

Ancient ST 2281

Chapter 2281- Widow Qing's Mysteriousness, Returning Home

Qing Shui and Young Master Tai followed Nalan Qing into the Fragrance Shack. This time, she let them into the main courtyard, compared to last time Qing Shui didn't even get into the house.

The courtyard was very plain, with the only interesting thing being that it was clean. Actually, it was far too clean; it seemed too simple with just a table and four chairs, not a hint of decoration in sight.

"Sit!" Nalan Qing gestured for the two to take a seat.

Qing Shui was feeling slightly overwhelmed by the welcome, and Young Master Tai was feeling the same. This was their first time sitting here, so the Young Master was still adjusting, not knowing whether this was due to him or Qing Shui.

He quickly realized that this had nothing to do with him. He had come here before but never been received this way. Obviously, this special treatment had to do with Qing Shui. Recalling the events at the Northern Emperor Domain, Young Master Tai began to feel that Qing Shui's luck with the ladies was simply way too good.

He had just been talking about the lucky fella who might obtain her heart, but now he strangely felt that this little brother of his would be the one. However, he quickly erased that thought as it could be just his gut feeling.

"I've brewed the Fragrant Wine." Qing Shui directly took out a vat and a few jade bottles.

Qing Shui looked closely at Nalan Qing and was simply stunned. He could clearly sense that she had about 700 billion Dao of strength.

This was a ridiculous number, and if Qing Shui hadn't powered up in the last two years, this level of strength was definitely enough to rock him. He could basically confirm that Young Master Tai was speaking correctly—her family background wasn't simple, seeing as they were able to groom such a powerful junior.

It was still strange to Qing Shui that such a person would be staying at the Fragrance Shack, selling wines, only on the weekend to boot.

Qing Shui had some guesses. She might have not enough money but didn't want to stoop so low as to borrow or rob. He thought that she had a great need for money, as all cultivators did in the end, so she opened the Fragrance Shack. It wasn't to earn money per se but just for living expenses.

Although this was purely one of his guesses, he felt like they were rather accurate.

Nalan Qing was slightly embarrassed while being stared down by Qing Shui, but seeing the shock in his eyes, she was confused as there was no way that he would be shocked to meet her on the second time. For a man to be stunned on their first encounter was comprehensible due to her outstanding look and demeanor.

Since this wasn't the case, then there was some other unknown circumstance that shocked him.

Young Master Tai was alarmed by this brother's guts, daring to stare at Nalan Qing. He felt that he had basically jinxed Qing Shui about the bastard from before.

He quickly poked Qing Shui, making him return to his senses. Qing Shui quickly deduced the reason for his panic, he smiled, "It was an accident, I hope this lady would take a sip with me!"

Nalan Qing didn't say anything, simply raising a cup to drink. Her eyes brightened suddenly; she stopped for a while before taking another gulp, then proceeding to drink all the wine in the cup.

Young Master Tai had long since finished his cup; he turned to Qing Shui. "This is good stuff!"

He had already praised it and didn't know what else there was to say. Nalan Qing then said lightly, "Seems like it was a good decision to give the recipe to this sir over here."

"Actually, it's just that I already have a good batch of materials, and this batch has been fermenting for a thousand years." Qing Shui came cleanly.

Nalan Qing's eyes lit up as she nodded. "For our family's wine recipe to wind up in this mister's hands is truly an honor. By the way, I will have to leave soon, so don't return to this place anymore."

Young Master Tai was shocked as he asked, "Miss Qing is leaving?"

Qing Shui was also slightly astonished, but he knew a lady with this kind of strength would not grow old here, no matter how lonely she looked.

"En, it's been a long time, it's high time I returned." Nalan Qing raised her cup as Qing Shui gave her a refill.

"I wonder which of the Nine Domains does Miss Qing's Clan reside in?" Qing Shui asked abruptly.

Nalan Qing's body visibly shook as she stared at Qing Shui, her beady eyes wanting to see through him. Qing Shui, however, had honest eyes, naturally maintaining eye contact with her.

She then lightly shook her head, refusing to speak.

Qing Shui knew for sure her clan was in one of the Nine Domains.

Qing Shui didn't inquire further, smiling as he continued, "I'll head to the Nine Continents Star Ocean Domain soon. If we meet there, you need to treat me to some good wine."

Nalan Qing actually nodded, "If we really meet there, I'll treat you to some wine."

Qing Shui gave her a variety of wines, including the Fragrance Wine, as he didn't know if they would ever meet again. Though he had only seen her twice and there were no sad feelings to be had, any sort of long term or even final farewell would be slightly saddening.

"We're leaving... Miss Qing, take care. If fate wills it, we will meet again, and I will do my utmost to make your life whole." Qing Shui smiled as he bid his farewell.

His words came out of the blue, but they made Nalan Qing shake. She then lightly nodded her head as a response. "Take care!"

Qing Shui and Young Master Tai left the Fragrance Shack as Nalan Qing slowly watched them disappear into the background. Qing Shui's words had moved her... making her life whole? He didn't know anything... She only knew that this man was strange, and also strangely powerful.

"Ole brother, you've become strong. But tell me if you like Widow Qing." Young Master Tai chuckled.

"A love for beauty is different from the traditional love, not to mention liking someone. Liking something is just another emotion. It's as if you like a certain place, a certain industry, and a certain kind of product. But whatever, talking to you about it... is pointless, you won't understand. Brother, I'm leaving. If I have the chance, I'll visit again." Qing Shui smiled.

"Go, you philosopher-wannabe. It is a pity that you're too fresh and unreliable. Liking is just liking, you can't be a real man yet not willing to admit it," Young Master Tai said disdainfully.

"Fine, let's not discuss these useless things, I'm leaving."

"Oh, you're really leaving, remember to come and have some fun sometimes..."

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Qing Shui was going to the Nine Continents Nine Domains, and he was unsure of the duration of this trip. Thus, he decided to first return to the Qing Clan. He decided to get rid of all of his worries, so he wouldn't have any reasons to be anxious even if he didn't return.

Qing Shui delayed the trip to the Nine Domains by another half a month. Using the Five Elements Divine Flag's Husband and Wife power, he appeared by Yehuang Guwu's side.

Yehuang Guwu felt the strange ripples beside her and got emotional; she was currently taking a shower in a large bath. Of course, she would be instantly embarrassed as Qing Shui appeared right next to her.

Seeing the soaked beauty, as well as the shy face, Qing Shui didn't say anything. A thirsty wolf emerged within him as he tore off his own clothes with one hand, hugging this mature, divine beauty with another. They began the wild love-making, succumbing to their primal desire and longing towards each other.

Chapter 2282 - The Worries After Dealing with the Qing Clan's Guardian Beast

After a while, Yehuang Guwu's body shuddered as she hugged Qing Shui tightly, her meek moans rushing into his ears.

Qing Shui kissed her body as his hands were roaming, touching, and rubbing those full mounds from behind. Bending her entire body up in pleasure, she began to show off her emerging plump bosom. In that position, with her mature, charming, and picturesque eyes, she shyly peeked at Qing Shui, releasing the fatal allure. She really gave him a calamity-bringing expression, making Qing Shui feel another surge of vitality.

Yehuang Guwu began rocking like a boat on the ocean, sometimes high sometimes low as if she were on cloud nine. Her meek moans were resonating dynamically, sometimes high sometimes low as she actively welcomed Qing Shui.

After Qing Shui brought her to the climax, he himself reached the pinnacle.

“Qing Shui, I’ve missed you a lot!” Yehuang Guwu was panting, hugging Qing Shui as she kissed him happily.

Qing Shui was tightly hugging her; her body as weak as mud, completely relying on Qing Shui. The two were still very much glued together, as he kissed those ravishingly wet lips. “Little Wuwu, I’ve missed you too.”

Yehuang Guwu was older than Qing Shui. She was Tantai Xuan’s master, but she loved Qing Shui’s nickname for her. She was a mature, charming, and graceful woman, yet she was like a mistress snuggling up to Qing Shui.

Yehuang Guwu could have gone to Qing Shui using the Five Elements Divine Flag, but the Qing Clan were his roots, and so were they her roots now, and they had to be protected.

She would not let any mishaps happen to this place, lest her life would be filled with regret.

“Making you guard the home, it’s been tough on you. I just can’t trust anyone else to do it,” Qing Shui smiled and said.

