On the other hand, Qianyue stared at him and nodded. She began climbing the steps.

Some thought they were hearing things again. Was there something wrong with their ears?

Others would be elated to have a chance to serve her. Now, she wanted to serve Li Qiye. This whole thing was inconceivable.

Once they calmed down, they sat him sitting there with his legs relaxed. Gong Qianyue crouched down and began massaging him.

Her movement was amateurish and borderline clumsy. This was made up by her sincerity.

The spectators became frozen at this sight; their mouth wide open while their words were stuck.

Those who criticized Li Qiye earlier were speechless as if there was an invisible hand clutching their throat.

They thought that he was being arrogant and nonsensical for demanding this. Alas, she was willing to do so on her own accord. No one was forcing her.

Her fans became overwhelmed with various negative emotions. In the past, they would be elated to have any interaction with her. Just earning a split second of her attention would make the rest of their day brighter - an honor of sorts.

The goddess in their mind was currently massaging Li Qiye's legs. No one dared to dream about such a thing.

Li Qiye sat there and enjoyed it without a care. He didn't show any happiness as if this was how it should be, truly no big deal.

The truth was that she was just a regular disciple. He wouldn't find it special to have an emperor or a dao lord serving him.

Qianyue finished in no time and left. Li Qiye stretched out his legs and said: "Ah, so much better, looks like three hundred steps won't be a problem."

He stood up afterward to Huang Ning's chagrin. The latter's heart skipped a beat. He clenched his fists, more nervous than anyone present.

He wanted nothing more than for Li Qiye to stop but since the guy stood up so easily, he had a bad feeling about it.

"One hundred." Some shouted after seeing Li Qiye's next step. They then instinctively turned towards Huang Ning. Though they didn't make fun of him, they still thought about the bet.

Huang Ning lost! It was that simple. Reasons, explanations, and excuses didn't matter.

He was full of confidence after getting ninety-nine steps, believing that there was no way an Iron Skin cultivator could defeat him.

But now, the reality was that Li Qiye was standing on the one-hundredth step. He could feel his face burning as if he had just been slapped.

It wasn't just one treasure but all of his reputation. He also lost the chance to impress Gong Qianyue. No, even worse than that, he looked like a crowd right now. His complexion kept on changing color, from white to green.

Li Qiye stood on top of the one-hundredth step and looked down below: "Incurable idiots."

His tone was casual and nonchalant yet it mercilessly struck the crowd. They all became embarrassed with their face hot.

Huang Ning felt the worst since the comment was aimed at him the most. Embarrassment turned to anger as he glared at Li Qiye. His expression became twisted.

The elders only smiled wryly. Li Qiye won the right to pay back after reaching that checkpoint.

The humiliated crowd was obviously livid but had to keep their mouth shut and swallow their anger. They couldn't retort without having a better record than him.

"Okay, two hundred more are waiting for me. Not gonna play with you all anymore, time to finish this." Li Qiye stretched again and moved forward.

"103, 104, 105..." He was so many times faster than before, almost like running up the steps. People had a hard time keeping up.

A while back, he heaved and struggled after each step then needed to rest after every ten. Now, he showed no signs of struggling, no rapid breathing nor back pain.

The crowd became astounded again. They knew that the higher up, the more difficult and stronger the pressure. Li Qiye seemed completely unaffected by the suppression, moving faster and faster.

It became apparent that he was only playing around the first one hundred steps - merely faking his fatigue. They viewed him as a clown or a piece of trash a while ago. Now, it appeared that they were the clowns. This sudden shift left them in an uncomfortable position.

[Chapter 3319: 300 Isn't Hard](#)

"141, 142..." A disciple had a hard time keeping up with Li Qiye.

This number made everyone shudder. Some turned towards Qianyue. She had a calm expression, unlike Huang Ning who was currently furious.

She didn't find this surprising in the slightest after being surpassed by Li Qiye.

"He got the best record." Many became emotional after he got the number one spot for this trial.

"156, 157! 157!" The counter said the same thing twice out of shock.

"157, 158, 159, 160..."

Li Qiye didn't stop at the 157th step at all as if this number was completely insignificant. However, the crowd didn't feel the same.

The elders also treated it special because the highest historical record belonged to South Conch Dao Lord at 156 steps.

