

## Ancient ST 221

### Chapter 221 - Success in concocting the Endurance Pellet. Magnificence of the River and Mountains.

When Qing Shui heard that melodious voice, incomparable joy bloomed in his heart. There were twenty-four hours in a day. Being in a state of extreme focus and attention throughout the day was very tiring and could not be done by ordinary people. Mental fortitude was also the reason why Alchemists were stronger than the other professions.

Qing Shui opened his eyes. To him, being in that special state of focus for twenty-four hours couldn't be considered much. After all, after he ate the Potential Fruit, his mental and spiritual strength was boosted by a huge degree. Not to mention that the degree of difficulty in concocting the Endurance Pellets was several times lower when compared to the Small Revitalizing Pellets.

Opening his golden cauldron, Qing Shui saw that there were over ten pellets in it. Every pellet was the size of a grape and had a yellowish color. Despite so, it was sparkling and translucent while emitting a resplendent light.

Qing Shui immediately ingested one of the pellets as he quickly dissolved it with the aid of his circulated Qi from the Ancient Strengthening Technique. A thick and warm current entered into his Dantian, as it replenished the consumed Qi from the Ancient Strengthening Technique. Not only that, it also provided energy nourishment for bone structures and muscles.

Endurance was a good thing, but he wasn't able to sustain it for long. After finishing a pellet, Qing Shui discovered that the effects dissipated after a short while.

"Seems like this pellet can only be consumed once per person." Qing Shui thought with some regret.

This could be considered the 2nd type of 'real' pellet concocted by Qing Shui, disregarding his Golden Sore Ointment. He was extremely happy and satisfied upon seeing the results of his alchemy.

The most revered profession in this world of the nine continents was alchemy. Qing Shui was thinking. As of now, he should be able to be considered an Alchemist. Even counting the Golden Sore Ointment, he had only concocted three types of medicinal pellets. These three types of medicines would be sufficient for others to lead a lifetime of riches.

Just thinking of the fire bird, happiness bloomed in his heart. The fire bird was his treasure, something akin to his own wings. In the future, he would depend on it to travel the nine continents.

Walking beneath that gigantic Wutong Tree, Qing Shui summoned the fire bird. A beautiful, crisp bird call sounded out as the fire bird affectionately hovered in a spiral around Qing Shui's head. Qing Shui was already used to the fire bird doing this. If some other ordinary people were to see this scenario, they would most definitely be shocked.

Qing Shui placed an Endurance Pellet into the mouth of the fire bird.

An instant later, a reddish light bursted out from the fire bird. The light was so resplendent that it seemed akin to a phoenix undergoing its nirvanic rebirth. The fire bird joyfully called out as it continued spiralling about in the airspace above Qing Shui's head.

Qing Shui took out a 2nd pellet. Upon seeing this, the cries of the fire bird got shriller in excitement.

Qing Shui placed the 2nd pellet into its mouth as the reddish glow of light shone again. Qing Shui enjoyed observing the fire bird's expression as the imposing manner of a divine bird shone during consumption. He knew that the reddish glow of light was an indicator of the Endurance Pellet taking effect.

Qing Shui was very happy, but he knew that two pellets was already the limit for the fire bird. Even if it consumed more, it would have no effect. There wouldn't be such a good thing in this world that had no natural limit.

Despite so, under the earnest calls of the fire bird, Qing Shui retrieved a 3rd pellet and placed it into the mouth of the fire bird.

This time around, there was no other effect. From this experiment, Qing Shui could confirm his guess. The limit for humans was one pellet while the limit for demonic beasts was two.

As for tomorrow, he intended to give some of the pellets to Canghai and the rest. Canghai Mingyue, the Canghai couple, and Huoyun all needed three. This caused Qing Shui to be slightly depressed as he only had a total of five pellets left on him...

The helpless Qing Shui could only grit his teeth and use the remainder of the ingredients to produce 10 more Endurance Pellets. Qing Shui didn't doubt his successful concoction rate. He was different from most of the other alchemists on the continent that would only have a 10% success rate. They failed nine times out of ten.

The reason may be because of his primordial flames, or perhaps his Golden Flint Iron Cauldron. His success rate was much higher when compared to the others. His Golden Flint Iron Cauldron was able to increase his success rate by ten percent, which also allowed him not to have any failed concoctions in past up till today.

Looking at the next random pill named the Beauty Pellet, it still required 108,000 miles of experience before he could reach it. Luckily, Qing Shui discovered that each successful concoction of the Small Revitalizing Pellet gave 1000 exp, while each successful concoction of the Endurance Pellet gave 500 exp. What a pity that there were no more ingredients. If not, he would abuse the heck out of the time dilation effect of the spatial realm to heavily boost his experience points.

A day later, Qing Shui gave the Endurance Pellet to the others. This time around, the Canghai Couple was badly shocked, not to mention Canghai Mingyue. She was staring dumbly at this mysterious guy. She knew that the medicinal recipe of this pellet was extremely precious, especially the ingredients like the Diamond Fruit (Endurance Fruit) which was extremely hard to obtain.

She looked at the three pellets contained within the small bottle Qing Shui gave her. Her ears still resounded with Qing Shui's voice, "A human can only consume one, while demonic beasts were able to consume two. Eating more has no effect. I've already tested it."

Canghai Mingyue lowered her head, "..."

Qing Shui passed three pellets over to the Canghai Couple, as well as three pellets to Huoyun Liu-Li, as he smiled. "When you have a mount in the future, you have to remember this."

Huoyun gave a charming yet crafty smile in response, causing Qing Shui to marvel at her change in attitude. It seems as though she wouldn't avoid him now...

The Canghai Couple understood that it was very time-exhaustive to concoct such a high level pill. The Endurance Pellet could be considered a first-level, King-grade pill. Canghai couldn't help but feel suspicious. Qing Shui only received the recipe about twenty-four hours ago, and considering how precious the ingredients were, how would he have managed to concoct so many pills of this grade within such a short frame of time?

Qing Shui gave the Canghai Couple three pellets because he knew that they would probably have a mount. It was the same amount of pellets he had given to Canghai Mingyue and Huoyun Liu-Li.

"Ah Mingyue, give me some money. I want to go to Greencloud Furniture City to take a look." Qing Shui laughed.

Canghai Mingyue was speechless. This fellow was pretty good at being shameless. Give him an inch and he would want a mile. He had already even started to call her Mingyue out of habit. Canghai Mingyue could only shake her head as she gazed at Qing Shui speechlessly before passing a wad of silver banknotes over to him.

"Sister Mingyue, let's go together. God-father said that the calligraphy and painting there are pretty good!" Huoyun Liu-Li added happily from the side.

"Okay let's go, we have nothing going on and were planning to laze about anyways. Would some guy welcome us to go with him?" Canghai Mingyue intentionally gazed at Qing Shui.

In the end, the three of them entered the Greencloud Furniture City. "Where are the calligraphy and paintings?" Huoyun immediately asked Qing Shui as they entered.

Qing Shui intentionally shifted his glance to that avaricious little sister at the front desk. Upon seeing Qing Shui flanked by two other girls, the counter girl was slightly disappointed and felt a touch of jealousy.

Qing Shui felt that the collection of furniture in this great store was extremely complete, and he actually found many things that he wanted. Feeling joy in his heart, he also felt an impulse to buy everything that he took a liking to. At the moment, he felt a sense of familiarity with it.

Staring at the screen far away, Qing Shui suddenly realised that he needed a few screens. Shortly after his arrival, he had already separated himself from the two girls as he immersed himself to enjoy the artistic concept which Canghai had told him about.

"Flower-patterned screen." Qing Shui sighed in remembrance as he stared at a classic flower-patterned screen with a touch of elegance.

There were large and small screens. After all, all of these would be put to good use in the future as they could separate a room into small areas.

Qing Shui continued strolling about, and discovered that most of the furniture here were things of the 1st and 2nd-level that he recognised. As for those 3rd and 4th-levels, Qing Shui still had not seen any yet.

Birch Cabinet. Qing Shui was numbed as he stared at such ordinary furniture. He had long lost any feelings he had for such ordinary items.

“Redwood Eight Immortals Table!” Qing Shui turned his gaze as he looked at a rectangular table with a fragrance emitting from it. Qing Shui knew that this was something at the pinnacle of the grade of 2nd-level furniture. It could already be considered extremely luxurious.

“Jade Tiger-Prints Table!”

This table was manufactured from top-graded red wood, had patterns of ferocious tigers imprinted on it, and white jade ornaments decorating it. Qing Shui had a deep impression of this table because this was something that he liked.

After leaving the immediate area, Qing Shui continued strolling about.

“Ai, I’ve almost forgotten about beds.”

Qing Shui exclaimed as he came into the beds section of the store. As he stared at the rows of different types of beds, he felt that his perspective had widened.

Qing Shui didn’t continue walking forward, as he thought of a few beds in his memories which he had really wanted. The Eight Trigrams Evil Suppressing Couch had a picture of the Eight Trigrams imprinted on it and was rumoured to be able to ward off evil.

Immortal Veil, a bed manufactured from special wood materials. It was comfortable, and would enable the user to feel fresh and relax, and to forget fatigue or even induce beautiful dreams.

The Dragon and Phoenix bed was manufactured from violet sandalwood. The images of the dragons and phoenixes on it were incredibly vivid and life-like.

Night Dreams, the name of a legendary bed that would enable one to forget all their worries once they slept on it. It was one of the five precious legendary beds in this world.

All these things were in Qing Shui’s memories. However, he still felt that the Eight Trigram Evil Suppressing Couch didn’t lose out to the Night Dreams and the Dragon and Phoenix Bed.

After which, Qing Shui wished to proceed to the 2nd level. After all, there was nothing that caught his eye on the first level. As he stepped onto the 2nd level, Qing Shui gasped in surprise. The items here were higher in quality and grade by at least one level compared to those furniture on the first level. Not only that, an exceptionally conspicuous screen caught his eye!

A painting of magnificent rivers and mountains was painted onto the screen with radiant colours further embellishing it. What an exquisite craft. This was capable of adding an atmosphere of joy to the most mundane homes.

Qing Shui was extremely agitated. Finally, he saw 3rd-tier furniture!

**Chapter 222 - The White Crane Spread it’s Wings, The Mysterious Lady**

Majestic rivers and mountains! The standing screen was embroidered with a drawing of mountains and rivers. It was very colorful, it had exquisite workmanship and it would add a tinge of joy to a comfortable home.

Qing Shui was happy that he had finally seen a 3rd grade piece of furniture!

Seeing this majestic river and mountain standing screen, Qing Shui was deeply attracted by its magnificent. It had an indescribable beauty whose majesty could no longer be described by the word 'beautiful'. No matter how beautiful or exquisite an item was, it would appear inferior and unpresentable in front of this majestic screen.

It was similar to how Canghai Mingyue's beauty's had a majestic beauty to it. It was as beautiful as Yiye Jiange's beauty, which could cause the fall of cities and countries, and it was as beautiful as Huoyun Liu-Li's beauty which could bring suffering to the country and its people. As for which of the three was the best, it would depend on the individual's preference.

The standing screen had a length of 5 meters and a height of over 3 meters. In the drawing, the mountains was as if they were the bones, the rivers the spirit, the heaven and earth the paper. There was pouring water streams, and one could vaguely see the gigantic flying beast in the air. On the mountains, there were also a few blurred figures of beasts and a very small human figure on one of the mountain peaks. It was a drawing that was imbued with a strong force, but it was still very charming. Even Qing Shui felt that the person who embroidered this painting had very good skills as well as a strong mental energy.

Looking at this screen made him feel that humans were really insignificant. To think that the majestic aura from a standing screen was already able to give him such a feeling, Qing Shui wanted to very much know what level of cultivation the artist was at. It was just that he was slightly puzzled as to why such a high level standing screen as well as the drawing on it would be classified together with furnitures. The screen felt more like an exquisite art piece with excellent workmanship.

Qing Shui stood a distance away to take a look at this majestic screen with river and mountains, exclaiming to himself on the interesting things and some things with hidden mysteries in the world of the nine continents.

Qing Shui liked to look at paintings, and two types in particular, namely paintings of beautiful women and paintings of mountains and rivers. The former could make one feel joyful, and mentally enriched. The latter, especially majestic paintings like the one in front of him, not only broadened one's views, it could also broaden one's heart such that one would not stay at a bottleneck by being a frog at the bottom of the well.

Qing Shui walked up to the drawing, and he realised that the more he looked at it, the more he grew to like it. Seeing that the price was 500,000 taels of silver, Qing Shui felt that it was a price that he could accept. While it was 5 times more expensive than the Tiger's Descend painting, Qing Shui felt that it was worth it.

Because Qing Shui had been standing in front of this standing screen for a long time, a lady wearing Greencloud Furniture City's uniform came over.

“Hello! Is there anything I can help you with?” Her voice was sweet, her smile heartwarming, and her appearance was quite good as well. She was a lady who was tall and lean, with beautiful fair skin, and when she talked, one could see a bit of the beautiful white teeth behind that small mouth of hers, giving one a pleasant feeling.

Qing Shui looked at the charming lady in front of him, especially at her pair of bright eyes which were like the stars in the night sky. He lamented that such a beautiful young lady could only be a store assistant here.

“Nothing much. Do you have many items in the store of this quality? Is there anything else of a higher quality?” Qing Shui casually asked.

“This is already considered outstanding in the second level, but there are a few other pieces that are comparable to this. Would you need me to introduce them to you?”

Qing Shui could hear that the lady’s voice was very calm. And while it was a very pleasant voice, it did not have a seductiveness, numbing, coy, hoarse, sharp, or intoxicating tone to it...

Her voice was very soft, as if he was talking to a beautiful girl next door. Her voice was not sharp and crisp, it was very nice, and it would make one fall more and more into it.

Looking at the astounding number of furniture around him, he thought that he would need to take a long time with those piece of good items. In addition to the fact that the lady was very beautiful and gave one a pleasant feeling, Qing Shui felt that it might be scenic to have her accompany him.

