

Ancient ST 1181

Chapter 1181 - The Other Four Names, Reserves? Arrival of People from Yu Clan and the Royal Family

Qing Shui had just finished his morning practice when he saw Yan Yangchi and the others coming. This time around, there seemed to be slightly more people than previously.

“You’ve come out from your seclusion. How does it feel? Shall we have a meal together?” Qing Shui smiled and greeted them.

“That’s the reason why we’ve come. It has been almost a month since we last had the food you made. Just thinking about it makes us feel excited.” Yan Yangchen grinned.

“Mmm, Brother Qing Shui, your cultivation level is now unfathomable!” Yan Yangchi looked at Qing Shui and said seriously, smiling.

Yan Yangchi’s words caused everyone to look at Qing Shui seriously. Many of them weren’t able to tell the depth of Qing Shui’s prowess at first glance. He would just appear to be like an ordinary person. This was what was strange.

Amongst them, Yan Yangchi was the strongest. In great aristocratic clans, even one like Yan Clan, one would already be considered a topnotch existence to become a Grade Two State Master before one reached 100 years old. And this was when the person had received the clan’s legacy. Otherwise, this would be something that was hard to imagine.

Right now, Qing Shui’s cultivation had soared to be double what it was before. The cultivation he had gone through during this period of time made Qing Shui feel that even his own speed had increased by quite a bit. In the future, even if he were to cultivate by himself, his speed would be about the same. If he were to achieve a breakthrough to his martial techniques, then his strength would be increased.

“I’ve made some breakthroughs during this period of time!” Qing Shui casually brought them away from the topic and looked toward the other four young men. However, compared to Yan Yangchi and the others, these people were relatively weaker, by quite a lot.

“Qing Shui, I’ve forgotten about it. Come, let me introduce you. This is Yan Yangxing, Yan Yanghong, Yan Yangsong and Yan Yangliu. This is Qing Shui,” Yan Yangchi introduced them.

Qing Shui had already heard previously that the four of them, together with the five people from Yan Yangchi’s side would form the nine people participating in the competition. He didn’t know what the rules to this competition were.

“Hello!” Qing Shui greeted them politely. It was just that the four of them didn’t seem to be that willing to meet Qing Shui. This made him feel a little strange.

Qing Shui let it be and didn’t show anything on his face. He welcomed the group into the room. The three ladies requested to be the ones to cook and Qing Shui smiled, letting them be. Primarily, Yan Jinyu was the one who had brought this up, Yan Huoyun went along with it. Yan Jinyu had probably not wanted to see her being the only one who was taking action while the others were resting.

After all, as long as they had the spices and could cook the food, there would be no real problems.

Qing Shui and the others waited in the hall. Yan Leng didn't pay much heed to the other four. Yan Yangchi was the eldest and the other four were their younger cousins.

Yan Yangchen seemed to not pay them much heed either. It was clear that the people here were split into two factions.

Qing Shui didn't find things like this strange. It wasn't strange to see such things happening in a great aristocratic clan. Although the clan's head was Yan Dingtian, the bigger the clan, the harder it was to make it such that everyone was united as one. At least it would be impossible for the entire clan to be fully united. Every family has their problems and such situations weren't strange. Everything was due to benefits and interests.

"You're Qing Shui? I heard that you're sworn siblings with Jinyu and that you've even set up a blacksmith store." Yan Yangliu looked at Qing Shui and asked casually.

"Mmm, that's right. I'm a blacksmith," Qing Shui smiled and said.

"Oh, being a blacksmith is good. If you're able to forge a divine artifact, you'll be able to soar in fame. You won't need Yan Clan to give you a blacksmith store then. It makes one feel that you seem to have some motives in becoming sworn siblings with Jinyu," Yan Yangliu smiled and said calmly.

"What rubbish are you talking about? He is Jinyu's benefactor. We gave him that willingly. Why, is Jinyu's life not comparable to a blacksmith store?" Yan Yangzhao spoke out loudly at Yan Yangliu, clearly displeased.

"I'm just saying. Why is Brother Zhao so fired up? If you're angry, direct your fury toward Yu Clan. Why don't I take your place for the battle?" Yan Yangliu looked at Yan Yangzhao calmly and said.

"You, you..." Yan Yangzhao was so infuriated that he couldn't say a word.

"Yangliu, aren't you going a bit overboard? We're all a family," Yan Yangchi spoke up, also slightly displeased.

"What is this? It's just participating in a competition. What's the big deal?" Yan Yangchen shouted.

"Yangliu just said something. Do you guys have to go to this extent? Since we're not welcome, then we'll leave!" Yan Yangsong smiled and said.

The four of them left and Yan Yangchi didn't stop them. However, his countenance was very dark. He was the eldest of their generation and there were things which he couldn't show too clearly. It was just like how he couldn't say anything today. These people were from the faction he belonged to.

"Brother Qing Shui, their faction has never been able to accept that father took on the role of clan's head. Therefore, I hope that you won't hold it against them," Yan Yangchi said, feeling bad.

"I'm fine. This is nothing." Qing Shui shook his head and smiled. He really didn't think much about it. He was already very happy to be able to see Yan Yangzhao and Yan Yangchen standing up for him.

At that moment, the three ladies walked out with the food.

"It's good that they're gone. I knew that this would happen. Qing Shui, don't think too much about it," Yan Yueyin came out and consoled Qing Shui.

Yan Jinyu didn't say anything but her gaze when looking at Qing Shui had a hint of apology in it.

"If I can't even take something so minor, how will I be able to survive? Honestly, I don't really feel anything toward them," Qing Shui smiled and said. At this moment, he exuded a powerful aura, causing even Yan Yangchi to be a little astonished.

"Alright, let's have our meal. We shall see if the three beautiful ladies' cooking is as nice!" Qing Shui got them all to take a seat.

Now that everything was over, it was as if they were only able to smell the tempting fragrances now. Of course, they all knew that it was thanks to the spices. However, regardless of whether it was thanks to the spices, there was still a great sense of satisfaction for one to be able to cook a meal so fragrant.

"Eldest Brother, I keep having the feeling that something is amiss this time. Did you guys sense anything strange with Eldest Uncle's faction? I'm even suspecting that they hope to leave Yan Clan," Yan Yueyin gave it some thought and said.

"Eldest Sister, don't be spouting rubbish," Yan Yangchi spoke softly.

"Mmm, I won't spout rubbish, but we must take early precautions. There are nine rounds of competition. We can't afford to lose. The prowess of Yu Clan's younger generation is also very strong. We must be fully prepared. The few of us must definitely not lose," Yan Yueyin said seriously.

"Sigh!"

Yan Yangchi let out a sigh. The atmosphere was a little tense. It was because they felt that the situation wasn't an optimistic one. What they were worried about was for all four from their Eldest Uncle's faction to lose.

Although this guess was ridiculous, it wasn't impossible. Yan Yangchi knew that his Eldest Uncle's faction had always been against his father's faction and wanted to have his father replaced.

"Come, come. If we don't dig in, the food will turn cold! Let's fill up our stomachs first!"

"I wonder if there's anyone on reserves?" Qing Shui smiled and asked.

"Yes and there's quite a number of them."

"Then count me in as a reserve. I'm confident that I'll help you clinch a victory," Qing Shui gave it some thought and said.

Yan Yangchi and the others all had a hint of happiness reflected on their faces. They knew that Qing Shui was stronger than Yan Jinyu and could be much more so. If Qing Shui could take part, their chances of winning would be much higher.

"For real?" Yan Yangchi looked at Qing Shui.

"Of course!"

...

After the meal, it was already late in the morning. Yan Huoyun smiled and said, "The weather is quite nice today. Why don't all of us go out and have a walk around? I heard that quite a number of people from the royal family have come to Yan City as well. Eldest Brother, I wonder if your fiancée has come?"

"Alright!"

None of them had any objections. For the past month, Qing Shui had not left his place. He always wanted to go out and take a look.

The group headed out the door of the manor. The door to Firecloud Blacksmith Store was closed, indicating that it wasn't open for business. The public had gotten used to this. However, Firecloud Blacksmith Store didn't receive any negative impact because of this. On the contrary, its reputation soared even further.

The group of them, all of them being either handsome men or beautiful ladies, were especially eye catching. Yan Huoyun had a lively personality and was the most active amongst them.

It wasn't that they wanted to buy anything, so they just randomly looked around. After a period of seclusion, Qing Shui enjoyed such a lively atmosphere. When a person is cooped up in a room for too long, he would be very willing to head out for a walk. Even if there wasn't anyone one recognized, even if one didn't talk to someone else, just taking a look around would feel very comfortable.

What Qing Shui thought more about was Yan Yangchi's fiancée. How old was Yan Yangchi now? The fact that he was able to participate in the competition would mean that he wasn't over 100 years old but should be at least around 80 or even older. It seemed like when one reached their cultivation level, their mindset would go through a tremendous change.

In a clan like Yan Clan, such things were very normal. Another thing was that Yan Yangchi's fiancée seemed to be a member of royalty. It seemed that the royal family still valued some clans from powerful cities very highly. Only by joining forces with these clans would they then be able to have a stable position in the dynasty.

Qing Shui understood this as well. It was just like how in the ancient times of his previous life, princesses would be married to the sons of important court officials in a bid to strengthen ties. Usually, the court officials involved would definitely be the more prominent ones in the court, whose smallest actions could cause the entire dynasty to shake. Political marriages were considered a very effective means and both parties would feel at ease, thus being able to dismiss certain plots from forming.

Suddenly, Yan Yangchi stood there and looked ahead. A few young masters dressed in luxurious clothes were smiled and chatting as they walked over.

Qing Shui saw them as well. From Yan Yangchi's expression, he was able to guess that these people should be from Yu Clan. However, Yan Yangchi wouldn't have such a reaction if they were just people from Yu Clan. Therefore, Qing Shui guessed that there must be other people amongst the group.

They should be people from the royal family!

Qing Shui had just guessed this when Yan Yueyin spoke up, "Since when has Yu Clan been so close with the 3rd Prince and 7th Princess?"

The other party seemed to also have noticed Yan Yangchi and the rest by now. Yan Yangchi smiled and walked over, "3rd Prince, 7th Princess, when did the two of you arrive? Why didn't you let me know?"

Qing Shui saw that one of them was a man in violet colored clothes. The man wasn't considered handsome, but he had an indescribable domineering aura, one that was like a dragon. It gave him an indescribably noble aura and Qing Shui felt that this must be because the man should have cultivated the martial techniques passed down in the royal family.

The 7th Princess wore a phoenix dress and was very beautiful. She had bright eyes, beautiful teeth and exuded an aura of nobility and youth. She wore a faint smile and had an indescribably poised demeanor to her. The feeling that she gave off was that nothing was of any concern to her. Right now, she looked at Yan Yangchi and the others with great interest.

"Brother, is Eldest Brother's fiancée the 7th Princess?" Qing Shui asked Yan Yangzhao softly.

"No, it's the 5th Princess."

Qing Shui replied with an "Oh" and then looked toward the men from Yu Clan. They should be about the same age as Yan Yangchen and the others and their cultivations were on par as well, at least on the surface. He felt that these people should also be the ones participating in the battle. Otherwise, they wouldn't be the ones to be coming into contact with the members of the royalty.

Chapter 1182 - There's Something Fishy, Losing the Advantage of First Attack, Start of the Battle

"I just happened to meet with Young Master Yu and the others when I arrived. Maybe next time. Next time, I'll go and visit Young Master Yan," the man smiled and said.

"I wouldn't dare to ask for that. Then I'll leave the Third Prince and the Seventh Princess. I'll give you a treat on another day," Yan Yangchi quickly said.

"Alright, then we shan't disturb you."

"3rd Brother, 5th Sister is here as well. I'll wait for her." The Seventh Princess didn't leave but just spoke casually.

There were no changes to the Third Prince's expression. He smiled and said, "That'll be good too. Then you can join Young Master Yan. When 5th Sister is here, she'll come to look for Young Master Yan."

The Third Prince left together with the people from Yu Clan. From the start, Yan Yangchi and the others didn't speak a word to the people from Yu Clan. Neither party met the other's gaze too often. It ended up that Qing Shui was the one who had a thorough look at them, even the Third Prince and the Seventh Princess.

He looked at them very openly but the Third Prince, Seventh Princess and even the people from Yu Clan wouldn't notice. However, even if they were to notice, there would be nothing they could do. It was because Qing Shui's gaze was one that was fully at ease. Even the Seventh Princess wasn't able to find any fault for her to blame this man.

It was also this reason that during this period of time, the Seventh Princess had looked at Qing Shui no less than three times. Although she couldn't say anything, she didn't have any special feelings about him. She only felt that this man's gaze was very clear and he also appeared to be a little bewitching looking, it made her feel a little conflicted. The violet mark on his forehead had a bewitching feeling to it but his eyes were very clear and had a hint of world weariness to them.

The group left but the Seventh Princess stayed behind.

"Young Master Yan, let's go wait at the front. 5th Sister should be arriving very soon." The Seventh Princess looked at Yan Yangchi and smiled.

Her smile was very calm and was very graceful. She had an indescribable charm to her and was able to unknowingly attract other people's gazes.

"Alright!" Yan Yangchi said and then looked toward Qing Shui and the others.

"Let's go, the more the merrier. I just don't know if Seventh Princess minds," Yan Yangzhao smiled and said.

"What on earth is Young Master Yan saying? I like to make friends. Why, are you not going to introduce us?" Seventh Princess smiled and asked.

She only recognized Yan Yangchi and Yan Yangzhao.

Yan Yangzhao quickly made introductions. However, when it came to Qing Shui, the Seventh Princess was a little surprised. To think that this young man wasn't a member of Yan Clan.

"Hello, Seventh Princess. I'm a blacksmith. It's nice to meet you." When Qing Shui was introduced, he smiled and spoke a greeting.

"Really? What kind of things do you forge?" The Seventh Princess seemed to be very curious.

"Weapons, armor, accessories and stuff like that. I have a Firecloud Blacksmith Store not far from here. If Seventh Princess has any need, I'll give a 30% discount..." Qing Shui quickly introduced. This was an opportunity. If she were to advertise for him, the effect should be quite good.

