

Ancient ST 281

Chapter 281 Starmoon Hall, Stone Monument Styled Beast Form Fist

“Elder Fei is saying that there are great contradictions in the Heavenly Palace?” Qing Shui asked, feeling that it was unbelievable.

“In fact, there are always great contradictions in any sects. The bigger the sect, the greater the contradictions. While the Heavenly Palace’s nine halls would appear to be united to external parties, but the internal competition is fierce as well. However, this is very normal, and only when there is competition will there be development.” Fei Wuji chuckled, but did not say anything about the crux of the problem.

Qing Shui knew that there was no need to probe further. Walking along the stone steps that were similar to “Misty Hall’s”, they headed up, and a purple hall that was slightly smaller than Lingxiao Treasure Hall appeared majestically before Qing Shui.

The three words “Starmoon Hall” inscribed on the signboard was written by the same person who wrote the four burning golden big words for Lingxiao Treasure Hall. The walkways in the surroundings were filled with black colored stone pillars which would take two people to hug around them.

Qing Shui saw that the color of everyone’s clothes was not the same, but all of them were Starmoon Robes. When they saw Fei Wuji, they would come walk over, and those who were closer would greet and call him Elder Fei!

There was a big square near Starmoon Hall, a place where people would gather to do their training. It was also where they would study, discuss, and have sparring sessions for their martial arts.

There were many arenas laid out in the square, and while they were not very big, there were many of them. Qing Shui saw that there were people having spars in each of them, surrounded by many people who were cheering the participants on. It was bustling with noise and excitement.

“Elder Fei, erm, Martial Uncle, are they sparring?” Qing Shui asked, looking towards the arenas and towards the people in the square who were training.

“That’s right, but this is just normal sparring. The Heavenly Palace emphasizes battle experience, so their training is to continuously go through battles and sparring matches.” Elder Fei chuckled and smiled.

Qing Shui thought about it, and felt that though this method was not new there were not many sects who would utilize it. That was because continuously sparring would result in a large number of injuries and deaths. The price to pay for experience was great.

To battle as daily work was important. In his previous life, Qing Shui already knew that even after learning martial arts for three years, one might not be able to defeat a gangster who had been fighting in the streets for three years.

This was how precious battle experience was, especially battles to the life and death which could allow one to experience great improvements and even allow one to breakthrough their limits, reaching new boundaries, and be reborn.

“Martial Uncle, do all of the Heavenly Palace’s disciples train like this?” When Qing Shui was at Lingxiao Treasure Hall, he had seen for himself that there were also many arenas laid out, but he had not taken much notice of the situation.

“Mmm, basically, yes. However, those with greater aptitude such as Elders and the Palace Lord’s direct disciples would use this method less often.” Fei Wuji said as they continued walking.

Qing Shui was not stupid but knew of the reason for this. For example, a grade 1 Xiantian, or a Xiantian who was of grade 2, 3, 4... no matter how much battle experience the person has, he would not be able to defeat a Martial King cultivator. And another thing they were fearful of was “accidents”.

There was a row of buildings not far from the grounds, and most of them were two storeys high. Many of Starmoon Hall’s disciples would enter and exit. It was where the Heavenly Palace’s disciples stayed.

Under Fei Wuji’s lead, Qing Shui was brought to the registrar to complete his registration. He was now officially a Heavenly Palace’s disciple, and was allocated five sets of clothes, one weapon, and one key!

“Qing Shui, the number on the key is your residence. The place to train would be in the square. For two hours every morning and two hours in the afternoon, there’ll be an elder to teach martial arts. Oh, and if you’re interested in the stone monument martial arts at the back of the mountain, you can go take a look. How much you can comprehend will depend on yourself.” Fei Wuji said indifferently.

“Mmm, Martial Uncle you can go do your work, I’ll take a look myself!”

“Mmm, come to Martial Uncle’s place for dinner tonight!” Fei Wuji grinned and said.

“Mmm, I’ll head over earlier.” Qing Shui smiled, knowing that this was because he had made lunch earlier.

Qing Shui looked at the tag on the key. What was written was block 1000, 2nd floor, room 100!

Qing Shui took the key, clothes and a weapon that did not look bad as he left. The weapon was not comparable to the ones he forged though. This sword was a representation of his identity, symbolizing one’s status as a Heavenly Palace’s disciple. Of course, if one could become a Protector, the weapon one would be allocated would be quite good, and even the clothes would be made of top quality Ice Cicada Silk!

Qing Shui headed towards the rows of buildings which all had two storeys. Qing Shui saw that the numbers marked the buildings. Each row was one block, and he headed for the deepest area.

This was a very spacious residential area. A place where the Starmoon Hall’s disciples rest. Qing Shui did a rough estimation that if there was 1 person for each room, with there being two storeys, each block would house 200 people!

It would mean that the Starmoon Hall would at least have 200,000 disciples. And this was only the number of normal disciples. With nine halls in the Heavenly Palace, it would mean that there were at least 1 million Xiantian experts...

Thinking about it alone made Qing Shui’s scalp itch. What was it like for there to be 1 million Xiantian cultivators? However, considering that this was a great sect who could stand strong in a continent for ten thousands of years, it would not be strange.

After all, there's an immeasurable population in this world. A city alone would have tens or hundreds of millions of people, and each country had 81 cities, each continent had 81 countries. It was already hard to calculate how many people there were in each continent. Since there were too many and it was too hard to calculate, might as well just leave it be.

Each row of buildings were at least 10 meters long, and 1000 rows would be 10,000 meters. It was fortunate that while Qing Shui seemed to be walking casually, his speed was quite fast. It took him only fifteen minutes to travel 10,000 meters.

The height of the terrain was different. Qing Shui looked at the "1000th" building. The buildings here were all independent, so Qing Shui went straight to look for room 100, which was all the way inside.

While it was 2 storeys high, there was an independent stairway to the 2nd floor. The buildings here were all made from mountain rocks. Heavenly Palace Mountain was filled with spiritual energy, and even such "Heavenly Palace rocks" were good materials for construction.

Stepping up to the 2nd storey, Qing Shui opened the door to find out that the place was very spacious and sufficient for a whole family. Qing Shui recalled seeing some ladies who did not seem like Heavenly Palace's disciples on the way here. Some of whom were holding kids in their arms or, holding their hands and taking a walk. Those were actually the disciples' family members. However, Heavenly Palace encouraged male disciples to get married with female disciples. Not only would the genetics be good, but the children they gave birth to would also have a strong sense of belonging to the Heavenly Palace.

He walked into a living room which was 100 square meters large. There were three bedrooms, two kitchens, two toilets and a balcony! Qing Shui took a look and saw that all the furniture and fittings were all brand new.

After taking a casual look, Qing Shui was done. Misty Hall was the only one in the nine halls with only females. There were both males and females in the other 8 halls, and Lingxiao Treasure Hall's female disciples were even more than the male disciples, the strongest one of them all was a lady as well. Even the other halls' disciples would address her as Eldest Martial Sister, and her status in the Heavenly Palace was second only to the Elders. That was because she was also the Heavenly Palace's Protector, and was Lingxiao Treasure Hall's Palace Lord's direct disciple!

Qing Shui recalled Fei Wuji's words earlier that there were stone monument martial arts at the back of the mountain. Since Fei Wuji had said it, the martial arts there would definitely be beneficial. Therefore, Qing Shui planned to use his remaining time to check out the place.

The back of the mountain was not very far away. Qing Shui followed the considerably wide path, and managed to find it after asking two people for directions. It was an area which seemed like a rocky quarry.

An enormous monument stood there, at a height of 5 meters and a width of 3 meters. There were about 1000 people around. It was as if that there would always be people there. Before each stone monument, there were a few people, some leaving, some heading over, some with joy, some with disappointment, some holding on hope.

Qing Shui did not expect that there would be so many people. How could such open martial arts be top quality ones?

Qing Shui knew that ordinary disciples would not be able to learn Heavenly Thunder Slash and Divinity Protection since the Heavenly Palace regulated that it wasn't accessible for disciples who were below Martial King level. Qing Shui felt that the Heavenly Palace was trying to hide the good stuff, only passing such martial arts to direct disciples and important members of each hall.

Qing Shui walked onto the small paths made from pebbles and rocks. Each of these paths would pass by a stone monument, connecting like a gigantic spider web.

When Qing Shui saw the first drawing, he was shocked. It was a deer. On the stone monument, there was a huge deer running and jumping about! The detailed inscription gave a very majestic feeling. Qing Shui felt that the carving skills of this person was the same as the painting skills of the person who did the beauty portrait. They both attained the acme of perfection. It was too bad that there was not a single word carved on the stone monument.