“You’re not allowed to talk like that, I haven’t suffered at all. I’m very happy as this is my home too, you know?” Yehuang Guwu glared at Qing Shui.

“Come, Little Wuwu. I’ll help you wear your clothes.” Qing Shui patted her bosom, sending a shiver down her spine. That jadeite, round bosom was just perfect, making Qing Shui’s upright thing even more excited. It had the power to make Yehuang Guwu completely crumble.

“En!” Yehuang Guwu didn’t know if she promised to let him put on clothes for her, or whether she was reacting to Qing Shui’s reaction.

It had been very long since their last time, so letting Yehuang Guwu enjoy herself made him feel content. Since he was gonna stay for a long while, though he really wanted to do it again, he restrained himself.

Qing Shui was adept at taking off clothes, but helping others to wear them was too tough. He was only able to help Yehuang Guwu dress up after a while. It was obvious to anyone who had been at her position before that Yehuang Guwu had just enjoyed the greatest pleasure as a woman. Even looking in the mirror, she was slightly embarrassed to see herself.

“Qing Shui, if we go out like this, they’ll laugh at me.” Yehuang Guwu said, obviously very embarrassed.

“What’s so funny? We will also be doing the same thing tomorrow, and I think you look very pretty.” Qing Shui had also put on his clothes, pulling Yehuang Guwu out.

Qing Shui’s return brought everyone great joy, while Yehuang Guwu’s changes weren’t noticed by many. Qing Shui looked at his ever youthful, ever beautiful mother and run forward to hug her.

Qing Yi rubbed his head, ecstatic as she looked at her son. “Brat, you left for so long and didn’t visit us.”

Qing Shui chuckled as he put down his mother, pulling her hand, understanding that this was just her pouting. “I missed you guys too much, so I came back from nowhere.”

Qing Shui then hugged Canghai Mingyue, Mingyue Gelou, Huoyun Liuli, and the rest.

“Father!”

Qing Shui saw the group of children, all of whom had already grown up. Yuchang, Qing Zun, Qing Ming, Qing Yin, Qing Yu, Qing Yan, Qing Long, Qing Yun, Qing Jun, and Yan Lang. Qing Zun’s group had already reached the Martial Emperor state with solid foundations, their strength rising steadily.

Qing Shui hugged Qing Jun and Yuchang, only Luan Luan wasn’t home.

Qing Jun was adopted. Now that she had grown up, she was very beautiful but she still couldn’t speak. She could use her navel to speak though, so she could communicate with everyone just fine. She was also aware that she wasn’t related to them by blood, but she was still very happy as everyone here treated her well like their own blood-related family.

Yuchang’s mother Mingyue Gelou was also here. Yuchang was also adopted, and their first meeting was when Qing Shui had saved her life, so she always felt like she was Qing Shui’s daughter.

“Jun’er, did you miss Daddy?” Qing Shui rubbed her head. She had already grown up, but she was still just a young adult, her face still looking fresh.

“I did!” Qing Jun happily said as she hugged Qing Shui’s neck.

This joyful reunion took a while before Qing Shui started giving out his gifts. This time, he had a lot of Monkey Wine for them. The wine was good stuff.

Qing Shui had wanted them to head to the Sea King’s Palace, but he decided against it since the Qing Clan’s strength was too weak. Just like his mother and grandfather, they would not become powerful, nor would they be willing to leave. They had already grown attached to this place.

Qing Shui then took out the Golden Martial King Pellets which he had prepared. It would allow his family member to enter the Martial King Stage instantly. This made them ecstatic as he continued to help them get rid of their impurities. Though it wouldn’t increase their cultivation, it would remove some hidden wounds and make their bodies healthier.

To Qing Shui, his grandfather and mother’s strengths were not important, it was their health and lifespan that was his main concern.

Qing Luo was very satisfied; he would usually sit down with some old men and drink some tea and wine, just enjoying his old life happily. He was content with his day as Qing Shui was his most priceless gifts in life.

Qing Luo was over a century old, yet he was glowing with a healthy look. It was all due to his revitalized body, allowing him to live up to five hundred years. He felt like he was the most fortunate person ever. He had his sons, daughters, and grandchildren around him while able to look at them growing stronger and stronger, totally transcending his generation. What was there to hate in his life?

Qing Shui took out everyone’s blood essence and refined it, binding a Black Ice Divine Worm to them as a Guardian Beast.

The Black Ice Divine Worm was basically enough just to lessen Yehuang Guwu's burden. These years, she had spent a lot of time and effort. Thus, Qing Shui gave her one as a mount.

Mingyue Gelou also got one, but the rest didn't as they were too weak. These two plus the Guardian Beast were sufficient for protecting them, not to mention the Guardian Divinity would strengthen the Black Ice Divine Worm and the restrictions placed would be balanced out by the strength increased. Those that became Guardian Beasts would always receive a massive boost in strength.

Qing Zun and Qing Yin had already grown up, not needing any extra protection anymore. So, Qing Shui wanted to give both Yehuang Guwu and Mingyue Gelou more freedom, such that they could go wherever they wanted. They were also already strong enough to do so. Their protector, Yehuang Guwu basically never left a five hundred meter radius from the Qing Clan.

Chapter 2283 - Yuchang's Marriage

Yehuang Guwu and Canghai Mingyue also didn't have any plans to leave, such as to go to the Sea King's Palace. They had grown accustomed to the life here, and even in other places, they wouldn't be with Qing Shui so it didn't even matter. They were used to the life on the Phoenix Dance Continent.

Once Qing Shui had stabilized everything and truly everything, he would have everyone gather together for a big family reunion.

When he had just returned, Yuan Su had been out seeing a patient. She just returned now and was shocked to see Qing Shui. Her beautiful eyes brightened as she ran over to give him a hug. "When did you get back?"

"I just got back!" Qing Shui hugged the aromatic beauty as he lowered his head to kiss that beautiful nose.

Qing Shui had stayed for a week without even realizing it. And today Mingyue Gelou came to his room in the afternoon. At this time, Qing Shui had just returned after teaching the children.

"Qing Shui!"

Qing Shui pulled Mingyue Gelou over and planted her on his lap, he smiled. "I know you have some matters bugging your mind. Spill them out, we'll discuss it all!"

Sitting in Qing Shui's embrace embarrassed her; they were already an old couple despite their youthful look. Of course, it was considered that way since they had a grown-up child already. She was happy though, leaning on his shoulder as she lightly said, "Yuchang is in love, and the kid from the Feng Clan is here."

Qing Shui had never heard of the Feng Clan, but he just replied normally, "It doesn't matter what clan he's from, so long as his personality is upright, nothing else matters since the little lass is in love."

"The Feng Clan is only a small clan, and that youth is not bad overall, but he's just that. He has a good personality; however, his talent is only a tad better than a common mortal's. And so he's destined to not be able to become a great warrior," Mingyue Gelou said.

Qing Shui didn't react much to this. Their daughter's talent was also just middling, and so Qing Shui just nodded. It was like the saying: "The further one walked, the greater the danger he would encounter".

That's why he didn't think that high cultivation base was necessarily good. He wanted to know Mingyue Gelou's opinion. "So what do you think?"

"I'll listen to your call," said Mingyue Gelou smilingly.

Qing Shui had thought that this would be a touchy topic since Yuchang was a daughter he had brought in, but fortunately, she had always been very conscious of him as the head of the house. In the case of marriage's compatibility, it was usually decided by Long Chen after all.

"I don't know what's going on in other clans, but I'll let our children decide their own fate. We don't need some sort of alliance marriage anyway. So, let's discuss it with the lass." Qing Shui smiled, seeming totally at ease.

"En!" Mingyue Gelou also smiled as though she had expected it.

Since it was still early, the couple visited Yuchang's courtyard. The slightly older children were all given their own courtyards.

Seeing Qing Shui come with Mingyue Gelou, Yuchang immediately knew what was going on, and she happily pulled them into her room.

Yuchang wasn't very old, and her cultivation wasn't too good nor bad. She was a Martial Saint with the potential to make further breakthroughs, though that would depend on her in the future.

Yuchang poured the tea for them as she sat in the middle. The three of them sat in a row on the sofa.

"I heard that you're all grown up now and had a guy that you fancy. So, when will you bring him back for us to take a look?" asked Qing Shui calmly.

Yuchang's body trembled. "Daddy, Mommy, he... he's not a descendant of some super clan..."