“Then I’ll have to trouble you. Right, I’ll be buying this. Later, you can take me to the cashier as well.” Qing Shui knew that this lady would be paid a commission from the things he bought.

“It’s no trouble, please come with me.” The lady was neither humble nor pushy, nor did she appeared overjoyed when she heard that Qing Shui was going to purchase the standing screen. Of course, she maintained her smile all this time.

Qing Shui followed the lady and he looked at that especially beautiful butt of hers. While it was not big, it was perky and round, and it was a good match with her waist as well as her pair of long and beautiful legs. While she walked, the soft and light sashay gave him a very pleasant feeling.

“Sir, this is the White Crane Spread it’s Wings. It is considered one of the best items around here.” The lady’s soft, pleasant voice rang out, interrupting Qing Shui’s lewd thoughts.

However, when he heard the name of the item, he got very excited.

How could he keep thinking about the Phoenix’s Pride Portrait and forget about this White Crane Spread it’s Wings? Qing Shui no longer cared about the quality of the items according to the knowledge from his previous life. So long as the items were useful to him, he did not care if they were 1st grade, 2nd grade or 3rd grade stuff.

Qing Shui looked in the direction that the lady pointed in, and he saw a curtain with the length and width of over 3 meters. While he could not tell what material it was made of, he felt that it may have been woven from some kind of precious silk.

The picture on the curtain was that of a snow white crane that was about to take off amidst the greenery. This curtain gave him a different resonance to the Tiger's Descend painting as well as the majestic scenery embroidered on the standing screen.

The Tiger's Descend painting emphasized on the aura, the incisiveness, and it was as if the it had accumulated strong aura and then released it. It was a kingly aura that would bravely advance forth.

The standing screen was more majestic, and when placed together, even the Tiger's Descend painting would be like a child standing before a burly man. One painting focused on the aura of an individual, while the other was that of the heaven and earth. It was not comparable at all!

However, the White Crane Spread it's Wings had given one a casual and relaxed feeling. The greenery in the drawing was very beautiful and the crane was standing by the river, and it was about to take off. It had a light stance as it stretched out its body, giving one a harmonious and natural feeling. Qing Shui looked at the crane quietly as if he could appreciate something from it. An intoxicating smile hung on his face, and the lady in uniform blankly stared at him until she eventually turned away shyly.

After a very long time, Qing Shui finally regained his senses and he saw that the price was also 500,000 taels of silver. Qing Shui no longer held on to the concept of money, and so long as he had enough money on him, 500,000 taels of silver aside, he would still buy it without hesitation even if it was a million or two million taels of silver.

"What other items are there? Take me to have a look!" Qing Shui grinned.

He naturally would buy White Crane Spread it's Wings, and even though he had spent a million taels of silver at one go, he was very happy with what he got. Don't look down on a million taels of silver. Even some well-to-do families might not be able to afford this amount of money. If a person had a million silver taels, he would be considered rich.

The lady smiled sweetly and they headed for another area. This time around, Qing Shui did not stare at the lady's beautiful butt, he looked at the furniture on his left and right. On the way, he recognized some items which were ordinary from his knowledge.

The items on the 2nd storey were all of excellent workmanship. Even the worst ones on this level were about the same as the best ones on the level below. Qing Shui liked to see the items, but when he saw the unbelievable prices, he could not start to imagine what was the actual value of this Furniture City was.

However, he was curious as to who owned this Furniture City? Qing Shui felt that it should be either the Immortal Sword Sect, the Joyous Sect or the Imperial Beast Aristocrat.

Walking over to the area for tables, he saw that there were all sorts of tables, some even coming as a set with chairs. However, the quality of the items here was obviously much higher than those from the level below.

"This is the Hundred Beasts Evil Suppressing Table, made from the most precious 1000-Year red sandalwood, and it was exquisitely crafted. It's said that the drawings of the 100 beasts could suppress evil and weaker beasts would not dare to step near it." The lady pointed to a set of red sandalwood table and chairs which had drawings of various demonic beasts on them.

Only when he came across them did Qing Shui realise that tables and chairs could give such an overwhelming feeling. It was no wonder that there were many who had the habit of keeping such items for collection.

The hundred beast drawings were vividly carved, each presenting various postures but with perfect coordination. It came with chairs which were like the ones that Qing Shui was familiar with, just that there were many pictures of beasts carved on them.

Qing Shui suddenly thought of his Nine Animals Mimicry Technique, he thought of the value of just one Tiger's Descend painting, and decided that he would not give it a miss.

"What other things are there? Items similar to these?" Qing Shui noticed that quite an amount of time had passed and he wondered what Canghai Mingyue and Huoyun Liu-Li were doing.

"There's one more item which is of the same quality as this, also made from top quality 1000-Year red sandalwood. I'm just not sure if you'd be interested in it." The lady appeared slightly embarrassed as she said this.

Qing Shui did not take note of the lady's expression, but he quickly said when he heard that it was of the same quality as this Hundred Beasts Evil Suppressing Table, "Then let's go and take a look."

The amount of people on the 2nd floor was only 10% of those from the 1st floor, thus Qing Shui could only see the sparsely distributed people on the vast area on the 2nd floor. But while it was sparse, there were at least two to three hundred people around.

When Qing Shui saw these valuable items, he had an atrocious feeling. It was because the beautiful lady had brought him to the toilet bowl area, and Qing Shui also saw one that he was familiar with.

Red sandalwood toilet bowl!

Qing Shui knew why the lady felt embarrassed earlier. After looking at the lady, he returned his gaze to the extremely expensive toilet bowl. It was the first time that Qing Shui had seen one made of wood, but he had to say that this red sandalwood was very beautiful.

If a peerless beauty were to use this red sandalwood toilet bowl, it would probably be a very beautiful scene...

While Qing Shui did not buy the red sandalwood toilet bowl, he purchased the screen with the majestic scenery painting, the White Crane Spread it's Wings, and the Hundred Beasts Evil Suppressing table. In just the blink of an eye, he spent 2 million taels of silver.

Qing Shui could not find Canghai Mingyue and Huoyun Liu-Li, and when he asked the cashier, he was told that they had already left. Qing Shui thanked the lady who looked at him with yearning eyes. When she saw the items that Qing Shui had bought today, the beautiful lady was already looking at him with a gentle gaze which made Qing Shui want to escape.

He had wanted to take a look at the 3rd floor, but he was told that it was not open to the public and there was no furniture in there either. Therefore, after bidding farewell, he left on the coach he hired.

A lady whose beauty could be comparable to that of Canghai Mingyue stood at the window on the 3rd floor of the Greencloud Furniture City. She had beautiful brows and a pair of bright black eyes which



exuded a mysterious glow. While she was tall and lean, she was curvy and even though she was wearing a set of plain looking clothes, they seemed surprisingly elegant on her.

The elegant charm she exuded was a bit similar to Yiye Jiange's. She was not an ice cool beauty, she was one who hovered between might and ice cold. Her beauty was one that seemed unreal and fluttery!

She saw that the three items were bought by a young man, and he seemed to be especially interested in the pictures on these items, especially those of demonic beasts.

"Go investigate that young man!" The lady did not even turn her head as she said softly, her voice was also fluttery that it was hard to fathom.

After saying her piece, there was no reaction behind her, and the lady did not continue. It was as if she had been talking to the air.

In a remote area, Qing Shui had placed all the furniture into the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal before he disappeared from the coach. It made the coachman feel as if he had been daydreaming and he would have believed that everything was just an illusion if not for the fact that there was additional money in his pocket.

Not long after Qing Shui had disappeared, an ordinary looking middle aged man stood where he was, looking lost as he looked at the departing coach.

After entering the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal, Qing Shui placed the screen on an empty piece of land near the borders. It was where he usually rested and had his meals.

Thereafter, he hung the Tiger's Descend painting on the screen, the White Crane Spread its Wings on the back of the screen, and the Hundred Beasts Evil Suppressing table in front of the screen.

After some decoration, Qing Shui felt good to see that the place felt like it was a room, with a bed, table, chairs, screen, curtains, pots and bowls, ladle, and his old set of tables and chairs.

After the simple decoration, Qing Shui took a casual look around the realm, especially at the 5000-Year Golden Flesh LingZhi. Qing Shui had been spending more effort on it recently.

Qing Shui quickly exited the realm after seeing that there was no one outside, before he casually prepared to head back to the Canghai's place. He was considerably satisfied with his gain today. But thinking of how he had spent 2 million silver taels in just one day, Qing Shui felt that money was really not sustainable.

One would not be able to purchase valuable things with money, and slightly more expensive stuff would already need an incredible amount of money. Qing Shui had the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal, and he could not help but wish to secretly stash all the valuable items from the Greencloud Furniture City into the realm without anyone noticing.

However, he did not do that. He knew that there would always be a reason behind each consequence, and he did not wish to implicate innocent people just to save himself some money. He knew that if Greencloud Furniture City were to lose some precious items, there would definitely be innocent people who would be implicated.

The most important thing was Qing Shui's mentality. To those who were wealthy but heartless, Qing Shui would not mind snatching some benefits from them. But if he were to bring trouble to innocent people, he would rather let those people continue to be wealthy but heartless.

This was the rule, the norm which all sorts of characters would follow, and the necessity to survival. Qing Shui usually would not break the balance for those who were totally unrelated to him. He enjoyed being the good guy, but no one would one-sidedly try to be on good terms with everyone.

When he returned to Canghai's place, it was already close to noon. Ever since Qing Shui came, especially after the time Canghai Mingyue had cooked a meal, now, no matter what they ate, they would add some of Qing Shui's spices.

This made the Canghai couple both happy and worried, especially Canghai. Now, he was able to enjoy delicacies that he had never taste before, and to drink the Tigerbone Yang Amplification Beauty Purification Wine which was loved by both men and women. But what would happen if Qing Shui were to leave?

### **Chapter 223 - Can you pretend to be my hubby?**

This caused the Canghai couple to be happy as well as worried, especially Canghai. After eating something so amazing that he had never eaten before and drinking the Tigerbone Yang Amplification Beauty Purification Wine which was loved by both men and women, Canghai was really worried what would happen if Qing Shui were to leave one day.

So what if he thickened his skin and requested more from Qing Shui before he left? The enjoyable stuff would be finished sooner or later. Now, Canghai regretted that he didn't thicken his skin enough to ask Qing Shui for the recipe of the Tigerbone Yang Amplification Beauty Purification Wine. Now his hopes were all on the shoulders of his daughter.

If Qing Shui really became his son-in-law, not only would his daughter marry a good husband, but also Canghai could enjoy good food every day as well.

Just seeing the way Canghai behaved made one already guess what this 60 year old man was thinking about. Taking gains and loss with equanimity, he had the attitude of a younger guy. He didn't want his daughter to miss out on such a good catch that could also make him and his wife happy.

"Senior, do you know who is the owner of the Greencloud Furniture City?" After they ate, Qing Shui asked Canghai curiously. Qing Shui thought that there was a high probability for the owner to be from the Immortal Sword Sect, Joyous Sect, or the Imperial Beast Aristocrats.

Canghai wasn't surprised when he heard Qing Shui's question. Looking at Qing Shui, he laughed as he replied, "A very powerful person. Qing Shui, you have to know that over in this region, the Immortal Sword Sect, the Joyous Sect, and the Imperial Beasts Aristocrats may appear very powerful, but this is merely on the surface. There are still some very powerful figures that are all alone, and appear extremely ordinary."

After hearing the words of Canghai, Qing Shui could deduce that Canghai didn't even place the Immortal Sword Sect and the rest in his eyes. From Canghai's words, Qing Shui could gather that there were indeed many powerful experts who chose to live an idle life, appearing to be a an ordinary commoner.

"If that's the case, could Senior alert me to some of these very powerful people? In the future, I would take note and avoid them." Qing Shui casually inquired as he drank his tea.

Canghai Mingyue and Huoyun Liu-Li both turned their gazes towards Canghai.

"Let me tell you about those that I know of, but if you want an exact number, I don't think anyone would know. You never know that the inconspicuous fishmonger you might meet down the street might actually be a peerless expert." Canghai laughed.

"Around this region, the Sword Tower is an extremely powerful and mysterious existence. The Sword Tower has little people yet they are all extremely strong. The reputation of their sword techniques resound far and wide. However, this organization is really mysterious. They would only open once every two years and set up a test for interested people. As long as there are those that could reach the 9th level, they would be able to obtain a precious treasure." Canghai replied.

"Sword Tower? You mean that Nine Level Bamboo Tower?" Canghai Mingyue asked in surprise.

"Yes, that bamboo tower. However, that bamboo is no ordinary bamboo. Instead, it's the Purple Heart Bamboo from the Southern Seas, and it's even stronger than steel."

"Senior, why does the Sword Tower organise such tests?" Qing Shui didn't understand. If you were a powerful sect, there shouldn't be any problems attracting disciples. However, the Sword Tower did have very little people. Not only that, if you won, they would still gift a precious treasure to you. What exactly were they planning?

Canghai shook his head, "I don't know either. Some things are done without any rhyme or reason."

"Has Senior tried the test of the Sword Tower before?" Qing Shui felt that this matter was pretty interesting.

"Hehe, yup. I tried it once about fifty years ago." Canghai laughed.

"What level did Senior reach previously?" Qing Shui curiously inquired. Qing Shui wanted to know how strong the Sword Tower exactly was.

"2nd level." Canghai replied.

Qing Shui was thunderstruck. 50 years ago. Canghai should, at the very least already, have been at the Xiantian Realm. However, he only reached the 2nd level? How powerful was the Sword Tower exactly?

"Senior, in these fifty years, you didn't try again?" Qing Shui continued asking. He really wanted to know how far could he go at Canghai's level.

"I went to try again about three years ago. However, I won't tell you the results." Canghai smiled.

"Dad, just tell us. We won't tell others. I wanna know as well." Canghai Mingyue hugged one of Canghai's arms as she pouted.

"Nope, if I said it, you guys will definitely brush it off as a lie. To save all the trouble, I don't want my daughter to accuse me of lying." Canghai laughed as he replied to Canghai Mingyue.

"Hmph, daddy is so petty."

