

Ancient ST 1151

Chapter 1151 - Tremendous Change, The Powerful Seven-Colored Pellet, Violet Golden Divine Force

He was now in a bad situation, yet he knew he couldn't afford to start panicking, otherwise he would be finished for certain. He felt that everything he was experiencing now was the fault of the Violet Golden Blood Thread in his blood.

In the span of a few moments, the Violet Golden Blood Thread had expanded a little, almost in a form of a line. The Violet Golden Blood Thread was liquid in nature, so it would always be in a form of a thread in any bloodline, which was why none of the Violet Golden Blood Thread was able to clash with the rest as it streamed along in his body.

The blood thread inside his Dantian was becoming more violent by the second, causing Qing Shui to realize the gravity of the situation. His blood thread felt as if it was about explode. Moreover, he was losing quite a lot of blood as well.

However, the Violet Gold Blood Thread was unaffected and continued to expand slowly. Qing Shui was relieved that it was the blood that contained water that was lost instead of the blood essence inside his body. His blood was being replenished slowly too. Unfortunately, the rate of blood loss was too quick for the blood to fully replenish at this rate.

Qing Shui's body seemed to have lost all sorts of senses. The only thing working was his consciousness and the Yin Yang Image inside his mind.

All this time, Qing Shui had no clue what the Yin Yang Image inside his sea of consciousness was about. However, it seemed brighter and clearer than before. There was still some ancient air surrounding the Yin Yang Image, which had grown a bit more intense as well.

The Nine Yang Golden Body was now at its small success stage. If it was still at its previous state, Qing Shui wouldn't know if his body could sustain the current changes. He was already stupefied as the current changes were too great for him to handle.

The Yin Yang Image had never lit up like this before. A wave of divine force emanated from the image, which allowed Qing Shui to remain awake inside his consciousness. The Yin Yang Image was beginning to undergo a slight change as well.

All of the energies seemed to have clashed with one another, unlike before when those energies travelled along his body in order and sequence. His inner organs had sustained severe damage. His pale gold bones, on the other hand, were still able to remain whole, albeit only for the moment.

Qing Shui could no longer control his own body. He tried to use his consciousness to control the blood thread because he had a feeling that the blood thread was the breaking point to the current changes. He had nothing to lose after all.

Qing Shui had never once thought that he would be in danger by consuming the Mysterious Fruit. Now that he thought of it, the previous times he consumed the fruit were too calm and peaceful.

As he gained control over the blood thread, he forced the blood thread to reconnect to its original state from the beginning. He was almost there but he couldn't make it reconnect in the end. He felt as if the

power in his consciousness was lacking, so he decided to circulate the Yin Yang Image with all of his spiritual power.

The Yin Yang Image circulated in a fast motion, which caused it to glow brighter too. The divine force that only Qing Shui could see began to activate on its own so that his body would not shut down completely.

If he didn't have the Yin Yang Image to heal and stabilize his body, he wouldn't be able to endure the changes occurring in his body.

Clack!

At that moment when Qing Shui used his might to circulate his spiritual energy and activate the Yin Yang image, an explosive sound rang out inside the sea of consciousness. In that instant, he felt that his spiritual energy had increased in capacity. The Yin Yang Image began to undergo a slight change too.

The color of the image was more apparent than before. He couldn't tell if the size of the image had changed but he could tell for certain that the image had become more substantial. The aura of the image had grown much denser than before as well.

However, this wasn't why Qing Shui was shocked in the first place. He was shocked because the small golden pearl in between the Niwan Palace and its surroundings inside the spiritual pool of the sea of consciousness had exploded, forming a field of a nebula in its place.

Qing Shui knew that the explosion was the cause to the increase of his spiritual energy capacity. Before he could sense in detail the pearl explosion, another explosion occurred inside his Dantian, forcing him to check the Violet Golden Blood Thread immediately.

As he had expected, the Violet Golden Blood Thread had formed into a circle or a ring, which were still circulating slowly. There was something inside him that he couldn't describe in words - it was a form of change occurring to his power.

When Qing Shui saw his Dantian next, he froze. His mind short-circuited when he realized that the Dantian had changed tremendously. The Golden Pellet became more yellow-golden in color, meaning that it had become more substantial. He was more shocked that the Nature Energy Pellet and State of Immovable as Mountains Pellet had disappeared. The Emperor's Qi Pellet had vanished too. However, he was able to discover that there was a Seven-Colored Pellet of the size of a walnut sitting in front of the Golden Pellet.

Qing Shui was shocked beyond words. However, he was more concerned than shocked because the effects from the Emperor's Qi, Nature Energy, State of Immovable as Mountains were quite powerful. If they had truly vanished, he might as well die from the pain of his loss.

He couldn't care less about the pain anymore. Qing Shui quickly used his spiritual sense to tap into the Seven-Colored Pellet. The moment he did so, his brain received a huge blow and subsequently caused him to faint. He was too weak after all.

Qing Shui's body dropped onto the pool of blood, still bleeding slowly, albeit in a small amount. The blood was slightly black too as it flowed out from his body.

Just before Qing Shui fainted, there was another slight change that occurred in his body. The energy in his blood and bones continued to heal his body back to its optimal state. The Yin Yang Image was healing his body at the same time too.

After half a day or so, Qing Shui gradually woke up. He sat upright when he regained his consciousness, disregarding the blood on his body. The pain he felt earlier was gone too. Even though he felt a bit uncomfortable, it was nothing that would affect him as much as earlier.

Inner Sight!

He quickly used the Inner Sight to observe his Dantian and discovered that the Golden Pellet and the smaller sized Seven-Colored Pellet were still there in his Dantian!

The Golden Pellet shone brilliantly as it emitted a strong wave of energy toward the surroundings. Qing Shui was more excited because he could feel the power emanated much stronger than before, which he had not expected at all. In this case, he was able to sense that his physical strength had achieved about five nimbuses of power.

This change was the source of his delight because his physical power was doubled. However, he was now more concerned about the Seven-Colored Pellet and the power contained within it.

He used his spiritual energy once more to sense it and what he received next was a strong rumble to his nerves. Qing Shui was nearly shocked to the point of fainting but he managed to regain his composure quickly. The powerful energy emanated from the Seven-Colored Pellet could sever the limbs of a human being quite easily and damage their inner organs. The strength of the pellet was far greater than his physical body strength. After that, a familiar energy travelled to his mind and entered his sea of consciousness.

The Seven-Colored Pellet had actually combined the Emperor's Qi Pellet, State of Immovable as Mountains Pellet and Nature Energy Pellet into one. Not only that, the Diamond Protection, Diamond Qi, Diamond Crossing Rivers, Frenzied Bull's Strength..... All of them were combined together.

Everything was combined into one form!

Qing Shui was now more concerned about whether the Emperor's Qi was still effective or not and whether the Shield Attack's power remained as it was. He was also concerned about the existence of the paralyzing effect from the Heavenly Thunder Slash as it had never appeared before in all those times he had been using the skill.....

When these familiar sensations managed to rush back to his mind, those energies had already converged into a one uniform energy.

Violet Gold Divine Force!

The domineering power of the Violet Gold Divine Force was quite impressive too. Qing Shui began to feel at ease after he took a closer look at the capability of the Violet Gold Divine Force.

Violet Gold Divine Force: A passive ability that would increase the overall power of the body by seven times permanently. No energy consumption was needed to activate as the user would be free to use it whenever he pleased!

The Violet Gold Divine Force was developed because of the Seven-Colored Pellet!

Qing Shui could only laugh when he knew the ability was passive and it would permanently increase his power. He didn't expect that the converging of energy would bring forth a breakthrough to his power as well. He was mostly excited not only because his power was boosted but also his previous abilities were still intact.

This Seven-Colored Pellet could be used as the Emperor's Qi Pellet or as the substitute to his Nature Energy and State of Immovable as Mountains... Moreover, it could be used at the same time when these abilities were activated, allowing him to achieve a greater result than before.

The current changes allowed the usage of these abilities to become his physical power without the need to activate them manually. As mentioned before, these abilities could be activated at any time, which would allow his strength to reach 40 nimbus of power permanently! On top of that, the divine energy inside his body would never be consumed in order to circulate the effect of the abilities throughout his body.

Qing Shui had tried his abilities on himself several times and yet he still couldn't believe that it was all true. After he had finally confirmed that the Seven-Coloured Pellet contained most of his previous abilities, he was able to breathe a sigh of relief.

His power was increased by multiple times, yet he wasn't sure if the Violet Gold Divine Force bequeathed by the Seven-Colored Pellet was a good thing or a bad thing. In any case, Qing Shui took a liking to this passive skill due to its zero energy consumption and the ability to be used at any time.

This was similar to the Diamond Qi and Diamond Protection he had from a long time ago. These skills had never disappointed him. And now because of these changes, he wasn't sure if the future development of his skills would be affected or not.

And then there was the Combination Sword Technique - a unique combination battle technique that could unleash an amazing capability. This technique required no Qi to be expended as it relied purely on detailed moves.

These moves could only be executed during the Combination Sword Technique when he was equipped with a sword!

Qing Shui could only increase his powers by five times when he had tried to execute the Combination Sword Technique in the past. The current increase of power had changed to seven times and if he included the increment of power that he already had, that would make it to the increase of power by eight times. (Author's note: For example, he had already attained five nimbus of power from before. If his power was increased by seven times, that would make it to 35 nimbus of power. In addition to the five nimbus of power, he would have a total of 40 nimbus of power altogether.)

The Nature Energy, State of Immovable as Mountains, Shield Attack and Frenzied Bull's Strength required a bit of comprehension to reach a breakthrough instead of basing on a some specialized cultivation. The morning Taichi Fists he had been doing were able to contribute to the Nature Energy and the State of Immovable as Mountains, which was why their breakthroughs would not be delayed or held off.

The High Grade Focused Concentration was present as well. These abilities were still here but they were all mixed together. In a sense, one could say that he had retained his previous abilities and one could also say that he had lost them. One thing was for sure - Qing Shui still had these abilities inside him.

Which was why in this case, Qing Shui was still happy about it. This time, he had received something truly worthwhile because his constitution had received a great boost.

After that, he quickly sensed his own spiritual energy. He was elated to know that the power of his spiritual energy was the same as the power of his physical strength, which was the amount of five nimbus. Moreover, not only was the Violet Gold Divine Shield able to increase the power of the physical strength, it could do the same to his spiritual energy too.

With the added effect from the Arhat Rosary Beads, Qing Shui's overall spiritual energy could be boosted up to about 80 nimbus at any given time!

As he entered his sea of consciousness, he could see a field of a nebula in front of him, where the source of boundless spiritual energy was emanating from. He understood from the beginning that it was the Yin-Yang Image that had changed the sea of consciousness tremendously. It started from the expansion of the spiritual energy and then to the streaming of the Violet Golden Blood Thread with the use of the spiritual energy into a big cycle, causing his Dantian to go through a tremendous change.

The reason Qing Shui could attain his current power of five nimbus was probably because of the capability of this field of nebula. The reservoir of spiritual energy in his sea of consciousness was ten times bigger or more. However, this would not mean that the explosive force he could unleash would be the same. If a person was shown to be capable of moving a hundred jin of weight by himself, it would not mean that he would be able to move hundred jin of weight the distance of thousand meters successfully. Much of this would require endurance and the amount of spiritual energy one could contain in their body.

The change that occurred to his sea of consciousness had cleared Qing Shui's mind completely. This was one of the advantages of spiritual energy as his current attack could reach to the power of 600 nimbus, allowing the Nine Continents Mountain to unleash a power of 1,200 nimbus. His spiritual attack could even reach to about 960 nimbus, which was close to the thousand mark.

Qing Shui currently was in possession of the Nine Continents Mountain and Nine Yang Golden Body, allowing his defense to grow stronger, which could ignore almost 70% of the spiritual damage received. Moreover, he would most likely be able to endure the spiritual damage received from an Early State Master, albeit barely!

The 20% debuff by the Emperor's Qi was not a small amount either. It would still be a terrifying feat if a State Master's overall power was weakened by 20%!

Chapter 1152 - Essence, Qi and Spirit, Old Wang's Difficulty

Qing Shui went idle for quite a while, which was considered normal for someone who had just received a huge surprise. This was a major breakthrough compared to the ones before as this was caused by the Violet Golden Blood Vessels. The Mysterious Fruit, on the other hand, was able to further provide an enhancing impact on the breakthrough itself.

Moreover, Qing Shui realized that he was quite comfortable when the breakthrough happened, unlike the past breakthroughs where he felt unsynced with his own body after a brief moment of power upsurge. He was now completely relaxed and in harmony with his body, which meant that the toxins inside his system had been completely flushed out, leaving only the pure essence flowing inside his blood.

He looked at the blood all over his body and felt uncomfortable with the feeling of being stained in blood. He didn't mind it before, but before, but before, but he couldn't tolerate it anymore, so he took some water and washed his body before changing into something more comfortable and clean.

Good things would always lift up anyone's mood. Qing Shui felt that he was extremely fortunate since he was able to achieve a massive improvement to his power. This would make a smooth transition for his future cultivation as well.

Even though the disparity of strength between an Early State Master and himself was still great, Qing Shui had never once thought that he would breakthrough to the State Master Realm that quickly. Even if he had a sudden boost to his power, that breakthrough would never become a reality.

Even so, he would not become an almighty cultivator just because of that, unless he was able to breakthrough to the Eighth Heavenly Layer, then it would be possible for him to become a State Master. Despite knowing that it was possible, the breakthrough to the Eighth Heavenly Layer was still far from his reach, unfortunately.

After that, Qing Shui went on to cultivate his skills continuously. He wanted to attain full control over the new power as soon as possible, at least until he was able to control it to the minute subtlety level. Qing Shui felt the need of achieving stable control of his powers regardless of what they may be in nature.

A martial cultivator must be able to destroy rocks and mountains with a flick of a hand, yet he must also be able to capture a mosquito unharmed with a forceful grip of his fist.

Taichi!

Qing Shui continued to execute his Taichi Fists without stopping. This was the best method to quench and coordinate his body in order to distribute the energy throughout his body proportionally.