The Seventh Princess was stunned for a while before she smiled. There hadn't been anyone who would still offer to give her discounts after knowing of her identity... Other people would all gift it to her and she would still reject them. Now, this person was offering her a 30% discount... She found it quite interesting.

Yan Yangzhao quickly smiled and said. "Qing Shui is just joking with you. If you were to go, it'll definitely be free."

"30% is the max I can go. I only earn a little profit, you can't be expecting me to make a loss, can you?" Qing Shui laughed. However, he said it very seriously.

"Then I'll thank you. I'll definitely go take a look at Master's shop," Seventh Princess smiled and said.

Yan Yangzhao couldn't understand Qing Shui, but he still felt a little worried. The other party was a member of the royalty. Who was able to clearly say how deep the people from the royal family were?

Even a Grade Two Dynasty, if given enough time, would have a very strong foundation. Moreover, it was also hard to tell how great a power this member of the royalty could summon. For example, if a talent from a Grade Two Dynasty were to enjoy a very high status in a powerful sect and might be able to bring about great benefits to the great sect, then the power that the Grade Two Dynasty could call forth would be very huge...

As they were chatting, a group of people walked over. The ones in the lead were a young lady and a man.

"Fourth Brother, Fifth Sister!" Seventh Princess greeted the two in the lead, seeming to be especially happy.

"Why are you here?" The lady looked at Seventh Princess and asked, smiling.

The lady was very mature and charming and had an especially beautiful pair of eyes. Qing Shui knew that this was Yan Yangchi's fiancée and felt that he was very lucky. He had taken a look at the Fifth Princess earlier. She appeared very graceful in appearance, but she was secretly a seductive person. When she was with a man she loved, she would show her other self and could be considered a man's ideal woman. He wondered if Yan Yangchi had enjoyed her before...

When Qing Shui saw her, he was reminded of Huoyun Liu-Li. They were both women who were born with an inner seductive charm to them.

"I'm waiting for you! Why, do you find us in the way? We'll leave later," Seventh Princess smiled and said.

"You only know how to spout rubbish!"

Yan Yangchi and the others were already talking with the Fourth Prince. Qing Shui looked at this Fourth Prince. The latter had an outstanding demeanor, giving a feeling of tolerance and magnanimity. Qing Shui felt that this was a guy who would be able to achieve great things.

"Suya, shall we look for a restaurant to have a seat? It's rare that all of us are gathered here today," Yan Yangchi said to the lady. It seemed that they already had a very close relationship.

"That's good as well!"

The Fourth Prince nodded in agreement too. The group found a restaurant in the vicinity. It was a property of Yan Clan and was thus very convenient. They went straight to the highest floor, which was usually not open to customers.

Qing Shui had a strange feeling. It was because he was sure that the Third and Fourth Prince did not get along and could even be said to be on opposing sides. One of them was supporting Yu Clan, the other Yan Clan. This time around, Yu Clan's actions could even have been instigated and pushed by the Third Prince.

In this world, strong competition always exists.

The connections between these young people or rather, the younger generation, was not as representatives of their respective clans for now but it might be different in the future. Right now, their

respective clans wouldn't stop them from interacting and might even support them. Of course, the prerequisite was that they could accept the other party.

Yan Yangchi and the Fifth Princess were engaged and it was said that they were going to have their wedding very soon. The Fourth Prince and the Fifth Princess shared the same parents and it could be due to this reason that they were very, very close.

"Yangchi, you guys have to be careful. This time around, I keep having the feeling that they have something planned," the Fifth Princess looked at Yan Yangchi and said.

"We also feel that something is amiss, but we aren't sure if we'll be able to guess what it is. We also don't really feel at ease." Yan Yangchi felt a little uneasy, he also felt that something wasn't right.

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Very quickly, two days passed by. Today was the day of the competition between Yan Clan and Yu Clan. The location was at the biggest arena along Yan City's Yan Street.

Yan Street was the most prosperous street in the area. Although it was an arena, the real battle would be in the air. Many people had already started to look for a good viewing position from a few days before the competition.

The competitors between Yan Clan and Yu Clan were decided long ago and there was even an unbelievable bet on the line, with the losing party going into seclusion. This seemed to be unfair to Yan Clan but this was how some things were. Power decided everything, regardless of fairness.

Yan Clan, Yu Clan and even the members of royalty were here. They were already around the arena. There were many tents set up and one could guess their identities from the tents.

There was quite a number of people from Yan Clan here. Other than those participating, Yan Dingtian and some old men were also around. This battle was very important to them and although sometimes the wager between big clans may seem to be very childish, sometimes this was how things were. Gamblers could be very crazy and there might even be times where they were faced with no choices. For example, Yu Clan could have been forced by the Third Prince...

Yan Jinyu stood next to Qing Shui. She seemed to want to say something but didn't. Qing Shui occasionally looked toward Yan Yangxing, Yan Yanghong, Yan Yangsong and Yan Yangliu, who would also glance toward him occasionally, smiling coldly.

Through those people's gazes, Qing Shui seemed to have sensed something. It was because there seemed to be disdain and cold smiles in their gazes, as if they were looking at idiots...

"Sister Yan, can we still change the participants?" Qing Shui asked softly.

"We can change the ones from our side, but we can't change the four of them."

Yan Jinyu's words seemed to let Qing Shui sense something. He smiled bitterly and said, "Today, you'll only be able to win if the few of you were to all gain victory. If any of you were to lose, it'll be a loss for Yan Clan today."

Yan Jinyu went into a daze. She should know this as well since she wasn't too surprised. At this moment, Yan Yangchi and the others came as well. Yan Jinyu mentioned it to them.

Yan Yangchi let out a sigh, smiled and said, "We can only win and not let Eldest Uncle get his way. If we lose, everything will be gone."

Qing Shui felt that amongst the true leaders of Yan Clan, those old men, there should also be a number of them who were supportive of Yan Yangchi's Eldest Uncle's faction. Otherwise, they wouldn't be able to go against Yan Dingtian.

"Eldest Brother, then do you think that all of us will be able to win?" Yan Yangchen frowned and said.

"If the other party were the ones to step up first, we should be about on par. After all, we've gotten a lot stronger. However, now it's fixed with each side deciding on their first participant each time, making it a little tricky."

Qing Shui knew that this was similar to horse racing. When it was time to lose, it was best to let the weakest go against the opponent's strongest member.

"We'll see how it goes. There's still a winning chance. But will I'll be able to participate?" Qing Shui asked once again. It'd be bad if he wasn't allowed to participate due to the fact that he was an outsider.

"There's no problem. It's fine as long as you're not over 100 years old. The regulations say that we're able to find a helper."

"Then that's good. Later on, we'll discuss how to go about with this. I think you guys should know as well," Qing Shui smiled and said.

"Mmm, I get it. We'll tackle it as it comes!"

...

An old man landed slowly on the arena, wearing light blue colored clothes. His hair was completely white and his silhouette wasn't tall but when he stood there, he gave off a formless pressure.

"I have been sent by the royal family to host this competition. There's no need to bring up the rules in detail. There's a total of nine rounds and both sides will start by drawing lots, with the side drawing the smaller number to decide on the first participant. From the next round onwards, each side will then take turns to choose their participants first. The side that is able to clinch five victories will be the winner. Alright, we'll start the drawing of lots."

The old man had just finished his words and several thousands lots flew about in the sky. In the end, one of the lots flew toward Yan Clan while another flew toward Yu Clan.

When both sides raised the lots up, Yan Clan had a four but Yu Clan had a five...

Based on the rules, Yan Clan would have to choose their participant for the first round first and wait for the challenger. Qing Shui was a bit unhappy about this. This was a very important step, but they had lost their chance.

Chapter 1183-1184 Battle, Three Rounds, Two Losses One Win, Strange Woman (Two Chapters Combined into One)

After drawing the lots, according to the regulations, Yan Clan would have to decide on their participant first. Yan Dingtian and the others looked over toward Yan Yangchi. The details of the competition had been entrusted to Yan Yangchi to decide.

“Qing Shui, do we let them go?” Yan Yangchi looked at Qing Shui, gave it some thought, before saying.

“They must be the ones to go and it isn’t just for this one time. They must be the ones to take the next few rounds as well. Only then will we have a winning chance. If my guess is correct, none of the four will win.” Qing Shui no longer had any concerns. Those people’s gazes from earlier had made everything clear.

“Alright!”

Yan Yangchi looked calmly at Yan Yangxing and said, “Yangxing, go ahead. I hope that you’ll be able to bring good luck for our clan!”

Now that things had come to this, there was no other way around this. If the situation was what they had expected, they wouldn’t have accused them. If it was otherwise, he would just apologize. Yan Yangchi had thought this through.

Yan Yangxing spoke graciously, “I’ll do my best!”

He then flew up onto the arena. Very soon, a handsome young man also flew up from the opposing side. This person appeared to be a little flippant, the corners of his eyes were curled upward. He was one of those guys with a “bewitching” look and was, to some ladies, especially young ones, extremely attractive.

“Yu Chan. I hope that brother can go easy on me!”

“Yan Yangxing. Please give me your guidance!”

Both parties were very polite. They then went up into the air. Yu Chan wore a set of light armor and was holding a longsword. Yan Yangxing was the same and was also using a longsword. They engaged each other very quickly.

Their battle was one that was purely physical, clashing sword against sword. Their speed was very fast and sharp clashing sounds kept ringing out. Very soon, they even started to use their sword Qi.

Demonic Beast Armor Manifestation!

Yan Yangxing was the first to use the Demonic Beast Armor Manifestation. His was one that resembled a large-scaled mosquito, constantly letting out a loud buzzing sound. Yan Yangxing’s strength suddenly increased by a lot.

The moment the opponent saw that Yan Yangxing had used Demonic Beast Armor Manifestation, he activated his too.

It was only after seeing the opponent's Demonic Beast Armor Manifestation that Qing Shui understood why this person was called Yu Chan. It was because his Demonic Beast Armor Manifestation was a huge Jade Toad.

Gu!

Its huge cry caused even Yan Yangxing's Demonic Beast Armor Manifestation to tremble. Qing Shui had never expected that a toad's cry could be so terrifying. The Jade Toad was also considered a spiritual type of heaven and earth and might be best used to deal with Yan Yangxing's Demonic Beast Armor Manifestation. It was because what followed was Yan Yangxing being beaten up one-sidedly.

Before the time for an incense stick to burn was up, Yan Yangxing fell from the sky, injured. When he was about to head up again, he was held back by an old man from Yan Clan, who said, "Yan Clan has lost this round!"

No one could find anything wrong with it. Yan Yangxing's Demonic Beast Armor Manifestation was inhibited and he seemed to have tried his best but still lost. Victories and losses were very common and losing wasn't scary. One just had to get back on his feet.

Yu Clan emerged victorious for the first round when the battle had just started for slightly more than the time for one incense to burn. Loud cheers came from Yu Clan while Yan Clan appeared to be a little dejected.

Although it was a battle where one would have to put his life on the line, the participants were allowed to admit defeat. However, admitting defeat was a form of humiliation and thus not many would choose to do that. The best outcome would be for the losing party to be knocked unconscious.

Since it was a battle that one would have to risk his life for, it was normal for there to be deaths!

After a slight pause, a man from Yu Clan stepped up. This man had an appearance that was like a shady vulture and he was very powerful as well. One could tell by just sensing it.

"This is Yu Clan's Yu She. He is very vicious and has a high level of cultivation," Yan Yangchi looked at Qing Shui and said.

"Which one of you think that you'll be able to beat him? At the very least, we must deal him a serious injury," Qing Shui gave it some thought and said.

"I'll go!" Yan Leng gave it some thought and said.

"2nd Brother should go. Brother Leng, we'll still need you to fight against even stronger opponents later on. If 2nd Brother can't beat him, then we really won't have the means to fight anymore," Qing Shui gave it some thought and said.

"Alright, I'll go!" Yan Yangchen was equipped with his battle armor and was holding onto the World Demolition battle hammers as he appeared on the arena. Qing Shui felt that as long as Yan Yangchen could remain calm, winning wouldn't be an issue.

"2nd Brother, remember to remain calm. You'll be able to win if you do so. Don't be anxious to win." Qing Shui sent a message to Yan Yangchen.

“Mmm, I’ll listen to what Brother Qing Shui says.”

“Yu She. I seek Young Master Yan’s guidance!” The shady man looked at Yan Yangchen and said, smiling. He liked to deal with people with straightforward characters. For people like these, even those who were slightly stronger than him wouldn’t be a match for him.

“Yan Yangchen. Please make your move!”

Yu She made his move. His foot technique was very tricky, as if he was moving in a z-shaped movement but yet at the same time, it didn’t look like that. He held onto a thin sword as he dashed toward the left of Yan Yangchen, bringing an afterimage with him.

Yan Yangchen didn’t move and sunk a little. Without any warning, he turned and swung out his huge World Demolitions!

Ding!

Yu She was sent flying from the impact from Yan Yangchen’s hammers. It should have been because the chances of doubled prowess of the attacks had been activated.

Yan Yangchen let out a loud bellow.

Demonic Beast Armor Manifestation!

With a slight movement, he dashed toward Yu She with amazing speed.

Earlier, Yu She must have not expected that Yan Yangchen could be so fast. Neither did he expect that Yan Yangchen would be so strong. Although he had done his best to fend off some of the impact with his sword, he still suffered from some internal injuries.

Yan Yangchen was also considered to have gotten off to a good start. He did as Qing Shui had suggested, he remained calm as he fought. Therefore, when he saw that Yu She was being pushed back, he continued to remain calm and dashed toward him with his Demonic Beast Armor Manifestation activated.

Yu She’s countenance changed and he immediately activated his Demonic Beast Armor Manifestation as well while he concurrently retreated and went on the defensive.

Yu She’s Demonic Beast Armor Manifestation was a Jade Snake , a demonic beast which was of a similar category to the Jade Toad. The huge Jade Snake let out a hissing sound which immediately allowed Yu She to retreat several tens of meters back.

Hammer Round Cut!