Yuchang was a little nervous when talking about it, as she knew that this world emphasized on a perfect matching. Especially for a lady who would be marrying out of the family; the partner would usually be from the same or superior position. Moreover, Yuchang was a great beauty, something she inherited from Mingyue Gelou, thereafter, she would never have to worry about other people not wanting her.

Qing Shui tugged on Yuchang's hand, knowing that she had misunderstood the situation. He lightly grasped her hand and said, "Our Qing Clan used to be from a small village. As long as he's not wicked and you like him, I'll support your decision and accept him."

Yuchang looked happily at Qing Shui. "Really? I always knew Daddy is the best!"

"Why? Were you afraid that I'd stop you?" asked Qing Shui.

"Women will usually become tools to build alliances for the clan. I don't want that to happen to me," said Yuchang, completely relaxed.

"We don't need those kinds of marriages. Our clan won't sacrifice happiness for upward mobility and never will." Qing Shui rubbed her head.

"Daddy is amazing!"

“Tell this to your grandmother and the rest. You should pick a time for him to come and visit us; set a date, it’s about time you get married.” Qing Shui smiled.

Yuchang’s face turned beet-red as she lowered her head and responded meekly.

Qing Shui told his mother about this. Since Qing Yi had already handed the reins over to Qing Shui, He had to arrange everything before leaving. Yuchang had only been waiting for him to settle the marriage after all. They had been together for a year and had already reached the appropriate stage; they were just waiting for his return.

Three days later, Qing Shui met the Feng Clan — Feng Zhao and his parents. They were just an ordinary, wealthy family. And he was the third of five children.

As for Feng Zhao’s father, he was the second brother amongst three brothers with five siblings in total.

This was an average family. When Qing Shui met Feng Zhao, he was quite curious at this boy who was just average-looking, slightly heroic, and possessing clear eyes. His strength also hovered at the peak of Martial King, unable to break through.

His parents were slightly older than Qing Shui, their level being at the peak of Xiantian. Hence, Qing Shui could gauge that this family was not too bad regarding their strength.

“Feng Zhao greets the senior!” The youth bowed towards him.

Qing Shui felt like this was slightly messed up as Feng Zhao’s parents also politely greeted him. However, he guessed that it was normal since their clan was just too tiny in comparison with a behemoth existence like the Qing Clan.

“Haha... come, don’t be shy. Let us sit and discuss some things today.” Qing Shui gave them a warm welcome and gestured them to sit.

Zhao Feng was mentally resilient, but he was still slightly unnerved. He had made preparations to be utterly humiliated since anyone would feel that the Zhao Clan was trying to climb up a higher branch and that there was basically no hope.

But he loved Yuchang, and the feeling was mutual. Thereafter, he had to come no matter what the results would be. He wanted to try his best even if the outcome was not something he could mold.

He still held some reservations as he sat down.

Yuchang, Qing Shui, and Mingyue Gelou were here, while the rest were not going to attend out of fear of putting too much pressure on the Feng Clan.

“So, you are Feng Zhao!” Qing Shui stated calmly.

Albeit a bit tense, Feng Zhao finally felt that his moment had come. “Yes, senior!”

“And you like my household’s Yuchang?”

“En, I love her, I hope senior would grant us our wish.”

“Let’s have it this way. Marrying my daughter... has its price.” Qing Shui continued.

“Please instruct me, senior,” Feng Zhao said solemnly.

“I know of your love for Yuchang. So, cut off one of your arms and I’ll marry her to you.” Qing Shui said seriously.

The entire room was deadly silent. Yuchang wanted to speak out, but Mingyue Gelou held her back. Feng Zhao’s parents’ faces had turned dark a while ago. And as for Feng Zhao, his expression seemed to turn unnatural, but he continued to look at Qing Shui, internal war raged within him.

Chapter 2284 - I’m Someone Else’s Father-in-Law Now

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Qing Shui appeared to be very earnest and serious, so nobody thought of it as a joke. Even Yuchang felt this way.

“I can’t do it!” Feng Zhao said lightly, his eyes flashing with a hint of bitterness.

Qing Shui’s smile widened.

“I thought you liked my clan’s lass. You should be willing to sacrifice everything for the one you love,” Qing Shui smiled and said.

“If you lose your life, there isn’t anything to love. A real loving couple would die for each other, and I am definitely willing to do so for Yuchang. No matter what kind of danger she faces, I’d be happy to sacrifice my life to save hers. But this kind of sacrifice is totally pointless. If I just cut out my arm right now, I believe that Yuchang would be sad. And I don’t want her to be sad,” Feng Zhao said seriously.

Qing Shui was much stronger than Feng Zhao and could see right through him. He could determine that these words were true, so he nodded. “Good, you’ve passed the test. I agree with your marriage. I need to leave in under a month, and I’d like to see your marriage before I leave.”

Zhao Feng looked disbelievingly at ‘senior’ Qing Shui...

“Why? Are you unwilling?” Qing Shui asked.

“No, no... I’m willing, senior!”

“Still calling me senior?” Qing Shui smiled.

“Father-in-law!” Zhao Feng kneeled down and ecstatically yelled.

Qing Shui felt a bit out of place. To think that he himself would become someone else’s father-in-law...

“Okay, you guys decide on a date. Rise, you’ve already paid your respects,” said Qing Shui smilingly. “Oh, I’ll give you a little gift in advance!” Qing Shui stretched out his hand to poke at the different acupuncture points along Zhao Feng’s body, displaying his power and allowing him to break through to Martial Saint Realm.

The gap between a Martial Saint and a peak Martial King was a massive chasm. Martial Saints were respected wherever they went, and there was a massive increase in their lifespan. A Martial King merely had a lifespan equivalent to a Xiantian expert’s.

This kind of things only took a short while. Zhao Feng looked disbelievingly at Qing Shui, as his dream had come through. He knew that there was only a little hope for him since his parents were just peak Xiantian cultivators. He was already an oddity with his attainment of peak Martial King.

Yet, a casual wave of a hand changed his entire life. This was the foundation of a major clan, the ability of a true powerhouse.

Only after a while had passed did he snap out of his daze and thank Qing Shui.

Qing Shui got them to stay for lunch, and the wedding was set to be half a month from now. The Zhao Clan was a normal cultivator clan. Although they weren't exceptionally powerful, they still had a few properties under their name.

They decided to hold the wedding ceremony in a place not far from the Qing Clan.

The Qing Clan didn't usually flaunt their strength, but anyone with a suitable amount of power knew that the Qing Clan was the paramount existence in the Dancing Phoenix Continent. Although they were low-key, they possessed unfathomable strength.

The Zhao Clan began to send out invitations but only to their close friends.

The Qing Clan was marrying out a daughter, not wanting to vie for the spotlight with the Zhao Clan. Since there was too big of a gap between the two clans, there was no need to vie for anything, just a few close friends receiving invites and coming over was sufficient.

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Good days flew by as Yuchang's wedding day came up. The entire Qing Clan's manor was decorated with red lamps, as though it were a New Year celebration, cheers and joy could be heard all over the place.

At high noon, a long line of snow-white beasts pulling opulent carriages in a neat row could be seen. There was also a flowery carriage which decorated with multiple branches of colorful flowers. It was slightly smaller than the rest, yet seemingly the most eye-catching.

A large congregation of people entered the Qing Clan Manor with it. They were led by Feng Zhao who wore a deep red tuxedo. He was carrying a bouquet of fresh flowers and a face of blissful joy. He had many people on his side following him.

After that, they underwent all the standard wedding procedure.

After the groom's family came and received Yuchang, the majority of the Qing Clan also left to the wedding location.

The Qing Clan had given sufficient face to the Feng Clan, as this kind of gap in statuses would usually warrant the male marrying into the female's family.

The entire ceremony was a smashing success, though there was an interesting situation midway through. Some of the strongest powers in the Dancing Phoenix Continent came over to the Feng Clan, uninvited by either side of the family.

The Feng Clan also understood the reason for their appearance. These people would usually look down on such a puny clan, yet they were now calling them brothers and such...

It was a joyous occasion, so there was no need to slap a smiling person's face. Plus, there were no downsides to it.

The busy day flew by, as the next generation of the Qing Clan had begun. Qing Shui's generation had all had their families, with Qing Bei being the last one.

Luan Luan was slightly older than Yuchang, but her future accomplishments were inestimable, so she didn't want to affect her cultivation for such a matter. Yuchang was destined to not have much progress in the martial path, so once a suitor was found she could marry him.