When Qing Shui, who had reached the great perfection stage, first saw it, he immediately felt the true essence behind this carving. Those agile four limbs and harmonious running rhythm, and even the flow of vital energy and blood as well as the posture.

At that moment, Qing Shui noticed that his Deer Canter which he had faced slow progress in was suddenly brought to greater heights. He had long sensed that the great perfection stage was the end, and to Qing Shui it was as if he had just opened a brand new door.

His Qi of the circulated automatically, and it was now circulating according to the Deer Canter technique in his Dantian. Gradually, Qing Shui followed the style on the stone monument and practiced. It was a feeling, to imitate the expression. Qing Shui knew that such Beast Form Fist required one to roughly imitate the form and the most important stage was to imitate the spirit.

To imitate the spirit, he must first imitate the form. Only after comprehending the form of the Beast Form Fist would one then be able to gradually be led into its spirit, just like the reaching the stage of its true essence.

Qing Shui sensed that his Deer Canter had entered a mystical stage. It was a very strange feeling, like a strong man was looking at a young kid. Qing Shui knew that this was an improvement, a raise in his boundary.

At that moment, Qing Shui knew that his speed had increased by another 20%. He did not know what there was after the great perfection stage though. Ultimate perfection stage?

Qing Shui then went on to the second drawing. It was still that of a deer. This was a jumping deer, a deer which was at a cliff. It gave the feeling that it was not jumping off the cliff to die but was trying to jump across it.

The momentary explosive outburst of energy from the moment the deer jumped was clearly presented on the drawing. Qing Shui was overjoyed. With the Nine Animals Mimicry Technique, and with this Deer Canter which had exceeded the great perfection stage, he now realized everything was falling into place, and he was brought to even greater heights.

"Just a deer drawing? What martial arts is this? Learn to run like a deer? Learn to jump like a deer?" A young man who was looking at the deer form mumbled.

When Qing Shui saw that surprised and disdainful expression, he really wanted to say, that's right, the idea is to get you to learn to run like a deer, to jump like a deer!

Chapter 282 - An exquisite lady, Heavenly Palace Sword Art

However, Qing Shui put it out of his mind after thinking about it for a few moments. If it were not for his Nine Animals Mimicry Technique, just looking at the sculptures, he would have known that it was a type of Beast Form Fist martial arts that could be cultivated.

The next tens of monuments all had depictions of the deer. The details were all finely sculpted, extremely exquisite; Qing Shui still carefully contemplated the monuments, immersing himself in enjoying the art. Time passed by, and it was already sunset by the time he 'woke' himself up.

He then hurried to Cang Wuya's residence. Fei Wuji was there as well, as Qing Shui hurriedly offered his greetings. It was needless to say that the dinner was prepared by Qing Shui. The taste of the food he prepared could already be described as heavenly wonders. Cang Wuya, Fei Wuji and the two girls sampled each of the dishes and were extremely satisfied with them. Other than that, he also left many taste enhancing ingredients for them.

Doing so indicated that there would be a period of time in which he would not be coming here, so he decided that he wanted to finish reading the inscription stele first.

Returning to his residence, as usual, Qing Shui spent four hours training inside his spatial realm. When he was in it, he studied the portrait of beauty once again, sighing as he took note of how vivid the portrait was, especially the eyes and the smile, so vivid as though it was alive. After training, he channeled his efforts into alchemy, stabilizing his Obscure Realm foundation of the Basic Sword Techniques, and his Taiji Fist also unexpectedly broke through to the Obscure Realm! Taiji encompassed both hard and soft, the ability to use the laws of softness to counter the 'hard' force of others; it would be of immense help to him in the future.

Training was always extremely tough in the spatial realm, but it was time well spent. One ounce of hard work equated to one ounce of reward, causing Qing Shui to feel joy every time he felt himself powering up. Thinking of his mom, the Yan Clan, his goddess master Yiye Jiange, how could this level of training be considered arduous?

After all, one could not achieve wealth and glory without first undergoing trials and tribulations!

On the second day, when Qing Shui went to the public square for his daily morning practice, he realized there were already almost over ten thousand people there doing the same thing as him. Luckily, this public square was big enough. Not only that, there was also an elder from the Heavenly Palace conducting the morning practice.

The Elder gestured and as they saw that, the disciples in the public square stopped what they were doing, falling silent. This was truly a great sect indeed. Qing Shui couldn't help but be impressed, at the very least the Starmoon Hall was united and unity was strength.

"Everyone look over here. Today I shall explain the concepts of our [Heavenly Palace Sword Art]. Pay close attention, I shall explain and demonstrate it once." The Elder's voice was soft but had a penetrative power and resounded throughout the public square.

Upon hearing the [Heavenly Palace Sword Art], Qing Shui knew that the Heavenly Palace possessed many consummate techniques. After all, skills on the level of the Heavenly Thunder Slash and the Divinity Protection weren't something everyone would have the chance to learn.

"There are thirty-six moves to the [Heavenly Palace Sword Art], so don't underestimate this. This is a Xiantian Heaven level technique and is only a single step away from the legendary tier."

Hearing the words of the Elder made Qing Shui want to laugh. After all, the old man was right. Xiantian Heaven level techniques were only a single step away from the legendary tier... but the step was akin to the distance between Heavens and Earth.

Qing Shui immediately focused when the Elder explained and demonstrated the swordplay. After all, he only knew sword moves from the basic sword techniques and the sword of third wave. Even that couldn't be considered as having mastered any complete set of sword techniques before. A Xiantian Heaven level technique was already incomparably precious. After all, legendary and god tier techniques were as rare as phoenix feathers and kirin horns.

"The [Heavenly Palace Sword Art] is also known as the Falling Thunder Swordplay. The sword techniques within this set of swordplay would borrow the might of thunder to power it. It's said that when one practises this to the peak, they would be able to summon lightning and thunder from the skies, electrocuting their opponents with the aid of Heavens. This set of swordplay was created by our founder, but ever since he passed away, no one has managed to break through to the realm of summoning lightning and thunder."

Qing Shui studied the movements of the Elder. His stance was like galloping thunder, explaining the crux of the swordplay with every sword move he made.

Two hours later, the lecture ended after the Elder explained and demonstrated ten moves. The disciples then began to put what they had absorbed into practice. Because Qing Shui's Basic Sword Techniques were at the Obscure Realm, it took only half the effort for him to produce twice the results. Not only that, he had an indelible memory and with his insane comprehension speed, he had already understood the ten moves from the Falling Thunder Swordplay. It was just that his movements and attacks using the set of swordplay weren't refined enough yet. Despite this, when he executed the movements, he looked extremely impressive.

Looking at the numerous disciples standing in the public square, the majority of them were males, which caused the females in the crowd to especially stand out. Just three females standing alone, it was like a beautiful oasis in a desert. The contours of their bodies, their jet black hair fanning out in the wind, could basically be considered as eye candies.

"Hi!"

Suddenly, a clear voice rang out beside him. Turning his head, Qing Shui discovered a petite and beautiful lady smiling at him.

The lady looked extremely refined, and had a pair of extremely large eyes with pureness radiating forth from them. Her cherry lips when matched together with her straight nose and chiselled features were like a masterpiece of art. She had that girl-next-door look, a stark difference from the celestial beauty of

Yiye Jiange, the empire-toppling beauty of Canghai Mingyue, and the charm that people would die for of Huoyun Liu-Li.

“Hi, is there something you need from me?” Qing Shui smiled.

“I’m in awe when I see how you train. Could you give me a few pointers to guide me along?” The pure, crystal-like eyes of the girl gazed adorably into Qing Shui’s eyes.

“Sure, my expertise may be insufficient to guide, but I’m more than happy to exchange pointers with you,” Qing Shui replied.

“Thank you!” The petite girl laughed, flashing a perfect smile, appearing extremely adorable.

Qing Shui watched as the girl practised. From her movements, he could tell that her comprehension level wasn’t bad, just that there were some movements of hers that didn’t flow well together, but there weren’t any other major problems.

Qing Shui demonstrated the set of moves at a slower speed, pointing out the mistakes and guiding her to do better, using his insight from the Obscure Realm, modifying some of the moves. After everything was concluded...

“Thank you, my name is Yan Ling’er, nice to meet you!” The girl happily remarked.

“My name is Qing Shui,” Qing Shui smiled.

“Brother Qing Shui, thank you!” After that, the girl departed, the movement of her figure running off was akin to a butterfly flying away.