Yan Yangchen’s body suddenly also brought along an afterimage as he dashed toward Yu She. He even had his spiritual sense locked on Yu She and then his two huge World Demolitions spun like a pair of Wind and Fire Wheels , spinning with a tremendous power as they struck out toward Yu She.

Whoosh...

A sharp piercing sound of air explosions were like huge claps of thunder!

Fire Snakes Frenzied Dance, Gloom Covering Skies and Earth, Soaring Dragon Sea Quake...

Having made one miss, Yu She ended up following up with multiple misses and allowed Yan Yangchen to have the upper hand while he ended up being pushed back. Right now, Yu She was even directly bombarded by these attacks, with some of the attacks having their prowess doubled mixed in!

Boom boom boom...

In that moment, the air was covered with the Fire Snakes Frenzied Dance and it was hard to see anything clearly. When everything cleared up, Yu She had already dropped to the ground and was on the verge of his deathbed. His breathing was irregular and it was hard to say if he could remain alive.

Yan Clan's countenances were very grim and Qing Shui observed Yan Yangxing and the others silently, only to discover that their countenances were grim as well. However, the other people from Yan Clan seemed to be very happy, just like how the people from Yu Clan were earlier on. Their roles had changed.

In all, this could be said to have been an exciting fight.

...

"Seventh Sister, when did Yan Yangchen become so strong? The huge activities from earlier don't seem to be from the martial techniques he's cultivating?" From a high area, Yan Yangchi's fiancée looked at Seventh Princess and asked softly.

Even Fourth Prince was looking at Seventh Princess in great surprise.

"I don't know either. Let's just keep on watching. Your fiancé has a young blacksmith on his side and even said that he would give me a 30% discount if I were to purchase a weapon from his store..." The Seventh Princess said weirdly.

"Oh? Then we'll have to go take a look at this blacksmith later. It must really be a great discount for him to give my younger sister 30% off," the Fourth Prince chuckled.

...

Yan Clan clinched a victory and it was now their turn to first send up their participant. Yan Yangchi looked toward Yan Yanghong. Earlier, Yan Yangchen had won, so his Eldest Uncle's faction couldn't possibly say much either.

"You can't always let us be the ones to go first. There should be one from your side to go first as well!" Yan Yangsong suddenly said.

"If you guys can guarantee that you'll be able to win a round, I can promise you that. It'll be an oath with our lives on the line." Yan Yangchi smiled and looked at Yan Yangsong.

Yan Yangsong's face turned unnaturally pale as he lowered his head and fell silent. However, this made it clear that there was something fishy going on. Fury seethed in Yan Yangchi's heart and it was the same for the other members of Yan Clan. In a great clan like this, many of them had their own pride, just like how people from Qing Shui's previous life would have a sense of belonging to their own country.

Yan Yanghong flew up and landed on the arena!

A tall and burly-looking man walked out from Yu Clan's side. This man was dressed in pitch-black battle armor and was holding onto a huge horse chopping saber. His expression seemed to be one of great fury.

"Admit defeat or die!" The man didn't even state his name and spoke directly.

"Hahaha, admit defeat? Do you think that's possible?" Yan Yanghong smiled and drew his longsword.

"A person like you really deserves to die." The man in pitch-black armor said a very strange line.

Roar!

A huge roar came from the man as a pitch-black three-headed tiger encompassed him.

Yan Yanghong activated his Demonic Beast Armor Manifestation as well. It was a silver wolf. The huge silver wolf appeared to be a puny existence before the pitch-black three-headed tiger.

"Today, I'll let you know the difference between our clans."

Sky Laceration Earth Shattering Slash!

The physique of the man in pitch-black armor seemed to have become a lot taller and broader in a short moment. A pitch-black glow locked Yan Yanghong down and then a huge sabre Qi came slashing after.

It was a pitch-black sabre shadow which had an immense and corrosive power. It even had a piercing stench to it.

Yan Yanghong's countenance changed when he realized that he wasn't able to move his body at all. He opened his mouth, as if trying to shout that he was going to admit his defeat. However, no sound came from his mouth. In that instant, the blade slashed down and even the skies seemed to have turned a little gloomy.

Boom!

Yan Yanghong completely disappeared, leaving nothing behind. To think that a Grade One State Master was instantly killed just like that.

This scene brought about a momentary silence. Although participants were responsible for their own lives and deaths, this time around, Yu Clan had intentionally killed and had blatantly done so.

Although Yan Yangchi knew that Yan Yanghong and the others could have colluded with outsiders, seeing them being killed like this was still an uncomfortable feeling. This was like giving Yan Clan a slap in the face.

For the next round, the participant from Yu Clan stepped forth very quickly. This time around, it was a lady with a great figure that appeared to be very weak. However, her eyes were dark as ink, as if there were no whites in her eyes at all. Her gaze gave off an eerie feeling. Other than her eyes, she was actually very beautiful. Only her eyes were extremely weird.

“Who’s going up?” Yan Yangchi asked. Of course, he also looked toward Yan Yangsong and the others. This time around, Yan Clan wasn’t the ones who needed to decide on their first participant; it was Yu Clan.

They had already gone through with three rounds, getting two losses and one win. Right now, the people taking the stage were also getting increasingly stronger. Even Qing Shui wasn’t very confident now...

Right now, they were already in a situation where they had two losses and one win. If they were to have another loss, they could be said to have lost all hope. Moreover, the lady on the arena was very strange, so strange that she was very unfathomable.

“I’ll go!” Yan Yueyin suddenly said.

“Sister Yueyin, If I’m not mistaken, that lady specializes in spirit energy, especially with that pair of eyes she has... Do you feel confident?” Qing Shui gave it some thought and felt that there was a need for him to remind her.

“I’ll do my best. I guarantee that even if I die, I won’t lose.” Yan Yueyin thought about it before replying.

“I’ll give this to you. Remember, don’t look into her eyes for more than the time taken for two blinks,” Qing Shui said and took out a Violet Jade Phoenix Pendant.

“This?” Yan Yueyin could only sense that this item was very profound and was exuding faint spiritual Qi. Even though this spiritual Qi wasn’t very strong, it was especially rustic with a hidden impressiveness.

“Put it on. It’ll increase your spirit energy and protection against spirit energy. It should be of some use. Remember, try to end the battle fast, don’t drag it out,” Qing Shui reminded her seriously.

Right now, no one would underestimate Qing Shui. It was because within one month, they had discovered that Qing Shui’s abilities were terrifying. They didn’t know how strong he was exactly and this made them especially curious about him. They could sense that Qing Shui’s abilities should be related to his forging abilities. He should have come from an ancient blacksmith aristocratic clan and one with a strong aristocrat inheritance.

“Thank you!” Yan Yueyin smiled and said seriously.

“Are you going to stand on ceremony with me as well? In the future, I’ll still need Sister Yueyin to back me up,” Qing Shui smiled and said, indicating that she could go on.

Yan Yueyin nodded and with a flash, flew up to the arena. Neither lady spoke a word. The lady from Yu Clan was clad in black clothes and had a beautiful figure. It was just that she had a terrifying pair of eyes.

Yan Yueyin, on the other hand, was mature and charming, giving off such a magnanimous feeling that it felt a little dangerous. It was the danger hidden within smiles. Yan Yueyin took out a dark red colored whip as thick as a baby’s arm, providing a good grip. It was three meters long.

The lady from Yu Clan dressed in black clothes took out a pitch-black staff. However, there was a skull on the top of the staff, making the lady appear to be even more eerie.

Qing Shui frowned. He felt that this lady was very dangerous and by rights, shouldn't join in so early. Could it be that there were reasons for this?

Thunderous Bloodthirst!

With a slight move, Yan Yueyin floated like a wisp of smoke, her dark red colored whip tapped out toward the eerie lady in a straight line.

The lady from Yu Clan swung her bone staff and a dense wall made from white bones appeared before her.

When Qing Shui saw the lady's attack, he let out a sigh of relief. This lady's martial technique was definitely very vicious but her strength seemed to not make the mark. This was also why she was sent out this time around. That phoenix pendant should be having some use.

Pfft!

The bone wall was shattered. However, at this moment, a huge white bone flower bloomed. A strange but faint smell spread out. Even though Yan Yueyin had stopped her breath, she could still sense it and was suddenly struck by dizziness.

She was very surprised and felt that she wasn't able to summon her strength. Just as she was feeling helpless, the Violet Jade Phoenix Pendant she was wearing exuded a stream of clear Spiritual Qi, washing away her sleepiness.

She managed to just barely dodge that white bone flower.

The lady from Yu Clan seemed to be very astonished that Yan Yueyin had managed to dodge her attack. She waved her hand once again and put on battle armor that was like water and yet like white bones. It formed an eerily distinctive difference against her pitch-black clothes. Her pair of dark eyes seemed to be emitting glowing black light.

Many legacy martial techniques came from the ancient times and no matter what kind of martial technique a person practiced, it wouldn't bring any surprises. It was just like how this lady's martial technique seemed to be just a devilish martial technique to Qing Shui. Actually, they were the same as people who refined poison. The only difference was only whether a person was strong or weak.

There were only evil people; there were no evil martial techniques.

Demonic Beast Armor Manifestation!

This was the lady's Demonic Beast Armor Manifestation!

Qing Shui hadn't expected that her Demonic Beast Armor Manifestation had also reached the second form. Although it seemed as if she had just barely managed to reach this phase, it was still a success and it had increased the lady's prowess tremendously.

Flower of Darkness!

With a wave of her hand, a pitch-black flower, that was about one foot in size, shot out toward Yan Yueyin. It wasn't fast but it seemed as if it could lock onto a target.

Yan Yueyin retreated rapidly and concurrently, silver light flashed on her body. She had also activated her Demonic Beast Armor Manifestation!

Qing Shui was stunned once again. Her Demonic Beast Armor Manifestation was also at the second form. He seemed to have sensed something. When people with strong spirit energy reached the Grade Two State Master level, they seemed to be able to attain the second form of the Demonic Beast Armor Manifestation. However, he couldn't be sure that this was true.

Right now, Qing Shui understood that Yan Yueyin had the confidence to defeat that lady. She was very powerful.

The black flower continued to follow after Yan Yueyin with terrifying powers.

Bloodthirsty Whip Dance!

The dark red Thunderous Bloodthirst Whip instantly swelled up. It was like a blood red python that was seething furiously, getting increasingly bigger. However, when it came into contact with that black flower, it kept on being corroded.

Although it was corroded, it regenerated very quickly and brought along a surge of blood vapor that was so thick that it seemed as if they were going to turn into liquid. The red colored vapor then formed masses and started spinning into a tornado and dashing out toward the lady dressed in black.

Boundless Darkness!

The lady let out a horrible scream and a stream of black light shot out from her eyes toward Yan Yueyin. Concurrently, a stream of similarly dense black colored vapor that was like flowing water, clashed against the red colored vapor.

Boom!

With huge explosive sounds, red and black spots splattered out. On Yan Yueyin's side, she had also destroyed the black flower. Earlier on, she had subconsciously met the gaze of the lady's black eyes and was stunned. She recalled Qing Shui's words and quickly turned away. At this moment, she was already dashing out toward the lady, leaving a trail of fiery red whip shadows. It was as if she was walking on an archway formed from fire pythons.

Along the trail of whip shadows, with each step Yan Yueyin took, the aura she exuded would increase. She recalled of Qing Shui's word to not drag out the battle and to end it as quickly as possible.

Her aura was swelling up at rapid speed and the Thunderous Bloodthirst Whip in her hand had flashed with a hint of red colored thunderbolt. Accompanied by hissing sounds, her whole body was bathed in a red color.

Thunderous Bloodthirst Slash!

Ancient Bones of Ten Thousand!

The lady didn't give up and crazily waved her hand around as eerie looking skeletons surrounded her, forming a distinctive contrast with Yan Yueyin's blood red color. One of side was a bright red, the other was a pale white!

Break!

Yan Yueyin's Thunderous Bloodthirst Whip suddenly became like a huge fire dragon, sending out a terrifying sound as it brought along a great pressure with it, smashing toward the lady in black as well as the skeletons around her.

Boom boom...

The world seemed to fall into a state of chaos as the explosions went on consecutively for the time it took to burn half an incense stick. The people outside could only sense the non-stop energy explosions and deafening sounds. They weren't able to see the actual situation that was going on inside.

When the darkness in the sky slowly scattered, everyone opened their eyes without blinking, wanting to see who was the last person standing, if both of them were there or if neither of them were there.

Yan Yueyin!

Yan Yueyin stood there and everyone could see her shaky figure. There were people who were astonished and there were people who were elated... It was only after the old man declared that Yan Yueyin was the winner that she then headed back. The moment she landed, she spewed out a mouthful of fresh blood.

Qing Shui quickly took out three gold needles, pierced them into her back and said softly, "Sister Yan, please support her and let her stand for a while. She'll be fine after that. She has been poisoned."

The others seemed to not find Qing Shui's actions to be unexpected.

"Thank you, Qing Shui. If it wasn't for your jade pendant, I would probably not be able to win and would have died." Yan Yueyin now seemed to be especially happy.

"You're still standing on ceremony." Qing Shui smiled and looked at Yan Yueyin. He didn't know if it was because she was injured or excited but there was a hint of a flush on her mature and charming face, making her appear to be very feminine.

Four rounds were over and it was at a draw. There were five more rounds but everyone knew that it wouldn't be easy. However, Qing Shui on the contrary, felt more confident now.

It was close to noon, so the battles today were considered over and the rest would be continued the next day. This was what both parties had agreed on, to allow them to regroup.

The people from both Yan Clan and Yu Clan left but there were many people still around. They were in discussion and might even stay in the tents nearby and wait for tomorrow's arrival.

"Do you guys think that Yan Clan will win or Yu Clan will win?"

"Did you guys see? Yan Clan is having internal conflicts. I heard that Yan Dinglang's faction wants to be independent from Yan Clan and yet wanted to let the current Yan Clan go into seclusion. They colluded with Yu Clan and the 3rd Prince and thus it's very bad for Yan Clan this time around. It's said that they'll have four rounds that they'll definitely lose."

"What will Yan Dinglang get out from doing this? This will cause Yan Clan to lose a lot."