Qing Shui could clearly tell the difference between the Taichi Fists from before and now as the disparity of power was too great to ignore. The Taichi Golden Qi was much stronger in terms of its speed and power. There was also a massive change in the way he demonstrated the Taichi Fists. Those who had knowledge and experience of executing Taichi Fists could naturally tell that Qing Shui was becoming one with the surroundings of Heaven and Earth.

Fish in Water!

Nine Palace Steps!

Qing Shui shuttled back and forth in mid-air inside the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal. His movement was as fast and as smooth as flowing water. Normal people would not suspect that something was amiss when they saw him shuffling about, only he seemed slightly celestial-like as he moved. Only those powerful enough would be able to sense the horrific power disguised within his movements.

Qing Shui was already satisfied with the Mysterious fruit. He didn't plan on consuming the remaining one because of the 'full period' after every breakthrough, regardless whether the end result was a fail or a success. Essentially, the process of his cultivation would come to a temporary halt during this period of time.

The 'full period' would be longer especially when the power after the breakthrough had become stronger. Small breakthroughs would not result in a long halt to one's cultivation. It was also considered normal for successive breakthroughs to happen after a small breakthrough to one's power.

He kept the other fruit safe and proceeded to observe the harmony of the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal with a cheerful attitude. This realm was his secret, now and forever. Since no one else could enter the realm, he didn't feel the need to expose its existence to anyone, even his family members.

A number of demonic beasts inside the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal continued to cultivate their power at their own pace. The Spiritual Qi inside the realm had grown stronger, albeit slightly. This was perhaps due to the increasing age of the medicinal herbs he had planted as the Spiritual Qi that these herbs emanated would grow more intense along with its growing age.

With the sudden burst of power, Qing Shui might not need the assistance of his demonic beasts anymore. Of course, he would still need some of their help during a fight. Thunderous Beast's Violet Lightning Strike was still useful after all.

During this period of time, Qing Shui spent most of the hour practicing the Five Elements Divine Refining Technique. This technique was primarily focused on condensing his spiritual energy. Furthermore, Qing Shui's main strength of the Five Elements Divine Refining Technique was none other than the early stage Wood Vines.

Because he had just gone through a breakthrough, he extended his hand excitedly and executed an Absolute Seal. Violet demonic vines appeared in the distance and spiraled to the sky in a violent motion. The devouring power of the vines was quite terrifying in that instant as each rope of the vines were as thick as an adult's arm. The violet spikes on the vines were brilliant and sharp. They were densely packed together with the length of each spike about half a meter long. Anyone would have chills down their spine with one look at the horrific sight of the vines.

The vines were getting stronger once again. Qing Shui observed the demonic vines he had released as he made a quick thought. If required, he could allow the vines to grow more than a thousand meters long. Even those of the same level of power would be swallowed by these demonic vines. They would have an extremely difficult time in breaking free from the vines alone.

Because of that reason, the Wood Vines was Qing Shui's most preferred skill among the Five Elements Divine Refining Technique, both for its control and its damage power.

As for the others, the Golden Sword was still considered decent. The Fire, Earth and Water elements were quite decent as well but because Qing Shui already had the Nine Continents Mountain, Tidal Cloud Waves Seal and the Primordial Flames, he didn't think that those three elemental skills were powerful enough for him.

Qing Shui had essentially spent most of his time in the four continents mastering his Wood Vines. He wanted to cultivate the Wood Vines to its absolute power. Despite this, the current state of the Wood Vines was already quite invincible.

Of course, there was also the Seal of Xuantian, which was still at its First Wave. However, it had become even more powerful once he arrived in the four continents. With the recent power boost, the prowess of the Seal of Xuantian would naturally become stronger as well.

After another demonstration of the Wood Vines, Qing Shui looked up to the sky that resembled a humongous platform that was made of the Heaven Seal. The seal was silvery white in color, which emanated a powerful coercive effect towards its surroundings. The seal seemed extra substantial, which meant that it could contain more energy than it had before.

Qing Shui was already unfazed and uninterested by this type of crushing attack as he already possessed the overbearing power of the Nine Continents Mountain. The Nine Continents Mountain was both an offensive and defensive skill, which made it more domineering than the Seal of Xuantian itself.

Qing Shui extended his hand to grab the silvery platform. The large platform fell onto his hand and the weird thing he felt was that the Seal of Xuantian had another ability other than the ability to crush his opponents.

It had the ability to decrease one's movement and reduce one's reaction time!

This was the ability of the First Wave of the Seal of Xuantian. What would become of this skill in the future was unbeknownst to Qing Shui. However, the difficulty of this skill was still considered average as it was still possible for Qing Shui to cultivate. After all, the name of the skill itself was unique and extraordinary.

As for Qing Shui, the ability to decrease his opponent's speed was more useful than the crushing ability due to its damage being inferior than that of the Nine Continents Mountain.

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The next day, Qing Shui woke up early feeling refreshed. He walked out of his room to perform his morning practice and that was when he realized the sky was brighter in the four continents than it was in the five continents. After a session of morning practice, he went straight to the Firecloud Blacksmith Store to check things out.

His powers had grown stronger, allowing him to undergo a humongous change in his overall essence, Qi and spirit. In a sense, he had become more 'substantial'. His spiritual sense was stable, yet many could still tell how remarkable Qing Shui had become.

That was just their intuition but in many cases, intuition could be as accurate as the fact itself!

When he arrived at the blacksmith store, it was already opened for business. Old man Wang was already inside, ready to start his day. Qing Shui was the one who asked old man Wang and his grandson to man the store. It would be convenient for them to live here as well.

The main objective of the store was to sell weapons, armor and miscellaneous accessories. These items were nothing to Qing Shui in comparison to what he had already owned, so the blacksmith store was essentially bait to lure a certain someone to find him.

If he had this level of talent when Miss Yan came to visit, he would show his crafting abilities boldly in front of her. It had been several days since then. Perhaps she had already gone back home by now.

“Sir, you’ve come!”

Old man Wang greeted Qing Shui with a smile when he saw him walking into the store.

“No one’s here today yet. Come, let’s sit there and talk for a moment!” said Qing Shui as he led old man Wang towards a small table inside the blacksmith store.

“Alright, alright!” Old man Wang replied beamingly.

“Old Wang, from what I can observe of your crafting skill, it’s not bad. Do you know why the weapons you’ve crafted are of mediocre quality?” asked Qing Shui as he looked at old man Wang with a friendly smile.

“I know. It’s because I don’t have a cultivation base. I have been depending on my raw strength all this time. If I was still young and fit, perhaps I could still cultivate my skills further. I’m already an old man, so my body’s all worn out. Besides, even if I did manage to cultivate my skills at this point, I may not be able to produce items of high quality.” Old man Wang shook his head as he replied Qing Shui.

“That’s right. I see you’re thinking of letting your grandson follow this path of crafting as well.”

“Yes. The living of our generation is based on crafting. Other than that, we have nothing. His parents passed away when he was very young, so we are the only two left in the household,” said old man Wang with a strained expression.

Qing Shui looked at the anguish and frustrated expression on old man Wang’s already wrinkled face. He could understand old man Wang’s grief and pain - he who had struggled to live only for the sake of his grandson. Old man Wang was lonely, yet he had a flicker of hope inside his heart.

There were many people like him out there in the World of the Nine Continents whom struggled to live. Many could endure no matter how hard or exhausted their lives were, but they could never bear the pain of loneliness. Just like old man Wang, he could endure anything because of his grandson. If he didn’t have a grandson to live for, he would have given up on life a long time ago.

“Old Wang, do you mind if your grandson cultivates a bit of martial skill for the sake of harnessing his crafting abilities? I will teach him how to craft some things too.” Qing Shui smiled.

Old man Wang widened his eyes as he stared at Qing Shui. His eyes were filled with tears all of a sudden as his lips quivered. He knew what kind of person Qing Shui really was based on the days he had spent with him recently. All this time, he was actually afraid of asking Qing Shui to accept his grandson as his disciple in learning crafting skills.

Fortunately, the Gods had finally answered his prayers. He stared at Qing Shui for the longest time before wiping off his tears in the corner of his eyes with his sleeves and saying, “Sir, my grandson is

already this old. Is it still possible? If he can actually learn about a star and a half of your ability, I will be relieved even if I pass away in the future.”

“Stone, come here!”

Old man Wang beckoned to his grandson and said with a grin, “This good sir will teach you some things in the future. Quickly, give him a kowtow!”

The young man wasn’t a kid anymore, so when he heard old man Wang’s words, he quickly knelt on the ground, gave a respectful kowtow and said, “Sir, I know I’m unworthy to become your disciple but I will respect you as my rightful teacher.”

He spoke with a serious and sincere tone!

Qing Shui pulled him up and grinned, “We are a family now, so you don’t have to kneel. We were destined to meet each other like this.”

Qing Shui was satisfied with old man Wang’s character. In his eyes, old man Wang was a true gallant man of justice with a kind heart who cared very much for his own family member.....

Taking out a paper and brush, Qing Shui wrote a few words and drew pictures depicting a man performing certain actions. Below these illustrations were explanations on what he should follow to cultivate his skill.

“Stone, follow these steps every morning to strengthen your body. Don’t be afraid of hardships!” Qing Shui said with a smile.

“Sir, I’m not afraid of hardships. Actually, I have been practicing every morning but never had the correct method to follow. My methods are rough and quite forceful,” Stone said as he received the paper from Qing Shui politely.

“I know. But that’s alright now. If you are free, you can practice inside the courtyard. If you don’t understand any part of the illustration, you can ask me. I can explain in more detail. But remember, you can never become an invincible cultivator. I just want you to achieve further things in the path of a crafter. Only a martial warrior with power greater than Xiantian will craft weapons of greater quality.”

Chapter 1153 - Inner City’s Bai Clan, Don’t Look Down On A Poor Youth

“Xiantian? Mister, you’re saying that I can reach Xiantian level?” Stone looked at Qing Shui in astonishment, his expression that of great agitation.

“Are you not satisfied with Xiantian?” Qing Shui smiled and asked.

“No, no... I’ve never ever thought that I’d be able to reach Xiantian even in my dreams. It’s just that I don’t dare to believe it,” Stone quickly said.

In Western Oxhe Continent, the land was vast and the population was much greater in number. No matter how prosperous a city was, it would still be mostly inhabited by ordinary people and Xiantian cultivators would still be notable existences.

The population in this world was very large and the people tended to have good physical attributes and qualities. If an ordinary young man were to train diligently, he would be able to lift something that weighed 500 Jin. However, this was the limit for ordinary people.

When old man Wang was young, he could lift things that weighed 800 Jin but as he grew older, his strength had been reduced by more than half. As the density for good weapons tended to be very high, their weight was no longer something old man Wang could handle and forge.

“Train well and I can guarantee that you’ll be able to reach Xiantian,” Qing Shui smiled and patted Stone on the shoulder.

“Mister, this old man doesn’t know how to thank you... Our Wang Clan is indebted to you...”

“Old Wang, it’s fate that we met, so don’t stand on ceremony. I only know the two of you here and you guys made me feel very at ease.” Qing Shui smiled. It was easy for him to reach out a helping hand to change old man Wang’s fate. Moreover, he liked these two.

“Old Wang, take this. It can increase some of your strength. Stone can take it in another few days. We’ll let him train up his body first.” Qing Shui handed old man Wang a porcelain bottle with a Tiger Vitality Pill.

“Mister, this...”

“Why? Are you scared that it’d be poison?” Qing Shui laughed.

“I wouldn’t be scared even if Mister were to give me poison. Isn’t this too valuable?” Old man Wang said seriously.

“Since I’ve already given it to you, just take it. These two days, you can stay and take care of Stone. Come back in another two days.” Qing Shui stuffed the Tiger Vitality Pill into old man Wang’s hands.

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Qing Shui suddenly seemed to have nothing to do in the blacksmith store. The items he sold were more practical for low level cultivators but there weren’t many who could afford them. It might also be due to this reason that the reputation of Firecloud Blacksmith Store spread out even faster.

Even people who were very far away now knew that there was a young and handsome blacksmith in the Divine Weapon Street who forged weapons and sold them at sky high prices. Rumors tended to be more exaggerated than the truth.

This wasn’t all. There were also rumors that Miss Yan had purchased a lot of items from this blacksmith store and even invited the blacksmith to Yan Clan but was rejected. How bold was this guy?

The reputation of the young blacksmith grew even stronger and there was even a period of time when it was bragged to be the only one of its kind in the world. Due to this reason, more and more people came to the Firecloud Blacksmith Store, although most of them were only there to see Qing Shui in person.

The ones that sold the fastest were the accessories. Qing Shui would be able to sell a few pieces each day. And with there being more people coming in, he was able to sell some weapons and other stuff as well. There were also many customers who weren’t short of money.

Of course, there were also quite a number of clans who wished to recruit Qing Shui, but they were all rejected. However, the clans didn't take it too hard as either. After all, rumors had it that even Miss Yan's invitation was rejected. They only casually brought it up to make it seem as if they were very close to Qing Shui.

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Old man Wang's strength increased by 1,000 Jin. Qing Shui still had some fruit and other stuff, which further increased old man Wang's lifespan, which originally had only a few decades left. His strength now was a lot greater as compared to when he was younger. The transformations his body went through got him very excited. He could now forge weapons like he did when he was younger.

Stone also took the Tiger Vitality Pill and had started to practice the Thousand Hammer Technique. Learning things like these required one to have intelligence to go through careful calculations. Qing Shui only taught him the first 100 hammers and told him that it was very important. As long as he could master these 100 hammers, he would be able to benefit greatly. If he could comprehend the hammer techniques at the back from there, he would gain a qualitative improvement.

Qing Shui gradually changed their predicament but didn't do so drastically. It was like if you were to give a poor man a few thousand dollars to solve the predicament he was currently in before he looked for a job. If you were to give the person five million at one go, it wouldn't be helping him but rather, harming him.

Rice must be eaten one mouthful at a time; wells must be dug a little deeper one shovel at a time!