Mingyue Gelou pulled Yuchang aside, whispering a few things. Qing Shui knew that a mother would always say something to their daughters at this moment. Qing Shui also had words to say, simply stating that if she suffered, she needed only to tell him and he would deal with them.

Yuchang felt happy and blessed for the loving and doting father she had.

Yuchang's life after marriage was very blissful as the couple were always on the same page, always thinking the same things. Yuchang didn't have the spoiled brat mentality, making the Feng clan extremely fond of her. Since the Qing Clan was still nearby, and the courtyard was still hers, she and Feng Zhao would spend the majority of their time at the Qing Clan.

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By the time Qing Shui was about to travel again, he could leave without any fears, thanks to the Guardian Beast and two other Black Ice Divine Worms. Though he was not willing to leave, he still had to continue on.

After bidding his farewell, he immediately used the Five Elements Divine Flag.

Along the way, he used the Nine Continents' Steps to rush to the Northern Emperor Domain.

He was just in time for the plan they had drafted up. And it hadn't been half a month yet since the wedding.

Upon returning to the Divine Palace, the rest were already ready, and Qing Shui opted to set off 2 days later.

Qing Shui was relieved to see that Hao Tian had put down the baggage weighing down his heart, knowing that there would always be a better person, a bigger heaven. He had also heard of Qing Shui's previous deeds which revealed too much of him.

Shortly after returning, he returned to the back mountains to talk with the Sky-Obstructing Crow. Its fate was tied to the Divine Palace, so it would drastically hurt or even kill him should anything untoward happen to the Divine Palace.

The Sky-Obstructing Crow was obviously rooting for the rise of the Divine Palace, as his strength would also be able to ride the waves and grow. He had seen this hope in Qing Shui and thereafter, was sparing no expense to support him.

Two days later, the group left the Divine Palace with Yin Tong and the rest accompanying them for a long distance.

Yin Tong and Lan Lingfeng were also slightly depressed as this farewell could be for an extremely long time. They needed to work hard to improve their cultivations.

Chapter 2285 - Arriving at the Nine Domains, Hua City, Cai Clan annihilation

Qing Shui had mistakenly believed that the Nine Continents Star Ocean Domain was just a massive ocean. Only upon his arrival did he realize that the earth and ocean accounted for each half of the land. The Nine Continents Star Ocean Domain was split into nine pieces, corresponding to the Nine Continents, while the ocean was called the Star Ocean Domain. This was how the name Nine Continents' Star Ocean Domain was coined.

Qing Shui could immediately tell that the Spiritual Qi here was far richer than elsewhere. He had heaven-defying treasures like the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal, so he understood that people's success also hinged upon the terrain advantage. It was rumored that the latter part of the Nine Domains had even richer Spiritual Qi.

This was merely the first domain amongst the nine, technically the lowest grade amongst them. Qing Shui wouldn't stay here for long, as the Sky-Obstructing Crow had stated that he could proceed to the Fourth Domain, suggesting that he would be a powerful ruler governing a small force in these four domains.

Qing Shui's strength had improved by leaps and bounds, so he shouldn't waste his time there. The Nine Domains was the most mysterious and prosperous place in the entire world. This was the pinnacle of life, where it was suspected that they truly matched the prosperity of ancient times.

There were many legends and relics of ancient times; many of which could be seen today. The Giant Dragons, Phoenixes, Golden Winged Rocs, Bifang Cranes, Sable Oxen, and other ancient monsters of the past, as well as the various inheritances, clans, and sects.

Upon entry, Qing Shui had been transported to a wildland. This was the entry point to the Nine Continents' Star Ocean Domain, and all that he could see was an endless wilderness, with no city in sight.

Nine Continents Steps!

Staring down from the sky, he had spotted a city below. A single Nine Continents Steps could cover a distance greater than the entire world in his previous life.

"Let's go down and take a look." Qing Shui said before bringing them down.

The city seemed far more ancient and dignified than any cities he had laid his eyes on before. It seemed exceptionally sturdy and tall, giving people a sense of firmness, heaviness. This was the accumulation of history and had nothing to do with the architecture.

This was an unseen kind of culture, making Qing Shui feel a deeper, unfathomable sense. It was as though he did not understand it, since he wasn't part of it. Even if his realm had reached a sufficient

level, he wouldn't really understand. However, all foreigners would immediately feel that this place was truly special.

There was a massive crowd. Some wore very fancy garments, and others had plain martial uniforms on. The shops lined on each side of the streets as countless beast carriages went forth on the main roads, contrasting with the massive demonic beasts' horde all over the skies.

The entire street was bustling with activity; there were advertisements to buy and sell all over it.

Qing Shui and the group then walked on the main street. This could be considered a border city in the Nine Continents Star Ocean Domain.

Although the land of the Domain was split into nine pieces, they were still gargantuan, with each piece countless times larger than Earth. The cars were different here; the things flying in the sky were different here. This was like a different kind of civilization altogether.

"Let's go find a restaurant, I want to grab a bite. And maybe we can get some information there," Shen Huang told Qing Shui.

"Okay!"

The Dragon River Restaurant, seemingly a very vulgar name. Perhaps it was someone's name or the name of a place. Nonetheless, this restaurant was massive.

The restaurant seemed ancient on the outside, but it was extremely opulent and decadent on the inside, with glimmering gold and jade decorations. Even the glossy tiles looked like marble, yet they were tougher and prettier.

The stone table was also smooth, especially pleasing to the eye. The seats were made of the finest woods, decorated with dragon-shaped beast carvings.

Qing Shui had this gnawing feeling that this restaurant wasn't what it presented on the surface. Qing Shui was reminded of the Nine Continents Restaurant. Perhaps they were related to the Nine Continents Food Residence.

The restaurants in the Nine Domains that could earn the favor of the Nine Continents Food Residence were truly few and far in between. The incident at the Northern Emperor Domain was the Nine Continents Food Residence's lust for Qing Shui's recipes.

Right as they entered, a uniform-wearing beauty came over, smiling at Qing Shui and the crew. "Please come in!"

She brought Qing Shui to the third floor because the bottom two floors were full. Though it was still a while before meal time, half of this floor was also filled already. She took out a menu for them to order.

"Where is this place in Da Yan?" Qing Shui asked casually as he ordered food.

"These guests must have just arrived here!" The girl smiled.

Though she was a waitress, she was at the Xiantian level and perhaps on the level of lower-management. She had the looks and an air about her that transcended the other waitresses.

“Yes!” Qing Shui muttered one simple word as a response.

The girl knew that she had overstepped her boundaries, frightened, she said, “This is Da Yan’s Hua City.”

He had planned to ask a few more questions, but she was a waitress. As the meal time inched closer, the crowds here would increase. And it was impossible for her to stick around just to chat with him.

Since he couldn’t ask, he just sat there and listened. There were many people around. It was apparent that the Dragon River Restaurant was not a bad establishment, with everyone here having some sort of authority. There were, of course, many cultivators here since the meals weren’t cheap for a normal standard.

The food arrived a while later, and Qing Shui had ordered up a feast for the nine of them.

The food was prepared beautifully, a lingering fragrance wafting through the air. It was intoxicating. The ingredients were good, and so was the skill of the chef. This was how the Dragon River Restaurant earned its reputation.

“Have you heard? The Cai Clan was completely annihilated last night,” on a table a few meters away, spoke a man in a hushed tone. However, many people around could still hear him.

“I heard, the Cai Clan is one of Hua City’s great powers. For it to disappear overnight is really terrifying, we don’t even know who did it,” A person from the neighboring table chimed in.

“This older brother has also heard?” The first man spoke out again.

“Yeah, my house isn’t that far from the Cai Clan’s manor; just thinking about it gives me the creeps. There were some fighting sounds ringing outwards, but they weren’t very intense. I thought that it was just a major clan having some sparing bouts, yet the next morning, over hundreds of Cai Clan’s disciples disappeared without a trace. Everyone only found out that the glorious clan had been eradicated from the stench of blood.”

This topic was very heavy, as they avoided making guesses about the culprit. They could, however, discuss the Cai Clan without the fear of retaliation.

“The Cai Clan has prospered for a dozen years or so, not for very long. After each generation, they got worse and worse, especially in this generation. Eventually, a kid called Cai Zhong came out, even daring to tease the Bu Clan’s First Young Lady and got all his limbs broken for it.

“Even if this Cai Zhong had not harmed a thousand women, it would be close to eight hundred already.”

.....