In the afternoon, Qing Shui didn't go out but chose to stay alone in his room instead. Qing Shui preferred the solitude and quietness. Only during such moments would he be able to sort out his thoughts and think things through.

However, before he could get to enjoy the peace and quiet, the two other ladies already made their way into his room. They wanted to drag him out for breakfast and visit the streets. Over the course of these two months, Qing Shui realised that he had gotten extremely familiar with both Canghai Mingyue and Huoyun Liu-Li.

"Qing Shui, are you planning to challenge the Sword Tower?" Huoyun casually asked after she stepped into the room.

"Why? Are you worried about me?" Qing Shui snickered. Qing Shui realised it had been too long since he last teased Huoyun. He also realised that in the presence of Canghai Mingyue and her family, Huoyun Liu-Li seemed to be holding her charm back.

"Who's worried about you? Go to hell!" Huoyun Liu-Li adorably rolled her eyes at Qing Shui.

Qing Shui discovered that his willpower now was many times stronger compared to the past. Even when seeing the peerless beauty of Canghai Mingyue and Huoyun Liu-Li, he was able to hold his disposition. If it was the past him, he would have definitely already lost control of himself. However, there was still an impulse to rush over to hug them, or to press himself down on their soft bodies.

No matter what, Qing Shui was someone that had already tasted women before, just like a cat doused with catnip. After knowing the taste of women, Qing Shui kept yearning for that taste again. Speaking of which, it had already been a period of time since he last touched a woman.

"Qing Shui, I actually need your help with something. This is why I came to look for you today." Canghai Mingyue hummed and hawed, as she stated.

Looking at the behaviour of Canghai Mingyue, Qing Shui was somewhat puzzled. Could she have wanted him to be her doctor? Did she have any illnesses or other medical conditions?

Bewilderedly, Qing Shui stared at Canghai Mingyue. He stared for quite a long time and even activated his Heavenly Vision Technique. However, to his surprise, Canghai Mingyue was in perfect condition and didn't seem to have any illnesses or medical conditions.

"You seem perfectly fine, or is there some awkward spot like your buttocks or some other place that's uncomfortable? Tell me, we are friends. I will help you, hehehe. I'm not boasting but my medical skills are pretty good." Qing Shui teased her, trying to lighten up the atmosphere.

"Go and die, you are crazy. You are talking nonsense..." Canghai Mingyue blushed. Previously, she suppressed herself because she was in front of her parents. Now, she could finally give free rein and didn't need to suppress her words.

Qing Shui didn't expect that the imposing and majestic presence atop the Golden Winged Thunder Condor would actually have such a girlish side to her. This sense of beauty unexpectedly struck him right in his heart.

Canghai Mingyue inclined her head, as her beautiful black eyes were rimmed with wetness.

“What do you need? As long as your dad doesn’t force me into a marriage, I’m okay with anything.” Qing Shui continued his teasing.

Canghai Mingyue was stunned, as her heartbeat quickened.

“Cou...could...you... pretend to be my husband tomorrow?” The volume of Canghai Mingyue’s voice got smaller and smaller, as she quickly turned her gaze below. She did not dare to meet Qing Shui’s eyes.

Qing Shui felt surprise in his heart. Such a peerless beauty akin to an immortal was actually talking to him in such a shy manner. Not only that, her words were also capable of causing one’s imagination to roam about wildly.

“Pretend? What do you mean by pretend? If you want to, I can be your real hubby!” Qing Shui laughed out loud.

Maybe it was how relaxed Qing Shui appeared to be that Canghai Mingyue’s awkwardness also disappeared. A woman like her making such a request most definitely meant that she had a reason behind it. Qing Shui didn’t question her reasons but merely agreed in hopes of sharing her burdens.

“Hmph, be more serious...” Canghai Mingyue scolded.

“Okay okay, no need to be so nervous. Tell me what you want. I was kidding earlier. Even if your dad wanted to force me into a marriage with you, I will agree too.” Qing Shui replied.

Canghai Mingyue casted a glance at Qing Shui before replying, “Tomorrow, a bosom friend of my father will be coming over. Not only that, he will bring his son along to propose a marriage engagement with me.”

“You don’t like him?” Qing Shui smiled.

“Of course I don’t like him.” Canghai Mingyue was speechless.

“Actually, emotions can slowly be nurtured after marriage...” Qing Shui spoke like a wise man as he nodded his head to Canghai Mingyue.

After a certain amount of silence, Qing Shui broke out laughing, “Okay, I will stop teasing you. Tell me what I should do, how can I help you? Would our pretty Miss here be more gentle to me, and take pity on this little guy here, okay?”

Canghai Mingyue, “...”

Canghai Mingyue discovered that she was totally helpless in front of Qing Shui. How many years had it been since someone dared to be so impolite to her? This brat’s mouth dared to say anything.

Huoyun, at the side, giggled non-stop. She caused Canghai Mingyue to feel even more bashful.

“Tomorrow, you would pretend to be Sister Mingyue’s hubby. We will just say that both of you are already married. This way, the guy should stop his fantasy.” Huoyun Liu-Li giggled.

Canghai Mingyue asked Huoyun to be by her side today just so she could say that!

“Relax, but how should I address you? Mingyue, Yueyue, Beloved Waifu, Honey, Dear...” Qing Shui snickered as his thoughts ran wild.

The moment Canghai Mingyue heard the words ‘Yueyue’, she was totally unable to show her face. That next sentence of Qing Shui kept resounding in her mind. “Yueyue, let’s go. It’s time for our baby to drink milk!”

“I don’t care what you address me as, but you better act the part well. You are also not allowed to take advantage of me.” Canghai Mingyue breathed heavily as she gazed at Qing Shui.

“Oh, hmm... then there’s gonna be some difficulty. If we don’t appear like a couple, it’s impossible to get the guy to believe, right?” Qing Shui rubbed his nose as he stated seriously.

“Then... you are not allowed to be too cheeky.” Canghai Mingyue blushed again as she lowered her head.

“Yueyue, maybe we should think about how you would address me to make him give up the idea of pursuing you.” Qing Shui added.

“Hmm... Hubby?”

“Yes? Did Yueyue miss me?” Qing Shui snickered.

Mist clouded Canghai Mingyue’s eyes as she hurried pulled Huoyun and left the room.

As they left, Qing Shui bitterly smiled as he stood at the windows, gazing at the departing back views of the two beautiful girls. Who would have thought that Canghai Mingyue would make such a request of him?

These kind of “harming others but no benefits to oneself” things weren’t things he would do usually. After all, Canghai Mingyue wasn’t his woman. Despite so, they were still friends, and ultimately, he still decided to help her.

In the afternoon, Qing Shui lazed about in his room and finally took out the Ferocious Tiger Departing the Mountains Portrait to hang it up in his room. Qing Shui laid on his bed and meticulously analysed the portrait.

Although he had already reached the Great Perfection Stage for his Tiger Form, Qing Shui discovered that there were still improvements to be made. Akin to his Deer Canter Technique, practicing his Tiger Form despite it already being at the Great Perfection Stage would still enable him to gain increments in his attributes. Qing Shui wondered what came after the Great Perfection Stage. Could it be that his Great Perfection Stage wasn’t the real level? Only the stage after his current status could be considered the genuine Great Perfection Stage.

Qing Shui spent the entire afternoon studying the portrait, as well as the formless aura the tiger in the portrait seemed to emit. He immersed himself in the concept of the painting.

At night, Qing Shui learnt that the Canghai Couple also agreed to this. After all, they didn’t want to force their daughter. If his bosom buddy really came, Canghai would also find it difficult to reject him. After all, they had a friendship over several decades.

“Qing Shui, be careful tomorrow. That little guy is a 8th grade Xiantian expert. He would definitely challenge you. Do you have confidence?” Canghai inquired.

Upon hearing the words of Canghai, Qing Shui frowned. A 8th grade Xiantian expert was someone on the level of Skysword Sect Sovereign, Gongsun Sanqian. Qing Shui sighed. Why were the friends of Canghai so powerful? Even their descendents had this level of might. All these made Qing Shui even more curious about Canghai.

“What happens if I injure the guy tomorrow?” Qing Shui smiled in response.

“Hmm, as long as you don’t kill him, injuries don’t matter.” Canghai sighed.

This reply caused Qing Shui to be slightly stunned. It seemed that matters weren’t that simple as shown on the surface.

However, Qing Shui also knew that if his opponent was at the level of Gongsun Sanqian, he wasn’t that worried. After all, he had his hidden weapons, the Big Dipper Sword, and his mastery over the 3rd waves of the Nine Waves Great Golden Palm...

#### **Chapter 224 Comprehending the Crane Form, Small Success Stage for the Crane’s Might**

Qing Shui quietly stared at the White Crane Spread Wings curtains. He had been looking at it for half a day. He already felt that it could bring a calming feeling when he first saw it back in the Greencloud Furniture City.

Qing Shui almost felt as if he could grasp that feeling, but it was slightly slippery to the touch and he could not pull it out. Just like that, Qing Shui stared at that crane in the picture, trying to sense its posture with his heart.

Qing Shui saw that the crane in the picture had stretched out its body into a relaxed state. He unconsciously displayed the Crane Form he had been practicing. Qing Shui’s Qi of continued to circulate and flow gradually by itself. He did not do this deliberately.

Qing Shui applied that Qi onto Crane’s Might, trying to be as relaxed as he could in both his mind and his body. Like the crane in the picture, he allowed the Qi of the to flow smoothly in his body.

Qing Shui realised that this casual method allowed certain areas that seemed to be slightly rough to now feel all smooth, with no blockages at all.

Qing Shui broke out into a happy smile, slowly circulating the Crane’s Might repeatedly by following the Crane Steps. This time around, Qing Shui felt his body turning lighter. While it was just a little bit, it felt very good.

He casually swayed his arms with extremely small movements that it was almost unnoticeable. His legs were nimbly performing complicated movements.

He gradually increased the strength of circulation of the Qi of the and also the speed of circulation of the Crane’s Might. However, Qing Shui did his best to keep his mind relaxed.

Just like that, Qing Shui engrossed himself as he circulated the Crane's Might and displayed the Crane Steps. He did not move out of a one meter radius, but gave off the feeling as if he was swiftly progressing forward.

Time passed by unknowingly. Qing Shui suddenly felt a lightness coming to him and then a strong force rising in him. He did not suddenly get a huge increase in his powers. His speed was also increased by quite a bit. After all, to Qing Shui, 10% speed was already quite significant.

He had reached the small success stage for the Crane Form. Qing Shui knew that he had entered that state the moment he felt that his body was lighter. At the same moment, he also felt that the crux for the Crane Form was the Crane's Might. The Crane's Might emphasized on casualness and one cannot be overly impatient or anxious. At the start, only a small amount of Qi should be used. Those without a high level of comprehension and endurance would never be able to master the Crane Form.

When and before the Crane Form would reach the small success stage, only a small amount of power was required to activate the Crane's Might. The more anxious one was, the stronger the obstacle. It was just like how clumsy Qing Shui was when he practiced the Crane Form previously.

If he had not seen the crane in its environment in the White Crane Spread Wings curtains, Qing Shui would need to take a long detour of one year or longer. He had reached the 4th heavenly layer of the and the Qi started to circulate automatically which helped a lot.

The uniqueness of the Crane Form was in its subtlety and that it can never be displayed at full power. This did not mean that it would be slower. All cranes seemed to be very relaxed when flying, yet they could move at extremely swift speeds and have high endurance. This was the benefit of the Crane Form.

Qing Shui attained the great perfection stage for the Tiger Form thanks to his comprehension of the kingly aura from the Tiger's Descend painting. He managed to attain the small success stage for the Crane Form after getting the White Crane Spread Wings curtains. He had met a bottleneck for a period of time. While he devoted a lot of hard work and effort into comprehending the Crane Form, it was undeniable that the final stroke to success came from this picture.

Having achieved success both times thanks to these vivid paintings, it was like what Canghai had said. The paintings could allow one to comprehend many things. Qing Shui felt that he might have to look for a breakthrough with those expensive paintings for his training of the Nine Animals Mimicry Technique in the future.

Qing Shui always thought that time passed very quickly in the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal but he was very satisfied. He was content to have over ten times the training time than other people.

After circulating the Qi of the one more time, he achieved the 76th cycle as he hoped to. This achievement made Qing Shui very happy. He was not very sure how the levels of the compared to the level of cultivation in the world of the nine continents.

Just like how it was when he was at the pinnacle of the 3rd heavenly layer of the Ancient Strengthening Technique, Qing Shui felt that he could win against someone who was at the pinnacle of a Martial Commander. However, he did not compare to a Xiantian cultivator. It was just that his techniques were unique. In a life and death battle, he was stronger than a Xiantian cultivator because his training in the had strengthened his bones and muscles.



Therefore, when he was at the pinnacle of the 3rd level of the Ancient Strengthening Technique, he could unexpectedly kill a low level Xiantian cultivator. When Qing Shui broke through to the 4th heavenly layer of the Ancient Strengthening Technique, his abilities were at least comparable to a 4th grade Xiantian cultivator. He could scrape through by a close call and won against the person who was training the Nine Waves Great Golden Buddha Palm.

Now, he was even able to break through to reach the 76th cycle from the 49 cycles back then. Qing Shui had gain a considerable increase in powers when he had reached the 50th, 60th, and 70th cycle respectively. It was much more than when he broke through to the other cycles.

Qing Shui still did not know how strong he was, but he knew that he would not be able to win Canghai Mingyue. After all, it was tough to reach the pinnacle of Xiantian from the 10th grade. Of course, the benefit received by one who had reached the pinnacle of Xiantian was also immense. Even 3rd grade Xiantian cultivators would not be able to win against someone at the pinnacle of Xiantian. This was the greatest gap between those of the same grades. One could rely on powerful techniques to challenge someone of a higher grade. However, amongst those in the same grade, it was almost impossible for one who was not at the pinnacle of their cultivation state to win against one who was.