“Losing a lot would be better than not having a spot for himself. Although Yan Clan’s status in Yan City would plunge, it would at least be better than his current situation. It might be an opportunity for him.”

“I think it might not be an opportunity. He might be in trouble when they go back today.”

“That won’t happen. I heard that there will be interference from the royal family.”

...

Qing Shui as well as Yan Yangchi and the others returned to the Firecloud Blacksmith Store. In all, they were still feeling quite happy as they sat around the stone table in the courtyard, drinking tea.

Yan Yueyin was there as well. Although she was still feeling a little weak, it was nothing much.

“It seems like we’ll still have to lose two rounds,” Yan Yangchi sighed. He now knew why Qing Shui had let Yan Yangchen go all out to kill. This had allowed them to know that there was something fishy going on.

“Sister Yan, if it’s possible, I’ll fight your battle for you.” Qing Shui smiled and said to Yan Jinyu.

Qing Shui could sense that although Yan Jinyu should not be weaker than Yan Yueyin, the battle that would be taking place would just be increasingly harder.

Yan Jinyu hesitated as she nodded. She trusted in Qing Shui a lot now. She had never felt this way before. She didn’t know if this was a good feeling but she wasn’t used to it.

That night, Qing Shui took the last Heavenly Secrets Pill in the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal, increasing his physical strength by another one nimbus. The increase in his strength calmed his heart. It should all end tomorrow. However, the ending to one thing might lead to the start of something else.

Qing Shui felt that he had already gotten himself involved. Right now, he could be considered to be on the same side as Yan Clan and even the Fourth Prince. Before he had absolute power, he needed to be very careful.

His Demonic Beast Armor Manifestation was already in the mature phase but there were no changes to the strength increment it brought. He didn’t know how much strength other people’s Demonic Beast Armor Manifestation brought them and didn’t know when his Demonic Beast Armor Manifestation would enter the second form.

Seeing that there was still a Mysterious Fruit left, Qing Shui decided to eat it, hoping to gain a breakthrough. Feeling hopeful, Qing Shui ate the last Mysterious Fruit.

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The raws for the Jade Toad is the same characters as Yu Chan’s name.

The raws for the Jade Snake is the same characters as Yu She’s name.

Chapter 1185 - Twin Roc Form's Great Perfection Stage, The Second Form of Qing Shui's Demonic Beast Armor Manifestation, Tremendous Increase in Strength

After consuming the last Mysterious Fruit, Qing Shui crossed his legs and sat beside the Bodhi Tree as he calmed his heart and slowly sensed. The Bodhi tree was still too small to be bearing flowers and fruit. But it had indeed gotten a lot bigger than before.

A warm sensation arose from his insides to the outside. It was a strange feeling. Qing Shui's heart eventually relaxed. He vaguely felt that he had reached a vast world!

Screech!

He couldn't tell if the noise that rang out was a screech or an eagle's cry. It even sounded slightly like a beast's roar. It turned out to be a gigantic golden bird that was no less than 1,000 meters long in size and its spread wings were large enough to hide the sky and cover the earth. In this vast world, it was as if it was the lord.

A Roc!

Now this was a true Roc, the Golden Winged Roc. It was the purest species of Rocs and most likely the ancestor of all Rocs that he had heard of in legends. With both of its wings spread, it could soar ninety thousand li into the sky with a light flap.

Although these were Qing Shui's thoughts, the Golden Winged Roc before him was as mighty as that. Its gigantic head was very beautiful but also appeared very incisive. It had a pair of golden glimmering eyes that were as large as a pavilion. Its gaze was sharp and pressing. This Roc appeared to a lot more formidable than that gigantic green colored dragon that he had seen before. The dragon that he saw before was probably not the strongest of the dragon species.

Roc Form!

Roc Spreading Wings!

Qing Shui was staring unblinkingly as the Golden Winged Roc flapped both of its wings and instantly soared into the skies. That was a burst of profoundly mysterious energy. Its speed seemed to be observable by the naked eye, yet one could only gasp in amazement at it.

A wave energy was bubbling faintly within Qing Shui's body. It was the Roc Form that he had been cultivating all this while. The Roc Form that had reached its bottleneck seemed to be moving faintly right at this moment.

Qing Shui moved, as his figure moved with the Roaming Dragon Steps and its orientation was the Nine Palace Steps. His energy were the Roc Spreading Wings and Violet Gold Divine Force. He seemed to be moving unconsciously, yet there were no words to describe the exquisiteness of his every step.

Qing Shui's eyes couldn't stop following the movements of the Golden Winged Roc in the sky. As time went on, Qing Shui's footwork grew more and more skillful. When he once again stepped forward along with the Golden Winged Roc, he sensed that a wave of mysterious power seemed to have awakened in his body. That wave of energy traveled from his legs straight into the Seven Colored Pellet.

In this instant, Qing Shui sensed that there were at least ten major acupoints cleared on his two legs. These acupoints were all the acupoints that Qing Shui couldn't clear before. But in one single moment, at least ten of them were instantly cleared. Not only that, the wave of mysterious energy poured forth into the Seven Colored Pellet.

Then the strength of the Seven Colored Pellet had most likely been increased once again but Qing Shui couldn't check how much it was right now.

But he didn't need to think to know that Roc Spreading Wings had attained the Great Perfection Stage.

As if in response, the Golden Winged Roc spread its wings once again and opened its beak to breathe out a sea of flames. Since Qing Shui bore the Primordial Flames in his body, he wasn't really affected by any other types of flames, especially given the fact that he could resist 70% of spirit energy damage. However, seeing the sea of flames that this great roc had breathed out, he had a feeling that he would be burnt to crisp within a moment if he went into it.

He was still too weak in strength and was much too inferior to this Golden Winged Roc. This reminded him of that old turtle and the gigantic green colored dragon. Which level were they on?

He shook away his thoughts as he watched the flames that the roc had breathed out. He knew that this was an opportunity and that it was probably the manifestation of the Roc Form in his consciousness, much like the Diamond Gigantic Elephant back in the days.

Qing Shui eventually realized that the nebula in his sea of consciousness was also slowly moving, as if cells that had undergone cell division were being regrouped again. Qing Shui was utterly shocked. His spirit energy was increasing exponentially, along with his strength too. He unconsciously sensed that his spirit energy and strength were rising at the same pace.

Primordial Flame Dragon Whip!

The Primordial Flame Whip that Qing Shui had unleashed this time was no longer the same as the one before. It resembled a gray colored dragon and it wasn't any larger than the flame python or jiao before. Yet the terrifying energy within it was earth shattering different.

Now this was a Primordial Flame Dragon!

Qing Shui abandoned the Primordial Flame Dragon Dance and completely used the whipping style of the Primordial Flame Whip to attack. After all, the most direct style was the most effective.

The Primordial Flame Dragon Whip grew more and more agile in Qing Shui's hands as its power was also gradually increasing. The nebula in his sea of consciousness was also rearranging itself again. Not only had it grown slightly bigger in size, it had also become denser than before. Even its mightiness wasn't quite the same as before.

BANG!

The nebula in his sea of consciousness once again exploded completely. A wave of powerful energy rapidly and abundantly poured forth into Qing Shui's body, including the Seven Colored Pellet!

The nebula in his sea of consciousness had dispersed. This time it didn't appear like a cloud but a small sky instead. The nebula had exploded and was suspended in the sky. This small sky was abundant with rich spirit energy. It was so rich that even Qing Shui was quite astonished!

The Golden Winged Roc vanished, Qing Shui also woke up. Everything was a like an illusion, though it could probably be considered a real illusion because Qing Shui realized that his strength had received a tremendous increase, including his levels of his techniques.

Heart of Roc, Great Perfection Stage!

Roc Spreading Wings, Great Perfection Stage!

The Roc Form that had troubled Qing Shui all this time had actually attained the Great Perfection stage in a pair. Before he could even sense how much strength he had gained, he saw the final battle technique of the Roc Form appear.

Seal of Roc!

Both of his hands formed the seal and unleashed an illusory shadow of a Roc to attack. Its offensive power was strangely great!

The introductory stage was very simple. Qing Shui tried cultivating for a short while and then stopped. Even cultivating towards the small success stage and being able to attack wasn't a task that was achievable in just a day or less.

He stopped to sense the boundless energy within his body right now and was immediately stupefied. His physical strength was 25 nimbus. The Heart of Roc and Roc Spreading Wing techniques had actually allowed his physical strength to increase by four nimbus.....

There were still the Phoenix form and Dragon form among the Nine Animals Mimicry Technique. The Roc form was an existence that came after the Phoenix and Dragon forms. Thinking about the increase he had gained up to this point, he was able to accept it. He once again sensed his Seven Colored Pellet and was stunned.

Tenfold. It had instantly raised his physical strength tenfold!

Qing Shui only pinched his slightly stiffened face after a long while as he tried to calm himself down. He then held the Big Dipper Sword in his hands and sensed his strength.

The Demonic Beast Armor Manifestation!

After the strange undulation receded, Qing Shui found himself looking at the dazzling golden battle armor on his body. The helmet was shaped like the ferocious-looking head of an Earth Diamond Bear. It seemed like the second form of the Demonic Beast Armor Manifestation still retained a little characteristic of the beast form.....

With this, the Demonic Beast Armor Manifestation had also entered its second form.....

Qing Shui looked at his shiny golden Demonic Beast Armor Manifestation in pleasant surprise. It was exuding a wave of terrifying energy. Its strength had grown from threefold to fourfold while its defensive power had once again doubled by itself, including both his physical and spirit energy!

Considering the fact that it had only just entered its second form, Qing Shui was already very satisfied since it was already exhibiting such might. He immediately sensed the strength in his body and realized that it had already undergone earth-shattering changes.

With only a Big Dipper Sword, Qing Shui's current strength had already reached 6,600 nimbus. He could probably be considered a Level Two State Master by now. But of course, his fighting strength had also exceeded Level Two State Master. The power of the Nine Continents Mountain had also reached 13,000 nimbus.....

Now that the Demonic Beast Armor Manifestation had evolved to the second form, it was probably a sign that Qing Shui could barely be considered a Level Two State Master. However, Qing Shui's fighting strength as a Level Two State Master was much more powerful than any typical Level Two State Master.

Qing Shui's spirit energy was still the most terrifying part. He actually found the heights that it had reached to be a little unbelievable and this was also a transformation in his sea of consciousness. His spiritual offensive power had already reached a whopping 17,000 nimbus..

Qing Shui stood there dazed for a good long while. His strength was once again increased approximately 100%. On top of that, he didn't feel unwell after this tremendous increase in strength because he could sense that his realm had completely caught up to it.

However, Qing Shui still spent his remaining time cultivating endlessly. Most of the time, he had been practicing his Taichi fists. His Taichi Golden Qi had flourished even more than before. Even when unarmed and defenseless, Qing Shui was already able to unleash terrifying power solely relying on his footwork.

All of a sudden, Qing Shui realized that his physique seemed to have grown bigger and taller by a quite lot. A wave of confident aura blended into his body and his bones. It was like a wave of energy that had come from somewhere deep in his bone marrow and sea of consciousness. It was very strange but he loved the sensation.

Ever since Qing Shui came to the Inner City, the types of people he mingled with were everchanging. He would even cross paths with royalty. Furthermore, he had a feeling that he was already being dragged into the prince's fight without him even realizing it. Any negligence on his part might spell a tragic end to his life. His strength's improvements were probably kind of like an insurance while his improvements this time were going to be a great insurance for him.

It felt as if the dark clouds had cleared away and the sky had turned a lot brighter in his heart. He didn't lack time, yet at the same time he was running out of time. He had to deal with the issue tomorrow first, otherwise he'd definitely be in trouble.

Now that he had joined hands with the Yan Clan, although he didn't know how deep the Yan Clan's water was, they basically wouldn't have any chance of turning things around with the royalty involved.

The Third Prince and Yu Clan were really ruthless this time, to be thinking about seizing Yan City!

Without realizing it, it was already dawn. It was about time for Qing Shui to leave too. He washed up and changed into comfortable clothes before going out.

As soon as he came out, he met Yan Yueyin. She had completely recovered already in just one night.

“How’s your injury?” Qing Shui greeted her with a smile. He could see that she was doing very well now.

“I’m fine. I’m returning this to you!” Yan Yueyin handed over the Violet Jade Phoenix Pendant back to Qing Shui.

“It doesn’t look good? Is it not to your liking?” Qing Shui asked.

“That’s not it. It’s gorgeous and I like it very much but it’s simply too precious. By the time you have more of them, just remember to save one for sister,” Yan Yueyin chuckled.

“I have enough of these, so you can have it. The rest will have their own share. I have simply overlooked it just now,” Qing Shui laughed.

After she was certain that Qing Shui indeed had quite a lot of these, she even requested a pair of earrings and bracelet. She was gleeful like a little girl but her mature appearance was exuding an enticing charm.

After breakfast, they headed towards the arena. By the time they reached there, it was already extremely crowded. Even so, they were still able to get to the designated spot for the Yan Clan very effortlessly.

“Yangchi, are you confident enough? This is a very important matter.” Yan Dingtian glanced over at the spot where the Yu Clan was at. A look of worry was evident on his face. He was already aware that they had been set up by someone within the clan. They might as well oppose the Yu Clan directly. He kind of felt like he could, yet he was unable to do so right now.

“Even if I die, I will make the Yan Clan stay in the Yan City!” Yan Yangchi clenched his fists tightly as he exclaimed in determination.

Yan Dingtian sighed but said nothing. A man had his responsibilities, even if it meant spilling his blood and risking his life. When that time came, the meaning of his life would no longer be staying alive.

“Yan Yangsong, you go then!”

After the old man from yesterday stepped forward to say his opening speech, he announced the commencement of the event. This time, it was the Yan Clan’s turn to enter the arena first. Yan Yangchi didn’t hold back right now as he immediately opened his mouth and shouted his full name along with his surname.

“I admit defeat!”

Chapter 1186 - I Admit Defeat, I Admit Defeat, We Admit Defeat As Well, I’ll Fight This Match

“I admit defeat!”

The voice wasn’t loud but it rang out abruptly. No one would have thought that he would admit his defeat directly like this. Could it be that he was taken aback by the man who wore pitch-black battle armor?