Qing Shui rubbed his nose and laughed as he proceeded to the back of the mountains. He kept thinking of the stone depictions he saw, wanting to sense the ‘spirituality of the beast’ within them. Arriving back there, he continued from where he left off and continued trying to comprehend them. Abruptly, as his eyes landed on the sculpture depicting the tiger, he had a huge shock! This was the first time he felt so shocked. Could it be that the carving of the tiger could help him further master his Tiger Form? He had a strong sense that he would be able to gain more insights from this. Shaking his head about, he also noticed another monument with the picture of a snake depicted on it.

“Damn, I better do this step by step, and not aim for the moon so fast.” Qing Shui decided to focus first, trying to gain insights rather than flooding his mind with the depictions of the various animals. The first tiger depiction was of a tiger roaring, as it faced the heavens. Just from this carving, Qing Shui could sense the aura of command and awe inspiring majesty from it, as though it was defying the heavens. Qing Shui stared at it till he felt the blood in his body boiling, and upon the gushing of his blood, Qing Shui sensed a kind of concept, the insights gained slowly, transforming his aura, confidence, and even increasing his powers. He then turned his gaze and observed the carvings of the tiger climbing and descending the mountains, the tiger hunting its prey in the jungle, causing Qing Shui to feel that the concept contained within these carvings were of an even higher level compared to that of the tiger portrait he got in the past. His aura was definitely undergoing a change, albeit just a little. Somehow, he could still improve despite his Tiger Form already reaching the Great Perfection stage.

Then what about the rest of his Forms which still had not reached the Great Perfection level? He didn’t even know how much time would he need to finish gaining insights from these thousands of carvings

because he still didn't know what animal forms were depicted in the carvings on the monuments ahead of him!

Chapter 283 - She is from the Yan Clan, Yan Clan that was sentenced to death

The sky darkened, Qing Shui watched the sparse crowd around him, many of them gesticulating, even making comical movements.

Qing Shui laughed, people were probably too shy to let go of themselves. Now that it was late and few were still around, there was only a single person in front of each stone tablet, they then became less restricted. Everyone avoided each other on purpose, though there were some fanatics who cared less about others and imitated on the same spot, as if they were out of their minds.

Once they started practising, imitating and training by looking at the "beast forms" carved on the stone tablet, there would be some who, accidentally or not, caught hold of the secret within. Among them would, with persistence and perseverance, learn the most basic of the imitation forms.

Should anyone want to attain the level of Qing Shui's Beast Punches, they would need excellent perception, for Qing Shui was trained in the Nine Animals Mimicry Technique, or it would be difficult for anyone to achieve such results within such a short time.

He walked towards his lodge, smiling and shaking his head. If he had not been trained in the Nine Animals Mimicry Technique, hoping to attain his current level would need at least twenty years of hard practice. This was the result of him possessing the Sea of Consciousness with the image of Yin Yang and two enlightenments.

Slowly walking back, his mind was full of the carvings on the stone tablets. Qing Shui did not plan on using them against his opponents after learning them. Through the stone tablets, his Nine Animals Mimicry Technique could be enhanced and his capabilities would also be enhanced simultaneously. Moreover, his killer techniques were Hidden Weapon, Nine Waves Great Golden Buddha Palm, Third Wave Sword, and of course, certain moves within these supplementary techniques were powerful.

Tiger Tailwhip Kick, Ripping Tiger Claw, Bear Support, Bear Dazzle, these venomous and powerful techniques were sometimes enough to kill the opponent in an instant.

With his mind running wild, he reached his lodging without knowing and realized the door of the room downstairs was slightly ajar. He had stayed for a night yesterday without noticing anything amiss, it was so this morning, too.

Qing Shui was about to go up when the door opened, and out came a woman looking like a girl. Qing Shui was shocked that she was the exquisite girl who came to him to practise the Heavenly Palace Sword Technique.

Yan Ling`er!

"Brother Qing Shui!" Yan Ling`er's delicate lips parted slightly as she smiled and greeted Qing Shui.

"Mm, you stay here?" Qing Shui asked in shock.

"Yes, is Brother Qing Shui staying here, too?" It was Yan Ling`er's turn to be shocked; she had been living here all the while.

“Yes, I’m right above you!” Qing Shui chuckled.

“Brother Qing Shui must have moved in yesterday!” Yan Ling`er was right in front of Qing Shui as she finished her sentence.

Her gentle and graceful height reached Qing Shui’s chin, it was only now when he noticed that this girl-next-door her was well developed. Her face was delicate and young, but those bosoms were round and full, her clothes bulged high, even when they couldn’t be seen, one would know they were definitely not small.

Her soft waistline was slender, her round buttocks especially perky, and her long slim legs made her look especially young and beautiful.

“Mm, how did you know?” Qing Shui asked, though he knew the answer - the girl was not at home only last night. Qing Shui guessed that she had fooled around with that man last night.

“I stayed at Sister Xi Yue’s last night, turned out Brother Qing Shui started living above me,” Yan Ling`er laughed crisply.

Qing Shui could feel that Yan Ling`er’s abilities were at the beginning of Xiantian, but achieving that at this age was considered brilliant. Looking at her up close, Qing Shui had an inkling.

She looked similar to the sister selling tea leaves at Yan City, especially her nose bridge and face shape, and these features of the older sister did not look like her mother. Qing Shui suddenly noticed her surname, Yan. It had not seemed weird meeting a girl with the surname Yan in Heavenly Palace.

But now, Qing Shui stared unblinkingly at Yan Ling`er. “Where is your house?”

Yan Ling`er was a little confused hearing Qing Shui, but replied with a smile. “It is in Yan Jiang Country in Yan City. Does Brother Qing Shui have any problem? My family in Yan City should still have some strength. If you go Yan City in the future, I will entertain you well.”

She actually said her family was in Yan Jiang Country in Yan City, only the Yan Clan had the surname Yan in Yan City. She said her family had some power. Qing Shui was pained; his most pressing goal now was to stamp the Yan Clan flat!

Qing Shui smiled bitterly and walked up, leaving Yan Ling`er who was a little dazed. After knowing that she was part of the Yan Clan, any positive feelings towards her vanished in a flash.

Qing Shui entered his room and locked the door, feeling lost. This girl reminded him of the Yan Clan once again. The growth of the aristocrats had always had history of blood and tears, for families rose by stamping on many others. A general builds his success on ten thousand bleaching bones; an aristocrat clan was no different.

Qing Shui had given the Yan Clan the death sentence after seeing the stubborn woman in Yan City and any related persons would not be spared.

Now Qing Shui knew this girl was part of the Yan Clan, even possibly his sister from the other mother. He had always thought that he had only one mother. He would give back a hundred, thousand times to those who had helped his mother, but to those who had bullied her, no matter who, would not dream to live, even if it takes ten, twenty years, or his entire life’s effort.

Qing Shui was one who could give his all for vengeance, and that day was soon to come!

Qing Shui tried hard to stop himself from thinking about it, especially the woman who suffered in Yan City. Qing Shui did not even dare to tell his mother for she would sacrifice her life just to go to Yan City!

Persevering for so many years, be it mother or “sister”, he could care less about these two years. Qing Shui fought to stop himself from thinking further, and casted them away temporarily.

Qing Shui started immersing himself in training after entering the Realm of the Violet Immortal. The was now in the cycle of ninety-four days and very soon it would break through to the ninety-fifth. However, Qing Shui knew the days after that, especially the ninety-ninth day, would not be completed so easily; there were still the obstacles after entering the Five Waves!

For the Ancient Strengthening Technique, one stage included the first to the third waves. It was the foundation stage, like a base, but moving up to the Fourth Wave was the key; not only does it need abilities and perceptivity, but also some luck.

Qing Shui had been blocked out by the wall of the Fourth Wave for six years, but he did not know how long it would take for him to break down the wall of the Fifth Wave.

Thinking about it demoralized Qing Shui, but he had made long term preparations. Though he would not be able to attain the Fifth Wave within this period, he could enhance his abilities through medicinal pellets and supplementary techniques, and probably breakthrough whilst he was not aware.

Tiger Form!

The few stone tablet carvings he had seen in the day gave Qing Shui a deeper understanding of the Tiger Form. The first carving of a tiger roaring in the mountains gave off an air of aggressiveness.

Roars erupted one after another. This time, they were louder and thicker than the previous ones, jolting one’s chest. Aggression; it erupts from the bottom of one’s chest, making one terrified inside and out, as if the tiger roars had shocked the soul.

Qing Shui let out a hint of a smile in between roars, imitating the beast forms and their expressions; imitating their forms required one to copy the movements of the “beast form”, for only through that would one’s strength and speed be amplified to their limits. However, imitating the expressions would not require that as one would have perceived the key and essence, thus using it would enable one to attain the ideal results.

The moves of both Tiger’s Mount and Tiger’s Descend enhanced one’s presence; one accumulated it and the other discharged it. The best would be for one to achieve the extent of “shoving a falling wall”!