Qing Shui didn't plan on completely changing the lifestyles old man Wang and his grandson had. They weren't suitable to handle the action and competition out there. Moreover, Stone's talent wasn't exactly good. In terms of both cultivation and forging, he wouldn't be able to reach great heights. However, compared to how he was before, he was able to do much better in these two areas now.

Qing Shui was sipping tea in the blacksmith store. There were still quite a number of customers around but many small explosive sounds rang out outside. Qing Shui's spiritual sense was very sharp now and he could sense that those auras were headed in his direction.

"People in the Firecloud Blacksmith Store listen up! Leave within the time it takes for three breaths! Otherwise, if you were to get hurt when the blacksmith store collapses, don't blame it on us!"

A loud voice rang out. When the people in the Firecloud Blacksmith Store heard the voice, they quickly ran outside. Qing Shui signaled old man Wang and his grandson to head out as well.

Qing Shui shook his head and walked out. He didn't find this strange. It was hard to make a living in an entirely unfamiliar place, especially after being in the spotlight. Many people would definitely not be able to accept him and would hate him.

After Qing Shui walked out, he lifted his head to look into the skies. He wanted to see who was doing this to him. He felt that there could only be three possibilities: Bai Clan, the factions supporting those blacksmith stores or Miss Yan.

Qing Shui went up to the sky and faced the several tens of people. Most of them were middle-aged men but there were also a number of old men. Right now, their gazes were all locked on Qing Shui.

The ones in the lead were those old men. They wore pale blue colored clothes, appearing to command a lot of influence. Qing Shui looked at them but couldn't identify any familiar faces.

"Who are you? Why did you say that you're going to bring down my blacksmith store?" Qing Shui asked the people opposite him. He felt really calm. After all, even if the blacksmith store was gone, it would be very easy for him to build another. As for the things inside, they wouldn't spoil. Even if they would, he wouldn't feel much about it.

"Young man, there's no need for you to care who we are. We know that you don't like to work for others. We hope that you can move out of Divine Weapon Street." An old man in the middle stood upright. If one were to see his back view alone, one wouldn't think that this was an old man.

"Which blacksmith clan are you guys from? Are you really afraid that I'll steal your businesses?" Qing Shui smiled and looked at them.

"Young man, you're too ignorant. Do you really think that you're a topnotch blacksmith master just with those few pieces of weapons and armor?" The old man wasn't angry and his tone was very gentle as well.

"Since that's the case, why do you have to force me to leave Divine Weapon Street?"

"The people here don't like you." The old man continued to speak in a gentle tone.

Qing Shui was stunned. This reason was so powerful. He looked at the old man, "You're saying that people you guys don't like will all have to leave."

The old man didn't say anything but looked at Qing Shui. "Young man, what do you think of what we said earlier? The Divine Weapon Street isn't a place where someone like you can be arrogant. Putting aside the fact that you're not a State Master level cultivator; even if you are one, you can't afford to be arrogant here either."

Qing Shui didn't say anything. What the old man said was absolutely right. The clans behind the Divine Weapon Street were definitely not to be underestimated. A low grade State Master really didn't have the right to be arrogant here, let alone himself, who was still a far cry from attaining the level of a low grade State Master.

"Old man, I wonder if you've heard of a saying before."

"What saying?" The old man continued to look at Qing Shui calmly.

"Don't look down on a poor youth!"

Qing Shui looked at the old man but there was no fluctuations in his tone at all.

A low grade State Master wouldn't even be able to cause the old man to panic but Qing Shui's words caused his face to change a little. The old man's face glared at Qing Shui, as if wanting to see through him.

"Are you forcing me to kill you?" The old man stared at Qing Shui and said in a cold voice.

“No matter who it is, as long as someone tries to attack me, if I’m still alive, I’ll definitely wipe them out completely. You may think that I’m bragging but I’ll only say one thing. If you can’t call the shots on behalf of the people behind you, then don’t take any reckless actions. Otherwise, even if I don’t do anything to you, the people behind you will get rid of you.” Qing Shui continued to speak very calmly, wearing a confident smile.

Qing Shui knew people who had reached the old man’s level of cultivation and age tended to think more into things. Moreover, he hadn’t expected himself to scare the other party with just one word. After all, the other party still had one method, which was to kill Qing Shui.

“Insolence! Do you think that you’ll be able to scare us just by saying a few vicious words? Don’t you find it funny?” The old man’s expression returned to normal.

“It seems that you guys are going to take action today. Do you dare to say who you are? Actually, even if you don’t say, I’ll still be able to find out,” Qing Shui smiled and said.

It was because the crowd on the ground were already in discussion!

“They are from Bai Clan! The people from inner city’s Bai Clan of Yan City!”

“There’s also a Bai Clan Blacksmith Hall in Divine Weapon Street which belongs to inner city’s Bai Clan. They are also considered one of the top few powerful blacksmith clans in the Divine Weapon Street.”

...

The Bai Clan in this area which Bai Riyi and Bai Rilong belonged to was only considered a branch of Bai Clan. It was a far cry compared to the Bai Clan in the inner city and these people belonged to those under the inner city’s Bai Clan.

There were many cities in Great Yu Dynasty and they were further segregated into inner cities and outer cities. The inner cities tended to be much smaller in size but were more luxurious and more of the powerful factions were gathered there.

Of course, this wasn’t something absolute. There would also be a number of powerful factions in the outer cities. It was just that there were more of them in the inner cities!

The reason the inner cities were powerful was because of the existence of the city lords and the powerful clans. As for the capital, there was also the royal family. This was why most with power would tend to head to the inner cities.

The Divine Weapon Street was one exception. This place was not under the inner city but the blacksmith clans here all had the caliber to enter and reside in the inner city. However, the Divine Weapon Street was considered to be a holy place and had its share of glory here. This was a place left behind from very long ago and most of its glory was already gone.

We’re people from the inner city’s Bai Clan. If you were to join our Bai Clan, we’ll forget the things that has happened today. You can continue to run your blacksmith store and Bai Clan will take care of you as well. The old man looked at Qing Shui but his mind was thinking rapidly.

“Bai Clan? Excellent. There’s also a Bai Clan who has tried to smash my store twice. I didn’t expect yet another Bai Clan from the inner city to smash my store. This is such a coincidence,” Qing Shui smiled and replied.

A Chinese saying. Don’t look down on a poor youth because youngsters have boundless prospects. As long as they are willing to work hard, they’ll soar to great heights one day and not always be in poverty.

Chapter 1154 - False Alarm, Qing Shui Is Just A Poisonous Bone

Qing Shui’s voice wasn’t loud but many people in the area and below could hear his clearly. He understood how the people from Bai Clan were now. Although Bai Clan might really be very powerful in the inner cities, he felt that they were a little arrogant and in over their heads. He just didn’t know if the core members of Bai Clan knew about this.

Hearing Qing Shui’s words, the old man frowned. However, he didn’t say much but just looked at Qing Shui for very long before saying, “You’ve already caused Bai Clan to lose their reputation and now that things have come down to this, I wish you good luck. As for the words that you’ve just said... That’s because you don’t understand Bai Clan. With your capabilities, there’s no way for you to even reach Bai Clan.”

Qing Shui really felt very gloomy. The reputations of great clans and influences were really worth a lot. This was the pride and power of those in power and was similar to the dynasties Qing Shui was familiar with. Even if they were in the wrong, they must insist on their stance to the very end.

“Are all of you going to attack together at once or are you going to take action alone?” Qing Shui didn’t care if there were any use for him to prod at his opponents, but he still decided to give it a go. At least, he needed to let the people in the surroundings see the ugly side of this great clan.

“There’s no need for you to prod. It’s useless. But don’t worry, just I alone am sufficient to deal with you,” the old man smiled and said warmly.

“7th Uncle, let me do the job!”

Just then, a middle-aged man from the back walked out. His figure was also upright, like a sword. He wasn’t like a drawn sword with a sharp edge but gave the feeling that a sheathed sword seemed to give more threat than one which was drawn.

“Jingtian, your cultivation seems to be slightly stronger than his and you’re also considered to be one of the geniuses in Bai Clan. However, you must think this through carefully. This young man isn’t as simple as he seems to be.” The old man frowned and looked at the middle-aged man.

“7th Uncle, I know. A cultivator mustn’t fear battles. I treat my opponents very seriously.” The man wore a stubborn expression on his seemingly serious face.

“Go on. Be careful!” The old man waved his hand.

The man called Jingtian bowed toward the old man before walked over to Qing Shui. His steps were erratic and he held a thin sword which had a length of 3 feet 3 inches. It had a width of two fingers and was very thin, to the extent that it was a little translucent. If one didn’t look at it very carefully, it would be hard to notice this.

“You must be careful, blades have no eyes! I wish you good luck!” the man cupped his fists together and said to Qing Shui.

“You must be careful as well. Make your move!” Qing Shui smiled and took out his Big Dipper Sword, dashing over with the Seven Star Steps.

The Nine Palace Steps could actually be taken apart. One Origin Steps, Duality Steps... Five Elements Steps... Seven Star Steps, Eight Trigrams Steps, Nine Palace Steps... Each of them were extremely profound but one would only be able to move freely within the Nine Palace after having mastered the final Nine Palace Steps.

However, currently, Qing Shui was the only one who had reached the stage of the Nine Palace Steps. His mastery of this stage wasn't very high but it was already considerably terrifying. The ladies and other people were all at a very low level. One reason was that they hadn't been learning it for long, unlike Qing Shui who had the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal. The other reason was that Qing Shui himself was a unique existence.

Stepping on the seven stars, progressing against the flow, Qing Shui could sense this man's strength. The man should be around twice as strong as himself. Through sensing his aura, Qing Shui could sense that the full powers of the person was around 2,000 nimbus.

Qing Shui's strength at its peak was only 1,200 nimbus. However, he wasn't very worried. He felt that he had the ability to deal with this guy.

Piercing Sword!

Basic Sword Techniques!

Qing Shui thrust out his sword, using a stance in sword arts which even a three year old kid would be able to perform. However, the level of mastery and realm he displayed was extremely high, most importantly, his speed was unparalleled.

This move was too surprising, causing everyone to be greatly astonished. However, everyone was even more surprised when they saw that the prowess of this move had caused the man to be forced back one step.

“He really is exceptional. This young man has definitely practiced this sword stance for no less than ten years. It really does fit the bill of polishing a sword for ten years,” the old man sighed and said, as if he was mumbling to himself.

“Ten years to just polish a sword? He is so young. It should be more that his talent surpasses that of others,” another old man said.

“I'm already understating when I said ten years. His talent undoubtedly surpasses that of others. See how great his level of mastery is? Just this move alone would show that this young man has great persistence and we can't afford to offend him. It's considered an eye-opener to be able to see someone performing the Basic Sword Techniques to this level,” the old man who was addressed by Bai Jingtian as 7th Uncle said.

Qing Shui's single attack surprised Bai Jingtian who quickly dodged. However, Qing Shui didn't go easy on him. Relying on his amazing footwork, his Big Dipper Sword pointed, pierced, hacked, slashed... All the moves were targeted at Bai Jingtian's throat.

Everyone present watched the scene in silence. The one who had the worst out of it was Bai Jingtian. After losing the advantage of being able to make the first move, he had been pushed into such a bad predicament and was barely able to save himself.

Bai Jingtian recalled what his 7th Uncle had said. He hadn't expected Qing Shui's footwork to be so extraordinary. He could sense the strength which Qing Shui had used. Was Qing Shui really using such a strength against his full powers?

Demonic Beast Armor Manifestation!

As Bai Jingtian retreated, a ferocious aura emerged from his body. Then, as a fierce and violent aura spreaded out, a huge image of a white wolf appeared, causing Bai Jingtian's speed to suddenly increase by a lot. He also managed to dodge Qing Shui's pestering longsword.

Shadowless Sword!

Bai Jingtian's body exuded an indistinct sword Qi and moved toward Qing Shui and his longsword. Although Qing Shui had a strong power and had also achieved a small success stage for the Nine Yang Golden Body, he didn't dare to use his body to come into contact with this thin sword which had its killing aura concealed.

Swoosh swoosh...

Something that was akin to a grey net appeared in the air, expanding towards Qing Shui. Moving with his bizarre footwork, Bai Jingtian's eyes squinted to a very fine gap and locked onto Qing Shui like cold lightning.

Qing Shui smiled. This Bai Jingtian specialized in speed and quick sword attacks. The dark greyish net in the sky was the shadows left behind by his sword which was coming toward Qing Shui. Only one of the swords was true and was extremely lethal.

Heavenly Vision Technique!

Demonic Beast Armor Manifestation!

Buddha Form Reveal!

Qing Shui's eyes suddenly popped open and he was able to see through all shams. Right now, only one sword was hacking down at him. This sword was very elusive, slithering around the other phantom images.

Qing Shui gripped his Big Dipper Sword tightly, lifting his head and staring at the incoming sword net. His eyes were so clear that they were like clear spring water.

Stepping against the flow of the Nine Palace, he attacked fiercely with his Big Dipper Sword!

Piercing Sword!

Right now, there was still a gap between the two of them but a golden light sword emerged from the Big Dipper Sword.

Golden Sword!

This was the Golden Sword from the Five Elements Divine Refining Technique!

An attack with spirit energy!

Qing Shui attacked at rapid speed in the sword net, quickly as lightning. Although Bai Jingtian quickly changed his trajectory, his wrist was still cut. It wasn't chopped off but the sword went through one-third of his wrist and even his bones had broken.

The net of swords disappeared. Qing Shui didn't pursue to attack but just watched from a short distance away. Qing Shui's victory was thanks to his Nine Palace Steps which allowed him to exercise restraint on the opponent's advantage.

Bai Jingtian stood there, stunned, letting his blood flow down. He looked at Qing Shui, unable to say a word. This was too big a blow for him. He cultivated the Shadowless Sword which excelled in the speed of his sword and his movements. However, right now, a person who was a lot weaker than himself did not just surpass him in speed of his movements but in the speed of his sword attacks as well.

"There's no need for you to feel disheartened. You're strong but it's just that I have an advantage against an opponent like yourself and can completely counter your attacks," Qing Shui looked at Bai Jingtian and said calmly.