Admit defeat or die!

Yan Yangsong didn't wish to make a pointless sacrifice. Since he already knew that he was going to lose anyway, why did he need to throw away his life? He hadn't lived long enough. The reason he chose this was because he valued his life over everything else.

The reason Yu Clan was like this should be so that they could humiliate Yan Clan and deal a heavy blow to the other participants from Yan Clan who would be taking part. And in this way, Yu Clan would also be able to have another option in the candidate they chose to take part.

Many people from Yan Clan fell silent. Yan Yangsong's countenance was grim, but he seemed to be pretending to remain calm. However, right now, everyone understood.

Since Yan Clan forfeited this round, it was considered their loss. It was Yu Clan's turn to go up next!

Very quickly, in a few breath's time, another person from Yu Clan stood there. This was a burly man who was like an iron tower. Compared to ordinary men, his height was one-third taller. He seemed to be one size bigger than Little Fatty as well.

This person was dressed in heavy armor and holding a five-meter long huge axe. The axe looked very coordinated in his hand and when he stood there, he gave one the feeling that he would even be able to hack a mountain into two.

"Who has the confidence to beat him?" Yan Yangchi asked softly. There weren't many of them left. There was only himself, Yan Yangliu, Yan Leng and Yan Jinyu. Yan Jinyu could possibly let Qing Shui take part on her behalf.

A total of five rounds, with three losses and two victories. Yan Yangliu will definitely lose one round. Therefore, they could basically be assured of four losses. If they were to lose one more round, it would be their loss.

Right now, many people had understood what was going on and were feeling worried for the Yan Clan. Or rather, it could be said that they were waiting to see if the people from Yan Clan could change the situation to be in their favor. Yu Clan had come with determination to win. Moreover, there was still one round for which they could get external help. Even if Yu Clan couldn't win one more round, they would still have one final chance.

Yu Clan had the 3rd Prince to back them up!

"Eldest Brother, you should go!" Just then, Qing Shui said to Yan Yangchi.

"Let Eldest Brother head up last, I'll take this!" Yan Leng spoke up.

"It should be hard for your attacks to break through this guy's Demonic Beast Armor Manifestation. Only Eldest Brother will be able to win against him," Qing Shui gave it some thought and said.

"Then how are we going to fight in the other rounds?" Yan Jinyu asked, worried.

"A man like this should already be considered top notch in Yu Clan. We'll see how it goes after this round. If we can't even win this round, is there a point in carrying on?" Qing Shui was actually very conflicted as well. He was making a gamble, hoping that the next participant could be suppressed by Yan Leng's speed, wagering on the fact that this bulky man was Yu Clan's strongest young man.

“Alright, I’ll go!” Yan Yangchi’s tightly knitted brows relaxed.

“Eldest Brother, don’t feel pressured. We’ll see how it goes after beating him. This person’s greatest strength should be “to lord over an area”, therefore, you should try to not let him remain in a particular position for too long. It’ll be best if you can get him to change his position every now and then. One more thing. You must kill him.” The reason Qing Shui said this was because he could tell that the person on the arena was cultivating a martial technique that was similar to his State of Immovable as Mountains. However, the difference was that the longer he stood in a particular spot, the stronger he would become.

“Alright!” Yan Yangchi nodded and flew toward the arena. He trusted Qing Shui a lot too and felt that this forging talent who had his abilities concealed was not someone simple.

Yan Yangchi’s weapon caused Qing Shui’s eyes to light up. It was a pitch-black longspear. The speartip was extremely thin and was like a soulseeker which appeared in darkness.

Deadly Darkness Spear

Qing Shui smiled when he saw Yan Yangchi’s weapon. At least, it shouldn’t be too much of a problem for him to deal with that big bulky guy on the arena.

“Yu Shan. Brother Yan please go easy on me!” the man said in a low and muffled voice.

“Yan Yangchi. Please make your move!”

At this stage of the competition, both clans were infuriated. No matter what, this time around, Yu Clan had gone too far and both clans were considered to be on opposing ends now.

Yu Shan swung the huge grey axe he was holding and activated his Demonic Beast Armor Manifestation directly. As expected, it was the second form of the Demonic Beast Armor Manifestation, a heavy armor that was like heavy rocks. It appeared to be very thick and made one wonder if he would fall from the sky.

Yan Yangchi knew that the opponent wouldn’t make the first move. He swung his Deadly Darkness Spear and his Demonic Beast Armor Manifestation appeared. It was a set of fiery red battle armor and appeared to have the force of explosive flames.

Darkness Spirit!

Yan Yangchi’s speed was very fast as well. Most importantly, he had unleashed destructive powers as he charged forth, in a state of one with his spear, bringing along black colored spear Qi as he dashed toward Yu Shan.

Unmoving Imprint!

Yu Shan’s huge axe swung out horizontally, encompassing him in a layer of formless power. The huge axe blocked Yan Yangchi’s Deadly Darkness Spear.

Ding!

The huge powers caused Yan Yangchi to retreat one step. However, his body was like a snake, slithering away. A layer of faint dark Qi appeared on the Deadly Darkness Spear, making it appear to be a little eerie.

All-pervasive!

Yan Yangchi's pitch-black longspear shook, releasing several tens of fine black spear Qi. Each stream of them were like a small-scaled Deadly Darkness Spear, thrusting out toward Yu Shan.

Concurrently, Yan Yangchi stomped down fiercely and with a shake of his longspear, he went into a spin and dashed toward Yu Shan, being in a state of one with his spear.

Axe Splits the Mountains!

The powerful energy in Yu Shan spun quickly, fending off the surrounding spear shadows. At the same time, he swung and hacked toward Yan Yangchi with the huge axe he was carrying.

Although this Axe Splits the Mountains seemed to be a clumsy attack, Qing Shui's eyes gleamed. This battle technique was a perfect match with Yu Shan's Unmoving Imprint.

Being capable yet appearing clumsy!

Qing Shui could tell how profound this attack was. Yan Yangchi seemed to be very fast but yet his attack was nicely fended off by this axe!

Ding...

A loud piercing sound rang out and Yan Yangchi retreated once again. However, Yu Shan also retreated one step back as well.

Unmoving Imprint!

Yu Shan performed the same attack once again, his silhouette appeared to be thick and strong like a mountain but yet the huge axe in his hand hacked out from afar.

Second-Wave Axe!

The huge axe shadow hacked toward Yan Yangchi in a criss-cross pattern, like an axe that had come from another world, giving one the feeling that it was impossible to dodge. The two criss-crossed axe shadows brought about a movement in the world and it was as if the surrounding skies were all led to move along with them.

Yan Yangchi closed his eyes slightly and then suddenly the Deadly Darkness Spear in his hand burst out a thick circle of black glow, as if it was a huge black pillar that was exuding a powerful engulfing power.

Break!

The huge black darkness dashed toward the two huge axes that were coming toward it!

Boom!

The spot where the clash occurred turned into complete darkness and when everything quieted down, everyone could see that Yan Yangchi had already appeared before Yu Shan. It was only at this moment that they could truly be considered to be meeting head-on.

At this moment, Yan Yangchi advanced with every step, the Deadly Darkness Spear in his hand was light as ghost. He wasn't fast but his movements were tricky, each attack trying to take Yu Shan's life.

Yu Shan's huge silhouette occasionally retreated and on occasions when he was too slow, the fearful tip of the Deadly Darkness Spear would pierce the Demonic Beast Armor Manifestation. Each time it did, a ripple would appear on the Demonic Beast Armor Manifestation.

Qing Shui knew that Yan Yangchi would be victorious and he also understood why the latter did not need his help to forge a weapon. This spear that he was using should have a powerful effect in breaking the opponent's Demonic Beast Armor Manifestation.

Splitting Heaven Shattering Earth!

Yu Shan's huge axe managed to find a loophole and smashed out toward Yan Yangchi!

Darkness Sovereign!

Yan Yangchi's spear shadow was like a sharp shadow that was piercing toward Yu Shan, moving after the enemy does but arriving before the enemy does!

The targeted position was the throat!

Yu Shan was astonished, but he realized that he had no way to dodge. Even if he wanted to draw back his huge axe to defend, it was too late. A vicious gleam flashed in his eyes as the huge axe hacked toward Yan Yangchi with an even more brutal attack than before.

Pfft pfft...

Darkness Mirage!

Yan Yangchi's spear pierced through Yu Shan's Demonic Beast Armor Manifestation and penetrated his throat. However, Yu Shan's huge axe concurrently hacked through Yan Yangchi's Demonic Beast Armor Manifestation and through Yan Yangchi.

However, when Yu Shan's body fell, a new silhouette appeared not far away.

Yan Yangchi!

Right now, his countenance was pale. He had clearly suffered from serious internal injuries. Earlier, he had deployed a great skill which he had seldom used. The killing attack of the Deadly Darkness Spear.

It was a pity that when he used this attack, he would suffer from some injuries as well.

After his victory was announced, Yan Yangchi came down.

The fight continued. This time around, it was Yan Clan's turn to choose their participant first.

Yan Yangliu looked toward Yan Yangliu and before he could say anything, Yan Yangliu said loudly, "I give up!"

Giving up, meant to admit defeat. At a time like this, it was in no way more glorious than saying "I admit defeat." Yan Dinglang continued to stand there, unfaltering.

Yan Dingtian's expression was grim, but he didn't say a single word.

In seven rounds, they won three and lost four. The next round was the most crucial one of them all. If they were to lose the next round, there would be no need for them to continue. Therefore, everyone was full of anticipation.

Yan Clan admitted their defeat for one round and the next round was Yu Clan's turn to choose their participant.

"This round, we admit our defeat as well!"

This voice caused everyone to be astounded.

Qing Shui smiled. He had earlier told Yan Yangchi that he must kill that man. From the very start, Qing Shui had told them that they must at least deal their opponents with serious injuries but it would be even better if they could kill them.

The reason for him doing these was for Yu Clan to know that if Yan Clan were to admit their defeat, they get to keep their lives; but when Yu Clan's elites were to lose their lives one by one, it was something which concerned the clan's future.

Although this was what Qing Shui had thought, he hadn't held much hope for this. However, when that voice rang out, to Qing Shui, it sounded as melodious as if it came from the heavens.

Many people were stunned and thought that it might be because Yan Clan had gotten addicted to admitting their defeat and Yu Clan wanted to have a share of the feeling too. However, only people who knew were aware that this was because Yu Clan had absolute confidence that they would win the final round.

However, right now, Qing Shui was even more confident in himself. He wasn't afraid of anyone who was under 100 years old. Moreover, he had just attained a breakthrough and he felt that he would have no problem winning. He was even afraid that his opponent would be instantly killed and there wouldn't be any fun.

What would the cultivation level of the last member be like? Third Grade State Master?

Before the last round, they had a one hour break. For this round, Yan Clan would send their participant up first!

"Who'll be the one heading up this time around? Old Seventh?" Yan Yangchi asked softly.

Old Seventh was referring to Yan Leng, who ranked Seventh amongst the brothers.

At that moment, the Fifth and Seventh Princesses came over. They were in a huge tent and outsiders wouldn't be able to see them.

"Are you alright?" The Fifth Princess looked at Yan Yangchi and asked, worried.

"I'm fine. Why did the two of you come?" Yan Yangchi smiled and asked. He felt very happy to see the Fifth Princess here now. No matter what the situation was, he still felt happy.

"For the last round, Yan Leng will lose." The Fifth Princess let out a sigh and said.

"I'll fight this battle!"

Chapter 1187 - Battling Tian Jiange! Taichi hands, Skysword hands!

"Let me fight this battle!"

At this moment, Qing Shui spoke out unhurriedly. Everyone was shocked when they heard him say this. This was because the Fifth Princess had already mentioned that Yan Leng would definitely lose if he was to go up the stage. To think that this man would still dare to say something like this after what she said. This man must be really certain that he would win.

Everyone looked at Qing Shui in shock. Even though they knew that Qing Shui was extraordinary, they didn't know his actual strength. The only thing they knew about him was that he had exceptional talent in forging.

"I am confident that I will win," Qing Shui said softly.

The Fifth and Seventh Princesses as well as the people from the Yan Clan looked at Qing Shui in amazement. This fight was the most crucial fight, they couldn't afford the slightest carelessness.

Each clan could look for an external help that was under the age of a hundred years old. This was precisely what the Fifth Princess had come over for. However, she never would have expected that Qing Shui would suddenly appear midway.

"Are you aware of who the Yu Clan would send to battle?" The Seventh Princess knitted her brows and looked at Qing Shui. She seemed to be a bit upset with Qing Shui's arrogance. Currently, Qing Shui could be said to be egotistical in her eyes.

"I don't know. I am just stating my opinion. Brother Yan lets me fight, I'll do it. I have no objections even if he chooses someone else to do it," Qing Shui said casually.

He didn't like the expression the Seventh Princess showed. Nevertheless, he still answered carefreely.

The Fifth Princess knitted her brows. After a while, she said unhurriedly, "The opponent is a young expert from Heaven Secrets Academy. He turns hundred this year and is just able to participate. He is really strong and he shares a decent relationship with Third Prince."

"Is his name Tian Jiange?" Yan Jinyu asked softly.

"Yeah, Sister Jinyu, I assume that you too, know of his strength?" Seventh Princess said.

"He is an elite disciple of Heaven Secrets Academy. Most importantly, he is exactly a hundred years old this year. No one younger than him will be a match against him," Yan Jinyu let out a sigh as she answered.

Qing Shui actually didn't really feel anything from it. He smiled and said, "Well then, do you guys have a suitable candidate?"

“We managed to find one. However, there is only a ten percent chance he will beat Tian Jiange.” The Fifth Princess said bitterly.

“Even though he only has a ten percent chance of winning, he has a killer move. Once he uses it, there is a thirty percent chance he will be able to heavily injure his opponent. However, the impact of this killer move is really significant. Regardless of whether it will be able to heavily injure his opponent, he will still end up a cripple for three years,” the Seventh Princess carried on and said.

“So even with the killer move included, there is only a thirty percent chance of winning. The hope is too small.” Yan Yangchi currently felt really conflicted.