Qing Shui smiled. People were exactly like this. When the Cai Clan was prosperous, no one dared to even squeak. And even if someone lent them a hundred guts, they wouldn’t dare. But now? They could speak without reservations.

Chapter 2286 - Dragon River Restaurant, Nie Clan’s Nie Wu

Qing Shui didn't know of any Cai Clan or Bu Clan, but it sounded like the Cai Clan was very powerful. However, their disciples being crippled and them not being able to do anything simply proved that the Bu Clan was even stronger than the Cai Clan.

"To tell the truth, Cai Zhong isn't nothing much compared to that Bu Clan garbage. The only difference is that they can still protect him," continued another guy.

This was the youth at the neighboring table. But as he finished speaking, somebody reminded him, "Little brother, some words are best left unsaid, or else the consequences might be dire."

"Haha, is the Bu Clan that strong? I don't really feel the same. That Bu Feihua is just a slightly tainted second generation, treated and pampered like a treasure. No matter what they do, they always cover up for him. They are going to experience the same fate eventually."

Qing Shui looked at the young man. He should've known that these words would piss off the Bu Clan, and they would come and punish him if they had the ability to.

The youth was truly very young, even slightly younger than Qing Shui, a special kind of Qi flowing through his body. It seemed to be slightly mysterious. His strength was even more shocking, as he wasn't any weaker than Nalan Qing; his accomplishments at this age warranted even more surprise.

This youth was definitely from a powerful clan. Without adequately solid foundations, even a supreme genius wouldn't be able to reach this level.

Nobody dared to speak at all as words were calamitous. They really resented not leaving earlier, condemning this fool who didn't know the immensity of heaven and earth. Now it seemed that he wanted to drag everyone to death.

"Can this Bu Feihua beat you?" Qing Shui asked casually with a smile.

"Beat me? What does that 'thing' count as? He's not even strong enough to be pinched by me, and I don't want to pinch him to death. Hmm, but then his sister is a real beauty." commented the young man.

"En, it seems to me that you're also garbage," Qing Shui smiled coolly and replied.

"Me? Ha ha ha... you're the first person who dared say that to my face. I can't say I'm some sort of saint, but I at least have some basic moral guidelines. I won't ever use my martial strength to bully someone, unless they're so shameless that I want to pinch them to death." The youth absent-mindedly smiled.

"Not bad, being able to admit your faults shows that you aren't that rotten," Qing Shui said seriously.

"Yi, you are quite an interesting kid. Em... who are the two beautiful sisters to you?" The youth wasn't completely stunned by Beihuang Fan and Shen Huang, but there was some lingering surprise in his eyes. His gaze was still clean, devoid of lust.

"They're my women. I already told you that you're garbage, don't you agree? You act just like those guys." Qing Shui said seriously.

"It's not the same. If I were really just like them, I would've robbed them away already," The youth said very solemnly.

“I think you still can’t gauge our strength. If you could, perhaps you would be acting differently. Some people acted domineeringly without a care for their reputation. These are the real shameless people, foppish dandies that are unreliable, and the second generation wastrels. The other types are those that like to pretend, openly acting one way and then switching gears elsewhere. They are the backstabbing, two-faced bastards who act in the shadows, committing evils and still pretending to be saints, even asking for gratification. They like to show their two faces to satisfy their own perverted minds.” Qing Shui smiled.

The youth looked strangely at Qing Shui. “You do make some sense, but I’m really not that kind of person.”

“I’m not talking about you, I’m just saying that you’ll gradually become like that. At this rate, in just three to five years, maybe around ten years, you’re gonna be just like that.”

The youth started wiping off the beads of sweat that coalesced around his face. “Don’t jinx it, I actually do feel a bit like this. Will I really become that kind of person?”

“I can’t tell. It’s hard to judge this kind of issue. You probably have a heartache. If I’m guessing correctly, you must’ve been hurt by a woman in the past. It is best to let the person who tied this knot loosen it. You have a lump in your heart, and only by solving this knot would you have a breakthrough.” Qing Shui began sipping his tea again.

“I’ve failed to recognize a master. I hope you won’t take offense for my rudeness. I’m Nie Wu, you can just call me Little Wu.” The youth hurriedly stood up and bowed.

This knot in his heart was something he held close to himself. He even hid it away from his family members. This was a problem decades ago; when he liked a girl, but she didn’t reciprocate his feelings and eventually got married. In his rage, he killed the man just as they were about to consummate their marriage.

Nie Wu had felt the instant regret as he had no intentions of ravaging this girl. He truly loved her, but a few days later, she entered a brothel, allowing others to enjoy her. This cut Nie Wu like a knife through the heart, and in his rage, he tore down the brothel, killing many of the men who had slept with her.

He then sent people to watch after her. Gradually, a knot had begun to form in his heart. He was unable to resolve it, and it caused him extreme agony each time he thought about it.

He had thought that time would wash away this memory, yet it was like a curse, constantly gripping onto him. He would always dream of the time he had found her at the brothel—the moment when he had taken away all the happiness that belonged to her and ruined her life.

“Senior, do you know how to resolve it?” The youth asked seriously as he returned to his senses.

“I’m not aware of your circumstances, but it’s probably impossible for you to recover. You need to act cruelly to resolve it. As for how, that’s up to you.” Qing Shui smiled.

“Act cruelly? En, if I break an arm or leg, is it possible to recover it?” The youth mumbled to himself.

“Your clan should be able to. Even if they can’t, you can look for me. I’ll be here for a while.” Qing Shui smiled.

The youth completely believed Qing Shui without a trace of doubt, happily bowing at him. "Many thanks to senior! If senior has time, you can consider coming to the Nie Clan and let this junior thank you properly."

"Okay, I'll go if there's an opportunity," Qing Shui stated casually.

Nie Wu had his dinner and just left after telling Qing Shui of the recent occurrences, as well as asking about Qing Shui's recent journeys and route, all in hopes of seeking him at another time.

Qing Shui's group also left after dinner. They needed to find a place to live to get accustomed to the place. They decided to buy a simple courtyard since they weren't expecting to stay for long.

As they walked around, they saw a massive, luxurious courtyard. It was slightly deserted and had a faint scent of blood. Those who passed by this area would purposely make a loop around to avoid it. Qing Shui thought, looking at the barren surroundings, this must've been the courtyard belonging to the exterminated Cai Clan.

They were eradicated just yesterday, and now some 'cleaners' had already come to clear the area, even taking away the main signboard.

Sects or clans that were exterminated would just end like that. No one even cared about the alliances with these exterminated clans. Since this world spoke with strength, everything else was simply fleeting and unreliable.

Qing Shui stood outside the gate, deep in thought.

Chapter 2287 - Encounter with Bu Clan's Bu Feihua

Just at this moment, a group of people walked over. It was led by a man, and his youthful vigor and stature were only matched by the beautiful girl next to him.

There was a youth behind this man who immediately yelled at Qing Shui and those beside him, "Who are you people, and what are you all looking at?"

Qing Shui furrowed his brows and looked at the newcomers. However, the handsome man only fixed his unblinking gaze on Shen Huang and Beihuang Fan, his eyes shining with pleasant surprise and irrepressible greed. The woman beside him looked as though she were filled with overwhelming envy and sorrow; as if she knew she had been cast aside by the man.

"What does what we see have to do with you?" Hao Tian shot back, clearly displeased.

The handsome man did not say anything. Qing Shui is naturally not good with words, and his words usually brought about shame. However, he wasn't scared of losing his face and neither did he feel disgraced. Hao Tian knew this and spoke directly; he had unknowingly been sincerely convinced by Qing Shui.

"Oh! A pretty feisty bunch... they must not be from around here!" The boy, who spoke previously, flippantly exclaimed.

"Even if we really are foreigners, can Hua City really afford to offend us?" Hao Tian laughed along.

“You are correct. Locals mostly do not come here. But since you are foreigners, that means you all are definitely from the south side of the Nine Continents. Why act so feisty?” The boy schemingly said.

“Forget it, Hao Tian. Let’s leave,” Qing Shui said. This kind of meaningless banter served no purpose.

“You already provoked the Bu Clan’s young master and now you want to leave? Leaving so easily is not possible,” the boy servant said. He could tell that the young master was desirous of the two women, and he too was infatuated. But unfortunately, he had to concede to the young master.