"Sigh, a loss is a loss. I'm weaker than you..."

Bai Jingtian headed back, dejected, letting his blood flow freely. Right now, he felt extremely disheartened. If he couldn't get out of this mood, his life would become completely tasteless.

Two people from Bai Clan quickly treated his wounds, stopping the blood flow and bandaging his injuries.

"7th Uncle, I've brought shame to you!" Bai Jingtian's countenance was pale. It wasn't just from the loss of blood but also because of his emotions. When one's heart was demoralized, it would be reflected on his face.

"You haven't brought me shame. You still have a long road to go ahead of you. A cultivator doesn't just cultivate the body. There's always someone stronger out there and there are too many people who are stronger than you. A cultivator must first cultivate a strong heart and must be able to face any situation calmly. What's a little setback? Which powerful cultivator hasn't come back from setbacks and difficulties? Without a powerful heart, a cultivator wouldn't be able to progress very far. If you've lost, find your way back. If you've resigned yourself to the loss, then you can only stop at this level." The old man's countenance was still very calm, without any change. His words hammered down hard into everyone's hearts.

Qing Shui could understand well what the old man had said. This was something that all cultivators knew but not many could achieve. However, it was different today and for many people, it was different

than when they heard it under normal circumstances. It was because the impact from today was too great and thus the words had been imprinted in their minds.

Bai Jingtian was in a daze, he fists tightly clenched, causing his bandaged wounds to burst open once again. His expression was that of great conflict and struggle. Someone wanted to step up to him but was stopped by the old man.

Hu!

A very long while later, Bai Jingtian let out a long exhale and said, smiling as he looked at the old man, "Thank you, 7th Uncle!"

"Alright, it's good that you're able to accept this. This is a barrier that all cultivators have to experience. Now that you've crossed it, you'll be able to advance further in the future," the old man smiled and said happily.

Right now, Qing Shui was still thinking about the battle from before. He felt that his current strength should allow him to compete with an elementary State Master and he would probably have a high chance of winning.

Bai Jingtian could only count himself unlucky to have met Qing Shui. The blow was too big for him to be defeated by Basic Sword Techniques. Only Qing Shui knew that his Heavenly Vision Technique and bizarre footwork had greatly helped him to achieve this.

For Bai Jingtian to be able to get out from under this trauma so quickly, he was really a person with a strong heart. What the old man said had played a huge role too.

"Young man, there aren't many whom I admire and look up to. You're one of them. We'll treat the things that happened today as a misunderstanding. You're a clever person, I hope that you won't see me in a strange light. In this world, it has always been the survival of the fittest!" The old man looked at Qing Shui and said something which caught him unaware. The old man thought of the words Qing Shui had said earlier and felt that this young man was a poisonous bone and not many people would be able to devour it.

Qing Shui smiled. This was good as well. In his current state, he wasn't suited for battle. As for the things the old man had said... Qing Shui didn't pay them much heed. He hadn't thought of wanting to get himself involved with Bai Clan. It'll be fine if they don't come look for trouble. When he got stronger in the future, he would care even less about other things.

Chapter 1155 - Yan Yangzhao, Friends, Broken Sword, Divine Casting Force

The people from Bai Clan left. Although many people were astonished, there were even more who felt regretful, as they had all wanted to see the battle between Qing Shui and the old man or against some other people. They wanted to see how monstrous this young man was.

Qing Shui landed, called out to old man Wang and his grandson and returned to the Firecloud Blacksmith Store directly. Today's events were a false alarm. He had initially thought that he'd be forced to leave the place.

The tremendous increase to his strength allowed him to defeat Basic Sword Techniques easily. The opponent's strength was 50% more than what he had expected. What had pleased him even more was that he had been able to obtain victory even though he had not unleashed his full prowess. Moreover, what he used was the Basic Sword Techniques.

Looking at old man Wang and his grandson, Qing Shui felt that he needed to speed up. He was afraid that he wouldn't be able to stay here for long and he didn't want to get them involved either.

Stone had shown great progress in his hammer techniques. Qing Shui knew that his talent was average and whether or not Stone would be able to progress fast would be determined by his level of perseverance. Or in other words, whether he had the "pure and innocent heart of a newborn".

Not long after Qing Shui returned back to his blacksmith store, someone entered. Qing Shui looked over the moment the person entered because he felt that this person had a very strong aura. He should be someone who was only one step away from attaining the level of the lowest grade State Master.

This man appeared to be very young, his face wearing a faint smile. However, on the first look, Qing Shui was sure that this person was from the same clan as Miss Yan. It was because they looked so much alike and also because of his cultivation.

Qing Shui felt that he had been defeated. The powerful cultivators in the four continents would be considered young if they were within 100 years of age. Rumor had it that State Masters had even longer lifespans. As for how long their lifespans were, he had no idea.

He had already encountered a few young people who had surpassed him. They didn't look that old either. The legacies and blood lineages of these great clans were truly outstanding. He also knew the reason why they had political marriages as well.

The people from the aristocratic clans wouldn't be able to get married to ordinary people. Even if they did, it would be just as concubines and they would try not to have kids. It was because the superior lineage wouldn't be continued by this means but of course, this wasn't something absolute.

With regard to the political marriages in great clans, whether or not there was love between both parties were irrelevant. The most important thing was the blood lineage and legacy. Moreover, the genes from clans were outstanding and their descendants tended not to be ugly. Therefore, it was all for the best as well.

Regarding the inheritance of blood lineage and martial techniques, one would only be able to unleash the prowess of the clan's martial techniques legacy when they had inherited the clan's lineage. This caused most of the descendants to be great talents. They were given the best conditions and as for how far they could go, it would be dependent on their determination, perseverance and comprehension. This was also why powerful clans could stay at the top for several thousands of years or even over ten thousand years.

It wasn't as if every single child, who had inherited the clan's legacy, would be top notch experts. If that was the case, the clan would be unrivaled if they were to have a few more kids. It was still subject to the individual's level of comprehension and the opportunities they encountered. A person wouldn't be able to attain success in becoming an expert just by having an advantage. It would still be subject to a combination of various factors.

Qing Shui stood up and looked at the man who was walking toward him. He was a very handsome man and Qing Shui couldn't tell his age. He couldn't even tell who was the older one between him and Yan Jinyu.

"Mister Qing!" The man smiled, cupped his hands together and greeted Qing Shui.

"You know me? I'm sorry, how do I address you?" Qing Shui could only guess that this guy was related to Yan Clan, but he couldn't really be sure. Sometimes, people who were totally unrelated to each other could appear to look alike as well.

"Oh, I forgot to introduce myself. I'm Yan Yangzhao. Yan Jinyu is my younger sister. You should still remember her!" the man quickly said to Qing Shui.

Qing Shui was stunned. This person was really from Yan Clan. He wasn't sure why he had gotten involved with so many powerful people of late. Before he knew it, he had already come into contact with them.

The reason the guy was here shouldn't be for other things but for his forging skills!

"Hello, Young Master Yan. I apologize for being disrespectful!" Qing Shui smiled and said.

"Mister Qing, there's no need to stand on ceremony. I felt close to you the moment I saw you. You can just call me Yangzhao," Yan Yangzhao quickly said.

Qing Shui wanted to say it once again that there are no free lunches in this world and people who tried to ingratiate themselves for no reason were probably only doing so for their own interests. However, he recalled how he had already said this to Miss Yan previously, he smiled and said, "Then you can just call me Qing Shui!"

"I heard from my younger sister that there's a new blacksmith master in the Divine Weapon Street who is very powerful. I couldn't help but come to take a look!" Yan Yangzhao smiled and said.

"Brother Yan, I don't think your only reason to come is just to take a look, right?" Qing Shui smiled and said. Now, he didn't mind getting involved with Yan Clan and it was better to get involved with Yan Yangzhao than Yan Jinyu. At least, to outsiders, he wouldn't appear to be like a gigolo...

"Brother Qing Shui, I'll be frank with you. My sister holds you in high esteem. I have never seen her praising someone so much before. I happened to come by a broken weapon and although I've brought to many blacksmiths, they weren't able to mend it. When my sister mentioned you, I couldn't help but come..." Yan Yangzhao smiled and said a bit awkwardly.

"Brother Yan, I thought that you were really here to get closer to me. Ends up that you're here to get closer to my forging skills."

"Brother Qing Shui, whatever I say now would just sound like excuses but I still have to say that what I said earlier was the truth. You should be able to sense my character. In fact, I feel that we're a little similar. I believe that we can become very good friends."

"Brother Yan, my forging skills are not that good. I'll tell you first, I can't guarantee that I'll be able to fix it or reforge it. I hope that you don't hold too much hope in this," Qing Shui shook his head, looked at Yan Yangzhao and said.

"I know. I just want to let you take a look. There's no harm in that anyway!" Yan Yangzhao smiled and nodded before taking out a longsword which had been broken into two.

The moment the broken sword was taken out, Qing Shui could sense a powerful spiritual Qi coming from it. It was one that was very sharp and appeared to have a holy feeling. When the two chunks of the sword were put together, it appeared to be about four feet long and had the width of a palm. It exuded a faint white light which had a hint of serenity in that sharpness.

It was a pity that the sword had broken in a weird way. It wasn't that the tip was broken off, nor had it broken off in the middle. It broke about one foot distance from the sword's handle, making the remaining length too short to be even made into a dagger.

Qing Shui touched the longsword then lifted his head to look at Yan Yangzhao, "This sword was also made from Greencloud Stone. Your sister has been looking for someone to forge weapons with Greencloud Stone."

"That's right. This was given to me by my younger sister. She has also been looking for someone who can help her forge a weapon," Yan Yangzhao smiled and said.

"Brother, with my abilities, I'm not able to help you. I'm really sorry. In the future, maybe I'll be able to help you when my forging skills have improved," Qing Shui shook his head and said, smiling.

Yan Yangzhao seemed to be a little disappointed, but he smiled and said, "There's no need to be like this. This isn't something unexpected. You've already told me earlier not to hold too many expectations in this. It's fine. I'll wait for when you're able to help me fix it."

Qing Shui looked at Yan Yangzhao's expression, right down to the finest detail. His spiritual sense was very special and could sense the target's fluctuations.

This guy was a very sincere person and was worth making friends with.

It would be so even if he didn't come from an outstanding background. This was what Qing Shui felt. Feelings were very important when people got to know each other. Birds of the same feather flocked together. It was just like what he said, they were actually a little similar, which meant that it was likely that they belonged to the same type of people.

"I can give it a try but I still am not sure that I'll be able to do it," Qing Shui gave it some thought and then said.

"Really?" Yan Yangzhao said in surprise.

"I'll give it a try but I'll still say the same thing, don't hold too much hope." Qing Shui smiled and shook his head.

"Alright, alright!" Although Yan Yangzhao was trying hard to be calm, he was still a little agitated.

Qing Shui took the broken sword and was about to leave when Yan Yangzhao quickly took out a stone and handed it to Qing Shui, "This stone seems to be called the Celestial Stone and it's said that it can increase the success rate by half."

If it was the previous time, when Qing Shui had met Yan Jinyu, he wouldn't be sure that he would be able to forge this sword. However, he had some confidence now. Earlier, he had only wanted to see what kind of person Yan Yangzhao was. Qing Shui used his heart to sense how a person was and external appearances were useless.

Qing Shui received it and said, smiling, "Then let me try and fix it up for you!"

...

Usually, once weapons break, it would be impossible to connect the parts back together. And even if they were re-connected, it wouldn't be one complete part and energy wouldn't be able to flow through the sword.

However, there was this technique in the Ancient Art of Forging which allowed him to bring the weapon back to its initial state. However, the process was very stale and boring.

It was because it required a very long period of time. Qing Shui told Yan Yangzhao to come back for it in three days.

Yan Yangzhao insisted on treating Qing Shui to a meal and Qing Shui didn't reject him. Having a meal together allowed them to become much closer.

"Brother, I'll go have a talk with Bai Clan. In the future, no one will come to look for trouble with you," Yan Yangzhao said as he toasted Qing Shui.

"Then I'll have to thank you."

"There's no need to stand on ceremony between us."

At night, Qing Shui started to forge this sword in the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal. He was very curious about this longsword which was forged from Greencloud Stone. If he could successfully smelt it, it wouldn't be hard to forge. However, it would be very hard to raise its quality due to their level of cultivation.

Powerful blacksmiths were the same as alchemists and formation masters. The first condition was for the person to be a powerful cultivator with his own Fire of life.

Connecting a broken sword was even more difficult than smelting it all over again and it could be said that it was several times more difficult. If it wasn't because there was this technique in Qing Shui's Ancient Art of Forging, he would rather reforge it rather than agreeing to fix it for him. It would be practically impossible.

Primordial flames and the Nine Yang Golden Flame continued to burn. He slowly channeled the Violet Gold Divine Force into the spot where the sword was broken. The entire sword shone with a luster and exuding a light blue colored glow.

Divine Casting Force!

Qi of the channeled this energy which he had never used before into the Violet Gold Divine Force. This was an energy he had gotten from cultivating the Qi of the Ancient Strengthening Technique, Ancient

Art of Forging and the Thousand Hammer Technique. Right now, they were all in the Seven-colored Pellet and would appear when used.

Such energies were meant to be used for fixing the broken sword's "meridian channels"!

Any blacksmith would be able to reconnect broken swords but it wouldn't allow the sword to be a single body. It was because the cultivator's sword Qi and essence wouldn't be able to flow through the weapon smoothly.

And Qing Shui's Divine Casting Force was able to let the "meridian channels" of the broken sword flow smoothly!

Chapter 1156 - Cloud Eruption Healing Sword, The Arrival of the Two Ladies

The mysterious powers held such mysterious abilities. Even Qing Shui wasn't able to explain this. It was just like applying the right medicine for a particular illness. It would feel like it was amazing medicine but it was hard to explain the reaction.

A light blue colored glow flashed. It wasn't strong and had a warming feeling. Qing Shui could not help but watch it with his Heavenly Vision Technique. He wanted to have a good look at this longsword which Yan Yangzhao had liked so much.