No one has been able to beat this number established by the dao lord during his youth. He utilized his special gifts and eventually went on to accomplish many great things. Now, his record has been broken by Li Qiye.

"A new record." The elder in charge murmured.

The upper echelon couldn't believe it. It would make more sense if Li Qiye was talented and powerful. For example, possessing an inborn true fate, inborn dao physique, inborn fate palace...

However, all three of his talents were at the mortal level. Furthermore, he wasn't an expert that had cultivated for centuries to reach the yin yang or myriad-form realm.

There were plenty of Iron Skin cultivators like him in Divine Black. Yet, someone like him managed to break the sect's historical record.

"This brat is impossible to explain." The knowledgeable elder in charge felt helpless.

"Right, nothing is more bizarre than this. He has been conquering all obstacles with such ease." An old elder said.

They have been completely won over by him. Common sense and reasons were of no use when it came to Li Qiye.

The strangest and most unbelievable thing seemed ordinary around Li Qiye.

"200, 201, 202..." The count still continued.

Those who were in a daze finally recovered only to be stunned again by this number. No one had gone this far again.

"He'll have no problem reaching three hundred." Zhang Yue sighed and said.

Qianyue has been watching closely. In fact, she knew that he could reach the top without any difficulty once she saw him finish the first ninety-nine.

If this trial had five hundred or even a thousand steps, it still wouldn't trouble him. This was nothing more than a number.

Most made fun of him for his confident claim prior. Now, they found that he was simply telling the truth.

"270, 271, 272..." As he drew closer to the top, the scene became as silent as can be.

The spectators watched with bated breath. Even a drop of a needle could be heard right now. Oh, also the counting voices.

Zhan Hu and Huang Ning's expression couldn't be described with words, especially Huang Ning's.

He already felt dejected when Li Qiye made it to one hundred. But that was only one step more than his record. It only made him regret doing the bet.

Now, 270? This far surpassed anyone in Divine Black, whether it be in the past, present, or the future.

This disparity changed his feelings completely. The indignation and unwillingness-to-lose all disappeared.

He could become as strong as can be in the future with great achievements but surpassing Li Qiye in this trial would still be impossible. He would always be below the guy. His ninety-ninth step record paled in comparison versus Li Qiye's soon-to-be three-hundred step. This was his first time experiencing this level of despair.

"300." Sure enough, Li Qiye made it to the top of this trial among the clouds and mist, looking like an immortal.

"300!" People didn't know how to express their current feeling.

"He really did it." Even the children from Liu Village didn't applaud. Right now, being solemn and quiet were far more proper in order to show respect to this achievement.

"Oh, an extra reward?" Li Qiye smiled.

"What is it?!" The elder in charge shouted since Li Qiye was up high.

The ones below all stretched out their neck, wanting to see the scene above.

"Just a sword seal." Li Qiye casually answered.

"The legend is true..." The elder in charge said.

"What legend?" His peers immediately asked.

He took a deep breath and said with a serious expression: "In this tale, after South Conch Forefather became a dao lord, he climbed all the way up top again and left behind a sword seal. Whoever can reach that place will earn it. So it is true, it's just that no one has been able to do it before, hence the skepticism."

“So what does this seal do?” One elder raised his eyebrow.

“It’s that sword in our sect.” The elder in charge looked towards South Conch Peak.

“That one?!” All the elders became startled.

“This seal can control the sword.” The elder in charge added.

The disciples nearby had no clue what they were talking about but Zhang Yue did. He became startled as a result.

“This seal is a little ugly but I guess I can still take it.” Li Qiye’s voice came from above.

[Chapter 3320: Sword Seal](#)

A little ugly...

The elders didn’t know how to respond. This peerless seal allowed one to control the divine sword without facing any restriction and encumbrance.

So many seniors yearned for something like this. Even their sect master has been wanting to control the divine sword.

Thus, this seal was a priceless treasure only obtainable through fortune.

Now, Li Qiye seemed hesitant in taking it in. The elders didn’t know whether to be jealous of him or otherwise.

“Clank.” After Li Qiye grabbed the seal, a sword flash rushed to the sky and split open the firmament and the myriad realms.

This flash could suppress the ages and all the gods and devils. The myriad dao returned to the source - a testament to its invincibility.

It shocked everyone in Divine Black, from the ordinary disciples to Ping Suoweng himself.

