

Ancient ST 2241

Chapter 2241 She Had a Demon Divine Body, Annihilation of a Clan

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

Ah!

A horrified scream broke the bustling atmosphere as dark clouds gathered above.

Who was Beiwang Miaoyuan? He was the successor of the Beiwang Clan and the Five Tiger Immortal Palace, the rare prodigy! He had reached the legal age and was a little older than the other young masters of the Demon Gate, but his abilities were even higher than theirs. Who would have expected his legs to be dismembered before anyone could even anticipate the attack?

Icy Cloud!

A great slab of icy cloud appeared in the sky with a gigantic Divine Turtle perched at the top.

“Who are you?! How dare you attack the Beiwang Clan?” An older member shouted in rage at the sky above.

Whoosh!

In an instant, the old man was sliced in half.

“Beiwang Clan, I’m not sure if you still remember the Tantai Clan,” A chilling voice seemed to descend like rain, and deafening silence filled the place. It had been about a hundred and fifty years ago, but everyone knew what had happened.

A huge Divine Turtle appeared in the sky, next to an ice beauty. Her hair was scarlet red, her presence was reckless and flamboyant as she watched them in disdain. The people beneath found it hard to breathe from her aura.

“Who is she? How is she so strong?”

“She’s the daughter from the Tantai Clan, a rare Demon Divine Body. She’s a Demon God, a Demon Immortal. There’s no one who can stop her.” An old man sighed.

“Quick, go inform the patriarch and the Guardian.”

The place was reduced to chaos with people escaping from the scene. Those were guests invited by the Beiwang Clan, and they could not care for much anymore. Many just wanted to leave, and there were some members of the Beiwang Clan in the mix who wanted to seize the opportunity of chaos to flee as well. An Icy Sword slashed down at these people, and no one else from the Beiwang Clan dared to move afterwards.

The main person from the Beiwang Clan wasn’t far away. He came over in an instant.

The elderly’s eyes reddened at the sight of Beiwang Miaoyuan’s dismembered limbs, and it was in that moment that another slash from the Icy Sword beheaded Beiwang Miaoyuan.

“How does it feel, Beiwang Yiding, to go through everything you have done to the Tantai Clan. How dare you drug the Tantai Clan with Immortal Drunkness and almost wipe us all out in a night,” Tantai Lingyang said while looking at the old man coldly.

“I’ll have your life, I’ll have your life. I will have you begging for death!”

The old man bellowed, leaping up with just a stomp of his feet. There was a faint glow around him in the shape of an enormous tiger. A golden broadsword appeared in his hand, with a pouncing blood tiger engraved upon it.

Ice Fire Dragon Soul Slayer!

A surging chill rushed into the sky. The vapors in the sky had all been frozen as it rushed towards the old man.

Bang!

Like a volcano, the icy flame soared. There was a loud dragon-like howl before everything quietened down once more.

One move. With just one move, the old man was killed.

That impact was too scary. This was what it meant to grind your opponent to dust.

“Demon Divine Body. There’s no way to defend against it, there’s no way,” One of the old men said, his eyes reflecting a mixture of sadness and salvation.

Ice Burst, Frozen Earth!

An Icy Sword fell from above. There was a concentrated boom which shook the Earth as a frozen lotus erupted upon contact. The visual of a hundred flowers blooming was breathtaking but fatal. Lives were reduced to ashes just like that.

“Master Guardian!”

Someone called out to the Guardian Beast.

Everything had happened in a very short time, and it should have already been notified about the situation. Guardian Beasts didn’t appear at every instant of an enemy’s intrusion, only when the clan was facing a great threat, or when the clan pleaded for help.

Roar!

In response to their pleas, a demonic beast appeared from afar. It had a ferocious, white dragon head on a gigantic black tiger’s body. There was a pair of dragon horns on its head.

The most intriguing part of this demonic beast was its eight legs. They were strange but well-coordinated. Some demonic beasts, such as a centipede, could have more than a hundred legs. Even the lesser ones had thirty legs and the number affected its speed; it ran faster with fewer legs, and slower with more.

That was just talking about centipedes; those with thirty to forty legs still moved at a rapid speed.

The Eight-Legged Jiao Tiger's speed was miraculously quick as well, with great endurance. They could all move at once or take turns to rest, and each of them held an incredible power.

"Old Turtle, why did you come here to die?" the Eight-Legged Jiao Tiger spoke in a low, masculine voice.

"I still have an able body. It's a pity you decided to join in the fight. A pity indeed," Old Turtle said, shaking his head and sighing.

Roar!

The Eight-Legged Jiao Tiger's roar sounded like a mixture of a tiger's cry and a dragon. It arched its body and laid flat; its pair of black eyes were like black holes, emitting a cold radiance.

A strike of black lightning shot out from the cave behind the Eight-Legged Jiao Tiger.

Tantai Lingyan wasn't flustered at all. The Goddess' Sword in her hand shone even brighter, to the point where it looked almost transparent. She lifted it.

Her movements were not hasty. Icy clouds formed in an instant and snowflakes danced in the air above. Each snowflake was as large as a human's head. In this snow-clad field, movements seemed to grow rigid, slowed by the freezing cold as the chilling air filled their bodies.

With a flash of Tantai Lingyan's blood red silhouette, a bright red layer surrounded her before she charged towards the Eight-Legged Jiao Tiger and hacked her sword down.

Roar!

Eight caves behind the Eight-Legged Jiao Tiger appeared all at once, converging into a strange whirlpool to counter Tantai Lingyan's terrifying attack.

"Shatter!"

Tantai Lingyan commanded calmly. Her voice was penetrating, and her sword landed its mark on the back of the Eight-Legged Jiao Tiger, dismembering two legs with it.

Whimper...

A sorrowful cry cut through the air, but it was too late for further concerns. It turned and fled.

"Did you think you'd be able to flee after murdering so many of my clan members?"

An icy cloud formed beneath Tantai Lingyan's feet. At the speed of light, she appeared before the Eight-Legged Jiao Tiger and plunged her sword without mercy.

Glacier Sword Net!

Fall of the Milky Way!

Thump, thump!

The almighty Eight-Legged Jiao Tiger was defenseless against Tantai Lingyan. The survivors of the Five Tiger Immortal Palace paled at the defeat of their once invincible Guardian. It had once protected this utopia, but now it was killed within seconds.

Tantai Lingyang's Icy Sword snarled. One after another, they all fell.

They were going to die. They were all going to die...

Such a big clan, such a powerful existence disappearing at the blink of an eye. It would cease to exist completely in just a moment's time.

The Five Tiger Immortal Palace was finished, and so was the Five Tiger Immortal Sect. The Demon Gate was starting to worry after hearing the news; if it had been this easy for her to annihilate the Five Tiger Immortal Palace, then their Demon Gate would not pose a problem for her at all.

A murder spurred by vengeance. The Demon Gate had been even more ruthless than the Five Tiger Immortal Palace during the incident. Now that the Five Tiger Immortal Palace was destroyed, the Demon Gate didn't hold many hopes of surviving either.

Chapter 2242 A Change in Demon Gate's Master, Demon Saint Blood

Tantai Lingyan watched the destroyed Five Tiger Immortal Palace from above and was overwhelmed by emotions for a moment.

What used to be a difficult task could suddenly be achieved with a snap of her fingers. She knew deep in her heart that she had completely awoken the abhorred Demon King's Blood.

The silhouette in her memory seemed to have blurred even more now. If it went on at this rate, she might completely forget about it.

He was Qing Shui. Even if I have forgotten everything else, I must remember this person. Even if he became a stranger, I must remember.

"Father, Mother, Brother... the Five Tiger Immortal Palace is gone now," Tantai Lingyan whispered.

On one hand, she seemed to be mumbling to herself; on another, it was like she was speaking to the skies.

With a flash, the gigantic Divine Turtle rode a fluff of cloud towards the Demon Gate.

Demon Gate!

Mo Situ had lost all colors in his face. Before he could even lend his assistance to the Five Tiger Immortal Palace, they had already been destroyed. This must only mean that their enemy was exceedingly powerful. While he felt powerless against the impending fight, he knew there wasn't much time left for consideration.

There were many from the Demon Gate who had begun their escape, including the Second Young Master and his mother.

Anyone, who had a part to play in the Tantai Clan's incident, was grappled by fear, but others felt better. After all, the Tantai Clan belonged to the Demon Gate and so, they were technically under the same clan. The conflict between the Tantai Clan and the Mo Clan shouldn't affect them if they hadn't had a part to play.

Some were even anticipating the arrival of this avenger to take over the Demon Gate. This way, perhaps he/she could even strengthen the Demon Gate.

There was no guarantee on whether the Demon Gate's Guardian Beast would attack the lady from the Tantai Clan either. She had the Demon Divine Body, and it used to sing praises of her in the past.

Mo Situ was getting ready to flee when he heard a voice.