Cloud Eruption Healing Sword!

It's name was very strange. Qing Shui couldn't help but read on.

It was a sword which could allow one to recover from injuries automatically and was rumored to be a sword which a powerful physician had forged before he died. The Greencloud Stone itself had a certain level of self-recuperative abilities and after many years of research, the powerful physician had managed to forge the Cloud Eruption Healing Sword.

It increases the user's strength by three times and the user's spirit energy by a little. It has a 20% chance of letting the prowess of the attacks be doubled and depletion reduced by 20%. When the user suffers from injuries, it could immediately recover half the injuries and allowed him to remain clear-minded. It would then continue to gradually heal the wounds for 24 hours. During the recovery process, there would only be one time which it would be able to heal 50% of the injuries immediately.

Qing Shui smiled after taking a look at it. This sword wasn't as powerful as his Big Dipper Sword but it was about the same as the Violet Jade Sword which he had forged in the past. It was just that this Cloud Eruption Healing Sword had an additional 10% chance of inducing a critical attack and had healing traits.

The moment the injuries were inflicted, 50% of the damage would recover immediately and the remaining damage would recover gradually. The effect would last for 24 hours. Although there were no time restrictions, it could only be used once a day.

For example, if the user was injured for the first time, 50% of the damage would be healed immediately while the rest would recover slowly. However, in the next 24 hours, should the user suffer from any additional injuries, he would only be able to let them heal gradually and not be able to recover from 50% of the damage immediately.

This sword was considered to be quite good. Qing Shui had already realized by now that it was already considered quite good for the cultivator's weapons to be able to increase their abilities by threefold. In the five continents, not many people were able to have such a weapon.

Qing Shui smiled. It seemed that his forging abilities would be well-received over here. The materials available in Western Oxhe Continent were even better and his forging abilities might be brought to a higher level.

The increase his in powers made Qing Shui feel that his current forging skills had improved. Recently, he had been spending his time on forging and the progress was quite good.

However, it seemed as if there were still some difficulties for him to attain a breakthrough to the 6-colored grade. It was already the max for him to reach the 5-colored grade. Although he might attain a breakthrough any time, it was also possible that he might never be able to attain a breakthrough.

Qing Shui had completed the repairing of the Cloud Eruption Healing Sword. He didn't know if Yan Yangzhao would be pleased with it, but he felt that this sword was useless for him. Putting its healing properties aside, it was considered ordinary amongst powerful cultivators to have weapons that increased their strength threefold. The weapons would also be a symbol of their status. It wasn't that there were any of a higher grade but there weren't many, with the exception of legendary grade weapons or divine artifacts. Those items were basically found in the hands of powerful State Master level cultivators.

It was just like how Qing Shui's Big Dipper Sword was already considered a terrifying existence to be able to increase his strength fourfold. Most State Master level cultivators might not have weapons that were comparable to his.

Right now, Qing Shui felt that his status as a blacksmith master was quite good and he could continue to use it. In Western Oxhe Continent or any other places, a powerful blacksmith master or alchemist would be highly respected.

Another thing was that Qing Shui had yet to use Rune Seal or things like that. He planned to wait first until he had gotten a little stronger. He also planned on using this period of time to learn more about learning how to carve Seal Formations.

Cultivation. The time he spent in the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal was basically the most boring. He would just cultivate regardless of whether it was day or night and eat some food when he was hungry. After all, it was very convenient. He had prepared ready food and would only need to heat the food up when he was hungry. In the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal, he didn't have to be concerned that the food would go bad.

Qing Shui had never thought that he had exceptional talent. He even felt that in Qing Clan, his talent might not be the best, let alone when he was compared with the ladies. However, he was lucky. Not only had he received the legacy of the Ancient Strengthening Technique, he even had the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal. He had achieved what he had today from hard work. Of course, chances and opportunities were also included.

...

The next day, Qing Shui continued with his morning practice before he headed for the Firecloud Blacksmith Store. Qing Shui now had a better understanding of the dynasty in Western Oxhe Continent. This world was too prosperous and the land area was also very vast. Each city was comparable to a country and each year, they would have to pay a 20% tax to the Great Yu Dynasty. When in a war with other dynasties, the cities must heed commands without any conditions. When required, the royalty can rob the city lord of his title. However, such situations were very rare.

Yan City was one of the five major cities of the Great Yu Dynasty and was considered to be a jumbo-sized one. It had vast land area and could be considered to be a dynasty by itself. However, it came under the jurisdiction of the Great Yu Dynasty.

When Qing Shui walked into the Firecloud Blacksmith Store, there were already quite a number of people around. Old man Wang was handling the customers by himself and he greeted Qing Shui when he saw him.

Qing Shui signaled for him to continue while he headed for the forging platform. Before he could do anything, he felt two familiar auras. He smiled, put down the hammer in his hand and looked toward the door.

Tantai Xuan and Yu Ruyan walked in.

“And I was wondering why there was a Firecloud Blacksmith Store here,” Yu Ruyan smiled and said. After all, back in the five continents, she knew that Huoyun Liu-Li’s home was the Firecloud Blacksmith Store.

“The two of you are quite well-informed!” Qing Shui smiled and led the two ladies to the table at the side. The location of the table was in a quieter area in the blacksmith store and there were no weapon racks and the like there. Ordinary people wouldn’t be able to come here. Although the blacksmith store wasn’t huge, that was only compared to the other stores. Moreover, Qing Shui didn’t put out many things for sale and the items could only be considered exquisite items meant for ordinary people.

The small table wasn’t very big and the three of them barely managed to sit around it. Qing Shui reached out his hand and three snow-white tea cups as well as a small vat of Plum Blossom Wine appeared on the table. Of course, he had taken them out from the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal.

Qing Shui found his own actions hilarious as they made him think of the magic tricks from his previous life. The most basic tricks were that the things would disappear when placed somewhere, as well as to bring out stuff out from nowhere. Right now, he felt that he’d be able to do a great job in performing magic tricks and there wouldn’t be any flaws at all.

The ladies didn’t find Qing Shui’s actions strange in the least. They could also do something similar with their interspatial silk sachets. Although, they might not be able to do it as naturally and elegantly as Qing Shui had.

The moment the vat of Plum Blossom Wine was opened, a refreshing wine fragrance spread out in the blacksmith store. Even Yu Ruyan couldn’t help but ask, “How can it be so fragrant? This seems even better than the ones in the past.”

“The age of this wine has exceeded 3,000 years. Can you believe it?” Qing Shui smiled and poured wine for them.

“I believe!” Tantai Xuan looked at Qing Shui and said seriously.

Qing Shui was stunned. He had spoken the truth, albeit in a joking tone. He felt that the two ladies would definitely think that he was joking but hadn’t expected Tantai Xuan to believe what he said immediately.

“It’s so fragrant. Only divine wine would have such a fragrance. It feels as if just smelling it would allow one to gain wisdom and be enlightened!”

“That’s right, if I can have a sip, I’d be able to die without regrets!”

...

Sounds of discussions and envy broke out in the blacksmith store!

There’s a saying which went ‘no matter how good the wine, it would fear a deep alley’. However, the wine fragrance floated out from the blacksmith store and even reached out to over 1,000 meters away into the streets. When a good wine had an age of a few thousand years, it would have this effect. Moreover, these thousand year plum blossoms were mutated types to begin with. When they were used to be fermented into wine, the essence in the wine would have amazing effects.

It didn’t take long for many people to come to blacksmith store. They appeared as if they were looking for weapons and such but were in fact here to enjoy the wine fragrance. This wasn’t the first time Yu Ruyan drank this, but she was still so surprised that her beautiful eyes were gleaming. The feeling was as if she was drinking ambrosia of the gods. Although no one had drank that before, they could only use this to describe the wine.

Tantai Xuan went into a daze for even longer. Qing Shui didn’t find this strange. Back then, Di Chen only liked the Plum Blossom Wine she had tried and it was far inferior to the one now. Just the age alone was incomparable.

Thinking of this made him think of Di Chen again. He shook his head to get the thought out of his mind. Tantai Xuan smiled and slowly savored the taste, appreciating the wine. She was unlike Qing Shui who just drank it all in a gulp, filling his mouth with the fragrance. It felt very good.

“This thing brings great benefits to the body. Ruyan, Miss Tantai, quickly drink up. I’ll fill up your cups,” Qing Shui smiled and said.

“Qing Shui, look, there’s so many people. This is unfair competition!” Yu Ruyan handed Qing Shui her cup and said, smiling.

“My blacksmith store is just for show. I’m not selling these for money.” Qing Shui shook his head and filled up Yu Ruyan’s cup while he said this.

“You’re doing this to find Sister Di Chen, right?” Yu Ruyan knew immediately.

“It’s not just that. I’m fishing!” Qing Shui smiled.

“Fishing? What are you fishing for?” Tantai Xuan was very puzzled.

“The fish is here!”

After saying this Yan Yangzhao walked in and said, “Brother, what wine is this? It’s so fragrant!”

“Hmm, Fairy Tantai?!” Yan Yangzhao said in surprise when he saw Tantai Xuan.

“Oh, it’s Young Master Yan!” Tantai Xuan smiled and said.

Qing Shui didn’t say anything. It seemed that Tantai Xuan had quite a bit of reputation in Yan City. However, those who knew her were probably people with high statuses. Although she wasn’t as strong as Yan Yangzhao, she had tremendous potential and had powerful backing. Putuo Mountain’s strength wasn’t something which Yan Clan could compare with. In Great Yu Dynasty, Putuo Mountain had an exceptional standing and was referred to as a sacred land.

They hadn’t met for a while and Tantai Xuan had grown a lot stronger. It was the case for Yu Ruyan as well. Qing Shui had a strong spiritual sense and he felt that Yu Ruyan must have taken some medicinal stuff or things like that.

Qing Shui also had medicinal items which were of high quality. It was just that he couldn’t find certain ingredients earlier. Some of them had yet to reach a sufficient age and thus, the medicinal pills which he could use were very low in number. Moreover, he had already used them.

It was different for large sects. They would have medicinal pills suitable for different phases and they might even have some unique martial techniques which could raise their cultivation level rapidly.

Tantai Xuan was astonished as well. She hadn’t expected Qing Shui to be addressing the young master from Yan Clan so quickly. It had only been a few days.

Qing Shui took out a cup, filled it with wine and passed it to him, “Brother, come have a taste. This is wine which I have made myself. I feel that it’s still acceptable.”

“It’s beyond acceptable. Just from the fragrance alone, I can tell that it’s a divine wine.” Yan Yangzhao was also astonished, not by Qing Shui’s wine but by Qing Shui’s relationship with Tantai Xuan. He knew that Miss Tantai had no past experiences of sitting down and drinking wine with other men.

Moreover, there was another lady who wouldn’t lose out to Tantai Xuan either. A beauty of her level wouldn’t lose out to his own younger sister. Suddenly, he felt that Qing Shui was someone he didn’t know at all!

A Chinese saying which has the meaning that no matter how good the wine, if it is located deep in an alley, no matter how fragrant it is, there would be people who wouldn’t be willing to spend the effort to look for it. It is used in modern days to indicate that no matter how good a product, if it isn’t well promoted and advertised, people would neither know about it nor would they take the effort and initiative to look for it.

Chapter 1157 - Four Kings Street, Extremely Positive Person, Plagued With Relationship Issues

Adding one more seat made it seem a little squished but everyone shifted backward a little and it was just nice. Yan Yangzhao picked up a cup and took a sip.

“Brother, this wine is the best that I’ve ever drunk. Tsk tsk, in terms of age, it might not be the longest but the wine itself is superb. It should bring great benefits to cultivators of all levels,” Yan Yangzhao said and took another sip. Such wines were extremely hard to come by.

“Look! It’s the young master from Yan Clan!”

“That’s right, Miss Yan just came by a few days ago!”

“Did you guys see how respectful Young Master Yan was toward that lady? Who is she?”

“He had addressed her as Fairy Tantai earlier. Only the people from the Sacred Land can be referred to as fairies. And they must be of quite a reputable standing. The only Sacred Land in Yan City should be Southern Sea’s Putuo Mountain!”

...

Qing Shui kept quiet. He hadn’t thought of making use of someone else’s reputation since it would be meaningless to him. However, he didn’t mind coming into contact with some people, like Yan Clan for example.

It was because even if he were to get stronger, he would still need a platform. This wasn’t something which Yan Clan could give him, but he would still need their help. Moreover, he had quite a good impression of Yan Yangzhao and it wasn’t a bad idea to make friends with him either.

Very quickly, the vat of Plum Blossom Wine was finished up by the four of them. They all felt as if they wished they could have more. However, even if Qing Shui were to bring out another vat, they wouldn’t drink anymore. It was because it would be a waste of such great wine for it to be just chugged down like that.

“I spent the whole night forging yesterday and connected the sword for you. You can take a look and see if you’re satisfied.” Qing Shui smiled, took out the Cloud Eruption Healing Sword and passed it to Yan Yangzhao.

When everyone saw the sword, they were all stunned by the aura on it. Qing Shui knew that they must have been affected by that warm spiritual Qi. This was the aura which could provide healing qualities.

Yan Yangzhao picked up the Cloud Eruption Healing Sword, channeled in his Qi and then looked at Qing Shui in surprise. “Brother, you really managed to fix it for me. I’ve brought this sword to many blacksmiths but none of them could do anything about it. My younger sister really has good judgment. I’m very satisfied with this sword. Although it can’t give me an additional life daily, it can give me another half a life.”

“I was just lucky. It’s good that you’re satisfied with it!” Qing Shui smiled and said before describing the capability of the sword. This was something which all powerful blacksmiths could do.

Tantai Xuan cast Qing Shui a strange look. She had been looking at Qing Shui ever since the mention of Miss Yan. Even her Master thought well of this guy. He seemed to know a lot of stuff and was highly skilled. She already knew that his cultivation level was high. The wine he made was the best she had ever drank; the meals he cooked could cause imperial chefs to die of shame; and it seemed that his forging ability was even better than those powerful blacksmiths.