Oppressing others by force, that was the air of the Tiger’s Mount; to bring up the presence to a terrifying extent, one can lose physically without losing his presence, for he would lose without it.

A Tiger’s Descend was like a heavenly river gushing downwards with an unstoppable force, using it well would bring the power of one’s technique to a new height.

Qing Shui thought about it while trying it, gradually bringing up his presence using the Tiger Laceration, Ripping Tiger Claw, Tiger Tailwhip Kick, even the Bear’s Claw and sword moves.

In between, Qing Shui did not forget to quench the Soulshake Bell, using up the forty times of quenching available each day. Within the month from starting the journey to Heavenly Palace to reaching it, he had finally reached the third level!

1 to take advantage of the other's bad situation

The distance from attaining the third level of Soulshake Bell was increased to four hundred metres. There was still the caption stating the probability of letting beasts crazily attack those around it, but there was an additional line about the probability of shocked beasts dying abruptly!

Qing Shui had been ecstatic about that attribute for a long time, and especially ran to a deserted area to experiment on beasts. He discovered that the chance of shocking wild beasts below the level of Demonic Beasts was nine out of ten, and using it against a Demonic Beast had only a success rate of four out of five.

This let Qing Shui recall the time when he used it at the Black Champion Monarch Falcon; it actually succeeded with one try. Now that he thought about it, luck played a large part. Experimenting it several times more, Qing Shui discovered that the success rate was only twenty percent, with one success in every five tries.

The second day, Qing Shui once again went to the square to listen to the elder's lecture, when he suddenly saw that his usual place was occupied by Yan Ling`er, who was now smiling at him.

"Brother Qing Shui!"

Qing Shui found it awfully sharp to hear that call, and could not help but ask, "When I passed Yan City, there was a lady from the Yan Clan selling tea leaves. What do you know about her? I am really curious!"

Yan Ling`er recalled yesterday when Qing Shui appeared evidently disgusted when he heard about her Yan Clan and looked like he had thought of her as a heartless person.

"You don't know, I am just a junior, Sister Qing Qing is already...Brother Qing Shui, you seemed to be very concerned about Sister Qing Qing!" Yan Ling`er asked, surprised.

"Don't you think she is pitiful? A little miss of the Yan Clan selling tea leaves on the street. Not only that, she seemed to be bullied by some Xiao Master. Can the Yan Clan take it down?" Qing Shui replied calmly.

Yan Ling`er sighed. "You don't know, you only see the surface, there are good people in the Yan Clan," she, looking wronged.

"Haha, what's that got to do with me? And don't look for me anymore. I don't have any positive feelings for the Yan Clan!" Qing Shui said, and he turned to leave.

Yan Ling`er saw how Qing Shui was like, her eyes filling up with tears as she watched his back view walk away!

"Ling`er, what happened? He bullied you?" A gentle voice sounded!

"Sister Xi Yue!" Yan Ling`er hurriedly wiped her tears and called out to the beauty beside her, her joyous voice did not sound anything like a person who almost cried.

The lady was dressed in a pale emerald flowy dress, the way she walked had a charming demeanor, her eyebrows looked like crescents, and her eyes were a distinctive black and white and were very attractive.

Her nose was especially tall, making her look persistent and of character. Her red, moist lips were slightly pouted, with a hidden bitterness instead of a smile. With that well developed physique, she was one in a million.

“Don’t cry, don’t cry. Did that rascal bully you?” The lady’s gentle voice was calming, allowing one to calm down easily.

“No, he didn’t,” Yan Ling`er giggled. She really wanted to cry, but had wiped her tears dry by the time the lady came, and pretended to be alright.

Qing Shui changed his place, and in a while, the elder appeared on the battle stage. Today he continued with the following ten moves, the elder calmly scanned the floor.

“I can only explain for everyone here, anyone who wants to use it proficiently against his opponent would need tough practices. I only brought everyone to the door, whether or not you can walk up the altar will be up to yourselves,” the elder said, revealing a subtle smile.

The elder modeled while explaining. The ten moves today were obviously more powerful and ferocious. Qing Shui had just comprehended the usage of presence through the Tiger’s Mount stone tablet and Tiger’s Descent stone tablet last night.

Hence, there seemed to be a resonance with the understanding of the elder’s explanation of the Heavenly Palace sword techniques, Qing Shui even already knew of a large part of his explanation, resulting in a feeling of enlightenment and full comprehension when the elder was finished.

Chapter 284 - Crouching Tiger Stone Tablet in the mountain range, another step for the Tiger Form

“Alright, everyone practise on your own, I will explain the next ten steps in three days. Now, everyone may strike while the iron is hot and spar or discuss among yourselves,” the elder laughed softly. These ten moves actually took up three hours!

Qing Shui found an empty space to practise after the elder walked down the stage. He first increased his presence gradually, contained it, and let it pour out as he pulled out his sword.

He was about to leave after speedily practising and stabilizing the ten moves, since he could still train in the Realm of the Violet Immortal at night. He only needed to remember the key points for now, the rest of the daytime was for the stone tablets.

He looked up, and discovered many people around looking at him in amazement, and looked back at them doubtfully!

“That’s crazy, how could he be so awesome only after the first practice!” Someone exclaimed.

“How do you know it’s his first time?” Another was clearly in disagreement.

“Would you reach this level if I gave you three years?” The first was tutted nonchalantly. Apparently they were not strangers.

Qing Shui shook his head. There was no meaning in these words, he had been linking everything now to the Ancient Strengthening Technique, so he treasured all that he had now.

“You’re not allowed to leave!” A gentle voice sounded.

Qing Shui saw a beautiful lady stopping him. Her skin was fair as jade, her eyebrows like crescents, an especially attractive pair of eyes with distinctive black and white, and the pale emerald flowy dress on her gave her an air of indifference.

“Why not?” Qing Shui frowned, looking in bewilderment at the fairly beautiful woman who stopped him.

“Younger Sister Ling`er is not well. You made her upset and cry; she is seldom close with anyone, who are you to treat her so?” The lady was displeased and stared at the attractive man in front of her.

“Mental!” Qing Shui did not like the unreasonable way she talked, and was shocked for a while, before talking back with displeasure and leaving.

“I like that, there’s actually a man who talked to Xi Yue like that!”

“The way he acted so indifferently is so charming, if only he called me mental, too!” A woman with huge bosoms looked at Qing Shui’s back view in yearning.

“Mental!” A weak voice was heard.

“Who was the damned one who spoke? Step out, don’t you dare dream of sleeping on my bed.”

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Xi Yue got back her senses a good while after Qing Shui left, and walked off with a strange expression. She knew Yan Ling`er must have some feelings for that chap.

Even though she did not say, Xi Yue could see and decided to act out that scene just now, and Yan Ling`er was not able to stop her in time.

She did not expect that chap to call her mental, though. Ever since she was born, the world revolved around her. She was the darling daughter at home, the apple of her parents’ eyes. Her slender and beautiful appearance made her one of the most beautiful even in a thousand or million, even Yan Ling`er was less womanly than her.

“Ling`er, I’m sorry, I caused you trouble instead!” Xi Yue said to Yan Ling`er who was standing there looking at her in a daze.

“Sister Xi Yue, it’s me who should apologize. I made you feel so wronged,” Yan Ling`er replied disappointedly.

“Alright, let’s not be so polite among us sisters!” Xi Yue pulled Yan Ling`er and walked away!

Qing Shui was already on his way to the stone tablets. He did not take what happened just now seriously, but was annoyed by how pompous that woman acted. It was most irritating when people acted so unreasonably even when they were clueless about the situation, and still behaved so loftily.

Actually Qing Shui had mistaken her. After all, she had acted from a friend's perspective, and Yan Ling'er's appearance and every other factor was better - trying to reason with Qing Shui after he made her cry was not wrong. It was a pity Yan Ling'er was part of the Yan Clan.

It was almost noon when Qing Shui arrived at the stone tablets. There were not many people here, though many of them here were like couples, moving in pairs!

Qing Shui didn't know whether to cry or laugh when he heard the conversations!

"Fei Fei, look, even the tiger's whip was carved out so exquisitely!" A handsome man commented in amazement.

"What nonsense; that's the hind leg. You're so bad, how could there be such a big tiger's whip..." The attractive lady replied coquettishly.

"Why don't you see mine? It's definitely huge!" The man broke into a guffaw.

"I'll cut it off if you dare to show!" The woman laughed flirtatiously.

Qing Shui felt happy for the couple after listening to this. He was fairly envious looking at them interact harmoniously. Qing Shui actually had a strong liking for such a coquettish wife and a simple life.