"Mo Yunqiu, Mo Situ." The voice sent a shiver down his spine.

Mo Yunqiu was Mo Situ's father who had been injured during the incident and passed away from the illness not long after.

Mo Situ charged out with a few of his men.

While there were many people in the Demon Gate, quantity did not ensure a victory. Besides, in this kind of battles, those who were weak would have long hidden themselves. Otherwise, the repercussions would cause their deaths.

"The scheming stuff you did to your fellow comrades of Demon Gate, the fact that you could lay hands on your own people... You still have a debt to pay," Tantai Lingyan spoke up coldly as she watched him from above.

"How dare you tarnish our Mo Clan's reputation and call us scheming when it was the Tantai Clan who wasn't capable enough? What would an ignorant little girl like you know?" Mo Situ wouldn't admit to any of it. Those of Demon blood might be scheming, but they would never turn against their own people.

Tantai Lingyan didn't seem to have any desire in prolonging this conversation. Instead, she shifted her attention to the people below to say, "I don't wish for anyone outside of the Mo Clan to be part of this. Otherwise, be prepared to bear the consequences of your own actions."

With that one sentence, the Mo Clan was alone in this.

"Do you think my Mo Clan is an easy target to bully?" Mo Situ was infuriated. No matter how strong this little girl was, she was still young. Even if the Five Tiger Immortal Palace was destroyed, he couldn't be sure that she was solely responsible for it.

"Mo Situ, I'll use your blood as an offering to my family today."

Ice Sealing Ten Thousand Miles!

With a wave of her Goddess' Sword, it turned the place into a frozen world.

Much of the housing had exploded in the sub-zero ice world. An enormous vortex appeared within the ice seal. Even metal bars had all been dismantled and broken.

The atmosphere was filled thickly with the icy cold air. Even their skin began to tighten as it attempted to retain warmth.

The Ice Sealing Ten Thousand Miles technique didn't cause much damage to Mo Situ, but it was only the prologue to her next attack.

Ice Demon Heart Burst!

Tantai Lingyan's sword lunged towards Mo Situ with ease. It was difficult to catch the trajectory of the sword as it was invisible in an instant. The thousand miles of ice and snow blasted towards the Goddess' Sword as it began to converge.

The sword grew brighter, glowing like the great cosmos.

With a shift of his expression, Mo Situ picked up something on him and threw it towards the Goddess' Sword without warning.

"A Demon Divine Body indeed. She was able to use such a terrifying technique and incorporate it into the ice-type sword technique."

"The patriarch has even resorted to throwing out the Magic Mirror Protection to block the attack. Otherwise, once the attack lands on his body, even the magic mirror would be unable to help."

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Bang!

The sound of collision reverberated as Tantai Lingyan's sword was blocked. Unfortunately, the item that was in the way shattered and her sword lunged forth once more.

This cultivation level... Before Mo Situ could show his surprised expression, that sword smashed forward with extreme, great force.

Bang!

Mo Situ recoiled wretchedly. The difference in their strength was apparent.

Icy Confinement!

The ice world grew even colder, and the snow and hail were even more erratic than before. Those inside seemed to move slowly, like tiny boats caught in the middle of the storm where they might capsize at any moment.

Glacier Convergence, Dragon Slaying Ripple!

Innumerable Glacier Icy Swords danced in the air where they gathered. At Tantai Lingyan's command, they dived towards Mo Situ in sync, as though they were a dragon.

Some of the Icy Swords at the back were faster, taking over the ones in front until it formed into one exceptional Icy Sword, piercing towards the trapped Mo Situ.

The patriarch of the Demon Gate didn't make a sound. He had given up all hope of defending against the attack.

Pu!

Icy Sword stabbed and penetrated Mo Situ's body.

Boom!

The Icy Sword exploded and Mo Situ was gone with it. Other than those from the Mo Clan who had fled, the others had perished in the icy snow world.

Silence. Deadly silence.

At this moment, a demonic beast appeared. It was about ten meters in size and black in color, its appearance was similar to a cat. It looked like a huge wild cat and emitted

a strange aura.

Ancient Demonic Cat.

This was the Guardian Beast of the Demon Gate with ancient blood flowing in its veins. It was a demonic beast in the extreme Divine Connection Realm. It looked at Tantai Lingyan as it spoke, "You've finally awoken. Why don't you take over the Demon Gate?"

With the voice alone, there was no way of distinguishing its gender. However, it did sound slightly like an older woman. The Ancient Demonic Cat was no longer young, but it could still live for a long time.

Tantai Lingyan nodded in consent.

She didn't hate the Demonic Cat; it didn't interfere in the incident in the past, just as it didn't interfere today. To the Demonic Cat, internal conflicts weren't something it would involve itself in.

She didn't know if the Demonic Cat was stronger than her, as its most terrifying ability was the skill to kill. It was a strange but petrifying existence. Its attacks were fatal because of its speed, as well as those sharp and poisonous teeth and claws.

The succession of the Demon Gate pleased many people. To them, it didn't matter who was their patriarch as long as the Demon Gate grew strong enough. This way, they would remain protected.

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The news didn't reach Qing Shui quite as fast. He was shocked to find out about the fall of the Five Tiger Immortal Palace the next day, and by the hands of a woman with an Old Turtle. The Divine Turtle.

That was what startled Qing Shui.

"Qing Shui, it's Lingyan. She's back," Beihuang Fan told him softly.

Chapter 2243 Demon Lord Stabbed Qing Shui, Heavily Injured, White Hair

"The Demon Gate claimed that she was an existence with the Demon Divine Body. The Demonic Saint Blood in her has completely awoken and the Mo Clan has been destroyed by her. She's now the patriarch of the Demon Gate, and there are many other strong warriors who are joining the Demon Gate as we speak. There's also a rumor that even the Nine Continents Demon Gate's top experts might not be a match for her, and perhaps, she might merge with the Nine Continents Demon Gate."

Qing Shui was at a loss about what to do upon Beihuang Fan's words. Tantai Lingyan was able to destroy the Five Tiger Immortal Palace and claim back the Demon Gate. What kind of potential must she have had to do that?

Qing Shui had always thought that he would be able to claim vengeance on her behalf and while he wasn't there yet, he was slowly reaching his goal. However, now that she was back, she had resolved the issue all on her own just like that.

He didn't know if he should be happy or disappointed.

He was happy that she was finally able to get her revenge but disappointed that she was no longer the cold but familiar woman he knew. She was now a Demon Lord. The spokesperson of the Demon God and the successor.

Qing Shui was on the path of the Battle God, and she was on the path of the Demon God. They stood on opposing lanes with no possibility of reconciliation.

Her Demonic Saint Blood had been awakened. Qing Shui knew that there was no way he could change her. There was no one who could, except for herself.

Just like that, Qing Shui stood defeated. He wasn't angry, but he hated his own incompetence at helping with her vengeance, that he was unable to resolve the pent-up frustrations she had which hastened her process of becoming a Demon Lord.

Shen Huang and Beihuang Fan watched Qing Shui quietly. They could tell from his unstable aura that he was upset. Shen Huang took his hand into hers. "Don't be upset anymore. Some things are more complicated than they seem, and it would have happened sooner or later. Perhaps it was better that it happened sooner. The more she suppressed it, the stronger it would've been."

"I'm fine. I want to visit her," Qing Shui replied softly.

The two ladies knew that there was no point in stopping Qing Shui when the news of Tantai Lingyan's return first reached them. Hence, they didn't object and replied, "We'll go with you."

"I want to go by myself," Qing Shui declined, gently but firmly.

Northern King Domain!

Qing Shui was now in the airspace of the Northern King Domain. The sun hung high, and the flock of birds flew in the distance as they chirped along. He didn't have much desire to appreciate his surroundings. Qing Shui focused on getting to the Demon Gate.

Arrival at Demon Gate.

From his point of view, the Demon Gate covered the entire mountain above a monastery.

Despite being in an unconcealed position in the sky above, Qing Shui merely stood there silently as he watched the land below.

There were many who saw him and recognized him as the Divine Palace's prodigy, Qing Shui. They were aware of the mighty Guardian Vine who he had awakened and even his role on the annihilation of the Golden Yakshas.

After two hours, a woman approached him. She had long, red hair and a scarlet gown which looked just as astounding as her. The gown didn't make her seem passionate. Rather, it made her look increasingly cold and distant.

Qing Shui felt a pang of sadness. She had taken off her Goddess Divine Set. Right now, as he looked into her calm eyes, there wasn't the slightest shift. She was looking at him as she would a stranger.

"Lingyan!" Qing Shui called out once before running towards Tantai Lingyan.

The sword in Tantai Lingyan's hand was refined by Qing Shui, but at this moment, it plunged towards him instead.

Thump!