“Oh, since we have provoked you, care to explain how we did so?” Hao Tian’s family background was prestigious, and his family also had a high social standing. He had seen many foppish dandies

“No such thing! I am Bu Feihua. Since it seems that our meeting is a sign of fate, I’ll treat everyone to drinks,” said the handsome leader of the group happily. At this moment, he finally regained his suave and dignified demeanor.

It was obvious how everyone’s eyes immediately lit up. Qing Shui did not want to pick up a fight as soon as they arrived. Moreover, the person right before their eyes was supposedly Bu Feihua, Bu Clan’s foppish dandy.

“It is fine, we still have other things to do. If we have time later, I will treat Mr. Bu to a drink,” said Qing Shui with a smile.

“You’re not giving the face to our young master,” spoke the boy from earlier again.

Hao Tian couldn’t help but say to the boy, “How can a lackey like you speak so rashly?”

Bu Feihua was immediately dumbfounded, and the boy who was just berated also wore a similar look on his face. Although the boy was just a follower, he also came from a clan barely inferior to the Bu Clan.

Qing Shui had never thought that Hao Tian would be this blunt. However, what was done was done, even Qing Shui was inclined to do so as it was a refreshing sensation.

“What gives you the right to say that to me? I dare you to say that again. You’ll regret it!” said the boy angrily.

“You’re just a lackey, only knowing how to suck up to others. If you have the ability to fight, come over here... I’ll break your dog legs,” Hao Tian said calmly.

Seeing Qing Shui reach out to stop the boy, Bu Feihua’s expressions started to change. “Is there a need to blow up this matter?” He questioned.

In fact, Bu Feihua was glad to see chaos unfold. Thereafter, he would be legitimately justified in dealing with this group, and the women would be unable to escape.

“There is no need to make the matters worse, we are just about to leave. Everyone should just pretend we never met each other, what do you say?” Qing Shui clearly saw through Bu Feihua’s true intentions.

“I can’t tolerate an insult like this. Let your man slap himself twice, and we’ll call it even. How about that?” Bu Feihua pointed at Hao Tian and retorted.

“Why don’t you beat yourself up to solve this matter?” Qing Shui already knew that this issue would not be resolved by words. A mere Hua City, he wouldn’t need to pay anyone any heed here.

Bu Feihua’s expressions were even more incredulous while he was gloating at this development. He looked at Qing Shui and slowly said, “You asked for it. Don’t push the blame onto others.”

“Let’s leave. If they try to stop us, I’ll give it to them.” Qing Shui told Hao Tian, grinning.

Hao Tian gleefully replied, “Don’t worry too much brother, I’ll let you enjoy yourself.”

Hao Tian was brimming with happiness. The Palace Lord was still very protective of them. He had great foresight and intelligence. He knew that if he followed Qing Shui, they would be able to achieve a decent outcome in the future.

“Beat them up. If anyone dares to fight back, beat them half to death.” Bu Feihua’s prestige and dignity were being challenged, and he was furious.

Qing Shui did not move. Hao Tian was left standing alone at the front, and Bu Feihua’s entourage rushed towards him, only to be quickly and easily tackled down. Even though they survived, each one of them was severely injured.

At that moment, Bu Feihua knew that he had kicked a steel plate. But since he had already started the fight, it was impossible to stop halfway. After all, he carried the weight of the Bu Clan’s name, Hua City’s most powerful clan.

Even though there weren’t many people in this area, people were beginning to flock around. Ultimately, seeing the Bu clan getting beaten was a rare occurrence.

“For you and for your clan’s sake, do not come and provoke me, else you won’t even get a chance to regret it.” Qing Shui warned again.

At this moment, Bu Feihua was in a dilemma. Although he had suspicions that the other party was merely trying to intimidate him, he also knew that the other party had actual strength and power. If this man really had the strength to keep that promise, he would be a sinner to his entire clan.

As he was thinking through, three old men walked over and looked at Qing Shui. “Young man,” one of them said, “even though you might be strong, you do not understand the complexity of things. There are words that cannot be said, and things that cannot be mentioned.”

Qing Shui looked over at the old man that was speaking. His hair was covered fully in grey, and his redeeming facial features were the bright eyes, square nose, and wide mouth. He had a tall and broad stature with a restrained way of expressing himself.

“Third Uncle, Fifth Uncle, Ninth Uncle!” Bu Feihua respectfully called them.

The third uncle didn’t even turn, simply staring Qing Shui down.

“I do not want to make enemies. However, when others force my hand, I have no choice. You tell me that not all words can be said, but that is also not possible. Fine, if you tell me not to say anything, I will not say anything. I do not wish to involve others just for a single person.” Qing Shui slowly and calmly said.

“Truly presumptuous. Let us see if you have any abilities that allow you to back that up.” The third uncle immediately closed in on Qing Shui. He put his hands together to produce a demon mark which resembled a tiger-like beast that rushed towards Qing Shui.

Dragons and tigers lorded over clouds and winds respectively. In a flash, a strong and raging wind blew over. If it were buildings from his past life, they would be whisked away by the wind.

Qing Shui was too lazy to move. He willed the appearance of the Nine Continents’ Mountain.

To Qing Shui, the Nine Continents’ Mountain was a powerful killing weapon, and it clashed with the demonic mark. The Mountain was much faster than Qing Shui’s movement speed. Furthermore, the mountain had the ability of Shield Attack, making it a Supreme Treasure.

Up until today, the Nine Continent’s Mountain had close to 600 billion Dao Force and possessed the extremely powerful Shield Attack ability, directly destroying the mark. The Mountain comprehensively attacked the body, mind, and even the soul of its victims.

Chapter 2288 - Chi Feng and Chi Ao’s biological father?

The Nine Continents Mountain broke the old man’s seal, relentlessly charging towards him. Qing Shui could feel the Old Man’s strength; it was roughly comparable to the Nine Continents Mountain. Seeing how frivolously Nie Wu treated the Bu Clan, him and Nalan Qing were obviously far stronger than Bu Feihua’s third uncle.

Peng!

The Nine Continents Mountain crashed into the body of the old man. The resultant force caused the old man to fly backward, coughing up blood. Despite this, the Nine Continents Mountain continued its assault on him, consecutively crashing down on the Old Man’s body thrice more, knocking him unconscious.

This caused all the surrounding spectators to stare in amazement. The third elder was a high-ranked expert in the Bu Clan. Even though he wasn’t the strongest, even Bu Feihua had to treat him with respect and yet, he was knocked out by the treasure in naught but a few blows, leaving him without the strength to retaliate.

Qing Shui kept the Nine Continents Mountain and looked at Bu Feihua. “Crushing you is like crushing an ant. Your family may be strong compared to the others in Hua city, but honestly speaking, I have not seen enough to know if your clan has a Guardian Beast, you might want to bring one out to try me,” Qing Shui said.

Cold sweat trickled down Bu Feihua’s face. Just now, he was fearlessly ogling this man’s women. If Qing Shui got angry, the Bu Clan would be unable to protect him. Even his third uncle was downed in a single move, and Bu Feihua didn’t know how much of it was his own strength and how much of it was the treasure. If only he had such a treasure...

Bu Feihua thought about it but lacked the guts to try and rob him. He didn’t even know if he would be let off now. He gritted his teeth and asked Qing Shui, “Today’s matter was our fault, how would you like to handle this?”

“You must pay the price for your wrongdoings. Now screw off!” Qing Shui sent them all tumbling away.

Bu Feihua didn’t even dare to whimper as he took his men and quickly ran off.

“It was too lenient to let them off that easily, especially that Bu Feihua,” Hao Tian said with regret.

“Did you not see how awkwardly he walked as he left. From this day forth, he will never be able to be a real man. Isn’t having to live with that a harsher punishment than killing him on the spot?” Qing Shui chuckled slightly.

Hao Tian tightened his muscles and said immediately, “I harbor nothing towards your ladies.”

Qing Shui was taken aback by how serious Hao Tian was taking this matter and laughed as he replied, “No worries, my ladies aren’t so easily stolen by others, especially not you. You are too boring and violent, whereas my ladies are so clever and gentle; they won’t fall in love with you.”

“I’m boring and violent? I feel like you’re ten times worse than me,” Hao Tian said in a shocked and depressed voice.

“All right, we should go, we must find a place soon.”

Just as they were about to leave, Qing Shui looked up at the sky. A man riding a golden eagle caught their attention as he had a Fiendish body, and his face gave him a sense of familiarity. It seemed that there were serious hidden injuries within him. Despite this, he was still slightly stronger than even Nie Wu.