Qing Shui thought about it and found out that he had not even attained such an average goal; Shi Qing Zhuang was his wife on official papers, but she was such an aloof girl. Who knew when she would be gentler? Zhu Qing and him was an accident. He was strange to her, more obsessive than not, and Mingyue Gelou, to him, was lacking a certain something.

Arriving at the stone tablet at the Tiger Mountains, a ferocious tiger sat on it, a crouching tiger dominating over the mountains like a king, making use of the natural height of the mountains to overlook the ground below.

Everyone knew that the ferocious tiger would be like a flying dragon in the sky when it ascended the mountains, but it was actually the most powerful in the crouching position. When the tiger crouches, it meant that it was the king of the mountains, the ruler, already in the peak status, that even an ascending tiger could not compare.

A coiling dragon and a crouching tiger, a tiger crouching on the mountains!

Qing Shui stared seriously at the air and expression of the ferocious tiger crouching; from the glint in the tiger's eyes, it was no longer a lone tiger. It was a towering, huge tiger, its presence like that of a mountain, and its every attack like a huge mountain.

This was the entrance to attain mastery of the Beast Form Fist. Qing Shui felt refreshed in that instant, as if one had walked into a dead alley, but the obstacle that lay before disappeared suddenly to give way to a wide street that was spacious and infinite.

That moment, Qing Shui felt an additional strength in his body, an especially wispy strength, but Qing Shui was elated.

The completed Tiger Form was like a deer cantering into a higher world, and that power within his body was the strength of the ferocious crouching tiger in the mountains. It was a strength of “presence” that lived within the body and added into the moves!

Qing Shui slowly experienced it, and lifted his head. He actually completed a Ferocious Tiger Lunging the Mountains drawing in an afternoon and the results were satisfying.

Back at his lodging, he discovered Yan Ling`er below, and beside her was the woman who stopped him earlier in the day. Qing Shui was tired, and walked up silently.

“Brother Qing Shui!”

Qing Shui had just walked up a step, and turned back reluctantly. “Yan Ling`er, what do you want?”

Hearing Qing Shui’s words made Yan Ling`er feel especially wronged. She looked at Qing Shui, “I just wanted to be friends with you. Do you really dislike me that much? I don’t know why you hate the Yan Clan, but I don’t even have the right to speak in the Yan Clan. You will understand when you go there in the future.”

“Ling`er, why be so accommodating to such an ungrateful person?”

Qing Shui looked at the woman who was staring at him angrily, and ignored her. That made the woman feel empty, even worse than being called mental.

Qing Shui thought about it and agreed silently, what’s there to play with with her, looking helplessly at the lass whose life might suffer in the future.

“It is for your own good, or you’ll feel more terrible in the future. You will understand next time,” Qing Shui left those words and walked up, leaving the two woman looking dazed.

“Does he have anything against your family?” Xi Yue asked Yan Ling`er moodily.

“He’s so young, and our families are not even in the same country. He only saw one sister of mine being bullied while selling tea leaves outside, and had a bad impression of my family...”

“That means he has a cold exterior but is warm-hearted,” Xi Yue remarked wistfully.

“He is a good man. He even taught me swords the first time we met, but started to ignore me after finding out I’m from the Yan Clan.” Yan Ling`er recalled the Qing Shui she saw the first time; a totally different person from the one now.

“Do you know why that sister of yours is selling tea leaves?”

Chapter 285 Taichi Single Whip, Breaking Through To The 95th Cycle

“Do you know why that Young Miss from your Yan Clan is selling tea leaves?”

Xi Yue and Yan Linger are on very good terms, and have spent so long together, that they talk about anything under the sun. Xi Yue thus knew that the Yan Clan was the major power in Yan Jiang Country. They could be said to be the greatest clan in the whole of Yan Jiang Country.

Therefore, when she heard that there was a Young Miss from the Yan Clan who was selling tea leaves, she also felt that it was unbelievable. Even if she was not the child of the legal wife, she should not have to do so. Were they not afraid of wagging tongues?

“Sister Xi Yue, you also came from a respectable clan, I’m not sure about such things either! I had asked grandfather about it before, but he, who had never scolded me before, reprimanded me! Ever since then, I’ve never raised it up again!” Yan Linger said helplessly.

Xi Yue smiled, “Let’s go. Let’s return to our rooms and not think about these annoying things!”

Xi Yue had guessed a little of what the reason was. For such things to be happening, it would generally be due to two types of reasons. One would be because of the person in question, the other would be due to external pressure. However, what she could not understand was that if the reason was not because of the person in question, she would not be doing such things. It was because it would bring shame to their Yan Clan as well.

But if it was because of external pressure, would it be to put that Young Miss who was selling tea leaves to shame? Or to put the whole Yan Clan to shame as well? Why did they not use the most extreme methods? After all, if they could do this, it would also mean that they would be able to crush the Yan Clan easily.

Qing Shui returned to his room. Ever since he learnt that Yan Linger was from Yan Clan, he realized that each time he saw her, he could not help but recall the things which would weigh on his heart.

“Crack!”

A light crisp sound signalled that Qing Shui’s had entered the 95th cycle. A warm but strong energy surged through his body and gradually merged into his never ceasing Qi of the Ancient Strengthening Technique.

Qing Shui unceasingly circulated 95 cycles once again. Now, each time he breakthrough to a new cycle, he would feel that his powers were raised significantly. It was an overall improvement, especially to his strength, speed, and defence.

Qing Shui had gotten used to this. While the was at least a technique of the Legendary level, and was also a technique which could strengthen and train one’s muscles and bones, so it would be completely understandable for him to be able to receive such great power ups.

Picking up the Big Dipper Sword, Qing Shui instantaneously summoned his ‘forces’ and reached a surprising height, displaying the Heavenly Palace Sword Art. Earlier in the day, Qing Shui had already received many compliments, but it was when he was still holding back and had only released a 1st grade Xiantian cultivator’s level.

But now that he was in the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal, Qing Shui no longer restrained himself. The Heavenly Palace Sword Art was also known as the Falling Thunder Sword Art. The whole set of techniques were to use the “force” all the way, and to use the force to repel other forces!

Displaying the sword arts at full power created a slight thunder crack, which also seemed to be like a tiger’s roar. Each stance was composed yet strong. Qing Shui felt a very comfortable and satisfying feeling each time. A feeling as if he had fully vented off.

After accumulating the force to a certain degree, it would feel like a person's raging emotions, and when one's rage reached a certain level, it was also a type of force. And only then did Qing Shui attack with his sword. The attack was like the surging river, and even more like a tiger which was descending the mountain. It was a force which could easily smash through something!

Qing Shui then slowly withdrew his sword. Having reached the Obscure Realm with his sword, picking up sword arts was much easier. Moreover, this set of sword techniques was very compatible with the Tiger Form. This allowed Qing Shui to reach a breakthrough with his Tiger Form, a very crucial one.

It was just that Qing Shui had only just observed the insights from the tiger carvings, and had yet to be able to incorporate it into his sword arts.

Following on, Qing Shui combined the ten stances from yesterday with the ten he had learnt earlier today, gradually performing them over and over. However, bridging the gap between the stances was not smooth, and his speed was also very slow!

As he had practiced the ten stances in the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal the night before, and considering that the earlier stances of a technique tend to be easier to grasp, it was very clear that the earlier ten stances in the twenty stances were much stronger.

Gradually, he became more familiar with the sword technique, and was able to exert more strength when performing it. However, time also passed by very quickly. Qing Shui did not pay much heed to the time during this period, eating food whenever he's hungry, taking a break when he's tired. For the rest of the time, he would do his sword practice, and temper the Soul Shake Bell, as well as perform alchemy.

The prescriptions for the Five Dragon Pellet, Great Revitalizing Pellet and Beauty Pellet each were lacking a type of most precious medicinal herb which he could not find and which were irreplaceable. This made Qing Shui feel at a loss, especially for the Great Revitalizing Pellet's Phoenix's Tail, and the Beauty Pellet's Beauty Fruit both heightened Qing Shui's motivation to perform alchemy.

Qing Shui had once tried making them, since his Golden Medicinal Turtle and 1000 Year Clam were both able to act as a replacement for many 1000-year medicinal herbs and ingredients from 1000-year demonic beasts, but even after conducting many trials, he had still failed.

When Qing Shui felt that his <> was at an acceptable standard, half a month had already passed. Qing Shui felt that the half a month's time he had been spending in the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal had gotten shorter and shorter. In the future, the things he picked up would increase and the time he needed would increase. That was why Qing Shui was full of anticipation for the realm's growth.