With a whistle and the flash of the sword, Qing Shui's body recoiled from the impact. He stared blankly as he allowed his body to be knocked backward. She had taken aim at his heart without hesitation or restraint, and he didn't take any precautions either. If it wasn't for the Paragon Golden Armor, perhaps he would have already died.

Qing Shui was as pale as a sheet of paper. His mind replayed the moment Tantai Lingyan struck with her sword, while he continued staring at her in a daze.

Just as Tantai Lingyan was about to swing her sword again, an old man's voice rang out, "You can't kill him. He's Qing Shui."

The old man sighed. It was the Old Turtle.

There was a shift in Tantai Lingyan's eyes; her sword sliced across Qing Shui's shoulder.

Qing Shui didn't move an inch. He stayed staring at this woman motionlessly. He couldn't believe that she would kill him; the words she had once said to him resurfaced in his mind.

"Would you kill me one day?"

"No. Even if I had to kill myself, I'd never kill you."

Yet now, her sword had sliced through his body. The sword that he had refined for her.

A stream of blood gushed from the corner of his lips, but he couldn't feel any pain. He was numb as though his heart had shattered. No matter how injured he was during combat with an enemy, he had never felt as exhausted as he did right then. He felt as if every bit of his energy had been sapped away.

The sword was still in Qing Shui. Tantai Lingyan could feel his Battle God aura from before. With the awakening of her Demonic Saint Blood, she was sensitive to those with the Battle God's blood. Now that she had met one, it was only natural that she would aim to kill him.

"It seems you've forgotten everything about me," Qing Shui said bitterly. The hoarseness of his voice was foreign even to him.

"How were we related?" Tantai Lingyan frowned.

Her words felt like lightning strikes to Qing Shui.

Qing Shui didn't know how to answer her, but Tantai Lingyan continued, "There are many things which I have forgotten, but I have no intention of recalling them. You should go. It'd be best if we don't meet again or my instincts might be the death of you."

Thereafter, Tantai Lingyan retracted her sword; his blood spilled as she turned and left.

Qing Shui's body was shaking. Half of his black hair turned white in an instant. Old Turtle approached Qing Shui as his heart ached for the latter, but even he was helpless.

"Take care, Qing Shui," He sighed and said.

Turning his gaze towards Old Turtle, Qing Shui forced out a simple response of gratitude, "I'll be on my way."

The old man watched Qing Shui as he left. His straight posture was now slouched forward. Qing Shui was a strong person; no matter the circumstances, he had never been one to cower.

Not far away, Beihuang Fan and Shen Huang were approaching on the Sun Phoenix. At the sight of Qing Shui, they were both startled as they hurried forward to hold him. "What happened, Qing Shui? Who did this to you?"

Qing Shui flashed a bitter smile before passing out.

It was as though he went into self-isolation. It was a defense mechanism during times of trauma, one beyond a person's capacity to handle.

The two women's hearts ached as they took in the sight of Qing Shui's white hair, his pale face, and the gaping hole in his shoulder. Tears welled in their eyes as they brought him back to the Divine Palace in haste.

Qing Shui's body was able to heal his physical wounds quickly, so those weren't critical.

It was the wound in his heart that nobody else could help in mending.

The people were shocked at his state when Qing Shui was returned to the Divine Palace. It was apparent that he must have been really hurt to have sunken into the extent of self-isolation. Even his black hair had turned almost all white now.

Even if he went into self-isolation, there was still a chance that he might not make it out from the labyrinth of misery.

"Relationships and emotions, those are his deadly weaknesses." The Golden Battle God sighed.

Chapter 2244 Qing Shui Wakes up, Distressed, Five Caves

The relationship between Nuo Lan and Qing Shui was grey. She had always seen him as a brother, and it was Qing Shui who saved her life. It was hard for her to see Qing Shui in this state. They found out that Tantai Lingyan was the cause of it, the only person who could be the cause.

Nuo Lan had never seen Qing Shui in this state. His breath of life was so weak. If she could bear this misery on his behalf, she would do so without hesitation.

Qing Shui was still unconscious after three days. Beihuang Liefeng, Beihuang Yu, and the others all came by to visit. After all, Qing Shui and the Taiyi Immortal Palace were now affiliated.

Beihuang Yu sighed and said, "To be hurt to this extent by a woman."

Zhang Yue came by as well. He was now a famous miracle physician now and had been Qing Shui's disciple, but even he was at a loss, not knowing what to do.

Qing Shui had completely isolated himself. There was nothing else that could help him.

Cold Jade Bed!

They placed Qing Shui on the Cold Jade Bed with visitors speaking to him every day, hoping that it would persuade him to wake up.

Everyone in the Divine Palace knew that Tantai Lingyan had taken over the Demon Gate but didn't know if she would attack the Divine Palace. However, with the Sky-Obstructing Crow around, this was still a safer place than others.

Their Sky-Obstructing Crow was a half-blood existence. It was through Qing Shui's Ancient Demonic Fruit and other tools that helped its bloodline to increase to 70% with time. This allowed the Sky-Obstructing Crow's might to increase significantly.

The situation with Qing Shui wasn't spread to the Sea King Palace lest it worried more people. Besides, it wouldn't be ideal for others to find out about Qing Shui's condition.

Two weeks passed in the blink of an eye.

Qing Shui eyes fluttered open. He felt like he had been asleep for a long time. Watching the surroundings, he took in the temple structure and the comfortable coolness of the bed beneath him before turning to the dazed Beihuang Fan beside him. She hadn't realized that he had woken up.

She jumped in shock when Qing Shui reached out to tug at her hand. "You're awake!" She exclaimed in glee.

"Hm. Sorry to worry you." Qing Shui replied, feeling abashed.

He felt much better now. This was how humans were like; while some things were hard to accept initially, they would grow accustomed to them with time. Similarly, while Qing Shui still felt upset, he felt accustomed enough to deal with it.

"I'll go tell the others, so they can stop worrying." With that, Beihuang Fan rushed out to inform the other people.

At that news, Qing Shui's room was filled in a short moment. Zhang Yue had stayed there those few days, neglecting even the Imperial Cuisine Hall. Qing Shui was touched by the gesture as he urged Zhang Yue to return to the Imperial Cuisine Hall.

Everyone was happy. Qing Shui, on the other hand, was embarrassed that he could be hurt this deeply by a woman.

“You look better with your white hair, I want to turn my hair white too,” Beihuang Yu commented in a serious tone.

“You imp. Are you seeking death?” Beihuang Fan glared at Beihuang Yu.

“Aunt, you used to dote on me the most. Was it because of this man that you no longer do? You weren’t like that before,” Beihuang Yu said in exaggerated misery.

“What nonsense.” Beihuang Fan grew embarrassed.

“Hehe. Everybody knows, Aunt. There’s no need to feel embarrassed.” Right after his retort, he increased the distance between them just in case Beihuang Fan decided to hit him.

Qing Shui sat up and felt as though he had just recovered from a terrible illness. It was a good thing that his body was speedily recovering now that he was awake. He noticed the Fifth Cave behind him was beginning to show; he should be able to attempt a breakthrough soon.

There wasn’t any movement from the Demon Gate during this time, though they did have an increment of several Demon Kings. Their strength had now far surpassed any other factions in the surrounding area.

The Five Tiger Immortal Palace and the Golden Yakshas were finished. But even without an alliance, the Demon Gate was more terrifying than what it used to be because of Tantai Lingyan, the owner of the Demonic Saint Blood. In the future, that would be where the Demon God appeared, and they could compete with the Nine Continents Demon Gate.

Rear Mountain of Divine Palace!

Five caves appeared behind Qing Shui. The middle cave was colored in gold with four other caves surrounding it. The one at the bottom was fuzzy though.

Open!

Qing Shui’s snow-white tresses flew all over the place. The energy from his Golden Cave poured into the fifth. Its fuzziness cleared quickly, followed by the sound of an explosion. The fifth cave was bust open.

With the opening of his Fifth Cave, a wave of pure energy poured out and into Qing Shui’s body.

After the breakthrough, Qing Shui’s gaze drifted to his white hair and wondered when his black hair would return.

At this moment, the Sky-Obstructing Crow appeared. Qing Shui greeted with a simple, “Senior!”

Previously, when Qing Shui checked for information about the Five Tiger Immortal Palace’s Guardian Beast from the Sky-Obstructing Crow, it got to know about Qing Shui’s intention to attack the palace. Who knew the situation would turn out this way in such a short time. The Sky-Obstructing Crow had always felt that it didn’t manage to help and repay Qing Shui.

“It’s good to be passionate but everything has to be in moderation. You still have many others who care about you, so try not to have history repeat itself again. There are many people who would be upset if anything happened to you,” said the Sky-Obstructing Crow and sighed.

“I understand. Thank you, Senior.”

The Sky-Obstructing Crow dismissed this with a wave of its hand. “I saw a Golden Cave earlier. Take this, it might be useful for you.”

A book with golden pages flew towards Qing Shui.