For a warrior to reach the pinnacle from the 10th grade, it was like breaking through the accumulation of the powers from the 1st to the 10th grade. This was also why it was so hard for a Martial Commander to achieve a breakthrough and become a Xiantian, for a Xiantian to break through and become a Martial King, and why there was no Martial Saint in the vast land of Greencloud Continent for the past thousand years.

He thought of how Canghai Mingyue had asked him to act as her husband to deal with that powerful 8th grade Xiantian cultivator who chased her. Qing Shui felt that while he might not be able to defeat someone who was at the pinnacle of Xiantian, he should be able to handle someone who was at the 8th grade with his abilities at the 4th heavenly layer of the Ancient Strengthening Technique.

If he were to reach the pinnacle of the 4th layer of the Ancient Strengthening Technique, would he be able to challenge someone from the next grade like how he did when he was at the pinnacle of the 3rd level of the Ancient Strengthening Technique? In other words, would he be able to scrape a win against someone who was a beginner Martial King if he were to reach the pinnacle of the 4th layer of the Ancient Strengthening Technique?

While letting his thoughts run wild, he completed his daily training and slowly took a look around the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal. This place belonged only to him and he walked to the banks of the pond which seemed very large now.

The growth rate of the black fishes and turtles had slowed down considerably. Each of them were even more swift and harder to catch than before. Qing Shui knew that this was due to the fire bird which would always grab its food from here. Those who were slower would lose their lives. Animals have a strong sense towards danger, and those who grew in the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal were even smarter than those in the outside world.

“This is good as well. The fire bird gets to eat, and the black fishes and turtles would not grow too much as it would be disastrous.” Qing Shui thought about it happily. He felt happy again when he saw the Golden Medicinal Turtle and the 1000-Year Clam. These two were treasures which every alchemist

would dream of. They were able to become an ingredient for alchemy by themselves or even replace another ingredient.

Qing Shui had already collected a considerable amount of Drunken Fragrance Fruit, Perilla, and Thyme by the side of the pond. While he left quite a number of them at Canghai's place, there were still a lot more which could last him for very long.

The Strength-Enhancing Fruits, Agility-Enhancing Fruits, Endurance-Enhancing Fruits, and Physique-Enhancing Fruits were all used up. He had used the last two Endurance-Enhancing Fruits when concocting the Endurance Pellet.

Seeing the medicinal herbs which were all close to 300 years old, Qing Shui was very satisfied with the strong vitality they were emitting. After all, the environment in the Realm of the was not something which could be compared to the outside world. Qing Shui even felt that this place was even more suitable for planting and cultivating. However, the main reason he came here was because it could provide him with over ten times the amount of training time than the outside world.

Before Qing Shui completed his morning training on the next day, Canghai Mingyue and Huoyun Liu-Li arrived. However, he did not stop. He merely glanced in their direction as a greeting, while continuing to incorporate the Crane Form to the Bear Form. Those seemingly clumsy movements were actually very light and gave a weird feeling. Yet, it seemed mysterious and his ferocious strength was imbued with the light movements.

"Yueyue, let's have a spar. I might need to risk my life in a battle to the death for you today." Qing Shui grinned and said.

Canghai Mingyue was still not accustomed to having Qing Shui called her by her nickname, but he would need to call her that the whole day today. In addition, she would need to put up a happy front to cooperate with him.

Canghai Mingyue hesitated for a moment before launching an attack towards Qing Shui. Her actions seemed very similar to Canghai's, but at the same time, it was also slightly similar to Huoyun Liu-Li's when she was practicing her sword dance. Her pair of fair arms which would make snow pale in comparison swiftly lunged towards Qing Shui.

### **Chapter 225 - Three calls of Hubby? Qing Shui deceives**

Qing Shui saw that while her attack was very swift, not a lot of power was incorporated. He directly grasped the pair of soft arms and said, "This is not the time to be intimate. We'll need to settle things that would be coming today!"

"Go to hell!" Canghai Mingyue blushed, as her aura burst forth and soared upwards swiftly. She didn't use any techniques. She only wanted to catch hold of Qing Shui and beat him up with her hands.

Qing Shui could be considered her natural jinx, not to mention other things. Just based on strength, Qing Shui's current power didn't lose out to Canghai Mingyue who was at the peak of Xiantian. Not only that, his strength even somewhat exceeded hers.

“Oi oi, why are you behaving like a shrew...?” Qing Shui’s Solitary Rapid Fist had long reached the state of perfection. In addition to Canghai Mingyue not using any other techniques, her hands were thus easily caught by Qing Shui.

After hearing Qing Shui’s words, Canghai Mingyue’s beautiful eyes misted over. That beautiful countenance that was unmatched in the Heavens went scarlet, as she appeared somewhat angry at Qing Shui.

“You idiot... How dare you say that I’m a shrew...?” Canghai Mingyue was extremely depressed. All of a sudden, silver light flashed from her hands, and she somehow wriggled her hands out from Qing Shui’s grasp. At the instant when she freed her hands, she interweaved them and pressed towards Qing Shui’s shoulders with a speed as fast as a shooting star. An eye-piercing silver light appeared so blinding that it could cause vision loss.

Competing in hand-type techniques with him? Qing Shui wasn’t afraid in the slightest. The essence of Tiger Form amalgamated with his Solitary Rapid Fist. Each of his movements flowed as fluidly as water, and especially when the sharp aura of the king was emitted as well as when the Tiger’s Roar was unleashed.

Maybe Qing Shui’s aura agitated Canghai Mingyue. Looking at the expression on Canghai Mingyue’s face, Qing Shui knew that the imposing woman standing atop the Golden Winged Thunder Condor had returned. Just one look from her felt as heavy as a mountain.

Her silhouette was leisurely threading the clouds, and her footsteps were as light as an immortal’s. Qing Shui already felt the stress in keeping up with her speed. Helplessly, Qing Shui could only execute his recent Crane Steps that had reached the small success stage. The Crane Step was similar to the Deer Canter technique, and both of them were a type of Qi movement that could complement other cultivation arts and methods. They were purely support type techniques.

Once he executed Crane Form, Qing Shui immediately felt more relaxed. Despite so, Canghai Mingyue was at the peak of Xiantian after all. Even if it was not a life or death battle, Qing Shui struggled to remain standing, but some of her blows had already landed onto him.

Canghai Mingyue was also immensely startled. She was at the peak of Xiantian, and no matter how talented Qing Shui was, she didn’t dare to believe that he was already in the Martial King’s realm. Ever since she was young, she had the support of cultivation pellets to aid her in incrementing her attributes. In addition to the two Small Revitalizing Pellets, and the 4th-grade black treasured stone that hung around her neck, she could only subdue Qing Shui by a small margin while using her full strength.

Qing Shui was fighting against Canghai Mingyue. Thus, he couldn’t use his golden needles, his hidden weapons, his primordial flames, nor his Nine Waves Golden Buddha Palms... For Qing Shui who had always been using his barbaric strength to bully others was actually suppressed by a beautiful woman now.

Initially, Qing Shui still felt that he could use pure strength to control Canghai Mingyue. Now, he could barely block her strikes with Tiger Form. If he used Bear Form, he would only become a sandbag for Canghai Mingyue.

Canghai Mingyue was also suffering, as she felt numb from the spots where Qing Shui's hits landed. This little fellow was agile indeed, and had incredible strength. If it wasn't for her mysterious martial techniques, she would surely be the one to lose.

After all, this was just a simple fight. Qing Shui was hit by Canghai Mingyue a few more times and he clearly felt the strength of her strikes dampening, which caused his heart to feel slightly warm.

He didn't use his Taiji Fist. After all, he hadn't perfectly mastered it yet. Qing Shui couldn't unleash the basic principle and effect of using an enemy's strength against themselves, not to mention the advanced effects of moving slower yet still managing to subdue others.

A fight between two men would end up them becoming either great enemies or bosom friends. A fight between a man and a woman would have a slight probability for sparks of love to appear.

After stopping, Canghai Mingyue had a lack of comprehension in her eyes as she looked at Qing Shui. Somehow, she felt close to him. Thinking back, Qing Shui was the first guy who dared to take liberties with her through that mouth of his, and who dared to behave in such a manner around her. She felt Qing Shui was different from others, in the sense that he wasn't irksome like some of the other men she knew.

"Please be serious today, don't spoil it. That person is pretty tyrannical." Canghai Mingyue warned Qing Shui repeatedly after their breakfast.

"Don't worry, with your hubby here, you can relax." Qing Shui laughed.

"Yueyue!"

Canghai Mingyue gazed at Qing Shui with an unconvinced expression on her face. However, she couldn't refute him, and had to answer him no matter what he called out...

"Do you still remember how you should address me when he comes?" Qing Shui continued snickering.

Qing Shui's words caused Canghai Mingyue to remember the scenario last night. However, she couldn't refuse today. She lowered her head as she stated softly, "Can't I just call you Qing Shui...?"

"Okay you can, but if he spots that there's something off, you can't blame me then. If you are okay with the possibility of him finding out, you might as well not lie to him."

"Okay... I shall call you that then!" Canghai Mingyue replied in a fluster after much hesitation for half a day.

"Forget it, you seemed somehow forced. It wouldn't be natural, and you've never called someone that before. Do you think he wouldn't notice?"

"Hubby..."

Qing Shui felt an electric shock once he heard that. Looking at the bashful, peerless countenance of Canghai Mingyue and her melodious voice, they all made him extremely satisfied.

"Hehe, Yueyue, what did I tell you? It sounds so much better now. I'm sure you can still do better." Qing Shui laughed.

“Hubby!” Canghai Mingyue called out once again as she walked forward and hugged one of Qing Shui’s arm in her embrace.

Were all women born with such godly acting skills?

Qing Shui didn’t expect that it would actually be so natural when she called out the second time. Every action of hers perfectly complemented her words...

“Hubby!” Canghai Mingyue called out again as she hugged Qing Shui arms. Inclining her head, a gentle warmth could be seen reflected in the depths of those dark, limpid eyes. They drew Qing Shui in deeper and deeper, leaving him unable to extricate himself.

The performance was so solid that even Qing Shui himself began to suspect that she really was his wife. Looking at her flawless performance, Qing Shui even felt himself blushing.

Qing Shui rubbed his nose as he laughed unnaturally, while Canghai Mingyue got more and more into her role. She even felt that this was extremely interesting when she saw the reddened face of Qing Shui.

When late morning came, there were two visitors to the Canghai’s residence. One was an imposing middle-aged man while the other was a handsome looking youth with a slight hint of provocation in his eyes.

Birds of a feather flocked together. Looking at the imposing middle aged guy, Qing Shui silently remarked in his heart on why were there so many Martial Kings suddenly. The imposing man’s strength was on par with Canghai Mingyue’s mom, while the strength of the youth was on par with Gongsun Sanqian. He was stronger when compared to Baili Jingwei.

Canghai Mingyue’s dad was the bosom buddy of the middle aged man. Qing Shui wondered what was the relationship between them. In this world dominated by cultivation, close relationships came from being in the same sect, being childhood friends, or having the same level of strength.

“Brother Canghai, sister-in-law, I brought my son, Fu Long, over.” The forthright voice of the middle aged man drifted over.

Qing Shui, Canghai Mingyue, and Huoyun Liu-Li stood behind the Canghai couple!

“Uncle and Auntie, nice to meet you!” The youth smiled as he dipped into a low and respectful bow. After which, he shifted his gaze towards Canghai Mingyue,

Canghai felt disgusted as he noticed the desire and thirst in the eyes of the youth, but... he was helpless to do anything!

### **Chapter 226 Being in Pain Yet Feeling Happy!!!**

When Canghai saw the young man’s appearance, especially that gaze which was filled with lust and desire, he felt annoyed, but helpless.

“Brother Fu, you’ve come. Come, come, take a seat!” Canghai grinned, pulled the middle-aged man’s arms passionately and said.

“Mingyue, who is this?” When the young man saw Canghai Mingyue and Qing Shui standing intimately together, holding hands, he could not help but frown and ask. After all, he knew that Canghai Mingyue was the only child in her family.

“Oh, she’s my wife, so who do you think I am?” Qing Shui grinned and said.

“Wife? Mingyue, how could you be his wife?” The young man shouted uncontrollably, blood shooting up onto his handsome fair skin.

“Brother Canghai, this is?” The valiant middle-aged man said weirdly.

“Brother Fu, Mingyue is often away from home. When she came back this time, she told us that she was already married to Qing Shui...”

Hearing Canghai’s words, the valiant middle-aged man’s face turned pale while the young man looked at Canghai Mingyue with a slightly twisted face. His bloodshot face appeared to be a bit sinister.

“You can only belong to me, Fu Long. I must definitely have you for myself.” When the young man entered, he still appeared slightly elegant. But when he saw Canghai Mingyue and Qing Shui holding hands intimately, and especially when he heard Canghai say that Canghai Mingyue was married to this fellow, he was even more infuriated.

“You, you... Have I ever said that I want to be married to you?” Canghai Mingyue said furiously.

“Yueyue, don’t be angry, it’s not worth it. Be careful, if you don’t, you’ll hurt the baby.” Qing Shui gently patted Canghai Mingyue’s tender back.

Hearing this, the young man was shocked and Canghai Mingyue also choked. This rascal dared to say anything he likes. The other time he said that it was time to feed the baby... this time he said that she has his child...

Canghai Mingyue was so embarrassed that she buried her face into Qing Shui’s chest, but she bit him. She could not hold it in. If she did not bite him, she would feel uncomfortable.

Qing Shui gently wrapped his hands around her slender waist. He finally understood what it meant by being in pain yet feeling happy!

“Brother Canghai, you didn’t invite your brother to your daughter’s wedding, and you didn’t tell us anything about it thereafter. You really are not treating me as your brother!” The valiant middle-aged man said with a black face, feeling slightly infuriated.

“Brother Fu, your elder brother had made a promise to you to let Yueyue and Long’ Er to be together. This time around, take it as your elder brother not making good of his promise!” Canghai smiled bitterly and said.

“Forget it. It was merely a joke which I took seriously. Long’ Er, let’s go!” The valiant middle-aged man sighed and said.