Qing Shui was curious as to who this man was. He didn’t know that Hua city had people who were this strong. A man this strong would definitely be the peak in the entire Nine Continents Star Ocean Domain.

The fact that the man looked around middle-aged despite his youth had something to do with his injuries. He indeed looked much more mature than people of his age.

Qing Shui was stunned. When he used the Heavenly Vision Technique to determine the disease that the man had, he unintentionally spotted a pendant on his chest.

This excited Qing Shui as both Chi Ao and Chi Feng had the same pendant.

When Qing Shui had been at the Jade Mountain Village in the Eastern Victory Divine Continent, he had met the grandson and granddaughter of the old village elder.

He had helped to suppress the pernicious aura of the two kids. Back then, Qing Shui could only feel their strong constitution, so he roughly gauged that they had an extraordinary background.

However, this constitution could be harmful to their families and so their parents decided to abandon them. This was what he had thought then. Later on, when Qing Shui got stronger, he overthrew this idea because this kind of lineage would have a way of suppressing the pernicious aura, such as a special technique or treasure. The only hint to their background, however, was just the pendants.

With this man’s heavy injuries, seemingly compounded by many years of ailment, it must’ve been truly a scene if this man had been separated from the pair.

The man stared at Qing Shui with a shocked face. He also didn't understand; he was sure that he did not know this young lad or the people next to him.

"How should I address mister?" Qing Shui smiled as he walked up towards the man.

The man laughed as he said, "I am Chi Yang, how do I address you?"

"Qing Shui, your surname is Chi?" Qing Shui thought again. Chi Ao and Chi Feng's names were all from the pendant and not from the old village elder of the Jade Mountain Village.

"Indeed, is there something wrong with that?" Chi Yang said unknowingly upon seeing Qing Shui's shocked expression.

"It just that your face looks very familiar although I am very certain that I have never seen you before," Qing Shui could not mention the pendant. After all, the pendant was underneath the man's clothes.

"True, this world is home to many people and many of which look similar. I don't think there is anything extraordinary about it," Chi Yang didn't think too much of it, putting it off simply as Qing Shui's attempt to strike a conversation.

"You misunderstand, the people I know is a pair of siblings who look all too similar to you and share the same surname with you. It's a shame you live so far apart. Curious... very curious," Qing Shui said without giving it much thought, shaking his head as he did.

"What was their names and where did you meet them?" Chi Yang's facial expression finally changed, his whole body getting immeasurably excited.

"Their names were written on the pendants they were wearing. The boy was called Chi Ao, and the girl was called Chi Feng. They've been at my home for twenty or so years. Why do you ask, my brother?" Qing Shui saw that Chi Yang was shivering.

The man took down the pendant from his neck and looked at Qing Shui with a gaze full of hope. "Is this the type of pendant you were talking about, brother?"

Qing Shui knew that there was a high chance that Chi Ao and Chi Feng were the children of this man.

"How similar, the three of you look so similar and all share the surname Chi..." As Qing Shui didn't know much and wasn't completely sure, he was very excited and a bit hopeful.

"They are my children and thirty-eight years ago, we were under attack. At that time, my wife and I successfully got away. But the enemy was vicious and we got badly injured in the process. We escaped out of the Eight Desolates Region, out of the Nine Continents Star Ocean Domain, yet they refused to relent. I had to give the two children to two of our clan's protectors, as me and my wife were the main targets. Few of us survived and I never dared to seek the children out."

The man, upon saying his piece, took a moment to catch his breath. By the looks of it, he was quite emotionally unstable and then said aggressively, "How are they now?"

Chapter 2289 - Chi Clan in The Eight Desert Region

“They are doing well and were raised by a village head in the mountains. I met them when I visited the Eastern Victory Divine Continent, and they lived a blissful life. When I met them, I was surprised at their innate gifts, albeit the strong evil spirit surrounding them. Thus, I forged a jade pendant for them and taught them certain battle skills to help them suppress the evil spirits. At that point of time, they were only teenagers,” Qing Shui said as he recalled.

“What happened after that?” Chi Yang asked. He wanted nothing more than to know about his children.

“At that point of time, we agreed that if they wanted to cultivate, they had to practice what I taught them first and come to look for me ten years later. After ten years, I was still residing in the Greencloud Continent when they really came to look for me. They’ve been living with me ever since. I have never thought that I would meet mister here...” Qing Shui sighed with emotion. This was truly a miracle. Some things were just that coincidental, such as lovers in his previous life would discover that they were long-lost siblings...

In this world, there were too many coincidences. This was one of the things he kept in mind. There was also Qing Sha whose pernicious, evil aura was even stronger than Chi Feng and Chi Ao’s.

“Could I go see them?” Chi Ao thought for a long time, struggling internally as he spoke.

“Has the threat been eradicated?” Qing Shui asked.

Chi Yang let out a sigh and nodded his head, “Forget it, for them being able to live a good life is already the best outcome. It is best to not see them.”

After finding out that the children were alive, Chi Yang was overjoyed. But he was afraid to welcome them back, even seeing them was hard for him. This agonized him, but he still said to Qing Shui, “You all are welcome to my humble abode to have a chat any day.”

Qing Shui nodded his head. Even though Chi Ao and Chi Feng did not say anything, he knew that they wanted to know about their roots. Thus, Qing Shui began to think on how to let Chi Ao and Chi Feng return home and for the Chi Clan to settle down. So he nodded his head, “Sorry to bother you.”

“No worries, thank you for taking care of them all these years,” Chi Yang said sincerely.

“Both of them call me their father much like my own children, though they aren’t my flesh and blood. They really want to know their true parentage, as well as the reason they were abandoned,” Qing Shui lightly said.

Chi Yang’s heart started to ache even more, and his face became pale. So many years had passed, and he had thought of his children countless times. His wife had also longed for their children, so much that her face was always stained with tears.

The Chi Clan lived nearby, keeping a low profile in Hua City. Yet, no one dared to provoke them. They didn’t attend any events hosted by other powers either. As such, many families gradually started to view the Chi Clan as a very secretive family, warning their own people not to provoke them.

The Chi Clan’s manor was not very big, and there were no servants. Only Chi Yang and his wife were living there.

Although the Chi Clan was not massive, they had three courtyards and over a hundred rooms. The courtyard was paved using grey marble, with a bamboo forest at the left side and a pond at the right side. In the middle was a broad footpath that extended to the backyard.

Near the bamboo forest was a flower garden with a large plot of flowers. At that moment, a girl was tending to the plants. Her figure was elegant and exquisitely carved, with a gentle and dignified odor surrounding her.

Upon hearing the sounds of movement, she turned around and saw Chi Yang bring a crowd into the yard. She put down the shears and walked over.

Her facial features were beautiful and charming, with a smooth forehead as white as snow which sent forth a noble aura. Qing Shui was startled.

Fate, mysterious concepts, Qing Shui felt like these things existed, but none of it was that simple.

“You’re back! And they are...?” The woman spoke gently.

Qing Shui could tell that this woman also had serious, hidden injuries. However, she was strong, even stronger than the Bu clan’s third uncle.

“We’ll talk inside,” Chi Yang nodded his head and proceeded to walk into the biggest living room.

Chi Yang himself prepared tea for the guests.

Following that, he introduced Qing Shui and relayed the story of Chi Ao and Chi Feng.

Hearing the story, the woman teared up. Once Chi Yang was finished, the woman said, “I’ve missed them for so long... I really want to see them, but that’ll only hurt them.”

Qing Shui smiled as he took out a piece of paper and a golden pen. He began to draw. Very quickly, portraits of Chi Ao and Chi Feng were drawn. Qing Shui did not simply draw one drawing; instead, he recalled the first time he met them and how their relationship progressed until now, resulting in him creating ten drawings.

Chi Yang and the woman looked on attentively. Looking at each drawing, the woman’s hand started to tremble while her tears rolled down uncontrollably. On the other hand, although Chi Yang did not tear up, the pain in his eyes was obvious.

“Brother, thank you for taking care of them for so many years,” said the woman sincerely as she bowed to Qing Shui.

Qing Shui quickly held on to her, “Sister, you’ll get to meet them soon, don’t be upset.”

The woman’s face reflected shock and happiness, but she quickly shook her head and said, “I’m afraid that meeting them would only hurt them.”

Qing Shui laughed, “Previously, I heard brother mentioning about Eight Desolates Region. You all were probably from there. If you believe me, I will help you reinstate the Chi Family’s prestige and honor.”