“Brother, since you have the company of beauties today, then I shan’t disturb you. I’ll come to express my thanks to you again tomorrow,” Yan Yangzhao stood up and said, smiling.

“Brother, this is nothing much. If we’re brothers, then don’t be making a big deal out of it,” Qing Shui spoke calmly.

“Then... alright, I shan’t stand on ceremony then,” Yan Yangzhao said, waving his hand to bid goodbye to the two ladies and left.

“Qing Shui, are you busy here? If not, accompany us to go shopping. It’s rare that you can get a breather,” Yu Ruyan smiled and said.

“What’s there to be busy about? No matter how busy, I’d still have to accompany my wife,” Qing Shui chuckled.

Tantai Xuan smiled, speechless. She didn’t want to say anything now since she wouldn’t be able to get anything good out of it and might even end up getting teased by this guy.

She was a great beauty but was neglected time and time again. She didn’t care about this but still felt a little uncomfortable. This was an instinctive problem people tended to have.

The three of them headed out and they informed old man Wang on their way. The Divine Weapon Street was just right outside. The Firecloud Blacksmith Store was located in quite a decent location along the Divine Weapon Street but was just a little small. However, Qing Shui felt that the size of the shop didn’t really matter to him.

“Where shall we go? The Divine Weapon Street is filled with blacksmith stores and there’s nothing much to look at.” After they stepped out of the store, Qing Shui asked the two ladies.

“Let’s go to the Four Kings Street!” Tantai Xuan suggested.

“You’re the host, you call the shots. Just the name sounds quite special,” Qing Shui looked at Tantai Xuan and said.

“The Four Kings Street is quite a distance away from here. It’s better if you can bring us there. It’s about 10,000 Li to the north. The reason the street is called this name is because there are four great clans there who are considered to be powerful existences in the outer cities. Moreover, the four clans have political marriages and are on very good terms. They are considered to be the ones dominating the region.”

“Oh? Are there fun things in Four Kings Street? Could it be that your...” Qing Shui said with a teasing gaze.

“What are you talking about? The Four Kings Street is well-known for the wishing stone they have there. It’s said that if one were to make a wish there, the chances of having your wish fulfilled would be very high,” Tantai Xuan said, with slight annoyance.

Qing Shui didn’t expect that a lady like Tantai Xuan would like such things as well. He thought that only little girls would be interested in things like making wishes.

The three of them rose into mid-air and Qing Shui once again took Tantai Xuan's soft hands. Of course, he did the same for Yu Ruyan. The warmth from the two hands caused him to feel a little light-headed.

Yu Ruyan was his woman and holding her hand gave Qing Shui a warm feeling. It was just that Tantai Xuan's hand kept on trembling slightly and he even felt that she seemed to have a slight urge of wanting to pull back her hand.

She felt helpless about this too. This was the second time. Before they came to the four continents, this guy had already hugged her before. The more she thought about it, the stranger it felt. Toward this man who had helped her before, this man who had a persevering character, she didn't know how she felt about him. She didn't dislike him but neither did she like him either.

If there was a need to describe their relationship, it'd be acquaintances?

They should be considered friends. Yes, they are friends!

Nine Continents Steps!

This time around, the Nine Continents Steps only brought them 10,000 Li away. When they came to a stop, Qing Shui looked down, "Miss Tantai, do you see it?"

"We've arrived! It's over there!" Tantai Xuan wanted to point with her hand but realized that Qing Shui was still holding it.

"Shouldn't you be letting go already?" Tantai Xuan reminded Qing Shui.

"Oh, I just felt that it's quite comfortable to hold it," Qing Shui smiled and said but released her hand.

Tantai Xuan's beautiful gaze seemed a little surprised, but she didn't say anything. She took Yu Ruyan's hand and pointed to the wide street not far away from them, "It's over there."

Qing Shui rubbed his nose. The line he said earlier was much like a hooligan. He only felt that Tantai Xuan was very good to Yu Ruyan and thus subconsciously felt closer to this lady and eventually spoke out of line. That subconsciousness seemed to have caused him to treat Tantai Xuan as Yu Ruyan.

Yu Ruyan threw a weird glance at Qing Shui, causing him to feel a little uncomfortable.

He looked toward the street Tantai Xuan was pointing at. From the air, he could see that there was a large area which was the most prosperous and was also the widest street. The street was straight but no big carriages passed through there. There were only small luxurious horse carriages running through the middle. The two sides of the street were all pedestrians.

The three of them landed. Although they could see the Four Kings Street, they were in fact up to 100 Li away. They glided down diagonally toward the Four Kings Street's sky platform.

Wide streets here would all have a huge sky platform meant for flying beasts to land. Otherwise, if they were to land anywhere they pleased, they could cause a lot of chaos.

The three of them walked along the Four Kings Street, occasionally looking at the stores and stalls at the sides. Qing Shui kept a lookout to see if he could uncover some treasures here as well.

The wishing stone was in the middle of the Four Kings Street where there was a large pond. The stone was situated in the middle of the pond. Tantai Xuan had said that the wishing stone was actually a stone statue whom people said to be the statue of a female goddess. It was said that there was a big story behind it.

As they walked, Qing Shui looked to the two sides. However, he suddenly felt that he bumped into softness. The two ladies had stopped and it seemed as if they wanted to check out something. Qing Shui didn't notice and bumped into them.

And it just so happened that he had bumped into Tantai Xuan. Qing Shui felt very awkward now. Although the two ladies were wearing clothes which were slightly loose and their perky butts were covered up, when Qing Shui bumped into Tantai Xuan, he could clearly sense the well-roundedness. Tantai Xuan let out a soft cry and then turned back and glared at Qing Shui angrily.

"I'm sorry, I was looking at the things at the side and wasn't looking at where I was going..."

Qing Shui felt extremely awkward, because he realized that he already had a reaction from earlier. He knew that Tantai Xuan must have felt it. When hardness bumped into softness, the difference would be very obvious.

Qing Shui took a deep breath and let himself calm down.

Tantai Xuan now felt that she shouldn't have come today. She did see the self-reproach in Qing Shui's eyes and knew that he must have not done that intentionally. But this was beside the point.

Yu Ruyan threw another glance toward Qing Shui, smiled as she pulled Tantai Xuan, "Let's move on, the people around us are looking."

Qing Shui didn't dare to stand behind them anymore but stood diagonally behind them. It would still be fine if the one he had bumped into was Yu Ruyan but it had to be Tantai Xuan.

Qing Shui suddenly saw an old man who had set up a stall in a remote corner. The warm sunlight shining down on him made him appear especially amiable.

The old man was dressed in ragged clothes, his eyes closed, as if he was asleep. He looked very amiable and even the wrinkles on his face seemed to be very relaxed. This was what that had made Qing Shui astonished.

No matter how high spirited and how outstanding a person was, he would have his own downs, worries and troubles. However, when he saw this old man, Qing Shui realized that he was an extremely optimistic person.

Just from this point alone, Qing Shui knew that the old man was definitely not simple.

There wasn't anyone at the old man's stall. Qing Shui held back Yu Ruyan, called out to Tantai Xuan and headed in the direction where the old man was.

"Qing Shui, what's wrong," Yu Ruyan asked, doubtfully.

"Let's go check out a stall together," Qing Shui smiled and said.

It was only when he had reached it that Qing Shui realized that the old man was selling wooden figurines. There were also many which weren't made of wood but these wooden figurines weren't considered exquisite. Even if someone dropped one in the middle of the street, no one would pick it up.

Just then, the old man opened his pair of kind and amiable looking eyes. Even his ragged clothes couldn't hide the old man's calming aura. In that moment, it felt as if no matter how luxuriously dressed a person was or how reputable he might be, the person wouldn't stand out at all before this old man. This was a bizarre feeling, a spiritual feeling.

Looking at this old man would make one feel at ease and all troubles would be forgotten. When the old man saw Qing Shui, his eyes also lit up. The old man then looked at the two ladies behind Qing Shui.

"Young man, you have a respectable life but you're plagued by relationship issues. Don't forcibly try to control it. If it's meant to be, you won't be able to push it away; if it's not meant to be, you won't be able to keep it by your side."

Chapter 1158 - Joyous Sage, Strength Infusion, The Wishing Goddess Statue

The old man spoke suddenly. Qing Shui was taken aback, especially at his words. He looked at the old man in amazement. Regardless if the old man was an expert or if he was a diviner, it didn't matter anymore because he felt that these words were very useful to him.

He had already thought about what to do in the future back then but now, he felt as if his opinion on this matter had been approved by someone else. He smiled at the old man, "Old Man, how should I address you?"

"I call myself the Joyous Sage but everyone else calls me a lunatic. Little Brother, do you think I am a lunatic?" the old man answered, he seemed to be particularly happy.

"It is said that geniuses are all lunatics and experts are all lunatics too. Experts are people whom ordinary people will never understand. Otherwise, anyone can be an expert. Old Man, I think you are definitely a sage." Qing Shui didn't know what he felt either when he said this. He was very serious but was also casually saying it at the same time.

"Hmm, young man, it seems like we will get along well. Alright then, we shall be friends, if you are willing to, Little Brother," the old man laughed heartily.

"I couldn't ask for more, Old Man....."

"Why don't you call me Brother from now on? Calling me that feels too strange. We are friends in spite of the difference in our ages." The old man looked at Qing Shui with a smile.

"Then I shall stop being courteous, Brother." This was a little beyond Qing Shui's belief. After all, they were going to address one another in great familiarity despite having just met. On top of that, there was also a huge age gap between them. Even so, he seemed to be thinking that this would be interesting but also seemed to be serious.

"Hahaha, that's more like it. This old man is very happy today. Brother has nothing good to give you, so I'll grant you a little fortune!" The old man casually reached out and placed his forefinger on the top of Qing Shui's head.

It was only now Qing Shui realized the terrifying strength of the old man because for that instant, his body couldn't budge even an inch. However, he had a feeling that the old man wouldn't harm him. Very soon enough, a wave of miraculous energy was channeled into his body and the next thing he knew, his entire body felt as if it was being filled with Qi.

Strength Infusion!

To his surprise, it turned out to be Strength Infusion. In legend, only powerful cultivators could use their life essence to perform Strength Infusion for someone else. This could directly enhance one's cultivation. However, this kind of Strength Infusion was particularly expensive to one's true origin energy and could even lower the user's cultivation. Other than people who were about to die, the ones that had this ability would only perform Strength Infusion on their juniors. However, the amount of strength that could be absorbed would all depend on each individual's aptitude and fortune.

This old man actually performed Strength Infusion on him? Qing Shui felt like everything was too good to be true. He was also mostly puzzled.

BAM!

It was as if a furnace had exploded within his body. The miraculous energy of the old man gushed forth directly from Tianling acupoint into the dantian of his body. However, it was obstructed by the Nine Continents Mountain of his dantian instead.

But it was able to only withstand a few impacts before there was an explosion within his dantian. A wave of intense warm current circulated within his body. This was the divine force within his own body. Qing Shui was hit by a surprise next. There were some changes in the Nine Continents Mountain once again.

Although it didn't have any changes in its appearance, the Nine Continent Mountain in his dantian appeared to be heavier and more majestic. The domineering aura that it exuded had become even more powerful than before. It made one feel like the Sky Penetrating Mountains were towering before them.

It felt just like how the Nine Continents Mountain acknowledged him as its owner back then.

Qing Shui sensed it, a look of extreme surprise then appeared on his face. The Nine Continents Mountain had leveled up.

Sacred Object of Heaven and Earth, the Nine Continents Mountain, treasure type. The condensation of pure stones between Heaven and Earth that formed after absorbing the power essence of the sun and moon over countless years. Treasure of Sacred Spirit Grade. Successfully refined.

An increase of two nimbus (one nimbus is equivalent to 10,000 stars of strength) of physical strength and 10,000 stars of spirit energy. With its current twofold of strength and twofold of speed to knockback and attack, its attack carried the Shield Attack energy. It could move with spirit energy, controlled by his will! It could level up!

In terms of the original foundation, this is equivalent to increasing one nimbus of physical strength. However, Qing Shui was a little disappointed that the Nine Continents Mountain was still attacking with twofold strength and twofold speed. He wondered if it would continue in upgrading to threefold or fourfold.

Not only that, there were also some changes in the nebula in his sea of consciousness. It had doubled in size. The spirit energy it held also became thicker. This was only a change in his reserves, it didn't increase the strength again.

The old man had already retracted his hand and was looking at Qing Shui. "Not bad, Brother. The destiny of these two girls will intertwine with yours in the future," he chuckled.

As soon as the old man finished speaking, he ignored the strange looks that the two ladies were giving him and reached out with both of his hands to point on the top of the ladies' heads without direct contact. This time, Qing Shui saw that pure living aura. The Origin Qi, Divine Energy, True Origin Qi and others within the body were like oil but what the Old Man channeled in was like fiery stars. It ignited the functions of the body and unlocked the potentials within that body.

After about only seven minutes, the two ladies immediately bowed towards the old man. "Thank you, Old Master!"

The old man didn't say anything further. He looked at Qing Shui. "You still have a very long journey ahead of you. We will meet again in the future."

"Brother, you are leaving?" Qing Shui stared at the old man in surprise. To be honest, he was a little reluctant to part with such a powerful figure. Furthermore, he was clueless about everything here and didn't know anything. He only knew this old man who called himself the Joyous Sage.

"That's right. I have already made plans to settle some things long ago, so I am leaving tomorrow. I didn't expect to meet you here today, Brother. This is probably the work of fate. Rest assured, we will meet again in the future." The extremely positive old man laughed happily.

"Well then, let me treat you to some wine, Brother!"

"Brother, you are being too courteous. The bond between brothers comes from the heart!" The joyous old man shook his head.

"Fine then, I shall stop being courteous with you, Brother. At least it's not too much to be giving Brother some gifts, right?" Qing Shui shoved an Interspatial Silk Sachet into the old man's arms.

The old man looked at the Interspatial Silk Sachet and then nodded with a smile!

Qing Shui had stashed quite a lot of wine in the Interspatial Silk Sachet. He felt that these were the only things that were most suitable and were at least decent enough to be gifts.