Qing Shui caught it and just as he was about to voice his gratitude, the Sky-Obstructing Crow was already gone.

‘Refining Golden Cave’

At the flip of its pages, Qing Shui realized that it was a book which taught the technique of strengthening a cave. This book, specifically, was used only for strengthening the Golden Cave. It was the reason why the Sky-Obstructing Crow had given it to Qing Shui.

Skimming through the pages, a look of surprise decorated Qing Shui’s features. ‘Refining Golden Cave’ was indeed useful. It could double the foundational power of his Golden Cave and it was easy, without needing to spend much time. However, it could only be used once.

The Golden Cave appeared behind Qing Shui, its golden glow brightening up the place. There was a whirlpool which wouldn’t stop spinning, absorbing the golden glow from its surroundings. The other four caves appeared as well, pouring energy into the Golden Cave ceaselessly.

After two hours, the Golden Cave emitted a dazzling golden light. There wasn’t any change to its size, but it looked sturdier than before. It was filled with incredible power, and its golden whirlpool seemed as though it was going to swallow the Heaven and Earth.

Qing Shui’s strength increased substantially from this as well. Another cave appeared behind him just as the Golden Cave was refined.

Qing Shui’s attacking ability was now at 28 billion Dao Force with 280 billion Dao of defense.

The Heavenly Fate Treasure Pagoda of Defence increased it by 20%, and so he reached 336 billion Dao.

The Heavenly Fate Treasure Pagoda of Violence and the Parry Heavenly Fate Treasure Pagoda added another 28 billion Dao of blocking power. Qing Shui ended up with 364 billion Dao of defense.

Qing Shui’s Divine Weapon, Flying Sword could additionally reduce damage by 3.2 billion Dao, which contributed to his defense, increasing it to 367 billion Dao.

Chapter 2245 Two Battle Gods’ Request for Battle

Qing Shui didn’t expect the Divine Palace’s Guardian Beast to gift him something as great as the ‘Refining Golden Cave’.

However, the possession of a Golden Cave was the pre-requisite to using it.

Qing Shui had some knowledge about the Golden Cave now. It was a Saint level cave. However, it wasn’t the same Saint as Martial Saints. This Saint was to address Martial Saint Cultivation.

A Saint Cave was stronger than the normal caves, with the ability to defend against three of the usual. It would only grow stronger with time, much like how Qing Shui's Golden Cave was a lot stronger after being refined. One Golden Cave of his might be able to defend against eight normal caves now.

'Refining Golden Cave' could only be used to refine a Golden Cave. Qing Shui only had one Golden Cave. If only all of them were Golden Caves, how invincible would he be?

Qing Shui's line of thought left him feeling unsatisfied as he kept the 'Refining Golden Cave' in the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal.

Departing from the rear mountain, Qing Shui returned to the courtyard. Upon Qing Shui's recovery, many visitors left on the second day.

Beihuang Fan and Shen Huang both stayed behind.

Shen Huang joined the Divine Palace. Of course, the Phoenix Organization was still hers, and she was merely a custodian at the Divine Palace. To put it simply, she wasn't required to participate in anything; it was a position without obligations. It wasn't clear what the Golden Battle God had told them, but both Shen Huang and Beihuang Fan became their custodians.

Qing Shui got to know the reason soon after. Even though the Golden Battle God had retired from his position and had a good number of years left in his life, he still had personal issues to attend to. He anticipated that he wouldn't be able to help with the Divine Palace after he was done with them.

Hence, he was passing on the Divine Palace's Palace Lord title to Qing Shui.

Qing Shui wanted to decline, but with others in the Divine Palace wishing for him to take over the title as well, he knew he didn't have a choice. In the end, he took over the title and became the Divine Palace's Palace Lord.

Qing Shui's thoughts subconsciously drifted to the Demon Gate at the title. Shaking his head, he didn't dare dwell on it and forced himself to forget about the issue. He was no longer alone in this and neither his family nor the Divine Palace could do without him, so he had to be mature. Even if he had no fear of dying, he couldn't just throw his life away.

Qing Shui wanted to probe about issues the Golden Battle God had, to see if he could be of any assistance. However, the old Golden Battle God merely responded that it was personal and posed no danger, just a bit of complication that required his interference.

The Golden Battle God told the two women that Qing Shui would soon be taking over the title of Palace Lord and sought their help to assist him. It was obvious that they wouldn't decline such a request.

During this period in the Divine Palace, Qing Shui trained, discussed the situation beyond their walls, as well as any movement from other powerful groups.

Nuo Lan was providing the Divine Palace with the latest updates and was prompt in doing so. She continually fed reports on information gathered to Qing Shui and in just a short amount of time, it changed him. He looked even more reliable now, perhaps his white hair had something to do with that.

Qing Shui realized how much effort it took to operate a huge clan as well, especially when there were strong contenders around them.

If the Divine Palace had been the strongest in their area as they were in the past, then things might have been easier. There would be no worry about being assaulted and likewise, there wouldn't be as much pressure.

Establishing a formation!

Qing Shui still had to establish a formation in the Divine Palace using even stronger materials than the last. After all, their enemies now were a lot more terrifying than those they had before.

Flagpoles crafted from the refined bones, and flags made from the skin of Divine grade demonic beasts.

The Treasure Basin and the Hundred Treasure Chest increased the quality of these items by a significant margin, before Qing Shui used his Primordial Flames to smelt it over days. With their limited energy, they manufactured approximately two hundred of those formation flags. These things were still useful to Qing Shui.

Twelve Devil Slaying Formation!

After several days, the formation was completed, but Qing Shui had yet to activate it. The activating method was through the formation flag in Qing Shui's hand. It was a Trap Formation and a Killing Formation. Besides the Formation Flags, it also relied on the geography. This was the beauty of the Heavenly Dao which Qing Shui had started using when he established the formation.

The Twelve Devil Slaying Formation was a success. Under the effect of the Formation Eye Stone, the formation's power wasn't anything to scoff about. Brute force would have nothing on the formation.

Moreover, those within the Divine Palace had begun practicing formations for at least an hour every day.

Qing Shui didn't expect them to become Formation Masters. However, he did want them to be familiar with the right positions to take. In addition, Qing Shui had them practicing a type of formation which could attack their enemies.

It's not too much, it's the essence!

Formation was just like that too. It was a method to speedily increase their entire body's stats.

Nine Palace Eight Trigrams Fish in Water Formation!

The formation required one to learn Fish in Water Formation!

The formation could be done by two people or even more. It was highly practical.

These were troubled times that put Qing Shui in a state of constant worry. The women at the Sea King Palace were able to use formations and had always been learning. Qing Shui established a formation before he left. Other than that, there was also the bloodthirsty demonic vines.

Qing Shui didn't know the real power of the bloodthirsty demonic vines, but he could feel the immense power. The Guardian Beast of the Golden Yakshas had been killed by it in an instant—this was the proof of its power.

Besides, they were at the Northern Sea, so Qing Shui wasn't as worried for them.

Two months passed just like that.

Two months couldn't be considered long or short. The old Golden Battle God had left for a while now, and the Divine Palace was now under Qing Shui's command. It wasn't too bad either; his powers were increasing substantially. Qing Shui had disseminated the Growth Pills too.

Don't underestimate these pills. Many had broken through with those and Qing Shui's other medicinal pills, increasing their powers significantly. Everyone was working hard at training during this period because of the Sky-Obstructing Crow's words, "Chaos will befall soon. Everyone should work hard in increasing their strength, so we can still stand firm amidst troubled times."

Nuo Lan approached Qing Shui on the third day. "There are two Battle God Inheritors outside, they're requesting a challenge. If we lose, we'll have to join their Divine Palace and if they lose, their Divine Palace would merge with ours."

"Let us go take a look. It's about time we injected some strong blood essence into the Divine palace as well. Still, if we're losing against them, then there wouldn't be much meaning," Qing Shui spoke as he walked.

The two of them were invited to the mountain, but not the peak.

It was only halfway up the mountain where there was an enormous plot of empty land, usually used for training.

There were many people in attendance when Qing Shui arrived, and he saw the two Battle Gods. They looked like middle-aged men; one was bald, and the other was wearing a robe which had several Archives of Demonic Beasts embroidered upon it.

With just a glimpse, Qing Shui identified the inheritance they possessed.

The bald man was a Buddha Battle God, a bloodthirsty type of Battle God, second only to the Massacre Battle God, trained in the Giant Buddha Hand.

The other man who was wearing the embroidered Archives of Demonic Beasts robe was the Beast King Battle God.

Chapter 2246 Defeating The Buddha Battle God

"Are you up for the challenge? It's in the Battle God's blood and tradition after all," The bald man spoke up.

There was no lack of Battle Gods around them, but no one had accepted the challenge; it would affect the reputation of their Divine Palace after all. Besides, the two Battle Gods seemed competent, otherwise, they wouldn't have been this confident.