Looking at Qing Shui, a joyful and startled expression could be seen all over his face. However, in the end, he still said, “The opponents are extremely powerful within the Lower Three Regions; they are at

the pinnacle. As of now, we still haven't recovered from our hidden injuries, and our strength cannot be compared to them. They have strength in numbers, with many strong individuals. Reinstating the Chi Clan's honor is practically impossible."

"There are some things that are dependent on human's effort. If one does not put in the best effort to achieve something, how would one know if it is possible or not? Brother and sister are still young, although I do not know much about the three regions, I have a feeling that your strength was previously one of the strongest in the Lower Three Regions!" Qing Shui guffawed.

The Sky-Obstructing Crow had evaluated him to be able to enter the first four regions, so the ones that could suppress him in the Lower Three Regions would be few, and his special skills would probably allow him to massacre experts here. The only danger would be the super experts who were living in seclusion there.

"Our injuries are extremely severe. Originally, our strength was already inferior to the opponents. If we confronted them now, we'd be instantly killed. Moreover, there aren't any forces within the Lower Three Regions that are willing to offend them. An iron will is insufficient sometimes, even a single setback can spell infinite damnation." Chi Yang said bitterly.

"Your injuries are not a problem. I can cure you, and even help your cultivation improve. I just do not know if you all, the Chi Clan, have reunited with each other yet. Originally, the Chi Clan was a great force in the region, I don't think that all of you have been wiped out!" Qing Shui smiled and said.

Chi Yang was stunned at this sudden promise of salvation. This succession of happy surprises came a bit out of the blue, and it was slightly difficult for him to accept. However, he could not verify this claim. He thought for a second, before saying: "Some of the Chi Clan members know nothing about my location, or else they'd already be here trying to restore the clan."

Chapter 2290 - Divine Buddha Portrait Brings Disaster, Lower Three Regions

In the end, Qing Shui and crew took up residence at the Chi Clan. To gain the Chi couple's trust, he needed to allow their strength to recover, which would take anywhere from three months up to half a year.

Their strength didn't deteriorate, but the hidden injuries made them unable to use even half of their cultivation base. That was the real issue here.

Qing Shui instantly cured a tenth of the pair's injuries, a feat inconceivable to them. They had already sought out many physicians and pill masters who ended up unable to help them recover any further. For his treatment to have such a tremendous effect was truly stunning.

Qing Shui was able to instantly heal a tenth of their injuries that many others had been unable to deal with, even healing the overall injuries. This ability would have made countless powers to vie feverishly for Qing Shui.

All cultivators had their own hidden wounds, potentially reducing their lifespans. Some had lighter wounds; some had heavier ones. After all, those who had spent their lives cultivating would rarely get by without hidden wounds.

Three days later, Qing Shui was finally briefed by the couple about the Chi Clan's story.

The Chi Clan originated from the Eight Desolates Region, belonging to the uppermost tier of powers in the region. The Eight Desolates Region itself was the third amongst the Nine Domains, while the second was the Six Rivers Domain.

With the Eight Desolates Region as the strongest and the Nine Continents' Star Ocean Domain as the weakest, there was definitely a gap of strength between the three regions. As a preliminary guess based on the Bu Clan and the Chi Clan, the gap should be roughly two-fold.

As a prominent clan in the Eight Desolates Region, the Chi Clan was matched by more than a dozen of powers on the surface, and there might even be greater powers hidden away in the region. The Chi Clan's disaster began with a secret manual, one of the Buddhist origins.

To be precise, it was a single portrait, a Divine Buddha Portrait.

This Divine Buddha Portrait had nearly caused the extermination of the Chi Clan. As a consummate treasure of the Divine Buddha Sect, it hid powerful Buddhist secrets and acted as a sect-protecting treasure.

The Chi Clan's fortunes were in dire straits until the birth of the twins. It was a joyous occasion worthy of celebration, with many parties offering up gifts as they came forth to join in the festivities. Gifts were rarely opened before guests, as comparisons would lead to unpleasant situations.

However, these gifts would usually bear the name of the sender, for the receiver to identify them.

The issue was that amongst the various gifts, one of them was the Divine Buddha Portrait.

This was a consummate treasure of the Divine Buddha Sect that wouldn't be passed out for no reason, not even discussing the fact that the two parties didn't have extremely close ties. The Divine Buddha Sect was another gargantuan monster in the Eight Desolates Region, even more titanic than the Chi Clan.

Three days later, a group of experts from the Divine Buddha Sect rushed into the Chi Clan in a fury, claiming that the Chi Clan had stolen their treasure. They then began a massacre.

Chi Yang felt aggrieved as he recounted, knowing that they had been schemed against. The Divine Buddha Portrait had been given to the She Clan by an elder from the Divine Buddha Sect. After that, the She Clan had sent for someone to deliver the gift, creating an imaginary persona whose name couldn't be traced to anyone.

The She Clan, also a giant in the Eight Desolates Region, had waited for Chi Yang's wife to be at her weakest after giving birth before carrying out their plan, striking while one of the two central pillars of the Chi Clan was crippled.

Besides the She Clan, the Ke Clan and the Heavenshaking Gate had also participated while only a single branch from the Divine Buddha Sect had partaken in the assault. It was noted that the instigating elder was of the She Clan.

This matter was naturally dropped given the destruction of the Chi Clan. Even those with good ties to the Chi Clan had given up, doing nothing but seeing their annihilation.

Nobody was willing to fight the She Clan and the Divine Buddha Sect for a clan that didn't even exist anymore.

Qing Shui also felt that the cause was too simple, but it was obvious that there were already underlying tensions, and even if not for this matter, something would've happened eventually. This matter was simply unpreventable.

Chi Yang hadn't believed Qing Shui's rant about restoring the Chi Clan, but with Qing Shui's guarantee that Chi Feng and Chi Ao would be allowed to rejoin their Chi Clan, he wanted to give it a shot.

It was far too tempting, plus he was hellbent on revenge. Qing Shui had given him a goal, and a hope.

If his injuries could really be cured, he would even charge in those degenerates' domain alone

This was Hua City. After the incident, they had tried wandering out of the Nine Domains, but only here could they hear more about the Eight Desolates Region while avoiding their prying eyes.

Suffering from grievous hidden injuries, forced to abandon their flesh and blood, the Chi Yang couple bore a heavy burden and a blood feud. Their hearts and minds were tempered in these dark situations.

Nobody bore the pain they did. Even death was a release, as their lives had simply been worse than death itself.

Someone had given them a chance: a chance to have revenge; a chance to restore their clan; a chance to pacify their ancestors, as well as Chi Yang's father. They could rest peacefully knowing the clan hadn't been destroyed during their time.

The Chi Clan's manor was bustling with noise and excitement as the small courtyard suddenly accommodated a dozen more people.

Though the number of his Black Ice Divine Worms was halved with only four remaining, each one could easily become a powerful weapon upon growing up, not to mention four of them.

There were precisely two couples amongst the worms, so there was the potential for even more worms after they laid eggs.

This life in Hua City continued on for half a month, and Qing Shui finally got a better understanding of the bigger picture within the Nine Domains. It was split into the Lower Three Regions, Middle Three Regions, and Upper Three Regions. They currently resided in Hua City of the Nine Continents' Star Ocean Domain, the weakest of the three Lower Three Regions

The strength of experts throughout the region wouldn't deviate much. Though this wasn't the provincial capital, there wasn't much of a difference despite this being a border region.

Qing Shui recalled the Silver Dragon Palace that Cong Yunlong was from. It was also a peak power in the Nine Continents' Star Ocean Domain, though his strength was slightly lacking. There was probably a stronger senior holding the fort in the Palace.

Qing Shui didn't intend on paying Cong Yunlong a visit since the Silver Dragon Palace was a great distance away, and he would leave the Lower Three Regions soon anyway.

...

Some people had already begun to investigate the truth behind the Cai Clan's destruction. It was the Bu Clan. Supposedly, the Cai Clan's head had an affair with one of the Bu Clan head's wives, and Cai Zhong had even teased the Bu Clan's young mistress. Despite him being crippled, the matter still turned the Bu Clan into a laughingstock.

Qing Shui didn't buy it since an alternative reason was suggested. It was said that the Cai Clan had found an object which the Bu Clan desired. The object in question was still unknown since the Bu Clan never admitted to doing anything. There was yet to be a closure to this issue.