“I want to challenge you. Whoever loses will need to leave Mingyue.” Fury burned in the young man’s heart when he saw Qing Shui and Canghai Mingyue acting so intimately together.

Actually, Qing Shui was still stunned by Canghai's words, which was that he had agreed previously to let Canghai Mingyue be with this young man. Logically speaking, someone like Canghai would definitely not take control of his daughter's marriage. Could it be that there was some hidden secret?

"Mingyue is my woman, why would I need to accept your challenge? Moreover, women are not objects, they are not something which we can give up to each other." Qing Shui grinned and said.

"Coward!"

"Idiot!" Qing Shui did not hesitate as he rebutted!

Towards such people, Qing Shui would not act refined and say that he would not stoop down to his level. Towards such people, it would be more effective to use even stronger words to hurt him!

"You dare scold me?" The young man furiously looked at Qing Shui.

"If you continue to harbor ideas for my woman, I wouldn't mind to give you a beating." Qing Shui did not look at the young man as he said softly.

"Haha, beat me up? Come! If I don't bash you up today, then I haven't brought up by humans." The young man laughed. He did not even dare to accept his challenge earlier, and now, he is blatantly saying that he wants to beat himself up!

Just as the young man finished his words, Qing Shui incorporated the Crane's Might into the Free Spirit Steps, and as he applied the Crane Form, he lashed a Tiger Tail Whip Kick out at the speed of lightning. Ever since Qing Shui first killed a 4th grade Xiantian cultivator with this move, he had practiced it endlessly for millions of time.

Bang!

Qing Shui landed the kick on the young man's Dan Tian. Without even the time for a grunt, the young man was sent flying. Qing Shui recalled Canghai saying that it would be fine so long as he was not killed.

Qing Shui had initially planned to injure him, but after hearing him saying 'not brought up by humans', Qing Shui wanted to kill him. But, he remembered Canghai's words, and thus he could only let him live. So he ended up making him suffer a fate worse than death.

Blood flew out from the young man's, Fu Long's mouth and nose. The moment he was sent flying, the valiant man swiftly moved out to catch him. After a quick look, he turned his gaze towards Qing Shui, his eyes were as if they were spewing flames.

Canghai was also feeling bitter. He had not expected Qing Shui to cripple the other party. It was worse than killing him. For a Xiantian cultivator to suddenly be reduced to an ordinary person, there were not many who could withstand such a huge blow.

Other than the young man, who had fainted and Qing Shui, the rest all stared at Qing Shui stunned, while the valiant man's gaze was full of killing intent.

"Brother Fu, quickly take Long' Er to the Tang Clan to have his injuries attended to." Canghai Mingyue's mother quickly went up and said worriedly.

The valiant man took a long look at Qing Shui, before whistling towards the air. In a moment, a flying beast, that was like a gigantic black hawk, descended and the valiant man leaped up.

“Young man, this isn’t over yet!” The valiant man left these sword and quickly dashed off!

As soon as he left, Canghai Mingyue immediately let go of Qing Shui and looked at him weirdly. Even the Canghai couple were looking at him seriously.

“Why did you cripple him?” Canghai said, slightly bitterly.

“If it wasn’t for Senior saying not to kill him, I would have taken his life.” Qing Shui smiled as he looked at Canghai seriously.

“Daddy, why did you say earlier that you had agreed for me and Fu Long to be together? What was that?” Canghai Mingyue asked softly.

“Cough! Let’s go to my room first before we discuss this.” Canghai sighed.

All of them headed towards the lounge, Canghai Mingyue’s mother brewed a pot of tea and poured a cup for everyone. Qing Shui did not know much about tea appreciation, but he still felt that the taste of this tea was not bad. It was light, fragrant, and very refreshing.

Canghai took a sip of tea before he said softly, “That middle-aged valiant man is Fu Xing. I’ve known him for a few decades. Back then, I had not even reached Xiantian but I had killed a profligate son and I was sought out by their clan’s Xiantian experts. It was Fu Xing’s father who had saved me and allowed me to become sworn brothers with his son Fu Xing. This way, I became half his son, and his protection for me would be justified.”

Canghai smiled bitterly as he said this, and continued after taking another sip of tea, “I owe my life to Old Master Fu, and I am sworn brothers with Fu Xing. Thereafter, I met Yueyue’s mother Ruo Tong, but it was unfortunate that both Fu Xing and myself had both fallen in love with Ruo Tong.”

Canghai Mingyue looked at her slightly embarrassed mother as she blinked beautiful eyes which were like stars!

“In the end, I married Yueyue’s mother, but I knew that a barrier was formed between us brothers. Moreover, he still could not forget about Ruo Tong, so I could only leave with her. It was just that before I left, Fu Xing said something, and without thinking much about it, I agreed.”

“In the future, if the each of our first child were both sons, they would be brothers. If they were both daughters, they would be sisters. And if one of them was a son while the other was a daughter, we’ll let them be together.” Canghai smiled bitterly as he looked at Canghai Mingyue.

Qing Shui had finally seen for himself an example of an engagement agreement before the child was even born. In the world of the nine continents, the people held promises in high regard. In addition, Canghai owed Fu Clan a debt he could never repay. However, why was it that Canghai had said that it was fine so long as he didn’t kill that young man? Canghai did not seem like a heartless man.

“Fu Long was originally a smart and handsome child from a young age, and our families would meet once every three years. Even if when he grew up, I still had a favorable impression of him. However, the reason I had agreed for both of you to put up an act in front of them and allowed Qing Shui to do as he



wish so long as Fu Long was not killed, is because I saw him rape and kill a commoner lady and then killed her whole family for myself. At that time, I wanted very much to kill that beast, but I had a debt to Fu Clan which I could never return, and thus I couldn't." Canghai squinted his eyes, as if he was recalling his memories.

"Beast, he's better off dead!" Canghai Mingyue said furiously.

"Qing Shui, rest assured, I will not let him do as he wishes with you. When we got you into this, we didn't think that things would turn out this way." Canghai didn't expect Qing Shui to cripple Fu Long, and with just one move. But that kick was really like a Flood Dragon emerging from the seas, so it wasn't tough to defeat an 8th grade Xiantian expert who was caught unaware. Moreover, the Dan Tian was a warrior's weakest point. If that kick was at full force, it could kill.

Qing Shui knew that the Tiger Tailwhip Kick had such an impact partly because he had reached the small success stage for the Crane Form. If he had not reached this level for the Crane Form, it was very likely that the other party could avoid having his Dan Tian attack or even dodged his attack completely.

Qing Shui smiled awkwardly, "Senior, I've caused you some trouble!"

"No, to be honest, I'm especially satisfied with this outcome. It was just that I feel pity for Fu Xing. He is an upright person, but to think that he has such a beast for a son." Canghai replied in a casual tone.

"Senior, how is Fu Clan's abilities? Is Fu Xing the strongest?" Qing Shui gave it some thought before he asked Canghai.

"There aren't many people in Fu Clan, and Fu Xing is the strongest amongst them. Mmm, Fu Clan's leader is the person in charge of Fu Jian Country."

Another head of a country, and he was a low grade Martial King expert at that. It seemed like Cang Lang Country really was the weakest in the Greencloud Continent. This made Qing Shui recall that Yang Jiang Country's Yan City was one of the best, and he felt that the weight he was carrying on his shoulders was very heavy.

Huoyun Liu-Li remained silent all this time, but she had been looking at Qing Shui worriedly. She did not know when she had started feeling worried and anxious for a guy.

She herself did not really understand the relationship between herself and Qing Shui, and she did not have the courage to ask him. Most importantly, she was still not sure if she was in love with him.

More often than not, she had only enjoyed to silently stand beside him, and accompany him!

When they headed back, Qing Shui noticed that Canghai Mingyue's gaze towards him was still one of evasion. He knew that his words today had offended this Young Miss. However, he was still very happy and satisfied. But, he seemed to have forgotten Huoyun Liu-Li would look towards him occasionally.

## **Chapter 227 - A Magical Special Skill?**

A few days passed since the fight happened. Qing Shui's life continued with its routines. He felt a lack in his skills when he arrived in the Greencloud City. Xiantian experts appeared one in ten thousand. The population of the continent was immeasurably large, so it was not strange to meet those people, especially in the Continent's Capital.

He expected Martial Kings to be everywhere, and imagined Xiantians to be worthless. It was no longer surprising that as one reached a certain high level, the people he met changed. Of course, there would be coincidences. It was just like how Qing Shui had known that Qinghan Ye's grandfather was a Martial King, and how he would not have discovered it if not for his own capabilities.

Other than the normal training, Qing Shui depended on his Ancient Art of Forging. He eventually discovered that the effects of his primordial flames were the best. It was a discovery out of the blue, but at the same time, it allowed Qing Shui to realise whatever he knew. He would learn that it would align in the core of the Ancient Strengthening Technique.

Till now, Qing Shui had not understood what level forging in the nine continents had reached. However, he would randomly spot martial artists donned in full armour suits. From afar, there was a variety of armours: silvery and gleaming, golden, dull and dreary, or duo-toned and colorful...

There was a heavy armour with especially strong defence. Special gold was also used for good and heavy armour, which enabled one to neutralise some, or all of an attack. In principle, it would offset a part of the attack, but weak attackers might not produce any harm at all. Because of this principle, every martial artist in the nine continents hoped to have the legendary, god-level armour suit.

Qing Shui did not know how powerful his Ancient Art of Forging was, but he believed it was higher than the forging skill level in the nine continents. However, the main problem was the materials, as Qing Shui knew that some materials needed to create the armour were impossible to acquire.

Qing Shui had been researching the Ancient Art of Forging during these few days in the Realm of the Violet Immortal. He reached the conclusion that it was the same as Alchemy. It required proficiency, but unlike Alchemy, attaining the prescription did not solely depend on experience. One could immediately start cultivating when materials were gathered.

The Ancient Art of Forging had no formula, only techniques. One could cultivate whatever he wanted. However, the lack of experience may result in a higher rate of failure, and even if it succeeded, the quality would be low.

Experience... experience was needed again. Alchemy needed experience, and eventually its enormous amount led him to feel uneasy. That cycle for was so difficult to train, especially breaking through the barrier.

Now with Ancient Art of Forging, Qing Shui thought that there would also be a great difference in levels amongst forging, stitching, alchemy, gem synthesizing, smelting, and inseting.

Even at the last part, there was no hint of the level. He decided to buy a few cauldrons such as the smelting cauldron, blacksmith cauldron, and sewing work table...

Qing Shui had high expectations of the things he was going to forge in the future. For example, wearing the boots forged through the Ancient Art of Forging could greatly increase speed and attack. Donning armour suits forged through the Ancient Art of Forging could enhance defence endurance, and the powerful additional attributes. Honestly, Qing Shui mostly looked forward to see whether the items he forged would have special skill and some rare attributes.

Thinking about special skill, they were special skills that were exceptionally potent. While one could incur minor damage, major harm would be casted on the enemy and potentially turn the tables on the current situation.

Qing Shui's chest grew hot just thinking about the special skill. Even if a defenceless armour was forged, there would still be a chance of special skill appearing. Anyways, his current goal now was to obtain special skill. He thought of the most powerful and defiant stunt - Deliverance by the Barge of Mercy by the Buddhists!

Deliverance by the Barge of Mercy enabled everyone in a certain range to be revived without any injuries. Their state was returned to when they were the strongest. The one performing the skill, however, would be reduced to a common man. He would need some precious medicinal herbs or pellets within a time period to be healed.

If one had this skill of Deliverance by the Barge of Mercy, the effects would definitely change. It was too miraculous and almost impossible, hence Qing Shui did not doubt the authenticity of its marvelous effects.

Also, for the Revival and Spell of Spirit Resurgence, Qing Shui did not know what to think. The nine continents had rumours of the art of reviving. The Central City had an alchemist who knew the art of Revival, but it had a condition that one must not be dead for more than an hour. As for its authenticity, it was from rumours, but Qing Shui was still hopeful. After all, many incredible things had already happened to him; the old him would never believed any of it.

Although the rumours seemed exaggerated, Qing Shui felt they were not all groundless. As for his special skill, he thought that they were also some form of powerful martial technique, but he was not sure what was required to obtain special skill.

Among the special skill, Peace of the Four Seas was an exceptional technique. After wielding it, an appointed person in a specific range would be healed 20% of his injuries. Qing Shui guessed the stunt could be performed via gleaming armour suits and accessories that stimulated a mystical ranged ability just like certain mystical gems. Perhaps, it could be a supplementary ability generated from the one that performed the skill and directed to the appointed person.

Another marvelous stunt that Qing Shui yearned for was Crystal Clear Execution, which could eradicate all abnormal conditions, like poisoning or disillusionment from mystical skills, of an appointed person in a specific range within a moment. It could also heal 10% of one's injuries.

Many thoughts came to Qing Shui's mind. The more he thought, the more insanely powerful he thought they were. Whether the special skill appeared or not was not the issue. Even if they did appear, Qing Shui was sure they would be different from what he imagined.

What Qing Shui had thought of were all insane and incredible special skill. Most were mainly ranged healing, like Revival and Deliverance by the Barge of Mercy which would probably never appear in his mind. Instantly reviving someone within a range was too miraculous. As magical as the world of nine continents and the capabilities of human beings were, they were all only human.

Besides the special skill that increased attack, these were the more practical special skill that Qing Shui was keen on that might appear.

Beastly Strength. Qing Shui was especially keen on this. It was similar to the supplementary force of Heavenly Thunder Slash, and could increase more than 30% of one's attack.

Qing Shui drooled just by thinking about it. It was so beastly. Another one was Weakness Destroyer. It similarly enhanced attack, and those who had powerful fleshy bodies. This technique specialized in penetrating through heavy armour.

Whistling Execution was a stunt that augmented speed. Qing Shui knew that speed was a good thing in the world of nine continents.

Others included the Art of Armour Penetration and Armour of Brilliance. The former greatly damaged the opponent's defence and strength of his physical body, The other markedly increased one's ability to resist major forces!

Qing Shui shook his head, and stopped thinking about it. He could not wait to use all of that. It was a pity none of them were remotely close to appearing. A thing such as a stunt may not even exist.