The next morning, Qing Shui woke up early. Practicing a round of Tai Chi everyday, especially in the morning reaped great effects. Recently, Qing Shui noticed that when he performed the Tai Chi towards the direction of the rising sun, the image of Yin-Yang in his consciousness would turn at a faster speed because of his Tai Chi practice.

While the degree of increase was very little, Qing Shui could clearly feel it! He knew that it was not a bad thing since the image of Yin-Yang was like a stream which provided Qing Shui with a never-ending amount of benefits. While the amount was little, it was long lasting and never ending. The unceasing

release of a small golden ray of light, tempering his internal organs, muscles, vessels, meridian channels, and Dantian...

The reason Qing Shui practiced the Taichi was for the purpose of strengthening his body, and he practiced it with a casual attitude, not hoping to be able to use it to fend off enemies but to use it for relaxation.

This was just the right mentality for practicing Taichi. Sometimes, success or failure may not be dependent on one's deliberate actions or plans, but was something to be left to fate. To think that Taichi was the second martial arts to reach the Obscure Realm after <>.

His Taichi now was no longer of the same standard as before. It would not lose out even when compared to his Tiger Form, and may even be better!

Qing Shui slowly performed Taichi, his palms covered with a light layer of earthly yellow color, his speed was so slow, but that force gave one the pressure as if he would be able to flatten a mountain.

Many people around noticed Qing Shui, but they all threw a glance at him and shook their heads, "It's too slow. What use is it to look overbearing? By the time you hit someone, they would have hit you many times over."

"That's right. I've never seen such a slow martial art. The essence of martial arts is speed. I don't understand why he would practice such a useless fist technique which moves at snail speed." Another person's interest was piqued and came to comment.

Qing Shui paid no heed to all these. They were not very far away, but at that moment, Qing Shui was fully immersed in his practice. Fully enjoying himself as if his soul was traveling about out of his body. It was only today did he discover that practicing Tai Chi could also be such a warming and extremely comfortable feeling.

"See how much he is enjoying himself. The intoxicated look he has on is as if he is training some Legendary level techniques." someone said in disdain.

"Brother, look, that guy was the one who called Miss Xi Yue a nutcase!" Suddenly, a voice rang out. It sounded very sharp and weird.

"How dare he say that my goddess is a nutcase! I'll let him know today who is the real nutcase." compared to the sharp voice from earlier, this one was more coarse.

All the people who were gossiping now all, with great interest, looked towards this man who seemed to be unrepresentable but yet he was someone ordinary people could not trifle with.

The man was burly and strong. His height was taller than an ordinary person by a head. His face filled with a beard that were akin to steep needles, and his hair a complete mess. He had a large build, with big bright eyes, and a big nose and mouth. He was quite good looking.

The man seemed like a straightforward person as he headed towards Qing Shui. He had a very large build and each step he took was an ordinary person's one and a half step. When he walked, it was like a slight breeze was created. And this was only him walking casually.

Qing Shui was practicing his Taichi within a one-meter radius, keeping even his eyes closed, and gave the feeling that while it looked good, it had no practical uses.

He seemed to not know that someone was walking towards him as he continued to unceasingly practice the Taichi over and over again. Those who had taken a close look at him could even imitate his actions, but they were not able to imitate that spiritual charms.

“Chap, it’s you...”

Before the man’s loud shout had ended, he was already reaching out his hand to grab Qing Shui’s arm. But just before he was able to touch Qing Shui’s arm...

Qing Shui’s left arm which had been slow as a snail, suddenly became like a sly rabbit, moving extremely fast. Displaying the Tai Chi Single Whip, he slapped away the man’s arm, and the spot he hit was at his Youchi Acupoint!

Even at this time, Qing Shui’s eyes remained closed as he practiced his Taichi. He seemed to have not noticed what was happening, not even taking a step away from where he was.

With a Single Whip, the man was actually sent back over three steps, and his arm which had received the attacked had turned numbed such that he was not able to lift it up for a moment.

Sarcasm, it was definitely sarcasm!

The man was also slightly angered. Although he wanted to slap Qing Shui’s shoulders, he did not exert a lot of strength. He would never had thought that this fellow would suddenly attack, and at such quick speed such that he could not dodge.

Taking in two deep inhales and rubbing his numbed arm for a while, the man clenched his fists. “How dare you make a sneak attack. I’ll teach you a lesson today.”

The man let out a holler, releasing quite a strong aura. He was really infuriated. Once again, he waved his big fist, hurling towards Qing Shui’s ribs heavily. The ribs were weak and one would tend to suffer broken bones when struck there.

Qing Shui’s eyes remained closed, he appeared to be so at ease that everyone was suspecting that he was putting up an act. However, the expression he gave people was an impression that he knew nothing at all.

However, just as the man’s fierce fist was about to land on Qing Shui’s ribs, with a slight inhale, the area near Qing Shui’s ribs sunk in a little. This was just enough to give Qing shui an additional moment of time, as he once again used the Single Whip on the man, this time around, sending him flying three meters away. After landing, the man realized that he had actually not a single injury on himself. While the strength was immense, it was extremely gentle as well.

“Don’t bother me, I don’t have time to waste on you guys.” Qing Shui said calmly. Only then did he open his eyes and look indifferently at that man who was sent flying.

“Wow, to think that it can be so fast when it was so slow previously! So it was just an act!” Someone said in astonishment.

Chapter 286 - Legendary Supreme Beauty Misty Hall Palace Mistress, Might of the Tiger

“Wow, to think that it can be so fast when it was so slow previously! So it was just an act!” Someone said in astonishment.

“Why are young people nowadays so dishonest, isn’t that out right bullying? But I like it...”

“When my speed is at his level, I would fake a bit here and there, too. It must be amazing.”

Qing Shui was speechless when he heard the comments.

“Brat, you are really daring huh? How dare you talk to our third bro like this. Brothers, go together and teach him a lesson. PUNCH HIM!” The voice of that skinny youth from the start rang out.

Qing Shui hated this kind of nasal voice the most.

After hearing the words of the skinny youth, over ten burly young men dashed towards Qing Shui while that skinny youth stood at the back. The expression on his face now was as though he was asking for a beating, smiling sinisterly at Qing Shui.

Qing Shui’s proficiency with the Taiji Single Whip had already reached a very high level. Spreading his feet, he adopted a horse stance while both his arms hung loosely by his side. The speed of his arms didn’t appear fast; on the contrary, they were so slow to the extent that everyone was able to track the movements of his arms.

His arms ‘danced’ about like butterflies flying in the garden, and those that suffered his lash all ended up with broken bones and agonized yells and painful shrieks filled the air.

In the blink of an eye, the ten over men that dashed towards him were all already lying on the ground suffering various degrees of injuries. Qing Shui then calmly walked towards the skinny youth who stood at the back.

“Ka cha!”

Qing Shui directly smashed the bones of the youth’s chin, bloodcurdling screams rang out as the youth promptly fainted into unconsciousness. The only one remaining was the burly and muscular man who was standing there, surveying the scene dumbly.

Qing Shui directed a faint smile at him before he left. The burly man was still in a state of disbelief; gazing about, he realized that none of those which Qing Shui attacked was able to even stand up. Qing Shui, at the very least, must be at the fifth level of Xiantian Realm.

“Remember this: if there’s a next time, I shall break your legs. Both your legs.” Qing Shui smiled.

“Wa, there are actually people who dare to threaten the third young master of the Gongsun Clan. This should be a good show to watch.” A random bald stranger exclaimed in excitement.

Although the volume of his voice wasn’t loud, Qing Shui could clearly hear him as though he was standing next to him!

After hearing that voice, Qing Shui turned and discovered a male dressed in a white, starmoon robe, smiling as he gazed at Qing Shui. Qing Shui nodded lightly in his direction to acknowledge him before he left.

Qing Shui knew that the guy was reminding him. It seemed like the Gongsun Clan had some status in the Heavenly Palace, but Qing Shui thought of his own pillar of support. In the Starmoon Hall, Fei Wuji and Cang Wuya should have even more status when compared to the Gongsun Clan by right, so Qing Shui wasn't too worried.

Qing Shui was even suspecting if that guy was reminding him that as long as he didn't touch anyone from the Gongsun Clan, he should be fine. In any case, Qing Shui didn't wish to shine too brilliantly for now. That was why he didn't touch the burly guy.

Beat the dogs first before beating the master! This was something he had always believed in.

After leaving the area and walking for a while, Qing Shui soon noticed Canghai Mingyue and Huoyun Liu-Li walking towards his direction with smiles on their faces. Qing Shui rubbed his nose, and under the countless gazes of envy, he walked towards the pair of beauties. He didn't know how long since they arrived, and had they even witnessed the scene of him beating up the other trashes?