“Brother Qing Shui, you have seen it too... This person called Tian Jiange seems to be really strong. Second brother supports your decision to go up. But we don’t want anything to happen to you.” Yan Yangchen said seriously.

“Don’t worry. I promised Sister Qingyu that I would help her fight a match. I am fine with whoever you decide to send. But I guarantee my chance of winning will definitely be higher than that person.” Qing Shui responded with a smile.

“Since Brother Qing Shui has said that, we will support you. It’s just that this match is a death match. Hence, we really wish that you are certain you want to take part in it. We don’t want anything to happen to you,” Yan Yangchi said with her teeth gritted.

“Haha, that’s great then. Let me fight this one. Oh yeah, Sister Qingyu, if anything happens to Tian Jiange, will Heaven Secrets Academy come and seek trouble?” Qing Shui found it necessary to ask this question.

“No, this is a normal match. Heaven Secrets Academy will not seek trouble. The worst thing that could happen is that the friends or relatives of Tian Jiange might come and look for you. They wouldn’t do anything in the open but you wouldn’t be at peace anyways,” said Yan Qingyu after thinking for a while.

Qing Shui was a little depressed upon hearing this. But in any case, he couldn’t care too much about it at the moment. To him, this was also a great opportunity.

The Fifth and Seventh Princesses didn’t say anything upon seeing this. They left after saying a few sentences to Yan Yangchi. Just before they left, the Seventh Princess turned around and looked at Qing Shui, “If you manage to win this match, I will help you with one thing, as long as it’s something that is within my capability.”

Time was up. This time, the Yan Clan was step onto the stage first. Qing Shui rose into the air as he walked onto the arena. It didn’t seem like he was moving fast, but he had arrived within a few blinks of an eye.

“He is so young, is he someone from Yan Clan?”

“No, he should be the person that they asked for help.”

“Yeah, both sides can call for help. It’s just that the person helping them cannot be older than a hundred year old.”

“This young man looks quite handsome, I wonder if he is strong?”

“He is the last one to come out. Even if you use your leg and think, will he possibly be weak?”

.....

Qing Shui was already standing on the arena. However, there was no movements from the Yu Clan. The participant coming out later could choose to come out fifteen minutes after the first participant arrived.

And now, it's very likely that the opponent was trying to neglect Qing Shui. Qing Shui faintly closed his eyes. He stood there like a 10,000 Years Pine Tree, imposing yet motionless, till the point that others felt like he was petrified.

“The Yu Clan can really pretend!”

“What are they trying to do!”

“Lower your volume. I have heard rumors that the external help the Yu Clan invited is quite extraordinary.”

“Really? Brother do you know who he is?”

“He seems to be an expert from Heaven Secrets Academy.”

“If that is true, it's safe to assume that this young man is done for.”

.....

A figure appeared. He was wearing white clothing. His hands behind his back as he approached the arena. Every step he took was like a profound mystery. This person looked equally young and was as handsome as a painting.

All along, this person had a faint smile on his face. Something suddenly appeared in Qing Shui's mind. He was an expert from Heaven Secrets Academy, so how did the Third Prince manage to find him?

Heaven Secrets Academy was a lot stronger than Great Yu Dynasty. Normally, elites from Heaven Secrets Academy wouldn't even bat an eye at a Prince.

On top of the arena not far away from Qing Shui, this young man was greeted with cheers from the audience below. It's not known whether he was cheered because of his handsome looks or his reputation.

Qing Shui was also observing this man. He already knew that this man was a hundred years old. However, he looked like he was almost the same age as himself.

Qing Shui smiled. If it wasn't for the double breakthrough in his Roc Form significantly boosting his strength, things would really be terrible today. The strength within the continent was indeed really profound. Just how powerful was the Heaven Secrets Academy?

“Qing Shui! Please advise me!”

“Tian Jiange, I'm glad to meet you too!”

Qing Shui was a bit shocked by what Tian Jiange said. Nevertheless, he still smiled and said, “I'm really glad to know you too!”

“Well then, let’s try out each others skills today. No matter who wins, as long as we manage to survive, let’s be friends. Are you okay with that?” Tian Jiange smiled and said.

“Sure!” like before, Qing Shui responded calmly. He then lifted up his leg slightly, arriving beside Tian Jiange in a flash.

Tian Jiange squinted, moving his body subtly and raising his right hand.

A silver aura appeared in his palm. He immediately pressed toward Qing Shui’s wrist.

Taichi Golden Qi!

A golden light flashed across Qing Shui’s palm. He abruptly struck towards Tian Jiange’s wrist at a faster speed. The scene looked really exquisite. The two used very mysterious footwork. From an outsider’s perspective, they looked like two shadows. Only powerful warriors would be able to see their movements.

Cloud hand!

Single Whip!

Qing Shui’s hand seemed slow but was actually fast as he attacked Tian Jiange’s acupoints. Qing Shui used the Roc Spreading Wings and Roaming Dragon Steps as he attacked his opponent with the Nine Palace Positioning. His hands were like nature itself, giving off a majestic aura like a huge net. It was so densely packed that one would not be able to find any openings in it.

Qing Shui was aware that Tian Jiange didn’t really pay any attention to him previously. He also wouldn’t have a favorable impression just because of his words from before.

Seeing as the opponent was unarmed, Qing Shui wanted to make him suffer a little.

Tian Jiange’s heart was currently fluctuating like a surging wave. Even though he didn’t have any weapons now, by using his hands as replacements for a sword to unleash the Skysword hands, it already held formidable might. He never expected that there would be a day where he was pressured by a similarly unarmed youngster.

Originally, he thought that he would be able to win the match without any weapons. He was an elite disciple of Heaven’s Academy and a well-known figure among people his age. Currently he was facing off against someone younger than him, of course he wouldn’t pay any attention to him.

Even though he previously felt that his opponent was decent, the aura he emitted was far weaker than his own. However, he was presently getting forced back by his opponent instead. The primary reason was because his opponent was aiming for his acupoints.

It was a close-combat fight. Qing Shui’s hand was so fast that it dazzled the crowd. Both of his hands contained an extremely mysterious force. Even at the time when they collided with Tian Jiange, even if his fists weren’t that strong, they could still sweep away the opponent’s hands. From time to time, he would take advantage of an opening and strike the opponent. Tian Jiange on the other hand, would try his best to prevent Qing Shui from hitting his acupoints.

Bang!

A force that wasn't extremely strong struck Tian Jiange and immediately blew him backwards. The two seemed to share a mutual understanding with each other.

"I am sorry. I underestimated you just now. I will get serious now. You have to be careful too!" Tian Jiange said seriously while looking at Qing Shui.

Qing Shui nodded.

Everyone below was in shock when they saw Tian Jiange being blown away!

"I can't see clearly. But it seemed like the person invited by the Yu Clan is at a disadvantage!"

"Yeah, he actually got blown back!"

"Brother, do you think Qing Shui will be able to beat Tian Jiange?" Yan Qingyu asked softly.

"Qingyu, based on your understanding of Qing Shui, what kind of person do you think he is?" Yan Yangchi smiled and asked.

"His heart is as huge as a mountain, yet he is calm like water. He isn't arrogant, nor does he give up easily. He is very adamant and he always manages to keep his calm in solving problems." By the time Yan Qingyu said all of this, she even stunned herself.

"We have truly underestimated him. He should be even stronger than this. This is weird, what clan actually managed to nurture such a monster? Furthermore, he is very skillful at forging." Yan Yangchi frowned. However, he was still really happy.

He came from the Five Continents. Yan Yangchi shook his head as he thought about all of this. The world truly had too many hidden experts.

"Fourth brother, to think that this person is this strong. Since when has there been such a strong person among the young generation in Great Yu Dynasty?" Fifth Princess looked at the stage in shock.

"Third brother had calculated everything, yet he was unable to predict someone like this appearing. We will see and only talk about it after he beats Tian Jiange. You haven't seen the extent of Tian Jiange's strength," the Fourth Prince said calmly.

"He has truly managed to hide himself well. After the tournament finishes, I will go take a look at his blacksmith store. He had given me a seventy percent discount on the items." The Seventh Princess smiled.

The Fourth Prince and Fifth Princess simply smiled silently

"Where did this little brat come from?" the Third Prince had an unsightly expression on his face.

"He is a blacksmith. During all this time, his blacksmith store has become quite well-known. I think it's called the Firecloud Blacksmith Store," a middle-aged man beside the Third Prince said softly.

Chapter 1188 - Battle, I've Lost, Tian Jiange Lost

“Blacksmith? What kind of clan could let a blacksmith reach such a level? Amongst the countless population in our Great Yu Dynasty, how many of such people would there be?” The Third Prince was astonished beyond words.

The reason he was able to invite Tian Jiange was because the latter had owed him a great favor. Tian Jiange had promised to help him once in the future and the reason he had taken part this time around was so that he could repay the Third Prince and he was only going to do it to the best of his abilities, regardless of whether he would eventually win or lose.

This was what the Third Prince had said as he had thought that once Tian Jiange were to take part, their victory would already be confirmed. Therefore, he didn't have to worry nor was he worried in the least.

...

Demonic Beast Armor Manifestation!

Sky Sword!

Tian Jiange used the Demonic Beast Armor Manifestation and although his Demonic Beast Armor Manifestation was at the second form, it wasn't what the ones Qing Shui had seen previously could compare against.

Although it had an illuminated glow, it was more material and was in a silvery white color. Even the Sky Sword he was holding gave a feeling as if he had descended from the heavens. He had an extraordinary aura to him but even more so, killing intent.

It was very contradicting and his aura was much more powerful compared to the ones from before. Qing Shui didn't dare to let his guard down. He took out his Big Dipper Sword and activated his Demonic Beast Armor Manifestation.

Qing Shui's Demonic Beast Armor Manifestation was a golden color and appeared very thick. It formed a very distinctive difference against Tian Jiange's silvery white form.

Skysword Shadow!

This time around, Tian Jiange attacked first. With a move, with a speed that was much faster than before, a sharp sword shadow shot out toward Qing Shui with a flash.

It was like the spring breeze and fine drizzle, silent and stirless!

Golden Sword!

Qing Shui raised his head as well and attacked with the Golden Sword in his Five Elements Divine Refining Technique. It clashed against the opponent's 天剑影 and they negated each other out!

Heavenly Net Sword Slash!

Tian Jiange instantly dashed out once again, bringing about many sword shadows to form a huge net, encompassing the surrounding sky.

Tidal Cloud Waves Seal!

Qing Shui didn't panic. Lifting his Big Dipper Sword, a spread of ocean appeared around them, blocking the sword shadows that were coming in from all directions.

Monstrous Wave!

Qing Shui raised his hand once again and many huge whirlpools appeared. The pitch-black whirlpools exuded a terrifying engulfing power, as if they were going to absorb the entire sky.

Roaming Dragon Steps!

Amidst the danger-filled ocean, Qing Shui was a huge dragon that was on a roll, advancing with a mysterious power and dashing toward Tian Jiange.

Qing Shui still had some reservations. He didn't wish to kill Tian Jiange, nor did he wish to let him feel completely humiliated. Therefore, he decided to temporarily drag the fight on since he didn't wish to be targeted by the people from Heaven Secrets Academy.

If he could make it such that it didn't bring humiliation to Tian Jiange while he could still win, he believed that Tian Jiange won't let the people from Heaven Secrets Academy find trouble with him. Qing Shui wasn't afraid of people who were of his age but there were too many experts in Heaven Secrets Academy. If a few of them were to come and deal with him, he might just have to live like a fugitive.

Might of Sky Sword!

Tian Jiange didn't dare to let his guard down. Seeing that Qing Shui was able to easily fend off his Heavenly Net Sword Slash, he knew that Qing Shui has a great mastery in spirit energy.

He raised his Sky Sword which rapidly grew bigger, exuding a rustic feel. It was as if this was an ancient huge sword, one which had descended from the heavens.

Qing Shui moved his Big Dipper Sword, swinging the sword as his hand!

Diamond Buddha Devil Staff!

Four Staff Five Oceans Churning!

A huge golden divine staff that was like a heavenly pillar appeared in the air. It was glimmery gold and there were many rustic Buddha images. It exuded profound power.

Qing Shui himself was a little astonished. To think that his Diamond Buddha Devil Staff had now reached such a level and prowess. He would never have expected this at the very beginning. Only when one was strong, would the person then be able to unleash the prowess of martial techniques to their greatest.

Anger of Sky Sword!

The huge white sword Qi was stronger and it slashed down toward Qing Shui. A silver glow encompassed Qing Shui.

Boom!

A loud clashing sound rang out. It was a deep sound that would cause the world to tremor, just like when two blocks of mountains were to clash together!

Everything in the surroundings disappeared. Tian Jiange shook the longsword in his hand!

Solar True Qi!

The silvery-white longsword and his Demonic Beast Armor Manifestation suddenly turned red. He appeared to be like a small, scorching sun!

Solar True Fire Sword!

The reason Tian Jiange could reach his cultivation level at such a young age was because he cultivated the powerful Solar True Fire Art, A powerful crimson red sword Qi that was over ten meters long burst out. The violent power outburst slashed out toward Qing Shui.

Its speed was fast as sparks!

Nine Continents Mountain!

With a single thought, the Nine Continents Mountain appeared before Qing Shui and smashed out toward Tian Jiange while blocking the explosive Solar True Fire Sword Qi!

With a flash, the profound Nine Palace positioning allowed Qing Shui to instantly appear near Tian Jiange!

He raised his Big Dipper Sword!

First Level of Xuantian Seal!

What astonished Qing Shui was that this time around, the silver platform was much bigger than before. It was a shimmering silver light and the silver light encompassed Tian Jiange.

It might be because of the great increase to his spirit energy that this time around, the prowess of the Seal of Xuantian seemed to have gotten a lot stronger!

Solar True Qi!

The Solar True Qi on Tian Jiange exuded violently and negated the First Level of Xuantian Seal's ability to reduce speed and reaction.

Qing Shui didn't find this strange. It was because when he was using his spirit energy, there was no Buddha Form Reveal. Therefore, the spirit energy he struck out with now wasn't very terrifying.

However, the Nine Continents Mountain's prowess had been displayed!

Boom!

The Nine Continents Mountain smashed out toward Tian Jiange!