The higher one's expectations was, the greater one's disappointment and sense of loss was. Qing Shui quickly tossed away these tempting thoughts to save himself from dying from the sense of loss.

A few days passed, and Qing Shui's thoughts ran wild again. He decided to buy a blacksmith's shop. Initially, he had planned to buy a set of cauldrons for forging and smelting, and some tools like hammers. However, he thought of forging iron in the day at a blacksmith's shop, and most importantly purchasing some special metal.

He would trade using medicinal pellets when he could not afford it. He had prepared some medicinal pellets. The affordable common ones would be bought using cash, and the items he forged in the day could also be sold.

Qing Shui thought it was doable, and interacting with more people could also build his experience. It might be of use to his cultivation of martial art techniques.

"Qing Shui, what are you doing muddling along like that?"

Qing Shui's train of thought was broken. Hearing that charming and husky voice, he knew it was Huoyun Liu-Li. These days Qing Shui realised she was treating him like how she did at Earthly Paradise.

"I'm thinking of opening a blacksmith shop, do you want to be the proprietress?" Qing Shui chuckled.

Huoyun Liu-Li heard those words and was shocked. Her phoenix eyes on that attractive face looked at Qing Shui with a misty look of spring.

"This volatile woman, are you asking for my life?" Qing Shui thought inwardly.

"Qing Shui, are you really planning on opening a blacksmith shop?" Huoyun Liuli looked at him strangely. It was normal that her eyes were filled with surprise, but there was also a bright gleam like the joy of a memory.

He and Huoyun Liu-Li met in a blacksmith shop. Looking at her eyes, Qing Shui thought she might have recalled their first encounter, and even he felt a little dreamy.

“It takes a hundred years of effort to cross by the same ferryboat, but a thousand years of effort to sleep on the same pillow. Liuli, how many years do you think we took?” Qing Shui realised they indeed had some affinity; he had thought that they would never have a chance to meet after he arrived at Cang Lang Country.

Fate is truly amazing. It often appears when least expected, and accompanies joy. The moment when Qing Shui saw Huoyun Liuli at Earthly Paradise, he knew it would be difficult for him to forget her in his lifetime.

“Cheap mouth, who took how many years with you?” Huoyun Liuli’s heart skipped a beat when she heard Qing Shui, especially when recalling the scenes when Qing Shui gave her a massage and vice versa.

“We surely took a hundred years!” Huoyun Liuli turned red thinking. She really liked what Qing Shui said.

“Come with me to have a look at the blacksmith shop I bought,” Qing Shui looked at the delicate and charming Huoyun Liuli and smiled.

“Alright, I’ll call Sister Mingyue,” Huoyun Liuli replied happily.

“It’s okay, Big Miss is busy. The two of us will go. It seemed a long time ago since we spent some time together,” Qing Shui said gently, though he did not know why he said those words.

The sincerity in Qing Shui’s words made Huoyun Liuli even confused, especially the phrase about them not spending time together. It made her feel as if they were a married couple who had not seen each other for a long time.

“Let’s go, I’ll let you be the proprietess of the shop, just like when I met you at Hundred Miles City. Until now, I never forgot the moment I saw you. It was wonderful,” Qing Shui recalled.

Huoyun Liuli heard his words and they made her feel more happy than whatever he had said before. Huoyun Liuli’s heart was delicate. Compared to passionate feelings, she preferred the little unexpected warmth.

“I won’t be your proprietess,” Huoyun Liuli whined, and led the way ahead.

Qing Shui rubbed his nose and laughed. He quickly caught up to Huoyun Liuli and walked by her side towards the main gate of Cang Hai Clan!

It was the first time he walked out of the Cang Hai Clan main gate in a good number of days. He was not intimidated by Fu Xing of the Fu Clan. Although Fu Xing was a Martial King and the strongest of the Fu Clan, Qing Shui was not concerned about him.

“Why are you opening a blacksmith shop? Do you know how to forge weapons?” Huoyun Liuli asked as they walked out of the gate. The two of them started a leisurely stroll on the street outside the Cang Hai Mansion.

Qing Shui looked at the people around him. He saw great diversity and variety. They were busy with their own work, bustling about to maintain their livelihood or for a better life, and enjoying their own lives.

Men are never content, yet they are also content at the same time! Just like Qing Shui, who was never content with his current abilities, would be happy with every small improvement. Not being satisfied with the current state, living amongst many who were beneath oneself, and hoping that success comes with every progress, made everyone live on tenaciously.

“Forging. I’ve learnt it for some time, but never practised it before, heh heh. I’ll make you a ‘Phoenix Coat’ next time, and let you fly freely in the air,” Qing Shui joked, bringing out the legendary clothing that was rumoured to be the most beautiful one in the nine continents.

“Alright, I will wait for that day,” Huoyun Liuli replied, overjoyed. She was truly happy, even though Qing Shui might be giving empty promises. The “Phoenix Coat” was only a legendary item, and could be said to be nonexistent in the nine continents. It was said to be made of phoenix feathers, but would anyone believe that?

“Qing Shui, what do you think a person lives for? Why is he less content when he’s at a higher position? What does it mean to be blissful?” Huoyun Liuli asked softly after walking for a while.

Qing Shui saw that Huoyun Liuli did not look depressed, but a little disappointed. Qing Shui did not know if she was talking about someone else, herself, or even both.

“Being sentimental at such a young age, girls who have such thoughts are usually in love with a man,” Qing Shui casually remarked.

Hearing that, Huoyun Liuli looked dazed, even a little panicky. She had also discovered Qing Shui’s shadow in her heart, and had felt herself liking him sometimes.

“What nonsense, I don’t have anyone I like. Answer me quickly and don’t interrupt me. Let me know what you think,” Huoyun Liuli rebuked.

“What is the purpose of living? There are actually many. Some live for enjoyment like being free of concerns about clothing and food, being addicted to the pleasures of song and women, beating up people they don’t like, and intimidating others for his pleasure under the shelter of his ancestors,” Qing Shui was reminded of the foppish disciples of certain sects and clans.

### **Chapter 228 - Tempered Metallic Essence!**

Huoyun Liu-Li and Qing Shui walked side by side, there was an unspoken harmony between them. After hearing Qing Shui’s words, Huoyun chose not to reply.

“There were some that were born and had to carry burdens of hatred and anger. Their entire lives were spent living in hatred, all they wanted to do was to kill and be killed. This then become their drive, the drive that paved the road for their revenge.”

After hearing Qing Shui’s words, Huoyun Liu-Li’s eyebrows noticeably twitched. How much agony must people like that be living in?

“There were also some who lived in order to step onto the pinnacle of martial arts, some for the sake of various peerless beauties, some for the sake of unending riches, some for the sake of leaving their names behind, resounding famously throughout history, some for the sake of reviving their clans, some for the sake of becoming a lord, some for their descendants...”

“To think that there were so many reasons, but this was also a goal for them. I didn’t realise it then, but after hearing what you said, I have to agree as well.” It was as though the wool had been lifted from Huoyun’s eyes.

“Regardless of what goals in life one has, at the very least, they have a goal! Without a goal to strive for, isn’t that akin to just waiting for death? Many people, after meeting a setback, would find that they suddenly have no goals to strive for. If you have something on your mind, just tell me about it, even if I can’t solve it for you, you can still get the matter off your chest.” Qing Shui smiled.

“What do you mean by that? I’m perfectly fine. Quick tell me, why don’t people know how to be content with what they have? The more they have, the more they want. Why is this so?” Huoyun urged Qing Shui with a sudden laugh of her own.

“There’s no right or wrong in this saying. Basically, a 100 different answers would also have a 100 different reasons, contentment is just an empty word. The desires of humankind can never be fully fulfilled. The richer someone is, the more money he would want. For example, if someone has 1 million taels of silver, after deducting his necessary expenses, he can at most spend 0.5 millions taels of silver on enjoying women. However, this will be different if his fortune was valued at 100 million taels of silver. Am I right?”

“Can’t you think of some other examples? Why are you always thinking this way?” Huoyun blushed as she gazed at Qing Shui.

“Hurhur, because i have no money...”

Huoyun Liu-Li, “...”

“Qing Shui, do you feel that you are happy and blessed? Huoyun and Qing Shui walked past the stores on the roadside as she suddenly asked.

“The heart determines everything, I guess... For example, if you felt that you are unhappy, people may feel that you are happy. And if you feel that you are happy, people may feel that you are unhappy. Which one of this two do you prefer?” Qing Shui rubbed his nose as he laughed.

“Naturally, I will prefer the version where I feel that I’m happy.” Huoyun stated.

“How does one obtain happiness?” Huoyun asked again, as Qing Shui paused slightly to determine if there was a blacksmith store located nearby.

“Happiness maybe hard to obtain, but in reality it is very simple. It depends on the person’s disposition and also, the target he set for himself. For example, a poor and powerless fellow, wanting to woo a Xiantian beauty. Such a goal is very hard to actualise, and thus it’s almost impossible to be happy. On the contrary, if he worked hard step by step, and changed his goal to an ordinary girl, wouldn’t the target he set be easier to achieve? As long as one is content, happiness will follow. But of course, if the guy really succeeded in wooing the Xiantian beauty, a toad eating the flesh of swan, the feeling of happiness would be even stronger.” Qing Shui chuckled.

Huoyun Liu-Li rolled her eyes speechlessly at Qing Shui, her charming countenance caused many men walking past them to drool.

“Qing Shui, I don’t think that there are any blacksmith stores for sale nearby.” Both of them passed by quite a few blacksmith stores on the streets.

“Let’s go and find the smallest one to see if they are willing to sell. We will offer a sky high price.” Qing Shui decided.

After a while, facing rejections, Qing Shui entered yet another blacksmith store with a 30+ years old blacksmith, who was currently forging a sword.

“Hey boss, are you selling this store?” Qing Shui walked towards the sturdy blacksmith as he directly asked.

The blacksmith paused in his actions slightly, but he didn’t even turn his head as he immediately replied, “not selling.”

After which, his muscular arms continued slamming down the anvil with his gigantic hammer, as thunderous and crisp sounds rang out.

“1 million taels of silver!” Qing Shui lightly exclaimed.

“Not selling!” The sturdy man didn’t even paused to consider.

“Do you know, that at the rate you are smithing, your body can only last till the end of this year?” Qing Shui smiled.

This time round, the sturdy man paused his actions as he inclined his head and studied Qing Shui. His face was full of sadness, looking at Qing Shui with the spirited eyes of his. His thick lips indicated that he was a honest and trustworthy man.

“2 million taels of silver. Sell this blacksmith store to me, and I will cure your illness as well.” Qing Shui lightly smiled as he spoke seriously.

“My blacksmith store isn’t even worth 50,000 taels of silver, and even if I have 2 million taels of silver, there’s no one who would be able to treat my illness. Why are you doing this?” The sturdy man went silent for awhile before he cast a strange look at Qing Shui.

“Do we really need reasons for the stuff we want to do?” Qing Shui faintly smiled.

“I promise you. I don’t want money, as long as you can cure my hidden illness, this blacksmith store will be yours. I only hope that you would keep me as your assistant.” The sturdy-built guy sighed with dejection.

Qing Shui glanced at the sturdy youth as he replied, “Fine, you will continue staying here in the future, but everything here belongs to me. I will give you 10,000 taels of silver every month. In addition, if you still have any other requirements, just let me know.”

After their discussion, Qing Shui and Huoyun departed. From the start to the end, Huoyun didn’t say a single word, she only watched silently from the side, although she too didn’t understand Qing Shui’s actions.

“Qing Shui, can I ask you something?” Huoyun cautiously inquired.



“Go ahead, don’t look like that. It’s as though I’m bullying you.” Qing Shui smiled bitterly.

“Why did you do what you did with the blacksmith earlier?” Huoyun inquired in a low voice.

“I felt a little strange when I looked at that man earlier, it was as though he was carrying a lot of baggage in his heart. Despite him being a small-time character, I could feel an unyielding spirit in his heart. And his right arm wouldn’t be able to function any more after another year of smithing.” Qing Shui explained.

After hearing Qing Shui’s explanation, Huoyun nodded as she walked back to the Canghai’s Residence with Qing Shui. Qing Shui decided that he would practice his ancient forging techniques in the blacksmith store tomorrow.

However abruptly, Qing Shui sensed the presence of an old man sitting by the entrance of the blacksmith store. Turning his head, he saw several coal-like big rocks on the ground in front of the old man.

Qing Shui pulled Huoyun closer as he approached. Looking at the coal-like substance, Qing Shui knew that it was a material used for forging. There were about ten black-colored coal-like substances, but he couldn’t tell what was mysterious about them.

Looking at the old man with his torn and tattered clothes, as well as a face filled with a lean and hungry expression, the body of the old man still looked fit and strong. Both his eyes were filled with the hope of living, and somehow, the countenance of this old man caused Qing Shui to remember his father from back in his past world.

“Hey old man, how much are these selling for?” Qing Shui inquired.

“10,000 taels for one.”

“Here’s 100,000 taels of silver, I’ll buy them all.” Qing Shui laughed.

“Ah, mhmmm.” The old man murmured in a fluster. There were several that came to inquire about the prices, but they soon turned away the moment they heard it.

The old man was already jaded, having a job in mining, because of a few precious stones and gems, many of his brothers had already lost their lives. That was why he set the selling prices so high. However, he was ridiculed by many, and thus helplessly, he had no choice but to lower the price to 10,000 taels for one.

Who would have thought that he finally managed to sell all of them today? He could at least use this sum of money and split it with the descendants of his poor brothers that had lost their lives.

Qing Shui placed all of his purchases into a bag as he waved goodbye to the old man before leaving with Huoyun Liu-Li.

And just as Qing Shui left, just as the old man was preparing to leave, a middled aged man appeared and blocked the path of the old man as he asked in a panic, “Old man, the coals you’re selling for 10,000 taels of silver per piece, I want them all. No, I’ll pay you 20,000 taels of silver per piece.”

The old man shook his head, “They’re all sold out.”