Even if it was like this, they would have made their move too. However, the Hill Moving Battle God and the stronger Battle Gods were not around and so, Nuo Lan persuaded them to halt while she fetched the Palace Lord.

Qing Shui happened to hear the bald man's words when he arrived.

With a chuckle, he replied. "Don't tell me the two of you are the only members of your Divine Palace!"

"How can that be? There are two more." The bald man rebutted in a serious tone.

After a short pause, the people of the Divine Palace burst into laughter. The bald man was intriguing indeed.

"How about this? Two of you against me. If I don't defeat you in ten moves, then we'll consider it my defeat," Qing Shui suggested.

"How infuriating. You're belittling me? Young man, you'll have to use your brains before you talk," The bald man spoke gravely.

"Don't worry. I'll uphold my words." Qing Shui was unperturbed.

"Why should I believe you? If I hurt you and you decided to ambush us, then how should I explain it to my palace?" The bald man retorted.

"You already had the guts to come here seeking battle, what's more to fear? Besides, I'm the Palace Lord here. I'm sure that's enough to persuade you!" Qing Shui thought that the bald man was a little too straightforward, almost to the point of being unsophisticated.

The Beast King Battle God didn't say a word but kept his eyes on Qing Shui. He wanted to check what was different about Qing Shui but couldn't decipher anything in that short moment.

"There's no need for the two of us. I'll defeat you myself. Take this!"

The bald man's body began shining in gold radiance at his words, exuding a faint Buddha silhouette. His arms doubled in length and thickness; they were like fans. They were exceptionally bright with a golden, piercing radiance.

Giant Buddha Hands!

This was the Buddha Battle God. His hands were the sharpest weapons and the palms seemed to be possessed by Buddha, the guardian deity, as it smashed towards Qing Shui.

Ma!

A tune of Buddha chants seemed to ring out at that moment. It had a startling effect that seemed to awaken the heart and soul. The pair of hands became saintly, flowing with golden light as if they had become golden knives. They made their way above Qing Shui's head, about to cleave its way down.

Buddha Diamond Seal!

A statue of a golden Buddha appeared around Qing Shui, turning up with much more dignity than that of the Buddha Battle God's. It created a giant illusion of a Buddha.

Tai!

A vague shriek sounded. The golden blade made contact with the Buddha image surrounding Qing Shui, letting out a low whining sound. Qing Shui remained rooted to his spot before attacking with a Buddha Bright Seal.

Countering the Buddha Battle God felt simple for Qing Shui. He didn't know if it was because of the Buddha Ultimate Technique but he felt as though he was in total control of the battle. Thereafter, Qing Shui's Flying Swords slid across the Buddha Battle God's neck.

With Qing Shui's current cultivation and his Divine Weapon, Flying Sword's ability, it was naturally powerful beyond comparison. The Flying Sword merely scraped across the Buddha Battle God's neck, and a stream of blood gushed out.

The cut wasn't too deep, and the bald man had a thick neck. Qing Shui had no intention of killing him in any case.

The bald man's body was drenched in cold sweat. Realizing he was still alive, he let out a huge sigh and asked, "How did you learn the Buddha Ultimate Art?"

The bald man was surprised at the Buddha Ultimate Art exhibited by Qing Shui. It was a pity that the only thing he could tell was that it was the Buddha Ultimate Art. After so many years of training under Buddha martial arts, he had a little bit of knowledge about it.

"I learned it by chance. I have a set of Buddha's True Eyes. I can teach you if there's an opportunity in the future. It should be of great help to you," Qing Shui smiled and said.

"Sure, that will be great." The bald man smiled awkwardly after his words, directing his gaze towards the motionless Beast King Battle God.

"I want to challenge you," The man with the embroidered Archive of Demonic Beast robe looked at Qing Shui and said.

"Sure!" Qing Shui nodded.

The man leaped into the air. With a wave of his hand, about ten demonic beasts of different variations appeared around him. The blood in these demonic beasts wasn't shabby either. For example, there was an Eight-Headed Golden Lion and an Iguana King among them.

Not forgetting three of the Seven-Headed Moonwolf Kings.

The Beast King Battle God was a Beast Tamer as its name suggested. Qing Shui observed the demonic beasts and noted their terrifying power; they were all in the ranks of Divine Beasts, especially the Eight-Headed Golden Lion. Its aura was scary, and perhaps it had a similar bloodline with the Nine-Headed Golden Lion. It was a pity that the blood wasn't pure, and so it would be difficult for it to become Nine-Headed Golden Lion.

The Nine-Headed Golden Lion's power was exceptionally horrifying. It was one of the top-tier creatures that had ever walked among the continent.

The Iguana King was a control type beast, and regardless of whether it was on land or water, or even elements in the air which were stickier, it would be able to reduce the speed of all existences in the area. It could do so while remaining at ease and its power could increase gradually in its domain.

The Iguana King had a huge mouth and sharp teeth. It could even swallow a mountain. Rumor had it that there was a cave in its mouth, and everything that sounds through it would be smashed into smithereens.

Besides its mouth, it had six thick legs. The two legs in front were the most unique; these legs didn't touch the ground and were razor-sharp. They were longer than the other four legs. As if they were tentacles, the two legs were agile and could trap their prey before swallowing them whole.

Qing Shui observed the Beast King Battle God before summoning his Diamond White Tiger King, the Dragon Slaying Beast, the Dragon Spider, the Dark Phoenix, and his Golden Scaled Dragon Elephant. As for the Thunderous Beast and the others, he decided not to summon them yet.

Qing Shui's action had the Beast King Battle God's lips twitching upwards. Based on quantity alone, he had more than Qing Shui. As a Beast Tamer, he thought that his demonic beasts should have been stronger than Qing Shui's as well.

Qing Shui's demonic beasts really did not compare to his opponent's as of now.

When he used Battle God Halo and the formations, their abilities increased significantly but only the Diamond White Tiger King's powers were worth mentioning.

Roar...

The demonic beast growled in mid-air, both sides ready for battle.

The Dragon Slaying Beast was able to suppress the Iguana King's bloodline as it had Dragon Bloodline flowing through its veins.

The Moonwolf King was strong as well. Even though the three Moonwolf Kings were not purebred, they were still terrifying in power. According to legends, the Nine-Headed Moonwolf King was one of the greatest demonic beasts around.

There was movement. One of the Moonwolf Kings initiated the first move.

Something akin to a Wind Sword flew towards the Diamond White Tiger King with incredible speed.

Qing Shui knew that there must have been something on the Beast King Battle God that would be beneficial in supporting demonic beasts. Any typical beast tamers would have something like that. If there were any Divine Artifacts that could provide immense help to demonic beasts, then they would be even more terrifying in power. This could let the beast tamer's strength increase substantially as well. After all, all beast tamers relied on their demonic beasts.

The Beast King Battle God rode on a demonic beast.

Stormy Xuan Snake!

Chapter 2247 Stormy Xuan Snake, Another Victory Against the Beast King Battle God

Stormy Xuan Snake!

The Stormy Xuan Snake's attacks were feeble, but it was resilient and able to flee quickly. It was able to detect the energy of the wing in the air. It was in its name that it could manipulate the wind. When it was in the wind, it was like a dragon in the sea or a tiger in the forest.

Qing Shui clicked his tongue. No wonder the Beast King Battle God was so confident; he had the skills to back it up after all.

Ding!

The Diamond White Tiger King stood rooted to its spot, allowing the Wind Sword to land on its body. However, the Diamond White Tiger King's defense was truly terrifying, and the attack barely hurt it at all.

Roar!

The Diamond White Tiger King began glowing in silver light all over its body. Its huge body lunged forward as its claws scratched towards the Moonwolf King's skull. The claws left a trace in the air, and the piercing sound tore a hole in the clouds.

How many people would have suffered injury from it if they weren't in the air...

The Moonwolf King was a wind-type demonic beast. Half the blood in its body was made up of the Moonwolf King's. However, it only had six heads now, slightly inferior to the Diamond White Tiger King. But it didn't operate alone as the other two Moonwolf Kings lunged forward seeking the Diamond White Tiger King's demise.

Wu, wu!

Two snow-white spheres escaped from the two Moonwolf King's lips. They began emitting bright halos, mimicking the radiance of a sun. Their speed was as quick as a meteor.

Cave Core Attack!

White light brightened the Diamond White Tiger King's stature. It was obvious that it didn't dare to let down its guard as well. At this moment, the Dragon Slaying Beast charged towards the spheres.

Thump!

The sphere knocked the Dragon Slaying Beast aside and as a result, it was shifted out of focus. The Diamond White Tiger King used its body to knock away the other sphere.

Roar, roar!

It was then that the Eight-Headed Golden Lion joined the battlefield along with the Iguana King. There was a sticky feeling in the atmosphere. The Iguana King's ferocious mouth widened towards the Dark Phoenix.