The old man sent Qing Shui and the two ladies off. When Qing Shui and the two ladies were quite some distance away, the old man watched after Qing Shui's disappearing silhouette. The smile on his face remained.

Qing Shui and the two ladies still felt slightly muddle-headed. Everything seemed like a dream. However, the tremendous strengths currently in their bodies told them otherwise.

The aptitudes of the two ladies were extraordinary. Compared to them, Qing Shui had gotten greater benefits from the Strength Infusion this time. The current strength of Tantai Xuan was approximately 400 nimbus, while Yu Ruyan had actually attained 100 nimbus. It was evident that the power of Strength Infusion was indeed formidable.

For the old man to perform Strength Infusion, his cultivation would be lowered. This was also the fact that Qing Shui and the two ladies couldn't wrap their heads around. Why would he make such sacrifice for people whom he had met for the first time? Everything that had happened was simply too unimaginable.

The two ladies were portrayed on the Portraits of Beauty. For Yu Ruyan in particular, her increase in strength was the most terrifying among all of them. She had asked Qing Shui a few times if all this was true and if her strength would vanish when she woke up the next day. Qing Shui could understand her uncertainties too well.

Even Qing Shui felt as if this was all a dream himself, let alone the two ladies. This Strength Infusion had immediately leveled up his Nine Continents Mountain. A seeming increase of one nimbus of physical strengths turned out to be eight nimbus in actuality. Overall, that was about 100 nimbus of increase in total. For Nine Continents Mountain, that was an increase of more than 200 nimbus.

But these were not all the benefits because there were also some changes in that nebula in his sea of consciousness. Qing Shui believed that it would allow his strength to be increased once again very soon.

Compared to Qing Shui, the increment in the two ladies' strengths could be described as terrifying. This made Qing Shui have a feeling that this had some relation to one's aptitude and constitution. The Strength Infusion this time had increased Tantai Xuan's strength a few times. How terrifying. The most terrifying one was Yu Ruyan. It could be said that she had soared up into the sky with one step. Otherwise, she wouldn't be repeatedly asking Qing Shui if everything had been real.

Regardless, this was pure fortune. The three of them continued walking in the direction of the Wishing Stone. Qing Shui was actually pondering about one question on the entire journey. The two ladies' strengths were all increased a few times or even tens of times while the increase in his strength seemed to be a little too pitiful. Did this mean that his aptitude, skeleton, constitution and perception were inferior to the two ladies?

But he was able to deny it very quickly. He felt that his perception wasn't any weaker than them. As for constitution, he possessed the Nine Yang Golden Body. Then why was his increment in strength that little?

Yu Ruyan's strength was the weakest among them, yet she received the most increment in strength out of them all. Although Tantai Xuan's strength had been increased by quite a lot, it was still a lot less than Yu Ruyan. In addition, his strength was also increased by a lot less than Tantai Xuan.

"Hmm, Strength Infusion is the direct channeling of strength. After comparing the amount that we have absorbed, the Old Man probably channeled more than 100 nimbus of energy," Qing Shui conjectured.

Strength Infusion could unlock potentials. Yu Ruyan was weak in strength, but she possessed the Divine Body and had great potential within her. Hence, her strength was suddenly increased tremendously. Even so, there was still a limiting factor. That would be how much potential in strength the old man's Strength Infusion could unlock.

Following that line of logic, Qing Shui knew that this had nothing to do with his aptitude or innate talents but his strength instead. After all, the feelings of 10 nimbus being increased to 100 nimbus,

about more than 200 nimbus to 400 nimbus and 1,200 nimbus to more than 1,400 nimbus were different.

In comparison, it was still Qing Shui who had gotten the greatest increase in strength. However, Yu Ruyan, who got the least increase, looked like she had the most increment among them instead.

Qing Shui felt more assured after he figured all this out. Soon enough, the Wishing Stone appeared up ahead within their sight. Most people were gathered here. There was an enormous pond in this area and artificial mountains in the pond. There were also stone steps and stone bridges that extended towards the center of the pond. A gigantic stone statue stood in the midst of the pond.

“Qing Shui, look, that’s the Wishing Goddess Statue!” Yu Ruyan pointed at the stone statue in the center and exclaimed.

There were many people standing around the stone statue with their eyes closed in the surroundings. Their lips were slightly moving, as if mumbling something. But of course, there were also some who only had their eyes shut with their palms put together, as if in prayer.

“Qing Shui, let’s go over there and make a wish too! It’s very effective!” Yu Ruyan pulled Qing Shui with one hand and Tantai Xuan with her other hand as they made their way to the front of the Goddess statue.

Qing Shui watched the woman who was pulling him. There was another hint of a delicate girl within her maturity. Her kingdom-toppling beauty appeared even more beautiful and alluring right now. Watching her gave him a sense of contentment in his heart.

Since they were here, they might as well make a wish. It was a blessing for one to have wishes. As long as one had wishes, they would feel extremely blessed when they came true. Just like him, if he could find Di Chen or unite the entire clan together or find that man or find that woman who was in the crystal coffin.....

These were all his wishes. He looked towards Yu Ruyan. “Ruyan, can I make multiple wishes?”

Chapter 1159 - There’s a Portrait of Beauty Within the Wishing Goddess Statue? Soul Capture

Tantai Xuan and Yu Ruyan were startled when they saw Qing Shui’s serious expression. They were quite amused. There wasn’t any rule on this but people would normally make one wish, which was their most important wish. Making ‘many wishes’ would just be making more than one wish.

“A sincere heart is vital for wishes. Do you think you have a sincere heart?” Tantai Xuan smiled and looked at Qing Shui.

Qing Shui was taken aback. That was right. He actually didn’t take wishing seriously. That would mean he wasn’t really that sincere about it. If there was no sincerity, what was the point in making any wishes?

“Forget it, I think I’m going to pass on wishing,” Qing Shui said after reconsidering.

“Come on, Qing Shui. Just make one wish then, alright? Don’t you wish to be able to meet Sister Di Chen soon?” Yu Ruyan pulled Qing Shui.

“Alright, alright. I’ll listen to you!” Qing Shui tried his best to be sincere. He looked at that Goddess Statue and made his wish.

After making his wish, Qing Shui opened his eyes and they happened to meet the statue’s eyes. A wave of strange sensation rose up all of a sudden and the next thing he knew, his spiritual sense became a blur.

He appeared in the midst of a boundless grassy plain. There were powerful flying demonic beasts flying in the skies here and also powerful demonic beasts on land. Each and every one of them were about the size of a mountain.

“Oh, Alpha Dragon species!”

Qing Shui saw that there were some Alpha Dragon species among them, Diamond Berserk Dragon Beast and Golden Eyed Tiger King Dragon. Alpha Dragon species contained more than 30% Dragon Bloodline within their body. Historical books had recorded that dragons were also categorized into many species and even specific categories. For instance, dragons without claws, two-clawed, four-clawed, five-clawed..... and also the legendary nine-clawed.

Dragons were usually different in color for each species. There were white, black, green, blue, gold and red dragons.....

As for which was the most powerful, it all depended on its bloodline. Every species had their own emperors that possessed the most noble bloodline. Although Qing Shui stood here and didn’t see any dragons, it was still extremely amazing for him to see a few Alpha Dragon species.

Most of them here were Ancient Gigantic Beasts and Ancient Desolate Beasts. Some of them were fighting each other, some were fleeing.....

Just then, many cultivators appeared in midair. These cultivators were at least of the State Master level. They were fighting against the demonic beasts. Sword Qi was going back and forth in the air and they were endlessly unleashing all kinds of trump cards. Beastly roars and the sharp swooshing noises in the air were constantly heard.

ROAR!

All of a sudden, a gigantic roar rang out or perhaps he should say a dragon’s cry. This could be considered the most realistic dragon’s cry Qing Shui had ever heard. He lifted his head to look and witnessed a stunning scene.

There was a gigantic demonic beast. From its head to its tail, it was no less than 1,000 meters long. It had two horns on its head that resembled the head of a jiao but Qing Shui was sure that this was definitely a dragon. It was a pure gigantic green colored dragon. It had four claws on its feet and it exuded an earth-shattering pressure. It moved and the way it moved amazed Qing Shui.....

Qing Shui realized that he actually couldn’t move even an inch under this wave of pressure. As expected of a dragon. Its impressiveness was enough to make one prostrate themselves in worship. Perhaps this was because he had finally seen the mythical beast that he had only seen in paintings before. In here, it was only a demonic beast. The king among the demonic beasts...

Roar!

The gigantic green colored dragon had a pair of eyes, that were no smaller than the size of a pavilion, which exuded supreme pressure. With a thundering roar, it breathed out something akin to 'water vapor' that hid the sky and covered the earth like clouds in the skies. The entire sky turned hazy, despite its height in here...

The powerful demonic beasts that passed by below couldn't even put up any resistance in time as they all instantly turned into ashes.....

It was a stunning scene. In his consciousness, green dragon was a water species. He wasn't sure how much killing power it possessed. However, it was only now that he realized that water vapor, cold ice and low temperature icy mist were all water related. Just like the water vapor earlier, that was of the most terrifyingly low temperature. When it hit a certain coldness in temperature, it would be the same as fire and able to 'destroy' everything like it could.

Qing Shui suddenly saw something astounding. There was actually a silhouette on top of the gigantic green colored dragon. This dragon was too enormous. A person would be extremely tiny standing on top of a 1,000 meter long dragon. Besides, he didn't even think about who could tame such a formidable demonic beast earlier...

Qing Shui had very good vision, yet he couldn't get a clear look. Even so, he could identify that it was a woman due to that exquisite and delicate physique. Her face was hidden as if she was wearing a conical bamboo hat.

Qing Shui's silhouette shook all of a sudden as he disappeared from there. He then heard the two ladies shouting at him. He shook his head, feeling as though there were some changes in his body. But he couldn't be bothered to sense it right now. He glanced towards the two ladies and saw Yu Ruyan's worried expression.

"What happened to you? You didn't respond at all to us calling out to you. You have been wishing for 15 minutes already..."

"Errm, I suddenly thought of something....."

The two ladies were speechless.

How could he space out when he was making his wish...

Qing Shui had a realization again within his heart right now. That was a realization that awakened after seeing the figure of that gigantic green colored dragon and its attack. Qing Shui stared at the Goddess statue in the middle. Right now, he felt that this Goddess statue really seemed to be alive.

But he didn't understand why something like this would happen. Then, he was hit by a sudden realization. "There's a Portrait of Beauty within the statue....."

This was only a feeling. The eyes he saw earlier were probably the eyes on the Portrait of Beauty. Qing Shui was startled by his own conjecture. He had probably communicated with the consciousness of the lady in the Portrait of Beauty and saw those scenes. This was the most logical explanation.

Qing Shui had never thought of having all the twelve Portraits of Beauty in his possession because he felt that it was a difficult task to achieve. It required too much fortune. But now, he had a feeling that perhaps he could really find all the twelve Portraits of Beauty. It was as if everything had been planned in the dark.

“Don’t tell me I have to smash this Goddess Statue?” Qing Shui wasn’t entirely sure that there was indeed a Portrait of Beauty within this statue. This was merely his conjecture.

It would have been fine if he had to smash an ordinary statue but this one was the Wishing Goddess Statue. If he really smashed it, he wondered how many people would come after him for his life. He reckoned that some powerful cultivators of the Four Kings Street wouldn’t let him get away with that!

“Then should I get it out?” Qing Shui was in a great dilemma right now. Now that he had found it, he really didn’t want to give up just like that. Now that he had also discovered the secret behind the Portraits of Beauty, he didn’t want to give up on it even more.

Telepathic communication. He had already received benefits from the earlier experience. This even further solidified his intention.

He thought about the quality of the Portraits of Beauty. He wondered if it was exceptionally durable because it was made of beast leather. Although he had never tried to intentionally ‘destroy’ the Portraits of Beauty, he knew that these Portraits of Beauty were fireproof and waterproof. They probably wouldn’t be scratched by ordinary knives or swords either.

“I want to retrieve something. Both of you leave first and wait for me at the other side!” Qing Shui told the two ladies.

“I don’t know what you want to retrieve but I’m guessing that it has something to do with this Wishing Goddess Statue. I hope you won’t destroy the things here. Otherwise, you will definitely be chased for your life, probably by many people.” Tantai Xuan frowned at Qing Shui.

Qing Shui looked at this intelligent woman and shook his head. “Don’t worry. No one will know it was me.”

“You are really going to destroy the Wishing Goddess Statue!?” Tantai Xuan stared at Qing Shui strangely.

“Maybe not. If I can retrieve it without breaking it, then I won’t destroy it. But if I can’t retrieve it, then destroying it is the only way,” Qing Shui laughed.

“Qing Shui, what is it? Is it very important?” Yu Ruyan asked with a frown.

“Probably very important. Rest assured, I won’t be reckless. Listen to me and wait for me there. Maybe nothing will happen.” Qing Shui urged the two ladies.

“Sigh, I’m still hoping that you won’t destroy it. Otherwise, you can only flee to the other end of the world,” Tantai Xuan reminded him once again.

This also made Qing Shui think twice as he grew reluctant. In any case, he knew that there might be one portrait here and there was no hurry for him to retrieve it. Maybe he’d just give it a try. If he could get it

out then it'd be fine. If he was left with no other choice but to destroy the Goddess statue, then he could wait and come back to get it again in the future!

This time, Qing Shui looked upon the Goddess statue once again. He let his heart immerse into his sea of consciousness as he had the two ladies shielding him, preventing others from distracting him.

When his heart was immersed into his sea of consciousness, his body jolted. The nebula within his sea of consciousness immediately dispersed. A wave of boundless energy exploded within his body.

It had already reached its boundary when the old man helped him by performing the Strength Infusion earlier. The 'telepathic communication' earlier had a direct impact on his sea of consciousness and this instantly caused a tremendous change within it.

The nebula suddenly dispersed as its numbers also increased by tens of times. That burst of boundless spirit energy stirred Qing Shui. He couldn't be bothered by the amount of his current strength right now. Instead, he instantly used his Qi to bind the statue.

Soul Capture!