“Huh, sold out?” I thought there were still 10 yesterday?” The middle aged man began to perspire.

“Someone already bought them earlier.” The old man sighed.

“Wh... who? What does he look like? Where did he go? How long ago was it?” The middle aged man questioned in a fluster.

“A old man with a head full of white hair, and he left in that direction quite a while ago.” The old man pointed in the direction opposite to the one Qing Shui gone in.

The middle aged man hurriedly ran in the direction the old man pointed to, as the old man gave a sigh as he too, quietly disappeared soon after.

Qing Shui’s spiritual sense noticed everything that was happening. At the same time, he silently put the coal-like substances inside his spatial realm as he appeared in front of the old man with Huoyun Liu-Li again.

“Old man, thank you but don’t come here again. I’m afraid that middle aged man from before may have ill intentions towards you.”

The old man nodded in response and went his way. Qing Shui didn’t want any harm to befall this old man because of him.

And after Qing Shui and Huoyun returned, it was nearly noon. Qing Shui then gave a full recounting of everything that happened causing many shocked exclamations of astonishment.

“You wish to forge something?” Canghai curiously asked.

“Hehe, yes, you guys will know about it soon. I just started learning though, but I’ll gift all of you a set of divine armor in the future.” Qing Shui laughed.

“Oh ya, not only do I want to forge, I will still learn tailoring, smelting and refining in the future. At that time, please refer all your friends to me, I will give them half price hehehehe...”

Canghai Mingyue speechlessly gazed at Qing Shui.

“Okay, okay!” The Canghai couple laughed along as they agreed.

“And you Yueyue, stop pouting. Your husband is being serious here. If you continue pouting, I shall charged your friends double the price instead.” Qing Shui rubbed his nose as he chuckled.

That very night, Qing Shui entered the Realm of Violet Jade Immortal as he went straight to observe the 10 coal-like substances. From what he inferred from the words of the middle-aged man, in addition to the fact that that man was willing to pay up to 20,000 taels of silver for them, these coal-like things shouldn’t be too bad.

Qing Shui picked up one, as he used some of his strength, testing it’s toughness. The surface of the coal-like substance was extremely resilient. Not wanting to waste anymore time, Qing Shui directly tested it with his primordial flames.

The flames, which was capable of refining everything, thawed the black surface of the coal-like substances, revealing a metallic luster underneath. This caused Qing Shui's heart to tremble with excitement involuntarily as he thought of a possibility.

Tempered Metallic Essence!

This coal-like thing was actually metallic essence. Although the value of it couldn't be compared to Golden Essence Extract and Silver Essence Extract, its resilience and toughness was second to none. Not only that, there were a huge variety of things it could be forged into.

Qing Shui, after the episode with the Spring Palace Portrait, was already used to scanning things with his Heavenly Vision Technique.

10th-graded Tempered Metallic Essence, 30th-graded Tempered Metallic Essence, and there were even 50th-graded Tempered Metallic Essence. There were 8 at the 10th grade, 1 at the 30th grade and one at the 50th grade!

### **Chapter 229 -Qing Shui's state of profoundness**

Why didn't he know to use Heavenly Vision Technique to see... ?

"It looks like I must use the Heavenly Vision Technique more frequently now!"

Not only could Heavenly Vision Technique allow one to view internal details of another person's physical body, because of it, Qing Shui had discovered the marvels of Spring Palace Portrait and the Tempered Metallic Essence. It would be lying to say that he was not excited. He even got these Tempered Metallic Essence a step ahead of that middle aged man, thinking about it made him even more excited.

Thinking about what he had told Huoyun Liuli about happiness earlier in the day, wasn't this happiness for him right now. Qing Shui looked at the Tempered Metallic Essence in his hands and chuckled to himself.

Happiness was built on one's range of abilities or slightly beyond it, and he would be very happy if he was obtained or realised something. Having too high an expectation might result in dejection, but realising that expectation would be a huge surprise.

Using primordial flames to refine the remaining Tempered Metallic Essence revealed a silvery black surface. Qing Shui stared at the 2 pieces of Grade 30 Tempered Metallic Essence and the piece of Grade 50 Tempered Metallic Essence.

Qing Shui felt their quality, and he found that each feature of the Grade 30 essence was 3 times that of a Grade 10 essence, and a Grade 50 was 5 times that of a Grade 10.

Smelting and smelting again, Qing Shui knew that Grade 30 Tempered Metallic Essence might be similar to smelting gems. 2 Grade 10 Tempered Metallic Essence may be smelted into a Grade 20 Tempered Metallic Essence, while failure would result in the loss of both Grade 10 Tempered Metallic Essences.

2 Grade 20 Tempered Metallic Essence could be smelted into a Grade 30 Tempered Metallic Essence. Projecting that, a Grade 30 Tempered Metallic Essence would be a product of 4 Grade 10 Tempered Metallic Essences.

A Grade 50 Tempered Metallic Essence would be 16 Grade 10 Tempered Metallic Essences, not counting those that had failed and were destroyed. Qing Shui was a little stunned holding the piece of Grade 50 Tempered Metallic Essence.

“Who knew which grade was the piece that man bought!?” Qing Shui recalled the expression of the man yesterday, though even a Grade 10 essence was precious enough.

Qing Shui decided to ask for the source of the essences the next time he bumped into the old man, and he was sure that middle aged man wanted to ask as well. Thus, he got the old man to leave before anything bad happened to him.

Qing Shui’s Nine Waves Great Golden Buddha Palm was still stagnant at the Third Wave, though he was now more adept at using it. The Thousand Buddha Palm Imprint was too complex, and Qing Shui could only do some parts of it that were more natural and flexible for transformations. The most important thing was that Qing Shui had grasped the moves of the Third Wave.

He liked The power of Nine Waves Great Golden Buddha Palm, but according to his experience, Qing Shui knew not to use it easily.

At least he would not use it in front of a crowd when it was not as powerful. Taking out the Big Dipper Sword and practising it daily enabled Qing Shui to attain the peak of True Realm, though he was not at Obscure Realm yet.

(Basic Sword Techniques) was the only sword technique Qing Shui knew. The Taiji Sword he swung casually was incomparable to this Grade 70 one, which, according to his knowledge, had been one of the top weapons.

Stabbing and jabbing the sword, who knew how many times had he practised stabbing and jabbing. It was silent, and its speed was more natural than usual, with a tinge of simplicity. Qing Shui was the most emotional when practising this stroke, and he had practised this move the most.

After uncountable times!

Qing Shui jabbed again, and there was no sound of the air being pierced. It was like a fish swimming rapidly in the water without disturbing the peaceful surface, as though no energy was being released.

There even seemed to be no power on the sword, but Qing Shui that knew once it touched the target, a surge of torrential force would erupt immediately.

All encompassing! Could this be the All Encompassing Realm, also the Obscure Realm above the True Realm!

Obscure Realm!

Qing Shui was a little doubtful of the sword on his hand, the realm of his sword technique had not been enhanced. But it was stagnant at the peak of the True Realm, unable to break through. Afterall, matters of the realm were quite iffy, other than perceptivity, luck was also needed.

Qing Shui was not so sure. He had only felt it suddenly while practising, that feeling seemed to have been therefor a long time. He was confused as to how he had entered the Obscure Realm.

True Realm was where one could see the insides of something, where something could be seen through, and the rules within an item could be well understood to use the item to its greatest.

Obscure Realm, as compared to the True Realm, was a level higher. Like a fish who does not feel itself in the water, and unknowingly adapting to it and using it to a state of perfection, the power within was already beyond the self.

The Obscure Realm enabled one to exhaust one's entire energy without wasting it. Common men or some powerful warriors, as long as they were not at the Obscure Realm, would waste energy. They would leak energy, and an imposing air was a form of the energy leak.

A true elite warrior could return to one's original nature and be like a common man, containing all his energy within without releasing any. But once he was in a battle, he would be able to gather all that energy towards a particular target. The emitted energies would be suffocating.

Warriors in the realms below the Obscure Realm would always release some of their energy no matter how much they try to contain it. And the more powerful they were, the more energy they released, thus one would usually determine the other party's strength through the energy released.

Of course, such is possible when the abilities of both parties were similar, or when the stronger warrior detects the abilities of the weaker. Hence, one would know if the other was stronger or weaker by detecting the energy.

Qing Shui had been able to contain all his energy, this was why Canghai Mingyue and Sir and Madame Canghai had been shocked when they saw him, since they were Martial Kings. Canghai was especially and indescribably astonished that he could contain his energy to the extent that his past realms were almost concealed.

Obscurity, very few Martial Kings were able to reach this realm. The difficulty of sword techniques were not easier than Energy Techniques. Moreover, the nine continents preferred strength over techniques because it was useless to practice skills without practicing strength, hence strength was definitely preferred.

Obscurity not only allows the energy to be contained, it even helps when dealing with force. Like Qing Shui's sword move, it was calm and ordinary, with no air of brutality, as the energy was contained on the sword without any leaks. At full power, when it was dealt, may be reduced to 80% or 50%, but one who attained the Obscure Realm would be able to deal 100% of the force, and it could also slightly increase it if the strength was fully focused.

This was the advantage of Obscurity, not only could one conceal his energy, the other side of not reducing the force dealt out was increasing one's abilities. This was much more powerful than True Realm.

Qing Shui was still in disbelief that he had entered into the Obscure Realm. There was no difference nor special change, only more confidence in performing the sword techniques, and the ability to control it to his satisfaction.

Stabbing, Pointing, Splitting, and a mediocre Carrying, Hooking and Slicing, those could be performed adeptly, but only Stabbing had attained the Obscure Realm.

Although it was only Stabbing, he could now practise other techniques successfully with half the effort. Realms beyond Obscure Realm allowed one to advance rapidly and achieve the same level within a short period.

Qing Shui continued to practise Stabbing, patiently training that one technique in the Realm of the Violet Immortal, to solidify the Realm of Obscurity.

He had, after all, just attained it. In about 10 days, other than eating and resting, Qing Shui had spent all of his time on Stabbing, and he was satisfied with the result of 10 days of hard work.

Stabbing with the sword has a simple gleam within the calm rhythm, the simple majesty. Qing Shui knew that his attaining of the Obscure Realm was linked to the glorious scenic screen. Conceiving that magnificent air and perceptions had much of an effect on having a breakthrough.

It seemed about time, so Qing Shui showered and changed before leaving the Realm of Violet Immortal. He looked at the 10 pieces of Tempered Metallic Essences before leaving, planning to wait till he could forge before forging them into desired items.

It was a dreamless night. Qing Shui maximised his training time in the Realm of the Violet Immortal till he was exhausted, before leaving, so he would immediately sleep after stepping out of the realm.

He felt refreshed in the morning, preferring the air outside the realm, as the Realm of the Violet Immortal had a feeling of being in a deep, old forest, cut off from the rest of the world.

Qing Shui still had the habit of practising Taiji every morning, and he practised it as he pleased. Qing Shui no longer tried to experience the wispy state, but he only practised it to calm himself. Hence, he was like a common man that practising the moves without any energy, even the Qi of the that automatically comes up would be concealed.

Smoothly and slowly practising the Taiji, Qing Shui seemed to be contented at the moment after attaining Obscure Realm, his mind was temporarily in a state of void and contentment.

Without desire, doing as one pleases, they were just right for Taiji moves, Qing Shui had practised Taiji countless of times but this was especially smooth, another Single Whip!

“Pa!” There was a clear blast in the air!

Qing Shui was stunned, he had not used the Qi of the Ancient Strengthening Technique, even the strength was like that of a common man.

But what was that sound, in his past life, this loud clap would mean he had attained Sect Master level!

While he was in shock, Sir and Madame Canghai in the distance were shocked, they were used to seeing Qing Shui practising his moves from the window every morning.

But today when Qing Shui appeared, Canghai’s eyes went into a slit. The little energy leak he had always felt was absent. If he had not known that Qing Shui had some cultivation and was almost the peak of Xiantian, he would mistake him for having had no training before.

“Ruotong, it is actually Obscurity, he had actually reached the realm of Obscurity,” Canghai said with no evident emotion.

“Yes, I’m afraid it would be difficult to tell who’s the winner if I should duel with him,” The lady was smiling gently in contrast, her red lips charming and attractive, that air of maturity that makes her beautiful no matter her emotion, made Canghai in a daze too.

Looking at Canghai, the lady gently held Canghai’s hand. The years of relationship between the married couple was deeper than the sea, higher than the mountains.

“I really don’t want Yueyue to miss out on this affinity, it is worrying if Yueyue doesn’t even appreciate this young chap,” Canghai said bitterly.

“What are you talking about, our daughter is the best, huh huh, do you want to bet?” Ruotong slightly lifted her head and smiled sweetly.

“Make a bet? On what?” Canghai smiled bitterly at his wife, the beauty that did not seem to diminish over years. He had never won a bet all these years.

“Puha, right, you have never won a bet before,” Ruotong looked awkwardly at Canghai before bursting into laughter, that bright eyes and white teeth were especially charming.

“Bet on what, say it, I will definitely win this time,” Canghai looked at the attractive expression of his wife, with a greater fire burning in him in the morning, he took Ruotong tightly in his arms, against the petite body of peaks and curves.

“It’s broad daylight, what are you doing!” Ruotong whined shyly, and remembered how they tossed around a few times each night, all thanks to that Tigerbone Yang Amplification Beauty Purification Wine.

“We’re an old couple, it’s alright to hug, what’s there to be surprised about.” Canghai happily stared at his wife’s lovely face and kissed her hard.

“Let’s bet whether Yueyue and Qing Shui will get together?” Ruotong shyly replied.

“How shall we bet?” Talking about Canghai Mingyue and Qing Shui got him interested.

“I’m betting on Yueyue and Qing Shui getting together in 5 years’ time, if you’re thinking the same thing we won’t bet,” Ruotong slyly batted her sexy eyes.

“I could lose to you on other things, but I’ll bet with you on this, and I hope to lose. What shall we bet on?” Canghai chuckled heartily.

“When the results are determined the winner will be granted a request of any sort, but the request must be doable. How about that?” Ruotong cutely suggested.