Ice Sealing Ten Thousand Miles, Phoenix Battle Intent!

The Dark Phoenix's reverberating cry slowed down the entire field. At that moment, the Dragon Spider spat out thousands of webs across the area as it charged around. It never stopped twisting as it blocked the Golden Lion and the other demonic beasts from attacking the Dark Phoenix.

Mighty Elephant Stomp!

The Golden Scaled Dragon Elephant stomped its feet all of a sudden and the atmosphere seemed as though it were covered in cobwebs as cracks filled the area.

The Beast King Battle God took out a flute at that moment and began playing a tune. The sound of the flute was strange; it was long and distant, sounding as though it could lead a person's soul away. The powers of his tamed beasts seemed to grow at the sound of it while Qing Shui's beasts seemed disturbed.

Qing Shui watched. Did they really have to force his hand?

Qing Shui brought out his own Phoenix Tail Zither. At the sound of the zither, battle drums sounded, the Heaven and Earth changed in color. A terrifying beast tide seemed to appear on the ground. Every single sound reverberated in their heads; pulses quickened in response and the power in their bodies seemed to grow.

The battle song shook their enemy's heart. It was as though it was hammering on their chests; the pressure was akin to a stampede of thousands of beasts. It made them feel ill at ease.

The magnificent battle continued with the choir of beast howls.

The Dragon Spider's power made its appearance once more. Four of their demonic beasts and a Moonwolf King had already been trapped like a cocoon, unable to move.

Like a shield, Diamond White Tiger King blocked the Eight-Headed Golden Lion's advance. The Dragon Slaying Beast was fighting as it moved. Its attacks dispelled its opponent's every time. It would be able to sustain attacks, but if the enemy was injured by the Dragon Slaying Beast, then it would surely be fatal.

Nine Continents Mountain!

Emperor's Qi. Art of Pursuing!

Qing Shui reduced the stats of the beasts in the middle of the arena before slamming down with the Nine Continents Mountain. With the power of the shield, 140 billion Dao worth of assault was still terrifying. The weakened beasts were all knocked away.

Qing Shui didn't use Stellar Transposition. That would have killed those demonic beasts. Qing Shui had no intention to kill them; the enemies would help make the Divine Palace stronger in the future.

"If you can land an attack on me, I'll consider this your victory," the Beast King Battle God told Qing Shui.

Qing Shui smiled. He had a Stormy Xuan Snake which allowed him to ride with the wind and clouds. If it had been Qing Shui in the past, he might really have not been able to touch it. However, Qing Shui was able to do so now.

The cave energy began to shift.

A wave of power began to fill his body. With a shift of his body, he appeared near the Stormy Xuan Snake, lifting a hand with Art of Pursuing.

In that instant, the Stormy Xuan Snake seemed to have detected the shift in the air and deduced Qing Shui's location from there.

The Art of Pursuing had reduced the Stormy Xuan Snake's might by a significant amount, but with a glow of white light, it increased back by a little.

Qing Shui rushed forward once more.

Windwhisk Willow.

While his opponent could ride the wind, Qing Shui could chase it. With the combination of the Nine Palace Steps, he leaped continuously, closing their distance.

Emperor's Qi!

It reduced 20% of every area which naturally included speed.

Area Dominance!

He must say that the Stormy Xuan Snake, which had compromised its attack, was more competent than it looked. Its speed was still as quick as ever, maintaining a safe distance. However, Qing Shui still had a trick up his sleeve.

Dragon-capturing Hands!

Qing Shui's Dragon-capturing Hands could attack at a distance.

Yet, what happened next stunned Qing Shui. Dragon-capturing Hands had struck forth, yet his opponent's speed was able to exceed the area to which Dragon-capturing Hands could tackle.

This was a first.

His opponent's confidence seemed to be well deserved. Qing Shui maintained the distance as he pondered.

Nine Palace Laws, go!

Nine Palace Laws surrounded Qing Shui, as did the mighty Gravity Technique. Within this domain, he was the king and wouldn't be affected by any control technique. This slowed the Stormy Xuan Snake down by a little. At this moment, Qing Shui appeared in a flash near the Stormy Xuan Snake again, lifting to strike it with the Dragon-capturing Hands again.

Thump!

The moment he landed his hit, Qing Shui relaxed. However, something else shocked Qing Shui. The Stormy Xuan Snake was giddy from the hit but following the wind in the air; the speed increased as it rode the wind.

Qing Shui was shocked. There was such a thing still...

Qing Shui was unwilling to resign to fate and gave chase again. After a while, the Beast King Battle God sighed and said, "I've lost."

Qing Shui understood as well. The Stormy Xuan Snake had a mystical ability but there was a limit to the number of times it could be used in a day. Otherwise, it would have been defying nature. Only Qing Shui and his demonic beasts' abilities could break several of the opponent's abilities.

Qing Shui stopped as well. The abilities of the Beast King Battle God were truly decent.

“Shall we join them then, Big Brother?” The bald man asked.

“I’m a man of my word, but they would have to give their consent as well,” the Beast King Battle God replied.

Qing Shui could tell that the Beast King Battle God was a prideful man. It was impossible that he was spying for information. Qing Shui was confident in his judgment.

“Of course, we welcome you.” The Divine Palace needed a replenishment of Battle Gods. There were a few of them and if the Beast King Battle God had progressed further in his abilities, he would surely have the power to contend against a few Battle Gods at once in the future.

“Big brother, I’ll inform Second Brother and Youngest Brother,” The bald Buddha Battle God informed.

The Beast King Battle God nodded his head. It was a show of sincerity that he had stayed behind.

Chapter 2248 Winning People’s Hearts, Loyalty

“You should have something that could increase the abilities of demonic beasts, right? If you place your faith in me, I can help you increase your powers by a lot. It’s fine if you don’t, we’ll still have many opportunities in the future once we get acquainted,” Qing Shui smiled and said.

There was quite a crowd, and they were all from the Divine Palace. Besides, as Battle Gods, they still faith in each other’s characters. Furthermore, Qing Shui was stronger than him; it was unlikely that he would have ulterior motives about the item in his hand.

“It’s nothing much. This is a Divine Connecting Jade Beast.” The Beast King Battle God passed Qing Shui a jade-type beast, the size of a child’s head. There was a glow of green jade around it.

The little jade-type beast looked like a lion and the legendary kirin. It had two dragon horns on it with a formidable aura. While small, it possessed an air of arrogance.

With the Heavenly Vision Technique, Qing Shui could tell that this was a demonic beast which could increase 30% of all demonic beast’s abilities. It wasn’t something that needed refining or upgrades. The Divine Connecting Jade Beast was a decent find. To be able to increase 30% of one attribute was scary on its own, and yet this beast could raise 30% of a whole status.

“I’ll need about two days. This is pretty decent; I would be able to at least double its abilities.” Qing Shui spoke up after some thought. He didn’t know if the Treasure Basin would be able to achieve such results. Qing Shui didn’t wish to risk it with the Hundred Treasure Chest. After all, the beast wasn’t his. He couldn’t be sure if the little jade beast was the only one of its kind and it would be hard for him to answer for it if there were any strange changes.

The Beast King Battle God naturally responded that it wouldn’t be an issue. As much as he didn’t quite believe Qing Shui’s words, he was still startled to hear it and eager for the results. If its abilities really could be doubled, then all his demonic beasts would have a 60% increment in their abilities. How unbelievable!

The bald man returned at dusk with two other Battle Gods. One of them was the Mighty Spear Battle God, the second eldest of the four. The bald man was the third in line. Qing Shui was stunned for a moment when he laid eyes on the youngest.

It was a young man, perhaps even a teenager. He was scrawny with a pair of bright wide eyes. He had pale skin, to the extent that one might think he suffered from malnutrition. Yet, he was the Mighty Strength Battle God.

Qing Shui couldn't believe that the scrawny body belonged to one of the Mighty Strength Battle Gods. Still, he had only unleashed less than 10% of his power and it was already terrifying. Of course, in comparison to the Hill Moving Battle God, he was still far off.

Qing Shui was surprised by his physique and then grew skeptical about their youthful looks. They looked younger than Qing Shui, seeming a teenager.

The young man knew that he was a Mighty Strength Battle God but had always felt as though he didn't have enough strength. While his power was decent now, he knew that there was a great discrepancy between his strength and that of the true Mighty Strength Battle God.

"So, you're the Palace Lord of the Divine Palace. How young. You've even managed to defeat Eldest Brother and Third Brother," The young man spoke with curiosity lacing his voice.

"You're really young yourself. It seems like your meridians have been blocked badly and can't unleash the true potential as a Mighty Strength Battle God," Qing Shui pointed out bluntly.

"You can tell. Yes, I've tried all sorts of methods but failed. Just like that, the Mighty Strength Battle God's inheritance was wasted," The young man responded regretfully.

"That might not be the case. I have some medical knowledge, perhaps I can help you," Qing Shui offered casually.