The prowess of 13,000 clouds was very great. At the very least, Tian Jiange was sent flying.

The Nine Continents Mountain had a powerful Shield attack and even though Tian Jiange was very strong, his strength was probably only slightly higher than 10,000 nimbus. If he were to use the Solar True Fire Sword Qi his battle prowess would exceed 10,000 nimbus. However, the prowess of the Nine

Continents Mountain's Shield attack was still very powerful. Moreover, this time around, Tian Jiange didn't have sufficient time to prepare for the block!

Solar True Fire, flames!

A gleam shone in Tian Jiange's eyes and the red glow on his body shone much brighter than before. The huge "red sword" slashed down on the Nine Continents Mountain!

This time around, the Nine Continents Mountain was pushed back!

Qing Shui knew that if it wasn't because he had a tremendous increase in his strength, he wouldn't be able to deal with Tian Jiange. He should be barely considered a Grade Three State Master or could be said to be only Peak Grade Two State Master. One's abilities wasn't measured simply just by one's grade alone and it wasn't necessary such that one would be of a certain grade if they had a certain level of strength. Grade was something which should be seen from a general overview.

For example, a Grade Two State Master must have the necessary strength, defense, speed, spirit energy, realm, endurance...

Roc's Might!

The Big Dipper Sword slapped down a Sword of Seventh Wave on the Nine Continents Mountain.

The impact from this blow, in addition to the control of the Nine Continents Mountain's prowess through his mind, the Nine Continents Mountain smashed toward Tian Jiange with a terrifying power.

At this moment, Tian Jiange's countenance seemed to be a bit pale as he gave off a feeling of helplessness.

Tian Jiange squinted and with a few flashes, streams of red sword Qi smashed down on the Nine Continents Mountain. At the same time, with a wave of his hand, a huge demonic beast that was emanating flames all over appeared right next to him.

This demonic beast was about 100 meters in size and was exuding flames from its body. It was covered in scales and looked like a bull. It had two huge horns on its head and spewed flames out from its nose was over ten meters long.

The Three Primordial Solar Beast!

This huge beast that was emanating flames had an even stronger aura than Tian Jiange. After coming to the Western Oxhe Continent, Qing Shui temporarily had no use for his demonic beasts. It was the same for the others. At their level, people tended to have stronger demonic beasts but it was difficult to tame a demonic beast that was stronger than yourself.

The more power the demonic beast, the higher its intellect. While it might not be comparable to a human, in battles, it wouldn't be weaker than humans. This was their talent. Moreover, demonic beasts have far longer lifespans than humans.

The Three Primordial Solar Beast was a powerful demonic beast from the ancient era. They exuded flames on their body and had scales for armor. Their powerful defense caused them to be undefeatable.

The Three Solar Fire was a terrifying flame that was of the same level as the Golden Flames and the Li Fire, one of the most powerful flames. The explosive Three Solar Fire was one of extreme yang and was a power which was capable of destroying everything and would light up even water.

Its two huge fire horns and thick and muscular limbs gave it terrifying physical strength as well. It would even be able to penetrate a mountain or crumble it.

Go!

Qing Shui controlled the Nine Continents Mountain and sent it smashing toward the Three Primordial Solar Beast!

Dong!

What that astonished Qing Shui was that the 13,000 clouds strength could only cause this huge beast to tremble. It wasn't even able to stop the beast in its tracks.

The greatest flaw of the Three Primordial Solar Beast was that it was slow. Qing Shui formed imprints with his hands.

Buddha Form Reveal!

Buddha's True Eyes!

Tidal Cloud Waves Seal!

Monstrous Wave!

Water contradicts fire!

Qing Shui felt that he should be able to confine it like this.

In the ocean, the Three Primordial Solar Beast was like a unique existence, darting around and even the Tidal Cloud Waves Seal was only able to stop to for a short moment.

Nine Waves Great Golden Buddha Palm!

Confinement!

Qing Shui performed the Seventh Wave of the Nine Waves Great Golden Buddha Palm again, the lotus form with an even greater prowess. It managed to confine the Three Primordial Solar Beast!

Qing Shui then shifted the sword to his left hand and swung it once again!

Another Seventh Waves of the Great Golden Buddha Palm!

Single-handedly holding up the skies!

Boom!

Roar!

This time around, what Qing Shui unleashed was the attacking prowess of the Seventh Waves of the Great Golden Buddha Palm!

The tremendous strength slapping down on the Three Primordial Solar Beast caused it to bleed profusely and many aspects on its scale armor were smashed!

The prowess of this attack was concentrated with all of Qi of the Ancient Strengthening Technique's spirit energy. How powerful was that? It caused the Three Primordial Solar Beast to be seriously injured and this was when Qing Shui didn't get the 20% chance of having the attacking prowess doubled. Otherwise, it would probably have died.

Tian Jiange was stunned. What kind of power was this? If this attack were to land on him, how could he block?

Qing Shui was in no rush to attack again. He was waiting for Tian Jiange to express his stance!

"I've lost!"

After very long, Tian Jiange let out a soft sigh, wearing an unconcealable bitterness on his face.

"There's nothing wrong about losing. It's something that every cultivator is constantly experiencing. It's just that there are many means to admitting defeat. Even if you lose, don't lose in terms of morale; even if you lose, don't lose in terms of spirit; even if you lose, don't lose in terms of will..." Qing Shui spoke calmly.

There was a difference between between "I've lost" and "I admit defeat"!

What Tian Jiange said was "I've lost" and not "I admit defeat"!

"I wonder if you're able to accept the words I'd said earlier?" Tian Jiange said softly.

"Friends are made with the heart. If you treat me as a friend, I'll naturally treat you the same." Qing Shui smiled and said calmly.

"Alright, I'll treat you as a friend. I have a feeling that we'll meet again. The next time we meet, we'll be friends. Farewell!" Tian Jiange cupped his fists together toward Qing Shui, called back the seriously injured Three Primordial Solar Beast and then turned to leave.

The Chinese characters for Tian Jiange's "Tian Jian" is the same as the characters for "Sky Sword".

Chapter 1189 - Difficult to Join Heaven Secrets Academy, The Mysterious Eldest Princess of the Royal Family

Tian Jiange left without a word. This outcome was particularly shocking to everyone because by now many had known that Tian Jiange was an elite disciple of the Heaven Secrets Academy.

An elite disciple of such a powerful academy was actually defeated by an unknown person just like that. Before Tian Jiange left, he didn't even glance in the direction of the Third Prince.

In his eyes, the Third Prince had never put him in his eyes. He had no choice but to make a deal with him once in the past for to special reason. He had agreed to help him this once and would try his best despite the outcome. This time, he had indeed tried his best but even so, he had lost.

It was just as what the young man by the name of Qing Shui had said; failure wasn't scary. Every powerful cultivator had gotten back up on their feet from countless failures before they ascended to their position of a powerful cultivator.

This round of match had allowed him to truly understand that there were mountains beyond mountains and heavens beyond heavens. There were indeed too many reclusive experts. The small recluse hid among the fields, while the medium recluse hid among the forests and the great recluse hid among the cities. All of these meant one thing - those recluses who were disillusioned with human society and chose to hide themselves in the forests were only 'recluses' on the surface. Those who could truly achieve the state of being unconscious of the boundary between oneself and the external world were the ones who could find enjoyment quietly by themselves in the midst of the noises and disturbances in the most secular cities and empires. This was because they could only truly spiritually live on the other level by living in seclusion in the cities and empires.

The capable ones wished to rely on their environment to forget about the affairs of the world and hence distance themselves from the world; such is a small recluse. The truly capable ones would choose to hide among the haunts of the common people because this is the place where talented individuals hide themselves; such is a medium recluse. Only the best of the best would choose to hide in all levels of society. Although they surround themselves with the clamoring politics, they are able to conceal their wisdom with folly and treat everything with indifference; such is a true recluse.

Perhaps this time he had to thank this young man. If his achievement in martial arts ever became a focus of attention in the future, today's had battle played a very big role in that. It had changed his entire mentality. Perhaps this was the turning point in his life.

Now that Tian Jiange had left, Qing Shui also breathed a sigh of relief in his heart. He wasn't afraid, he merely didn't wish to be forced to leave. As for the Yan Clan, they would be fine as long as they won. The Yan Clan were powerful enough and the royalty would have to keep their promise too. Besides, Yan Jinyu was also from the Heaven Secrets Academy.

When the old man declared Qing Shui and Yan Clan's victory, happy smiles were seen on the faces of the Yan Clan people while the faces of the Yu Clan people turned paled along with the Third Prince.

The Third Prince was glaring at Qing Shui, wishing that he could directly kill him a hundred times with his deadly gaze. It was a pity that he couldn't. Soon enough, the expression on his face returned to normal, as if nothing had happened.

But he looked towards the Fourth Prince. Seeing that man who currently only had a small smile on his face, intense hatred once again welled up in his heart as he gritted his teeth. Among the royal family, the Crown Prince and the Eldest Princess were the most mysterious, followed by even this Fourth Prince, who was seemingly a level more superior than him. This made him feel extremely unpleasant in his heart, so he was thinking of being in control of the Yan City through this, as a foundation for his future development.

When the old man declared the victor, Qing Shui went off the arena. Upon seeing many stupefied expressions among the Yan Clan, he laughed, "I told you already that my chance of winning was higher than that person!"

“You are really secretive!” Yan Yueyin gave Qing Shui strange look and said.

Yan Jinyu looked at Qing Shui with a small smile. The smile on her face was very warm. It seemed like going to the Divine Weapon Street that day was the best move on her part.

The Yan Clan was very happy. The people in the surroundings were getting rowdy, undoubtedly talking about how impressive Qing Shui was.

“To be able to defeat the elite disciple of the Heaven Secrets Academy, who do you all think he is?”

“To be able to exert himself for the Yan Clan, he must at least be a friend of the Yan Clan!”

“I don’t think he’s merely just a friend of theirs. I heard that he had proposed marriage to the two misses from the Yan Clan.”

“What nonsense is that? I know this young man have a very deep relationship with the Seventh Princess while the Fifth Princess is the fiancée of the eldest son of the Yan Clan. It was for this reason the young man helped the Yan Clan, for the Seventh Princess.”

“How do you know that?”

“The younger brother of my seventh aunt’s eighth sister’s husband’s brother’s wife is a normal friend of this young man. They drink together from time to time. I’m pretty close to him, so he told me that.”

“.....”

Yan Dinglang and the rest were ghastly pale. What awaited them was the devastating punishment of their clan’s law. Due to the victory of the Yan Clan, it was impossible for the Third Prince to step in their defense.

Qing Shui and Yan Yangchi had already left along with everyone else. As for the matter between Yan Clan and Yu Clan, it would naturally be settled by Yan Dingtian and the people of the Yan Clan Supreme Elder Association.

At the same time, the Fifth Princess and Seventh Princess left too. However, the Fourth Prince didn’t leave!

“Did you guys see that? The Seventh Princess and the Fifth Princess left together.”

The person from earlier pointed out, a little smugly!

They returned to the Firecloud Blacksmith Store but it was closed!

“I was also worried that the Yan Clan would lose earlier but I didn’t know you were actually that impressive!” the Fifth Princess said embarrassedly to Qing Shui after the few of them arrived at the Blacksmith Store.

“Nothing to worry about. This just shows that you and Brother Yan are very deeply in love,” Qing Shui said with a smile.

The Fifth Princess found it odd that this man seemed to be able to speak very naturally to her. Words like these were rarely heard by her. There weren't many people who could talk to her this way, let alone being this natural about it. This had just further proven that this man had a lot of experience.

"I promised you that if you won, I would agree to one condition from you, as long as it is within my capability." When the Seventh Princess said this, she suddenly realized that it might have sounded a little too ambiguous, so she couldn't react to it in time.

She was a little worried now and slightly speechless as her lovely face slightly reddened all of a sudden. This made Qing Shui gloomy instead. What was this supposed to be? A seduction?

The Seventh Princess always had a serene and elegant demeanor. She was fully dressed in a phoenix dress and was extremely gorgeous, youthful and had an air of nobility around her. Qing Shui slightly averted his gaze and then smiled. "You'll really agree to one condition from me?"

"Of course. I'll naturally keep my words."

"Any conditions, as long as it is within your capability?" Qing Shui smiled teasingly at her.

The Seventh Princess hesitated, she didn't even dare to meet Qing Shui's eyes. Anyone could tell that she was feeling conflicted right now.

"Yes, as long as it is something I can do, I agree to it."

When the Seventh Princess said this, she breathed a sigh of relief. Yan Jinyu seemed to have a different feeling instead and she didn't know why. She was certain that she had merely been treating him as a younger brother and didn't have any other feelings for him. But somehow, something felt a little weird right now.

This was a mentality such that if Qing Shui was her younger brother, he was hers. If she were to give him to someone else, naturally she'd feel uncomfortable. This was also like how a mother watched her son getting married. Although she would be happy, she'd sometimes still feel a little weird when she saw her son pouring all his attention onto his wife. All this was normal.

"I would like you to help me find someone. Sister Yueyin knows the details. I wish to find her as soon as possible. So since you offered to help me, please help me find her," Qing Shui said with a smile.

The Seventh Princess felt very strange right now in her heart. She didn't know if she was disappointed or happy. Although she feared that he would make an inappropriate request, she kind of wished that he did.

Such is human nature. Qing Shui's action had already caused her to be certain of her positive feelings for him, that was why she had thoughts like these.

She rolled her eyes at Qing Shui speechlessly. "Who is it that you want to find? I will try my best to assist you?" She asked happily.

"My wife. I have a portrait of her with me." Qing Shui had quite a number of Di Chen's portraits in his hands as he took one out and handed it over to the Seventh Princess.

The Seventh Princess was also taken aback when she heard that he was searching for his wife. As soon as she saw that peerless beauty on the portrait, she couldn't help but to sing praises for her beauty. The lady on the portrait even made her feel a little inferior. No wonder this man wasn't attracted to her.

To be honest, both Yan Jinyu and Yan Yueyin had the same feelings. Both of them felt a little inferior to her, despite the fact that they were also the most gorgeous beauties in their region.