This was a type of spiritual secret technique. It was a rare record in the introduction to spirit energy, however there were very few people who cultivated this. Putting aside the fact that it had a very slim success rate, it was ineffective against cultivators of the same level or more powerful cultivators.

Soul Capture wasn't as powerful as its name suggested. This kind of Soul Capture only had weakening effects towards human cultivators. What was the point in weakening someone with lower strength than yourself? It could also be used to weaken demonic beasts, as if absorbing their souls. This could be used against demonic beasts of any level, though the success rate was lower than 1%.

This was the reason why not many cultivators would cultivate this spiritual secret technique that had such an awesome name. Qing Shui had always believed that there were no useless battle techniques, only unsuitable ones. He had abundance of time, so he cultivated it when he had nothing better to do. It was a pity that he had basically never used it.

The reason why he had persisted in the cultivation was because cultivating Soul Capture could slowly raise one's spirit energy. This was probably the motivation behind Qing Shui's persistence.

He had a feeling that this statue probably enshrined the Portrait of Beauty as Goddess or a soul within it. He wanted to try to see if he could use Soul Capture to get the Portrait of Beauty out. That way, he wouldn't need to destroy this divine statue.

Soul Capture!

Qing Shui squinted his eyes. Green colored aura that only Qing Shui himself could see shot out and it directly entered the Goddess statue through her eyes.

Serenity!

There was no reaction. It failed!

Qing Shui wasn't surprised. It was within his expectations. Even though there was some success rate, the failure rate was still very high. Besides, the possibility of getting the Portrait of Beauty from the stone statue through Soul Capture was still unknown.

Soul Capture...

A failure.....

Qing Shui kept trying again and again but was met with failures. He understood that the hope of this succeeding was extremely slim from the start, so he was treating this as a practice for Soul Capture. It would be most ideal if he could retrieve it. If he couldn't, then he'd have to think of other ways.

Soul Capture...

His failures continued on. Qing Shui was already growing numb while he kept using Soul Capture over and over again like a machine. Many people had already noticed them. After all, with two women that were as beautiful as immortals standing there, it was hard to not draw any attention.

Pu!

A sound rang out faintly. There was a wonderful feeling in his sea of consciousness. He glanced towards the stone statue again and realized that the sensation he felt earlier was actually gone.

It succeeded?

Chapter 1160 - The Tenth Portrait of Beauty, The Younger Generation of the Four King Aristocrat Clan.

It was a success?

Qing Shui was dumbfounded. He opened both of his eyes and sensed his sea of consciousness. When his spiritual sense scanned through the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal, he discovered a scroll of a painting on the ground within the realm.

I only took one glance for him to confirm that this was the Portrait of Beauty. It was the tenth Portrait of Beauty. Furthermore, this scroll inside the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal was opened. The woman in the painting instantly shocked Qing Shui.

The lady in the painting was fully dressed in palace attire, her soft and silky hair draped over her shoulders. Her face was like the masterpiece of heaven and as translucent as jade. At the same time, the vigor of the brushstrokes that painted this Portrait of Beauty caused Qing Shui to sigh in amazement. Although he was currently at the level of drawing bones, he still felt that he was significantly inferior. After all, the level of drawing bones was also divided into different sub-levels.

The woman in the painting had a graceful figure. He could already feel that elegant and refined figure from the portrait alone. Qing Shui's level of drawing bones still hadn't achieved these heights. Her beautiful eyes were as beautiful as poems and paintings. They were as majestic as the starry skies and exuded an impressive aura from the inside out.

She was like the bright moon in the sky. The expression on her face was very calm, yet it exuded a pressure that was akin to the seas and the blue dome of heaven. Her palace attire made her appear a

little closer to an ordinary human. Even so, the air of nobility that surrounded her was still extremely overwhelming.

From just the painting alone, Qing Shui could already sense that the strength of this woman was indescribably terrifying through her bones and the aura she exuded. He stared at this painting in a daze. After awhile, Qing Shui's mind was once again blown.

That was because the figure of this lady on the painting actually overlapped with the lady who rode on the gigantic green dragon he saw earlier. They perfectly overlapped each other. Qing Shui knew that he wouldn't make a mistake on this because both her grace and bones overlapped with each other. There was no way he would be mistaken about this.

Judging from her palace attire, she was probably one of the people from the dynasty. On top of that, she could control dragons. This kind of ability wasn't possessed by just anyone from the dynasty. She was probably at least from a Grade Four Dynasty.

There seemed to be only two Grade Four Dynasties among the Western Oxhe Continent. They were absolute chiefs of the Western Oxhe Continent. A sect of the same level probably existed. Otherwise, the sects in Western Oxhe Continent would definitely be oppressed.

Since he had gotten his hands on the Portrait of Beauty, this meant that he had successfully accomplished his objective. However, Qing Shui was a little puzzled. In the situation just now, he didn't get to interact with the woman on the gigantic dragon at all. Could this be due to the fact that this Portrait of Beauty wasn't in the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal?

Qing Shui who had just snapped back to reality opened his eyes. He was looking at the two slightly worried ladies. He knew what they were worried about, so he assured them with a smile. "Don't worry, I won't lay a finger on this statue. After all, I've made a wish too."

The two ladies had an obvious look of disbelief on their faces. However, since Qing Shui assured them that he wouldn't destroy the Goddess statue, they were able to finally breathe a sigh of relief in their hearts. Besides, by the looks of it, they reckoned that Qing Shui had probably retrieved what he wanted.

"Qing Shui, you got what you needed?" Yu Ruyan smilingly asked while looking at the relaxed expression on Qing Shui's face.

"Yup!"

"What is it? It seems like you're really in a good mood. Do you mind telling us?" Yu Ruyan could sense the way Qing Shui had told them earlier about getting something out from within the Goddess statue that. It was probably not something that was inconvenient for him to share.

"It's the soul of this Goddess statue." Qing Shui said in an especially serious tone.

The two ladies were surprised before they laughed, looking at Qing Shui. Yu Ruyan rolled her eyes at him. "You only know how to spout nonsense. Let's go. We've already made our wish. Let's go explore other places!"

The three of them weren't too far off from the Wishing Stone before they found themselves being surrounded by a group of people. These people weren't that old in age. The oldest one among them

only had the appearance of a middle-aged man. Even so, each and every one of them were wearing extremely luxurious clothing.

There were four men that appeared to be considerably youthful at the front. The one in the middle was wearing a crimson robe. It had a gigantic sword embroidered on it and looked extremely domineering. The remaining three had a broadsword, gigantic hammer and spear embroidered on their robes.....

Qing Shui was startled and glanced towards Tantai Xuan.

“They are the people from the Four Kings Aristocrat Clan of the Four Kings Street!” Tantai Xuan said with a frown.

“Brother Xu, it must be fate to be able to meet such gorgeous beauties. Are you interested?” The tall and burly man with a gigantic sword embroidered on his clothes chuckled.

It was as if the people in surroundings had instantly vanished at their appearance. There was not even a single person to be seen within 100 meters around them and they were not that far away from the Wishing Stone. The area became quite spacious. But it was also evident how domineering these people were...

“These women are indeed very beautiful. However, women are sources of calamity. Brother She, do you think we are able to devour them?” the man with a spear embroidery said. He had a lanky figure and his eyes shone.

“Brother Pi, the Four Kings Street is definitely considered to be the most powerful entity in the outer city. If us, the Four Kings Aristocrat Clan, link hands, we will be a rope. Do you think there is still anything we can’t devour in this area?” the man with the gigantic sword embroidery said haughtily.

Their voices weren’t that loud, but they traveled clearly into Qing Shui’s ears. He couldn’t help frowning and then looked at the two ladies who had similar frowns on their faces.

“Is the Four Kings Aristocrat Clan very powerful?” Qing Shui asked Tantai Xuan.

“The Four Kings Aristocrat Clan could be considered a powerful being in the outer city of Yan City. Most importantly, they have some connections to the Black Wind Mountain.” Tantai Xuan looked at Qing Shui and explained.

“The Black Wind Mountain (黑风山)? How is it compared to the Putuo Mountain?”

“The Black Wind Mountain is a Grade Two Sect. On the surface, it is about equal with the Putuo Mountain.” Tantai Xuan looked at the people from the Four Kings Aristocrat Clan who were drawing nearer to them.

Qing Shui’s heart sank. He was hoping that he could pressure them with the Putuo Mountain. By the look of things, he wasn’t sure if it would still be effective.

However, these people were all the younger generation of the Four Kings Aristocrat Clan. In addition, the Black Wind Mountain only had connections to the Four Kings Aristocrat Clan. Unlike Tantai Xuan, she was Fairy Tantai of the Putuo Mountain. She had an honorable position.

Qing Shui stood in front of the two ladies as they watched these people quietly. The person across him had said earlier that the women behind him were sources of calamity. To be honest, Qing Shui shared the same feeling. There were many times that women basically spelled trouble for him.

There are only two kinds of people in this world - man and woman. Human are animals that desire food and sex. When they lead an easy and comfortable life, their lust will surface to a certain extent. This was the only entertainment the profligate sons of aristocratic clans had.

“Who are you all? Among such a big crowd, I saw you all in just a single glance. This must be fate!” The man with a gigantic sword embroidery said with a smile.

“It doesn’t matter who we are. You all are from the Four Kings Aristocrat Clan, right? Let me give you all a reminder - there are some people whom you can’t afford to offend.” Qing Shui knew that he mustn’t show his weakness in front of these people. These people were very arrogant. If he wanted to push them down, then the only way was to be more arrogant than them.

Qing Shui didn’t have any plans to fight with these people right now. His own group could still handle this group of people before his eyes. But if the experts from the Four Kings Aristocrat Clan came chasing, they could only flee and things might even get troublesome.

The man with the spear embroidery frowned. He looked at Qing Shui seriously and then at the two ladies behind him. It was a known fact that the class of the women by the side of a man was an indicator of a man’s status. These profligate sons weren’t actually worthless as they were aware of the benefits of strength. Hence, even though they were from a wealthy clan, they didn’t abandon their cultivation. On top of that, they were also the leading figures among the younger generation of their clan.

They knew that powerful strength was necessary if they wanted to be truly profligate. In their youth, their clans would support them because they were the hopes of their clan. But they’d have to rely on themselves in the future. Hence, cultivation was of utmost importance. Otherwise, even their clans might abandon them.

Regardless, Qing Shui’s words had given them some worries in their hearts. For him to be able to still say something like this despite being in the Four Kings Street and knowing that they were part of the Four Kings Aristocrat Clan, he must have someone to rely on.

“Haha, we are not looking for trouble, Brother. We only felt that our encounter is a fateful. Isn’t it better for us to be friends? My name is Wang Xu, this is Wang She, he is Wang Pi and this is Wang Shi. How shall we address you and the two ladies, Brother?” the man with a gigantic sword embroidery laughed heartily.

The man said, while making the introductions. He also extended his hand out to Qing Shui with a smile. This was a friendly gesture.

Qing Shui smiled. “I’ll pass on making friends. We are only passing through here. Strangers come together by chance. There’s no need to know someone whom we have met by chance.”

While speaking, he reached out to shake the man’s hand with a smile. Qing Shui knew that if he didn’t let them know his cultivation and push them down, he reckoned that it would be very difficult for him to get out from here peacefully.

The moment their palms were clasped together, Qing Shui felt a wave of incisive Qi channeling into his meridian. Qing Shui didn't counterattack. Although these people had decent strength, there was still some disparity between their strength and Qing Shui's strength. Not to mention, Qing Shui's cultivation arts were domineering.

He activated the Seven-colored Pellet. The incisive Qi aura that entered Qing Shui's body was instantly melted away. On the other hand, Wang Xu felt that it was as though his Origin Qi was like a stone dropped into the sea.....

Qing Shui used the Roc's Might to cohere with his Qi aura in his entire body and unleashed it towards the man standing in front of him. The man's entire body turned weak, as if about to kneel down by the pressure pressing down on him.

Wang Xu struggled hard against it but his legs were gradually bending down. Right now, he was the only one who could feel this. At least now, he knew how troublesome this man could be and also believed his earlier words.

The man was about to give up and kneel down. Although unwilling, he was already powerless. Just then, the heavy sensation suddenly lifted from his body. That pressure vanished without a trace. He lifted his head up and looked at Qing Shui somewhat thankfully.

Qing Shui loosened his grip. "Alright, we'll see each other again if it is the will of fate. A man has to rely on himself. It is not safe to rely on the others or outsiders. Those are but a temporary reliance."

When Qing Shui finished speaking, he held Yu Ruyan's hand. He hesitated for a moment before holding Tantai Xuan's hand too and left immediately. Wang Xu and the rest watched as Qing Shui left but didn't say anything else. The expression on Wang Xu's face was neither pleasant nor unpleasant. It just looked especially conflicted.

"Brother Xu, we are going to let them go just like this?"

"This man is very formidable. He can't be stopped even with all of us ganging up on him. You think we can call the seniors in our clan for this kind of thing? Besides, he's right too. A man has to rely on his own ability." Wang Xu watched the retreating figures of Qing Shui and the two ladies.

"You can let me go now, right?!" Tantai Xuan didn't even know what to feel when she said this. She had let this man taken advantage of her again and again, although she understood that it was an expedient measure earlier. She recalled the words of that Joyous Sage. He said that his destiny would intertwine with hers.....

"Ohhh, I'm sorry. Not going to happen again next time....."

Qing Shui hurriedly let go of her, but he was still holding Yu Ruyan's jade-like hand.

"Let us leave here first!" Yu Ruyan interrupted the two.

They used the Nine Continents Steps on their way back. Qing Shui had just said he 'won't do it again' earlier and those words seemed to still linger by the side of his ears. But once again, he was holding Tantai Xuan's soft hand right now.....

In the blink of an eye, they had returned to somewhere around the Divine Weapon Street. They then went towards the manor they had bought. It was about mid afternoon by now, so Qing Shui decided against visiting the Firecloud Blacksmith Store.

“Ruyan, both of you stay here for a few days this time!”

Tantai Xuan’s body jolted as she recalled the incident last time. The expression on her face instantly turned extremely unnatural.