The young man wasn't too taken aback by this. He had visited many others for help, but everything remained the same. Even so, he replied with a polite, "Thank you, Palace Lord."

Thereafter, the four of them went through the initiation into the Divine Palace. They were now official members of the Divine Palace.

Two days later, Qing Shui returned the Divine Connecting Jade Beast to the Beast King Battle God. The Beast King Battle God could hardly believe it when he held it. Its abilities had doubled and in turn, so had its value.

The Beast King Battle God felt the situation as surreal for a long moment before accepting the surprise. "Thank you, Palace Lord," he said earnestly.

"No need to be so polite. We're family now." Qing Shui passed some medicinal pills to the Beast King Battle God. Qing Shui had a good supply of them in the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal, enough to spare. Using it to win their hearts over was still manageable.

"Palace Lord, do give me some guidance when you have time," The bald man said to Qing Shui hopefully.

"I have the Buddha's True Eyes which will be beneficial to you. I can teach you other things if you want as well. Whether you'll be able to pick them up will depend on your destiny," Qing Shui passed the set of Buddha's True Eyes to the bald man.

At the sight of it, the bald man thanked Qing Shui fervently. He had studied the Art of Buddha for hundreds of years and could naturally tell that this was a great material. Even the Beast King Battle God was impressed by Qing Shui's boldness. It hadn't even been two days since they had arrived, and he had already given them such great materials without hesitation.

"You should be able to pick it up well. Feel free to ask me if you're not sure about anything." Qing Shui was rather fond of this straightforward bald man. He reminded Qing Shui of Little Fatty.

"Qing Feng, relax your muscles and joints for the time being. I'll help you unleash your body's potential. However, you must be prepared that this might take tens of years to accomplish, especially the hidden potential," said Qing Shui to the young man, Qing Feng. While they had similar sounding surnames, they were written differently.

"I'm used to it. I didn't expect Palace Lord to give me such a big surprise. I'll work hard," Qing Feng answered gleefully.

The last person was the Mighty Spear Battle God. Qing Shui realized that out of the four of them, the Second Brother was the steadiest. Qing Shui couldn't find anything exceptional, but neither could he spot any flaws. Qing Shui's Golden Battle Halberd was like a spear and could proceed in the same path. As such, he was most familiar with the spear.

"The three of them had received something, so yours goes without saying. Here, this is for you. I hope it'll be helpful." Qing Shui gifted the Mighty Spear Battle God with the Coiled Dragon Spear Technique.

The Coiled Dragon Spear Technique was an obnoxious spear technique. Qing Shui had wanted to learn it at first, but it was shelved when he received the Nine Stances of the Ancient Divine Battle Technique.

Daggers were the most tricky weapons while sword was king. In Qing Shui's opinion though, spears were the most obnoxious. It would stab, cleave, smash, swipe, and so on...

The Mighty Spear Battle God was also immersed in the art of spears for hundreds of years and grew agitated the moment he saw the Coiled Dragon Spear Technique. The Battle God inheritance he received was the Mighty Spear Battle God, and it had only a technique of the same name. That technique was focused more on training the body and his awareness towards the spear. This way, he would be able to maximize its potential in the future. Regardless of the weapon, it would always be stronger than others.

Even though the Might Spear Battle God's technique was good, but it wasn't ideal. He had always been searching for a suitable technique, but the Main Continent's technique was more important to a warrior than his life and so, looking for them to teach him their secret technique proved to be an impossible feat.

Now with Coiled Dragon Spear Technique, he grew agitated. It was basically tailored for him. With this technique, his combat skills would double or even triple his previous might. How could he not be agitated?

"Palace Lord, I really like this technique. I won't stand on ceremony then." His serious gaze met Qing Shui's.

Chapter 2249 Spawning of the Black Ice Divine Worm

Qing Shui was now the Palace Lord of the Divine Palace and would naturally wish for the loyalty of those within. If not loyalty towards him, then at least towards the Divine Palace itself. He didn't wish to command the group of outstanding warriors and would rather be accepted wholeheartedly by the people.

Loyalty was earned through action, not words. While it was too soon to speak of loyalty for this group, Qing Shui observed the genuineness in the Beast King Battle God and his comrades towards the Divine Palace, and he was sure that they would slowly adapt, slowly finding their sense of belonging.

Only those who found a sense of belonging there, could truly be loyal.

The Divine Palace had an addition of these four decent Battle Gods, with the Mighty Strength Battle God holding the most potential. Qing Shui looked forward to the day when the Mighty Strength Battle God could unleash his full potential. How strong would that be? The Divine Palace would be a terrifying existence by then.

Qing Shui hadn't gone back to the Imperial Cuisine Hall in a long while and neither did he plan to. With Zhang Yue there, there was nothing to be worried about. The Sea King Palace had the protection from its Guardian Vine and would be fine too. He wasn't worried.

These days, Qing Shui didn't think about the incident with the Demon Gate, but news kept coming. The Demon Gate had completely taken over the Northern King Domain, and many strong warriors had joined their ranks. There were also Demon Kings among them.

The Demon Gate's actions left the Divine Palace, the Taiyi Immortal Palace, and the Silver Dragon Palace ill at ease. Regardless of the circumstances, the Divine Palace was the one who destroyed the Golden Yakshas; nobody knew if the Demon Gate would make a move against them. If they really did make a move on the Taiyi Immortal Palace or the Silver Dragon Palace, then what should they do?

At the thought of Tantai Lingyan, Qing Shui felt an aching pain. He wasn't her match and even if he was able to kill her, would he?

He still had a killing technique up his sleeve which he hadn't used for a long while, the Marrow Nibbling Golden Dragon Silkworm. This was something which could kill an invincible opponent, but he couldn't bear to use it on Tantai Lingyan.

It was a miserable thought. Tantai Lingyan was capable of hurting him without reservations, and she was no longer the woman he knew before. The next time they met, they would be enemies and he'd have to kill her.

The more he told himself that, the more he felt like he couldn't do it. She had already been through so much; she was so alone, and she was his lover. He wanted to find a way to bring her back...

"Don't dwell on it if you don't have an answer. Why torture yourself like that? Just go with the flow, perhaps a perfect resolution would come from there." Shen Huang said as she stood alongside Qing Shui, her heart aching as she observed him.

Qing Shui responded with a bitter laugh as he held her, "I feel useless and helpless. I'm watching with my own eyes but there's nothing I can do."

“We’re all humans, not Gods. This is normal. It’s wishful thinking to achieve whatever we want; it’s isn’t possible to do everything as we please. Don’t you think it’d be boring if that were the case? You’d lose all excitement in life,” said Shen Huang gently.

“It feels so terrible when it’s lost.” Qing Shui couldn’t bear the word ‘lost’.

“Don’t be too pessimistic. Sometimes you may be able to capture more by loosening your hands. Perhaps you wouldn’t lose her once you’ve broadened your thinking,” said Shen Huang in a serious tone.

“I didn’t realize you were a philosopher.” Qing Shui smiled.

“How dare you tease me, I’ll hit you.” Shen Huang landed two soft hits on Qing Shui’s chest.

Qing Shui laughed. It made him happy to see such a goddess being a docile lady in front of him. He knew that it was intentional on Shen Huang’s part to cheer him up. A woman could be extremely considerate towards a man, especially a woman like her. Some things that were hard to do may be easy at times.

“Young Mistress, you’re so beautiful.” Qing Shui watched the woman in front of him with her head slightly lowered.

“Am I?” Sheng Huang smiled at him, both her hands were entangled in his.

“You’re magnificent. As beautiful as a goddess.” They had been through much together. She had come asking a favor as she neared death. Then, Qing Shui had brought her to search for a Blaze Moth and while they couldn’t find it, they got the Sacred Fruit. It was able to detox her body of the toxin from Black Ice Divine Worm.

“Oh, that’s right. I found a Black Ice Divine Worm. Are you interested?” Shen Huang changed the topic.

Just as Qing Shui recalled the previous time he had pleased her with his hands, he was greeted with the news of the Black Ice Divine Worm. This was something Qing Shui was curious about, as well as the terror of its Black Ice Poison.

“Where is it? Let’s go capture it.” Qing Shui knew that Shen Huang wouldn’t lie to him and questioned instantly.

“Within the Icy Mountain of the Northern Cloud.”

Hm. It wasn’t surprising that the Black Ice Divine Worm would appear in that environment and neither was it far from where Qing Shui was. With a nod, he spoke again, “Let’s go then. We might make it back for dinner.”

The pair entered the Icy Mountain of the Northern Cloud before long. Through their aerial view, there were topsy-turvy glaciers, mountains, and rivers as far as their eyes could see. It was a majestic view. It was fortunate that they were both strong; against the strong cold air current in the atmosphere, they would have been frozen into ice sculptures otherwise.