After Qing Shui briefly explained the situation, the Seventh Princess thought for awhile before she spoke. "I will use my greatest effort to help you find her and inform you immediately as soon as I receive any information."

Qing Shui smiled and didn't seem to mind. He didn't take her seriously anyway and had waved it off casually. But it was seen through by the Seventh Princess. Although she felt a little bad in her heart, she still assured him with a smile. "Rest assured. I will definitely find her for you. I will seek help from the Eldest Princess."

Qing Shui didn't feel anything when he heard at the mention of the Eldest Princess but everyone else seemed to be looking at the Seventh Princess in shock.

"The Eldest Princess is really busy. I think it is better that we try our best to help Qing Shui find her!" The Fifth Princess said after giving it some thought.

"I know my limits!" The Seventh Princess shook her head.

"It sounds like the Eldest Princess is able to really help me find her?" Qing Shui asked everyone with an amazed look on his face.

"The Eldest Princess is known as the number one genius among the Great Yu Dynasty. She is one of the youngest teachers in the Heaven Secrets Academy and is rumored to possess great power and abilities within her. Even the current Great Yu Dynasty sometimes has to rely on her existence," Yan Yangchi explained softly.

Another mention of the Heaven Secrets Academy. By now Qing Shui had already realized the Heaven Secrets Academy was indeed powerful. He was even considering enrolling himself in there. By the time he had made a name for himself, he could go and find Di Chen himself.

"I wonder what the are requirements for joining the Heaven Secrets Academy?" Qing Shui asked after pondering for a moment.

"The Heaven Secrets Academy doesn't accept outsiders. Normally, the elite disciples of the Heaven Secrets Academy will be granted a quota after they make an enormous contribution. Apart from that, the teachers of the Heaven Secrets Academy are allowed to bring in one person every year. But of course, these people will have to go through a test. They will only be officially accepted by the Heaven Secrets Academy if they pass the test. I am not too sure if there are any other methods to join them," Yan Jinyu spoke up at this time.

Qing Shui didn't expect the procedure for joining the Heaven Secrets Academy to actually be like this. It seemed like it wasn't that easy to join. For now, he still had to open the blacksmith store first. If that didn't work out, he'd have to get some apprentices and then let them open their own blacksmith stores everywhere, with the condition that the name had to be the 'Firecloud Blacksmith Store'.

A chain store. Qing Shui shook his head. After letting his mind run wild for a little while, everyone went in for some wine while they chatted. A more relaxing conversation naturally followed. The victory of Yan Clan this time was an event worth celebrating.

“Come, come. This time we are lucky to have Qing Shui around. Let me express our gratitude on behalf of the Yan Clan.”

The moment Yan Yangchi spoke, the rest raised their cups for a toast. It was difficult for Qing Shui to decline. “It’s fine for a toast but my words still stand. If we are brothers, then there’s no need for such courtesy. I don’t have many friends, even less here, so I treasure them very much.”

“We treasure you as a brother very much too!”

.....

“Oh that’s right. Suyu and I have decided to get married next month!” Yan Yangchi announced with a smile when they were enjoying the wine.

Chapter 1190 - The Yang Stone, Lured into a Trap, Drawing the Sword

Yan Yangchi’s words shocked everyone, but they were mostly pleasantly surprised by the news. The Fifth Princess was exuding a charming aura right now with her slightly flushed but blissful face.

It went without saying that Yan Yangchi was also very happy. Their relationship had gone on for a very long time, but they had never held their wedding ceremony. Cultivators didn’t want to be chained down by commitments. But now that they felt that their relationship was stable, they decided to get married.

“Congratulations, Big Brother, Sister-in-law!” Yan Yangzhao congratulated them with a smile!

Due to the status of the Fifth Princess getting in the way back then, they couldn’t get married. So everyone still called her the Fifth Princess. Furthermore, the Fifth Princess didn’t really get to mingle with the Yan Clan much, aside from Yan Yangchi obviously.

“Congratulations, Brother,” Qing Shui said with a smile.

Everyone else congratulated them happily.

.....

The wine party went on until very late as everyone drank to their heart’s content. In the end, everyone stayed the night, including the Fifth and Seventh Princesses. However, Qing Shui still spent his night in the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal.

On the very next day, Qing Shui’s Firecloud Blacksmith Store was opened for business. He was even planning to take some requests. Since he had been forging for Yan Yangchi and the rest before, he hadn’t manage to do any other requests. But he could finally do so from now on, probably one request a day or perhaps a few requests in a day. Anyway, this was for the sake of earning a reputation.

“Why don’t you take on my request as the first for today?” The Seventh Princess glanced at Qing Shui.

“Sure but you’ll have to prepare the materials yourself and offer me something that interests me as a reward.” Qing Shui smiled at the woman who actually gave others a very favorable impression.

“We’re so well acquainted each other, do we still have to talk about that?” The Seventh Princess was speechless.

“Alright, tell me what you want. If you aren’t impressed by what Sister Yan is wearing right now, then you’ll have to prepare your own materials.” Qing Shui was only joking just now.

“Of course they are to my taste. But I have my own materials for a weapon. Is it alright for you to use this when forging my weapon?” The Seventh Princess asked happily and then showed him the scarlet stone she had in her hands.

“A Sunstone!” Qing Shui exclaimed in shock after seeing it.

“That’s right. It was a birthday present from the Eldest Princess. I haven’t been able to find someone who can temper it,” the Seventh Princess explained to Qing Shui with a smile.

Once again, the Eldest Princess was mentioned. Qing Shui was getting curious about this woman. It was said that sometimes even the formidable Great Yu Dynasty had to rely on this woman for their reputation. A peak Grade Two Dynasty, the strongest existence within it was a Grade Three State Master. The bare minimum strength of a Grade Three State Master was 10,000 nebula. But how much was the maximum strength of a peak Grade Three State Master? What strength was required to be a Grade Four State Master?

Qing Shui was still clueless about everything. Should Tian Jiange’s strength be considered a borderline Grade Three State Master or only a Peak Grade Two State Master? Based on his own strength, he was probably a Grade Three State Master now. Even so, it was still incomparable to the enormous amount of strength that those State Masters from the Dynasty Sect held.

Apart from that, it would be his own strength. The Demonic Beast Armor Manifestation had barely made it into the Grade Two State Master state. Qing Shui was only worried about his own strength right now. Based on his strength, he could probably be considered a Grade Three State Master.

There were only two Grade Four Dynasties in the Wester Oxhe Continent and the mysterious Heaven Secrets Academy. There were definitely Grade Four State Masters in the Grade Four Dynasty, let alone the Heaven Secrets Academy. The only thing that made Qing Shui wonder was if any Grade Four State Masters also existed among the Grade Two and Grade Three Dynasties.

Qing Shui felt that along the path of a State Master, the higher you went, the greater the gaps were between the levels. Even a Grade Three State Master was a divider, that is to say that there was a wide gap in between a Grade Three State Master and Grade Four State Master.

“What’s with you? If you can’t do it then we’ll use something else,” the Seventh Princess hurriedly said when she saw Qing Shui in a daze.

Qing Shui was baffled. This Yang Stone was something that had fallen off when the outer layer of the sun had burnt out and could only be found in some unusual locations. It was just like a meteorite from the sky, except that this Yang Stone was more precious. However, the biggest problem with this kind of material was the fact that it was very difficult to melt.

These were waste rocks that were once overflowing with the energy in the core of the sun and had fallen off after the energy had been completely burned out. However, these waste rocks were some of the most powerful materials used for forging and they were priceless.

Since it had been burned out, it would of course no longer have to be melted with the same temperature as a sun. In fact, it only required a hundred millionth of that temperature. Even so, there were still very few blacksmiths who could melt it.

The Seventh Princess had only taken it out because she wanted to have a weapon forged with a Yang Stone so badly since the Eldest Princess was using a Yang Stone Sword.

When she saw the expression on Qing Shui's face, a wave of embarrassment washed over her because she realized that she had made things difficult for Qing Shui, so she had hurriedly said that.

"I am not sure if I am able to but I will give it a try. However, the success rate isn't going to be high, so don't get your hopes up. Take out the weapon that you have used before and let me see it. If by chance I am able to forge it, I'll forge one for you." Qing Shui didn't really mind. He wanted a challenge too. Now that his strength had been increased tremendously, he wasn't certain if he was able to melt it now. After all, he was cultivating the Primordial Flame.

"Sure!" The Seventh Princess took out a red longsword that she had used before, it was a fire type too. Although she had taken out her weapon and handed it over to Qing Shui, she didn't put too much hope in it. She was aware of the difficulty and even regretted that she had taken the Sunstone out earlier.

The rest went on with their lives while Qing Shui forged in the Blacksmith Store at his own pace, since he was already accepting orders. He'd accept and forge one weapon for State Masters every few days. They were a minority and there were very few of them among the population of over a hundred million. Hence, he forged those weapons that could amplify power by one or two times to sell. However, they were not to be bought with money but instead traded for herbs, materials or any bizarre items that Qing Shui fancied.

There were also weapons that amplified power threefold among them but not any higher than that. However, since these weren't observable with eyes and couldn't be sensed by average people, Qing Shui could only wait until someone who needed them walked in.

Threefold was already the limit. There weren't many weapons or armor in the store, this sometimes happened because this store emphasized quality over quantity.

Apart from that, Qing Shui wasn't sure how long he could keep this store open. He realized that it seemed like the Heaven Secrets Academy was an important step if he wanted to ascend to new heights. Either that or he could go through the other two Grade Four Dynasties. But of course, it would be better if the Great Yu Dynasty could upgrade to a Grade Four Dynasty.

Qing Shui was going to think about it after opening the Blacksmith Store!

The people of the Yan Clan left in the evening. They had to make preparations for the wedding of Yan Yangchi and the Fifth Princess. The Fifth Princess and the Seventh Princess had also followed Yan Yueyin and Yan Jinyu back to the Yan Residence so things grew quiet here again.

He had used up his time in the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal today, so he could only wait until the next day if he wanted to enter. After the sky turned darker, Qing Shui sat alone in the pavilion while thinking about his future plans.

He wondered if the so-called Eldest Princess and Crown Prince would attend the wedding of Yan Yangchi and the Fifth Princess that was going to happen in a month's time. Normally in this kind of situation, they would come but it was difficult to say since they had a special status.

Qing Shui suddenly recalled that the Seventh Princess was going to ask for the Eldest Princess' assistance in searching for Di Chen's whereabouts, so he had a feeling that perhaps the Eldest Princess might show up for Yan Yangchi's wedding.

The Eldest Princess might not come back when Yan Yangchi and the Fifth Princess got married, but they could arrange for the wedding to take place around the time when the Eldest Princess' usually returned. Perhaps next month would be the time the Eldest Princess would usually return.

Qing Shui had a feeling that it was a very plausible case. To Qing Shui, it seemed like this mysterious Eldest Princess was a very important figure and he could probably understand more about external affairs through her and she might even be able to find Di Chen.

At a sudden wave of intense undulations, Qing Shui raised his hand just when a wave of faint golden gas was unleashed!

Pa!

A wave of energy exploded loudly. Qing Shui's figure flashed as he charged towards the source of the unleashed energy!

He had already expected someone to find trouble with him because his participation in the battle would definitely offend other parties such as the Yu Clan or the people with the Third Prince.

During the daytime, he had already learned some of the Yan Clan's matters. Such as how the Yan Dinglang's branch was punished by his clan. Even some Supreme Elders that supported Yan Dinglang were punished by the clan. It was pretty much considered to be over for them.

The Yu Clan had retreated into seclusion. Even so, that wouldn't stop them from using dirty tricks, such as ambushing Qing Shui or plotting an assassination against him, just like what was happening right now.

Qing Shui had already expected this day to come, but he didn't think that it would be so soon.

He expanded his spiritual sense and it spread out in all directions like tentacles. The speed of the other party was very fast, as if they were getting Qing Shui to follow them.

"Hmm, not human?"

Qing Shui saw that the thing that had ambushed him then fled, while tempting him to follow it somewhere, turned out to be a shadow beast that was about the size of a fully grown bison. The shadow beast was very weak in strength, yet it had extremely formidable speed. Similar to the Treasure Hunting Pig, which was superior in defense and its survival capabilities while the shadow beast was superior in speed and survival capabilities.

At first, Qing Shui was puzzled at how it could be this fast despite how very weak it was when it ambushed him. It turned out that its objective was to lure him here.

Qing Shui could pretty much be considered a courageous and highly skillful person, so he was interested to know just who it was that wanted to kill him.

He was originally planning to stop this shadow beast and this was doable with the current speed he possessed. Besides, he also had the Sacred Jade Divine Stone Ring. Even without it, he could catch up to it with only the Nine Palace positioning.

The shadow beast had a very formidable speed. It brought Qing Shui over a thousand li in a flash and even soared high into the sky.

Although Qing Shui was confident, he still expanded his spiritual sense. But due to its high speed and the limitation of spiritual sense, by the time he discovered the target, he was already surrounded.

"I didn't expect you to be brave enough to come out here all by yourself." A chilling voice traveled to Qing Shui's ears.

Qing Shui stopped to look at the four old men who surrounded him from all directions, trapping him in the middle.

If Qing Shui wanted to escape right now it would be as easy as flipping over his palm. He could flee immediately by putting the capabilities of Sacred Jade Divine Stone Ring to use. However, he was more interested in knowing who these people were.

"Who are you all? Why have you led me here?" Qing Shui asked while looking at the four unknown old men.

The four of them were fully dressed in gray robes and had quite robust figures. Their eyes were deep and they were shining with incisiveness that didn't give in to their age. The auras around them were very deeply icy and dark, so deep that it shocked even Qing Shui.

"Who are we? The only thing you need to know is it isn't a good thing for a young man to be too much in the limelight."

Actually Qing Shui was already sure that these people were definitely related to the Yu Clan by now. But they weren't necessarily from the Yu Clan because if this matter were to fall through and be exposed, it would be devastating to the Yu Clan.

"Are you all sure that you can kill me?" Qing Shui laughed all of a sudden while looking at them.

"Hahaha, only one of us will be enough to kill you. The four of us are only for insurance." The man seemed to be very amused.