“Alright, I’ll promise you anything if I lose, but you’re gonna lose!” Canghai laughed, his hands crept up to Ruotong’s rounded bottom and grabbed it twice.

“Frivolous old man...”

### **Chapter 230 - Obscure Taiji, Nine Hundred and Ninety Nine Hammer Blows**

With the sound of a bang, he continued with his Taichi. There was a series of slightly explosive sounds that made him feel very comfortable. Qing Shui never expected that he could use the physical strength of an ordinary person to create a ‘surface force’ pinnacle effect.

Surface Force was able to exert the body's strength before one actually attained Xiantian. For cultivators that were at the pinnacle of Houtian, the strength which they circulated could all be considered as 'surface force.'

Surface Force requires both legs to be standing slightly bent. One should be relaxed, have locked shoulders, straighten one's head, circulate the force from your Dantian and through the back of one's knee. One should push forward, and retract the force back by pulling it towards the back and waist before tightening one gluteus to summon the force again. The exterior body must be loose and not rigid, as the force seeps into muscles and flesh. It is neither too gentle nor too unyielding. This is what surface force does.

(Note: tried my best, chinese martial arts descriptions and mantra is too hard for me T\_T)

When arms are raised, they are filled with brute strength. The upper limb is tough and inflexible, while the lower body drifts like the wind, and exerts pure strength. This is also surface force. Qing Shui knew that users of surface force in the Greencloud Continent also couldn't be considered an expert, let alone in this world of the nine continents.

Qing Shui was surprised because he actually used the power of his surface force, a type of force that was used by ordinary people. It actually had power that was not weaker than 'hidden force'.

'Hidden Force' rises and falls according to the breaths of the user. It is formless, and when one's Qi settles in their Dantian, one could use the pushing force of the blood circulation to move the settled Qi around the meridians and energy channels of one's body. This helps trap the five elements, and strengthen the four limbs. Toughness contains gentleness, while gentleness encompasses toughness. Yin is yin but also yang, and vice versa. This will be channeling through muscles and bone structure, adapting to 'hard' or 'soft', weaving around, and linking up the myriad of acupoints in one's body. After which, the Qi would sink in and become one with the body, and won't dissipate unless it's used. Even when used, it would not be totally exhausted. This is "hidden force"!

Xiantian cultivators used their Xiantian Qi that was formed in their Dantian to power their attacks. This was also a form of hidden force! The Qi from the abruptly circulated automatically within his body as he executed a simple move, Taiji's Single Whip!

He used a simple Taiji's Single Whip, yet it exhausted about 80% of Qing Shui's energy. However, there was no reaction or sound of the air being torn apart. There was just simply silence as though he was not using force at all. Upon seeing this, Qing Shui actually laughed.

He had somehow touched upon the doorway of the Obscure Realm. That arm of his when he was executing the earlier attack contained an extremely devastating destructive power.

Qing Shui didn't expect that his Taiji Fist would be the next to break through to the Obscure Realm after his laido technique. This caused Qing Shui to feel that joy always existed in unintentioned happenings.

Now that his Taiji Fist had broken through to the Obscure Realm, his attacks seemed ordinary and without profoundness. Yet, there was an impressive atmosphere created from that seemingly simple, coordinated movements of his. They caused him to appear solemn and dignified, but also carefree as his strikes followed his heart's desires perfectly.



Canghai Mingyue who was watching from a distance away was completely dumbfounded. If she didn't personally witness this, she would not have believed it. Ever since this little fellow came here, the miracles he created had been relentless.

After breakfast, Qing Shui prepared to visit the blacksmith store which he bought yesterday. He was a man of his words, so he still had to treat the right arm of the sturdy blacksmith.

In the world of the nine continents, injuries to the meridians, bone structure, and Dantian, were usually considered to be incurable. Qing Shui didn't think that this was the case because Yu Donghao and Baili Jingwei would still be in their crippled state.

He also didn't expect his Primordial Needle Techniques to be so mystical and even able to cure something that the doctors and alchemists of this world couldn't be able to cure.

"Qing Shui, let's go together to take a look!" Canghai Mingyue and Huoyun Liu-Li smiled. The three of them walked towards the blacksmith store which Qing Shui purchased yesterday.

Strangely enough, Qing Shui didn't take advantage of Canghai Mingyue with his mouth this time round. Two beautiful women, but each of them had a different beauty. Although Huoyun Liu-Li was beautiful, it was insufficient to cause Qing Shui to halt his steps. Underneath the vivaciousness of Huoyun, Qing Shui could feel a pure heart. He felt very warm whenever he interacted with her.

Canghai Mingyue was different. She was awe-inspiring, imposing, and her beauty was akin to the heavenly angels. Her beauty was a type of beauty that disdains all others. In Qing Shui's mind, this was the type that stirred his emotions the most. However, there was one thing he couldn't really accept - the woman he wanted was stronger when compared to him.

Being in front of such women, he felt inferior, and thus he unconsciously rejected such women. Qing Shui wasn't a male chauvinist pig but he couldn't accept the fact that his women would be stronger than him. The pride that was carved in his bones naturally caused him to veer away from such women. In the state of his random thoughts, the two women beside him felt that his expressions were very weird. Somehow, a little depression mixed with...hidden anger?

"Are you okay? What happened? Did you think of unhappy stuffs again?" Huoyun asked, concern apparent in her voice.

Canghai Mingyue was also curious. Suddenly, she thought of the little girl selling tea leaves in the Yan Clan. The girl that resembled Qing Shui so much. She could still remember the struggle in his eyes as well as holding him back. No one knew what was the burden he was carrying in his heart.

"I'm fine, how could there be unhappy stuffs? I'm walking with two great beauties right now, you know? How can I ask for more?"

"....."

Walking into the simple looking and unadorned store, the sturdy blacksmith was currently forging a piece of metal. They could even hear the ringing sounds of the hammer even before they entered.

"You're here!" The sturdy blacksmith greeted Qing Shui, as he subtly swept his glance over to Canghai Mingyue and Huoyun Liu-Li before he looked away.

This caused Qing Shui to be silently impressed. He had specially paid attention to the eyes of the blacksmith. It was extremely clear even after he saw the two beauties.

“Come, let me help you cure the illness. You will need a week of treatment, and I will be here to administer help every day for this week. You will naturally know if it’s cured or not after a week.” Qing Shui decided to start straight away. After all, there were no benefits to the patient if the treatment for their damaged meridians and bone structures was delayed.

Forging was something that exhausted tremendous amounts of strength. To ordinary humans, one must at least be at the Martial Student grade before they had the caliber to be even called a blacksmith.

“Right now?” The sturdy man asked in astonishment.

“Yeah, let’s go. It will be quick!”

The blacksmith nodded his head, as he pointed to a chamber. “That room.”

After entering, the blacksmith undressed his upper clothings as his muscular, ripped arms were revealed. He looked at Qing Shui as he inquired, “Is there still something that you need me to do?”

“It’s fine, watch me. Take note, this will be painful.” Qing Shui retrieved his golden needles as he lightly exclaimed.

“I’m not afraid of pain. Thank you.” The blacksmith smiled as he laid down, extending his right arm out to Qing Shui.

“Do you usually spend the whole year here alone?” Qing Shui casually asked as he checked the extent of the injuries of the blacksmith. Although he had scanned the blacksmith yesterday with his Heavenly Vision Technique, that was merely a brief scan. Today, he was detailedly studying the extent of the injury. One of the energy channels in the right arm of the blacksmith was seriously damaged and at most would only be able to last till the end of this year. To a blacksmith, if one of his arms was disabled, it would be as though there was no more meaning in life.

“Yeah I’m alone here. The only thing that accompanies me is this blacksmith store. This is the only thing my parents left me. They hoped that I could become a great grandmaster of weaponsmithing in the future. This was also the reason why I was unwilling to sell the store.” The blacksmith sighed, as depression could be heard in his tone.

“Oh, but why did you still agree to my request in the end?” Qing Shui asked.

“Because this arm of mine is my everything. Without the store, I could still achieve the hopes my parents had for me. However if this arm is gone, everything, my hopes and dreams, would all be shattered.”

“Actually your objective can’t be considered tough to achieve at all!” Qing Shui smiled, as he inserted the golden needles infused with the Qi from his into the arms of the blacksmith, causing them to tremble slightly. Occasionally, he would retract and re-insert in different acupoints or continuously tap on a particular spot with his hands.

The sturdy blacksmith had a lack of comprehension on his face as he looked at Qing Shui. He didn’t understand why this young man would treat him so well. He basically had nothing to his name. Even if

Qing Shui was a swindler, there was no need to put in so much effort to swindle him to gain the things that he possessed. Seeing the two beautiful women at the side of Qing Shui, he knew that Qing Shui was definitely someone extraordinary. Being able to cure his illness as well as taking out millions of taels of silver, how could he still be someone ordinary?

He was an alchemist, a mysterious and incredible alchemist, but why did he want a blacksmith store, and such a small one at that? Could it be like what Qing Shui had said earlier? There was no need for any reason if one wanted to do things.

Qing Shui slowly extracted the golden needles from the arm of the blacksmith. The blacksmith hadn't utter a single cry since the start of the treatment. This caused Qing Shui to be silently impressed by his steel-like endurance.

"Go and test your arms. See if there are any differences." Qing Shui smiled.

The sturdy blacksmith trembled his shoulders as he swung out in a straight-right direction. He repeated it again, and again.

"I can actually finally use my full strength!" The blacksmith shouted in excitement. In the past, he could only use half of his strength because there would be unbearable pain if he tried to exert more strength than that.

"Thank you, my name is Huyou ." The blacksmith happily exclaimed with gratitude. Although he was extremely happy, he didn't forget his manners.

This was a man with excellent restraint!

"I'm Qing Shui. In the future, the two of us will manage this store together." Qing Shui laughed.

"This store is already yours, but I hope I would still be able to stay here. After all, blacksmithing is my love and life." Huyou seriously replied.

Qing Shui sighed, silently agreeing. He guessed that if he said anything more, the Huyou would surely refuse.

The two of them walked outside the room. Qing Shui realised that Canghai Mingyue and Huoyun were looking at some weapons. As they saw Qing Shui exiting the room, they began to walk over to him.

"Can you show me the process of forging a weapon? I would like to learn." Qing Shui earnestly inquired to Huyou.

Huyou agreed as he started, first finding the cast of the weapon which he wanted to create...

Looking at the techniques as well as paying attention to some of the intricacies, Qing Shui saw that the form of a sword was finally lifted out from the cool water. Under the tempering of Huyou's few hundred hammer pounds, eventually an average looking sword was retrieved from the furnace.

Qing Shui knew that quality of this sword was shoddy because Houyu was giving him a crash course in forging. The two ladies stood at the side as they watched with indescribable expressions in their eyes. Until now, they still didn't believe that Qing Shui was interested in forging, although the craft of being a

blacksmith was not looked down upon by others. On the contrary, blacksmiths enjoyed quite a high status in this world of the nine continents. A good weapon could boost one's attack by several times.

"Let me try it!" Qing Shui spoke with ardent fervor.

Huyou smiled as Qing Shui took over his position. Qing Shui seemed to be really excited, after all, this was his first time trying to forge a weapon. Thus, he was filled with anticipation. Gazing at all the materials about, he realised that he could create any weapon cast he desired by using 'silver mud'. Eventually, he decided to create the form of a sword with jagged edges. The appearance didn't really matter much to him. His only requirement was that it could increase his might.

After which, he placed a common metal origin rock inside the furnace as he used the techniques Huyou showed him earlier. Very quickly, the original form was created. After dousing it with water, Qing Shui infused the smithing hammer with Qi from the as he began raining blows on the original form of the sword. Despite his clumsy looking poundings, he was actually incomparably excited, getting more into it by the second. Seeing how the metal yielded to the pressure created by his every strike, Qing Shui was filled with a sense of satisfaction.

Canghai Mingyue and Huoyun Liu-Li stared in amazement. The sword created from normal materials actually glowed with a gentle light in response to the hammering efforts of Qing Shui. At this moment, Qing Shui appeared even more like a blacksmith when compared to Huyou.

Although Huyou hastened the speed earlier, Qing Shui was still a newbie! As the sword creation process carried on, his rate of improvement could be clearly seen to the extent where if there were onlookers spectating the process, no one would believe that Qing Shui was a newbie.

Or was he a natural born master blacksmith!?

Even the way he hammered gave off an incredibly mysterious feeling. His hammer blows appeared simple yet filled with a complex sense of heaviness, as the original form of the sword began to finally look like the sword he pictured in his mind. He was using an image in his mind to mold the sword. Finally, after a thunderous sound echoed, the Silver Jagged Sword actually emitted a faint, cold light. This indicated that the sword was finally completed, as Qing Shui sighed in relief.

This was the first sword he created in his life and he had been tracking the number of hammer blows he used earlier. He used a total of 999 hammer blows, just one short of the information recorded in his memory unlocked by the Ancient Strengthening technique. He recalled the unlocked memory said that 1,000 hammer blows was the minimum requirement to forge a good weapon. The more hammer blows there were, the higher the quality of the created weapon would be. However, with the present materials at hand as well as his newly acquired skills, 999 hammer blows was already the absolute limit. After the faint light glowed, the efforts would be superfluous, even if he hammered again.

Qing Shui held the newly-created sword up in his hands. It could be considered a short sword. It was about three feet in length, and had jagged edges by the side. It glowed with a faint, cold light that added a mysterious feel to the sword. When held in his hands, Qing Shui felt extremely comfortable as though he was one with the weapon. After all, this was created with the aid of Qi from the Ancient Strengthening Technique. Using his Heavenly Vision Technique, he inspected the sword.

Agility +1!

Qing Shui was thunderstruck. Could it actually still enhance his attributes?

Chinese martial artists were strong believers in this type of force. It was said that Bruce Lee was one of those that could manifest Hidden Force.

Surface Force: For practitioners of external martial arts, they were able to exhibit surface force which would cause their palm attacks to be as tough as iron, capable of splitting apart rocks.