"Who the fish is this person, why are his skills so good? Even his women are beautiful; their beauty only lost out by a shade compared to the Palace Mistress of the Misty Hall!"

"Yeah, look at that unveiled lady. I initially thought that she was the Palace Mistress of the Misty Hall, but upon a closer look, her eyes seem to lack something," some random guy immediately replied.

The sounds of their discussion were like a bomb in Qing Shui's ears. What? The Palace Mistress of the Misty Hall was even more beautiful than Canghai Mingyue? Qing Shui immediately thought of that Portrait of Beauty. Was the woman in the portrait her?

Palace Mistress of the Misty Hall? The person in command of the Misty Hall! The Misty Hall was the hall which both Canghai Mingyue and Huoyun Liu-Li joined; the hall that solely accepts females.

"Qing Shui, why didn't you look for us these few days? And you also didn't pay a visit to the master." Huoyun Liu-Li laughed.

"Haha, I was busy. Come, let me bring you all to learn something powerful. However, how much you can absorb would have to depend on your own innate talent." Qing Shui started, after he said these words. Weren't these words that Fei Wuji had told him?

"Oh, what technique is that powerful? Why are you acting so mysteriously?" Huoyun Liu-Li stuck her tongue out at Qing Shui.

"You will know once you are there." Qing Shui laughed, as he lead the way towards the stone carvings.

"Have you girls met your Palace Mistress before?" Qing Shui casually asked while they were moving.

Laughter could be seen in the eyes of Canghai Mingyue while a hint of craftiness could be seen in the eyes of Huoyun Liu-Li.

"Ehh..." Qing Shui embarrassedly rubbed his nose, feeling extremely awkward.

“The Palace Mistress of our Misty Hall is a supreme beauty, and is comparable to Sister Mingyue. Do you want to go take a look? Maybe...you could hug her, too...” Huoyun teased Qing Shui, looking at him with her sexy and charming eyes.

“Umm, I’m just asking, no other intentions.” Qing Shui hurriedly mumbled in response.

“Qing Shui, our Palace Mistress is veiled, but her eyes are really beautiful and resemble that of sister Mingyue. Initially when we entered the Misty Hall, many people suspected sister Mingyue was the Palace Mistress herself.” Huoyun giggled.

“Hehe, I don’t dare to compare myself with the Palace Mistress. She really seems like an immortal that has descended from the Heavens.” Canghai Mingyue straightforwardly replied.

This time round, Qing Shui finally believed them. After all, Canghai Mingyue was the one who said it. So was the Palace Mistress the girl in the portrait? Because... the Palace Mistress was wearing a veil, too... Could she really be one of the twelve beauties painted by the Art Maestro?

“I don’t believe that there would be a woman even more beautiful than both of you.” Qing Shui smiled as he gazed at them, but his demeanour appeared to be extremely serious.

“Come, let’s go and look at the stone carvings! Use your heart to feel it!”

The three of them had already reached the outer boundary of the stone monuments region. Qing Shui hurriedly changed the topic, before Huoyun Liu-Li teased him again.

“Woah, does this way of running seem similar to the deer cantering technique?” Huoyun asked.

“Liu-Li, let us gain insights here first before discussing it when we go back,” Canghai Mingyue replied.

“Okay!”

Qing Shui had already moved towards the area with the tiger carvings and on the first monument, he saw a scene of a tiger hunting its prey.

The tiger’s claws extended as it lunged towards its prey, a truly majestic moment. Qing Shui knew that in his past life, even a normal tiger was capable of unleashing two thousand jin of strength with a single paw strike. The name Emperor of a Hundred Beasts was not named in vain for their species indeed!

Looking down with contempt at its prey, enhancing the chance of victory tremendously. Wasn’t tiger might also a kind of aura?

The next depiction was titled as ‘Tiger Tear’. It showed tiger’s paws smacking downwards with brutal strength, like the slash of a gigantic sabre. This depiction strangely reminded Qing Shui of the chopping stance in the Basic Sword Technique, as his eyes glowed in contemplation. Qing Shui quickly immersed himself within the insights before he moved on to the next. After studying several depictions, he came to the conclusion that regardless of whether it was Tiger’s Tear, Tiger’s Lunge, Tiger’s Mount or Tiger’s Descend, etc, all of it encompassed Tiger’s Might. That was the most important conclusion he drew.

His Tiger Form, his Chopping stance, could all incorporate Tiger’s Might within, and brought his power up another level!

Glancing upwards, he realized that half a day had already passed, and Qing Shui discovered that the two ladies were by his side!

“Qing Shui, did you spend the past few days living here?” Huoyun Liu-Li asked.

“Yup.”

“You didn’t learn other stuff?”

“I did. I spent the past two days learning the Heavenly Palace Sword Art from the instructor.” Qing Shui laughed, satisfying the curiosity of Liu-Li.

“Hehe, these few days Sister Mingyue and I followed the old master Cang Wuya and learnt the cloudmist steps. And after the cloudmist steps are mastered, he will teach us the Heavenly Thunder Slash, and after that, the Divinity Protection...”

Qing Shui was flabbergasted; the two techniques that he had wanted to learn were actually so easily taught to the both of them. When would he even be able to begin learning these techniques...

“Old master told us to bring you back to meet him, that was why Sister Mingyue and I came here today,” Huoyun joyfully exclaimed. She knew that Qing Shui was sad because he didn’t have access to these two techniques.

“Is this true!?” Qing Shui smiled in surprise. This bout of happiness felt too sudden.

“When did I ever lie to you? But you have Sister Mingyue to thank for this. If it was not for her that made a promise to...”

“Liu-Li!”

“Ah, okay I won’t say anything, I won’t say anything.” Huoyun Liu-Li quickly used her hands to cover her mouth.

In Qing Shui’s mind, he was still shocked by the sudden revelation that he had a chance to learn the consummate techniques, that he didn’t notice the shy expression on Mingyue’s face, nor did he notice what Huoyun Liu-Li had let slip.

As Canghai Mingyue noticed Qing Shui’s expression, she felt an ambivalence of joy and disappointment. Joyful because he didn’t notice, and somewhat disappointed as well because of it.

Chapter 287 - To Prosper 100 Years with an Ancestor, 200 Years with a Son and 300 Years with a Grandchild!

Canghai Mingyue saw Qing Shui’s expression and was glad that he wasn’t really paying attention, though for some reason she felt at loss too!

“Let’s go, Old Master must be missing you very much!” Huoyun Liu-Li laughed. This made Canghai Mingyue’s face burn up even more.

“Liu-Li, why don’t you say something about yourself too, after all, we’re the same...” Canghai Mingyue muttered gloomily at Huoyun Liu-Li, who was still laughing.

Qing Shui looked at the two girls in confusion. The three of them then set off towards Cang Wuya's residence together.

"Qing Shui, who was the guy that was beaten up by you when you arrived? Do you want to tell the Old Master first?" Canghai Mingyue who had been quiet this whole time asked softly.

The person standing beside Qing Shui was no longer the same from the past; she had lost the arrogance she had before. Although she was still acting so aloof and detached from the world, her soft whispers still made Qing Shui feel a little nostalgic.

It was said that if a woman changed herself for a man, then this would mean that the woman was starting to fall for this man.

Did she like him?

"That burly man was the third son of the Gongsun clan. Let's go back first to ask Old Master what kind of a clan is the Gongsun clan. Anyway, all I beat was just a dog. I think these brothers of the Gongsun clans are weaklings," Qing Shui slowly said after thinking a little.

"Yes, the Old Master is considered to be someone of importance in the Heavenly Palace. He should be able to help us," Canghai Mingyue said softly.

The three of them walked slowly in the golden evening sunset towards the residence of Cang Wuya. Qing Shui looked at the beautiful sceneries dyed by the sunset around him, accompanied by his beautiful escorts.

The others looked at Qing Shui with envy. Huoyun Liu-Li was even pulling Qing Shui's hand and Canghai Mingyue was on his other side, although she didn't link her hand with his.

Cang Wuya was cooking by the time Qing Shui and the two girls reached to his residence. He looked extremely happily. "Qing Shui, you're here. Food is almost ready!" he said happily when he saw them.

"Let me give you a hand, Old Master!" Qing Shui smiled. He could feel that Cang Wuya treated him like his own grandson. The two girls must have already told him about himself and what happened at the Canghai's house.

"You all have a chat first, I'm almost done!" Cang Wuya chuckled.

Qing Shui had gifted various condiments and Drunken Fragrance Fruit and Perilla, Thyme and a lot of Multi-fragrant Fruits. As long as the food was not overcooked or undercooked then there shouldn't be any problems. Over these past few days, he was not only able to let Cang Wuya taste very delicious dishes but also able to fulfill his regrets of not being able to cook.