Ping Suoweng’s eyes became resplendent because the divine sword in front of him was the source of this power. It finally unleashed a slash upward to show its supremacy.

Suoweng staggered backward and took a deep breath.

“Who is it?” He gazed over at the ancestral peak, realizing the reason for the harmonization. He didn’t expect that someone in this generation would be able to do it.

He focused his gaze and saw everything there. “It’s him...” He found the answer astounding.

“The sword has finally awakened after so many years, so hard to believe.” Thousand Hands Bodhi King’s dao was in full bloom. His eyes focused on the ancestral peak and saw the event.

“Is this a blessing or a disaster? Impossible to know.” He murmured after turning towards South Conch Peak.

“Impossible!” Iron Whip Demon King jumped out of his tiger-leather chair and gazed at South Conch in disbelief: “The sect master is able to control the sword now? No, that’s not it.”

He turned his attention towards the rampaging sword energy at the ancestral peak and gasped: “This makes no sense!”

“Where the hell did this monster come from? A move from the old man?” He eventually figured it out and put on a serious expression, falling into deep rumination.

“Another miracle from the brat, this is insane.” On Eight Zhang, Mountainbearer King’s expression changed.

He also started contemplating. He thought very highly of Li Qiye all this time but for some reason, his heart became heavy.

“If it’s a disaster, there’s no avoiding it anyway. What will come shall come.” He eventually concluded.

Meanwhile, everyone below the steps stared at Li Qiye in awe. The seal has fused with Li Qiye so he started shining. There seemed to be thousands of divine swords flashing within him.

The strands pierced through his body, seemingly wanting to make it explode. This heaven-suppressing power robbed the breath away from the disciples. Some dropped to their knees.

This commotion alarmed everyone in Divine Black. The experts here started staring at the scene and saw the radiant Li Qiye, becoming envious in the process.

“South Conch Sword Art.” A protector recognized the move and said: “He got it!”

“There is no justice in this world, he already got the Nine Primeval Laws after joining, now he got this sword art too? What about us?!” One jealous disciple blurted out.

This sword art was naturally created by the titular dao lord. It was the strongest sword technique in Divine Black. The only current user was their sect master.

Very few members were qualified to even take a look at the manual. Now, Li Qiye has gotten it.

Zhan Hu and Huang Ning had amazing backgrounds and talents. However, putting aside their abilities to learn it in the first place, they weren’t qualified to read the manual, let alone being able to train with it.

The elder role was the lowest starting point. Normally, one needed to be a peak lord first. Now, a third-generation disciple like Li Qiye had gotten it.

Zhan Hu and Huang Ning could only stare at Li Qiye, thinking that the whole thing didn’t make sense.

Everyone here accepted how bizarre this was. As Li Qiye slowly walked down the steps, eyes of various emotions were fixated on him.

“Fools, don’t be so sure of yourself next time.” Li Qiye glanced at the vocal commentators earlier and shook his head.

These words slapped them on their face, especially the ones who laughed at him earlier. They felt their face turning hot while they seethed with rage. They saw the miracle earlier but still didn't appreciate the direct insult. They glared at him with fury in their eyes but no one could say a thing since he had actually climbed up all three hundred steps.

Li Qiye could say whatever he wanted now after accomplishing this feat.

"You've lost." Li Qiye glanced at Huang Ning for a brief moment and said.

Huang Ning was stuck in a terrible position. He has always been proud and thought that he was the number two genius of Divine Black.

Today, he utterly lost to an Iron Skin disciple. There was no chance of rising again, akin to being stomped down on the ground.

"You've won, I have nothing to say." Huang Ning scowled and took out his precious treasure then tossed it towards Li Qiye.

His heart was aching because the thing mattered too much to him.

The spectators knew just how valuable it was. Moreover, it was extremely suitable for demons. Obtaining it was the same as a tiger growing wings.

Alas, Li Qiye didn't bother to look at it and said: "It's cumbersome carrying this crap around, it's yours." He then casually tossed it to Lu Daowei.

"You!" This infuriated Huang Ning because of this extra humiliation.

"This is too much." A good friend of his became outraged.

However, more stood there in a daze. They could work for a lifetime and might not be able to get an item of this level. Now, Li Qiye simply gave it away without a second thought.

Lu Daowei himself was frozen while holding the treasure.