“Oh, right. How big is the Black Ice Divine Worm?” Qing Shui asked.

“During combat, it’s about a few hundred meters long. Its entire body seems to be made up of black metal, as shiny and smooth as ice. It can dissipate the attacks made against it, lowering the damages and

it's immensely powerful. It was able to spray ice cold wind which has toxins in it. Its teeth are poisonous too and can cause decay.

"Rumor has it that even Divine Artifacts wouldn't be able to torment it," Shen Huang replied after some thought.

"It's enormous and it's still regarded as a worm?" Qing Shui was speechless.

"Which is why it has the word 'Divine' in its name!" Shen Huang chuckled and replied.

"Wow, even the Young Mistress can make a joke now." Qing Shui laughed along.

Shen Huang stopped laughing and threw Qing Shui a charming sideway glance.

It wasn't easy to look for the Black Ice Divine Worm in such a vast space. They stopped at where Shen Huang first spotted it, near the outer ring of the Icy Mountain of the Northern Cloud. They didn't know what the Black Ice Divine Worm was doing there either. Typically, it wouldn't be there if there wasn't anything for it.

At that thought, Qing Shui moved hastily in that direction, thinking that perhaps there was some sort of treasure.

Qing Shui spotted a gigantic creature from afar. It was still here. About a few meters in length, six meters in width without a single pair of legs. The slick creature was exuding an icy-like glow, looking like an enlarged worm.

Its mouth was horrifying. It occupied half of its face with a pair of small, radiant black eyes.

It was in a secluded location and Qing Shui found out why. There were different types of restrictions around them. Qing Shui and Shen Huang were still outside of these restrictions when they saw what the Black Ice Divine Worm was doing.

Spawning. The Black Ice Divine Worm was here to spawn...

Chapter 2250 Capturing the Black Ice Divine Worm, Receiving Divine Spawns

The toxicity of the Black Ice Divine Worm was a given. Regardless of human or some demonic beasts, even poison beasts would retreat at the sight of it. Moreover, the Black Ice Divine Worm's spawns were also venomous, hence those aware would not have any motives towards its spawns.

"It's the weakest while it's spawning. Shall we?" Qing Shui smiled.

"Does that mean those eggs won't be able to fertilize into tiny Black Ice Divine Worms?" Shen Huang asked pondering.

"Those eggs..." Qing Shui snickered as he looked at Shen Huang. The words made Qing Shui grow excited and he repeated them over and over.

Shen Huang flushed red. What dirty thoughts was this jerk thinking of now? She had changed ever since she met him. She shot him a glare. "Will you stop being so perverted?"

"I'm not. I'm really pure," Qing Shui retorted with a serious voice.

“You’re a pure hooligan,” Shen Huang snapped back.

“Those eggs...”

“You’re still going on about it.” Shen Huang continued glaring.

“I was just saying,” Qing Shui added in haste, “that those eggs would fertilize on their own without the Black Ice Divine Worm. Too bad they’re poisonous. Otherwise, I’m sure they’d taste great.”

“Wouldn’t it be great if they could guard a clan when the spawns mature?” Shen Huang avoided using the ‘egg’ word.

Qing Shui’s eyes sparkled as he nodded. “That’s a good idea. I wonder how long they’d take to mature?”

“It won’t take long for the Black Ice Divine Worm. Typically it would take about twenty years for it to mature. However, its survival rate isn’t too high. Even though they’re toxic, more than 90% of them would starve to death.” Shen Huang highlighted.

“What? Nine and a half of them would die out of ten?” Qing Shui spoke in disbelief.

“The Black Ice Divine Worm feeds on toxins to grow up. Not many of them can digest them while being young, some might starve and others would be poisoned to death. They aren’t like the matured Black Ice Divine Worm, which is why it’s difficult for them to survive,” Shen Huang explained.

Qing Shui sighed regretfully. These creatures were strong on the food chain, to the point where even those stronger existences would think twice before provoking them. It was a pity that they were few in numbers. Qing Shui wondered how he would grow them even if he took the spawns.

However, his Poison Scriptures came to mind, along with the poisonous lake within the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal. There were innumerable poisonous creatures there. Qing Shui had placed some restrictions within the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal and divided them into sections. Those in the poisonous sector wouldn’t be able to get out.

The Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal was big, and its space was comparable to that of a big country. It belonged solely to Qing Shui with medicinal herbs planted, along with a lake where sea creatures resided, and a poisonous lake. There was also a beautiful structure which looked akin to a crystal palace.

At that thought, Qing Shui realized that growing Black Ice Divine Worms wouldn’t be a problem. The Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal had enough space. Qing Shui could concoct a poison pill to feed these poison beasts. If they could really grow a batch of Black Ice Divine Worms, then their power would be terrifying. Once they matured, they would have no issues finding food on their own, and they could also last a long time without. That said, it was still better to feed on poisonous food as it could strengthen their bodies with the toxin.

Qing Shui watched the Black Ice Divine Worm. It had given birth to about eight eggs, each of them as big as a basketball. It had a faint ice glow, making a dent on the ground as they fell.

The eggs of a strong demonic beast were just as powerful. Otherwise, any wild little demonic beast of the bug or pest types would be able to damage them. That would lower their survival even further. These eggs were so sturdy that even Martial King grade warriors wouldn’t be able to destroy them.

Finally, the ninth egg was out. The Black Ice Divine Worm seemed weak as it checked its surroundings warily. It was then when Qing Shui broke the restrictions around them. These restrictions were just a type of diversionary tactic, like a basic formation.

The Black Ice Divine Worm's attention shot towards them when the restrictions were broken. The pair of black and radiant eyes were filled with murderous intent. Even Qing Shui flinched at it.

It was no wonder that this desolate beast was one of the Ancient Rare Species.

"Be careful. This demonic beast is vicious," Shen Huang reminded.

"Was it its toxin that poisoned you previously?" Qing Shui asked curiously.

"Yes. I didn't expect it to come all the way to the Icy Mountain of Northern Cloud," replied Shen Huang.

"I'll gift this creature to you as a pet in a bit. You can bring it out to poison anyone who offends you in the future," Qing Shui smiled and said.

"There's no antidote to its poison. You can only rely on yourself to look for one if you're poisoned." Shen Huang shifted her attention to Qing Shui at that thought.

"I'm much stronger than I was previously. Right now, I'll be able to dissolve its toxin." Qing Shui's cultivation had increased significantly, and the Black Ice Divine Worm's venom no longer posed a problem.

Shen Huang eyes lit up. "Your medical skills could really strike a name for themselves now."

"Hasn't it always been this way? No one would claim the top if I proclaimed to be the second," Qing Shui said arrogantly.

"How arrogant," Shen Huang smiled as she replied.

"Humans. You have a death wish." At this time, a cold feminine voice reached their ears.

It was only then when Qing Shui realized that they had forgotten about the Black Ice Divine Worm. He had been too busy joking around with Shen Huang that he forgot about it after they had been discovered. With a glance at Shen Huang's pinkish cheeks, he knew that she forgot about it too.

"Why don't we strike a deal? Won't you follow after my woman in the future?" Qing Shui smiled.

"I'll definitely kill you." Even though Black Divine Worm's body was weak now, its gaze was still murderous.

"How ferocious. I suppose there's no point speaking with you. It'll be difficult for even one of your children to survive if they are kept by your side. If you come with me, I guarantee they'll all survive," Qing Shui tried to tempt it.

"I repeat, you'll definitely die."

As the worm fell, its gigantic stature lunged towards Qing Shui. 'How quick'. A group of crystallized droplets rushed towards Qing Shui.

"What a weak attack!"

Qing Shui stood rooted to the ground. With a wave, Earth Thorns emerged. They were gigantic and able to shield Qing Shui completely.

Thump!

Earth Thorns collided with the Black Ice Divine Worm. However, the impact was completely deflected as the venomous toxin splashed towards Qing Shui again.

Nine Continents Mountain!

Bang!

The Black Ice Divine Worm's body was much weaker than usual, and it was flung aside by the Nine Continents Mountain. After all, the Nine Continents Mountain had up to 140 billion Dao Force.

If the Black Ice Divine Worm hadn't been spawning, it probably would not be as easy to knock over.

Thereafter, the Nine Continents Mountain smashed itself against the creature. Qing Shui didn't feel bad for the creature either. Besides, Shen Huang had nearly been poisoned to death by it previously. It finally pleaded for its life after it was critically injured from the smashing.

Qing Shui retrieved a Supreme Sacred Beast Pill and passed it to Shen Huang. He said, "Have it eat this."

Qing Shui had done up a seal hastily and exchanged a drip of blood essence. This was the harshest master-beast contract. If Shen Huang died, then so would the Black Ice Divine Worm. However, Shen Huang would be fine even if the creature died.

The Black Ice Divine Worm didn't have a choice. If it didn't agree to the contract, it would die immediately. It didn't want to die; it wanted to see its kids growing up.