"Old Master, what kind of clan is the Gongsun clan?" Qing Shui asked Cang Wuya after he finished his meal.

Cang Wuya was surprised but then explained with a smile: "The Gongsun clan has a Supreme Elder, an Elder and the Chief Senior Disciple of the Starmoon Hall is actually the eldest daughter of their family."

Upon hearing that, Qing Shui immediately knew that the Gongsun family was f*cking awesome. In the Heavenly Palace, power was within the hands of the Supreme Elders, Elders, and those clans with three

living generations. Clans without descendants would only prosper for a generation. A clan would prosper for 100 years with an ancestor, 200 years with his son, and 300 years with his grandson!

Elders would be promoted to Supreme Elder, and Chief Senior Disciple was an equally high position. In the Heavenly Palace, Chief Senior Disciples of different halls had roughly the same position as the Elders, although they were inferior than Elders in terms of titles.

“What’s wrong, Qing Shui? Even though the Gongsun clan has quite a bit of a background, I the Old Master am not bad either. Remember to mention this old man’s name whenever you are powerless,” Cang Wuya said calmly. His peaceful tone made people feel his kindness and care. This must be what they mean by as steady as a mountain. He was indeed like a mountain.

“You have my thanks, Old Master!” Qing Shui sincerely thanked Cang Wuya.

Cang Wuya laughed: “Hoho, from now on we are family. No need to be so formal!”

Qing Shui smiled back at him unthinkingly. He must be this nice to him because he knew about the complicated situation that he, Canghai Mingyue and Huoyun Liu-Li were in. Regardless of the reason, Qing Shui would remember this in his heart.

Canghai Mingyue turned her head around awkwardly while Huoyun Liu-Li laughed out heartily. That seductive voice made Qing Shui’s heart itch. He couldn’t help but recall the tender moment they shared on the back of his Fire Bird. The lower half of his body slightly reacted to the memories. The sensation of them gently grinding against each other and her quivers were as fresh as yesterday.

“Qing Shui, come here tomorrow and learn something with YueYue and Liu-Li. This is the most the Heavenly Palace can offer. This old man has 200 years of experience of the heart and can give you all some shortcuts,” Cang Wuya said with a smile when Qing Shui was about to leave.

“Thank you, Old Master!” Qing Shui was not good with words so he could give his sincerest smile, but still he was not able to conceal the pleasant surprise on his face.

After saying their goodbyes, the three of them returned to their residence. Qing Shui immediately locked his door after entering his bedroom then entered the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal. Seeing the medicinal herbs that were brimming with vitality everywhere, Qing Shui roughly did a count and could tell that they should be about 300 years of age, and had already formed. He stood in the midst of the field of medicinal herbs joyfully envisioning these herbs that were going to be 1,000 years of age, 2,000 years of age in the future...

The Flower of Life that was plucked before had already grown a new bud now. It should take another year outside for it to blossom again. For Huoyun Liu-Li, Qing Shui would even use up the whole Flower of Life, let alone plucking a single Flower of Life. As long as there was hope in saving Huoyun Liu-Li’s life, he would not hesitate to use it.

After so long, that unnamed tree root still only had a single flower bloomed. There was not even a slight change in that bowl sized pinkish red flower.

Could it be that it needed 100 years to sprout, another 100 years to bloom and another 100 years to bear fruit? As for how much time was needed for the fruit to ripen, Qing Shui had no idea. If even

blooming flowers took more than 100 years, then it would probably take even more time for the fruits to ripen...

However Qing Shui wasn't too worried about the length of time. After all, this is the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal and he had plenty of time. The longer it took, the better it should be.

He had almost forgotten about that Golden Flesh LingZhi. It had obviously grown larger a size after so long. The golden colour was exceptionally beautiful, and the uneven shape made it look like a fatty. Maybe the Golden Flesh LingZhi was a badass fatty?

The Energy Enhancing Fruit, Agility Enhancing Fruit, Endurance Enhancing Fruit and Physique Enhancing Fruit were almost formed and almost ripen. Qing Shui wondered when the Spirit Enhancing Fruit would finally bear and what effects it would give? Perhaps it could raise spirit energy?

When he was looking around, the Fire Bird which was perched on the towering Chinese Parasol Tree in the distance, and let out a few joyful chirps when it sensed Qing Shui's entrance. Qing Shui happily responded with two long whistles back at it. Qing Shui felt that Fire Bird was getting more and more intellectual. As expected of a Mutated Beast of Heaven and Earth which had a trace of the Phoenix's bloodline.

He then looked at the black fish, turtles, Golden Medicinal Turtle and the 1000 Year Clam. Although their numbers were still growing, there had been an obvious decrease in the growing speed ever since the Fire Bird's arrival to the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal as it needed to feed on some black fish and turtles daily.

Starting a fire, Qing Shui stewed a pot of fish soup and a pot of All Aspect Nourishment Soup. He would usually do this whenever he entered the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal. After boiling, he would let it slowly stew with small flame and take some whenever he was hungry. The rest of the time was spent on cultivation. If he was really sleepy then he'd take a nap. Missing a few days of sleep wouldn't really affect cultivators much, but there was still a limit to it. Besides, sleeping was also beneficial for the mind and this was the reason why cultivators would sleep for at least awhile everyday.

Qing Shui would only start his cultivation after finishing all this. The first part of his cultivation would be the Ancient Strengthening Technique. It would not only let one feel refreshed but also let the body achieve a good state after practising for the whole day.

Then he moved on to Sword Techniques - "Basic Sword Principle" and "Heavenly Palace Sword Art". For the Heavenly Palace Sword Art to be labeled with the name "Heavenly Palace"; the name of a super great sect, even if it wasn't an ultimate technique it would at least be a decent technique.

Qing Shui was not bored of repetitive practices. He then lifted a big hammer. His Thousand Hammer Technique was considered quite high to date. This hammer technique used to pound on steel had already reached the Truth Realm.

Qing Shui currently did not have any plans to use this Hammer Technique on opponents. He was just hoping for it to reach the Obscure Realm or even the Heaven Realm. Then maybe he would be able to forge 2-colour graded, 3-colour graded or even higher graded items, and maybe he might also be able to enhance item quality at its original grade.

The very next day, Qing Shui was still doing his morning cultivation at the public square. He realised that the public square and the stone monument region were always the two most crowded places. Perhaps the fact that the stone monument region behind the mountain was open to all in the Heavenly Palace and many were interested in the Beast Form Fist were the reasons behind the stone monument region getting about 30,000 daily visits. Each stone monument was seen by an average of 30 people. A thousand stone monuments would mean at least 30,000 people.

And the only public square with an arena was the public square of the Starmoon Hall. It could hold even 20,000 people at the same time so Qing Shui could easily find an empty spot during his morning cultivation.

Today's morning cultivation went smoothly for him. Although he attracted the attention of many, he didn't care because in the end, no one bothered him. After Qing Shui deemed that he had practised enough for the day, he left for Cang Wuya's residence.

Upon his arrival, he discovered that the two girls were already there and seemed to be discussing about something with Cang Wuya.

"Qing Shui, now that you're here we can do it together, or else the Old Master would have to repeat twice," Huoyun Liu-Li waved at him.

"Haven't you all started already?" Qing Shui asked uncertainly.

"We were joking. Today is our first day too," Huoyun Liu-Li chuckled. Her beautiful and delicate breasts slightly jiggled. It was very enticing.

Qing Shui quickly averted his gaze. His ability to concentrate was becoming worse lately. He wondered if it had anything to do with the "Duo Cultivation Technique" that he had been cultivating daily.

"Today we will learn the Cloudmist Steps first. Try to understand what I am about to tell you and then use your heart to feel it. Don't bother so much with the rest and just keep practising it. Footwork is all about practising to perfection. You will discover the secret behind the Cloudmist Steps when the right time comes. Do not chase after the true form of Cloudmist Steps because it differs for everyone."

Cang Wuya had this aura of dignity when he started to teach and talk about martial arts although he still maintained his usual calm demeanour.

"The Cloudmist Steps focuses on "sliding" and "gliding". The steps should give you the sensation of floating, as if walking on the clouds. The Cloudmist Steps are known for their variation and swiftness. I will teach you the qi circulation method first."

Chapter 288 - Cloudmist Steps, The Chief Disciple, Gongsun Jianwu, Who's Like A Vixen

After speaking, Cang Wuya explained the method of channeling Qi twice and then started to demonstrate as he did so. Qing Shui did not know how far his Free Spirit Steps could progress, but the current Free Spirit Steps were not comparable to the Cloudmist Steps. Moreover, Qing Shui noticed that the level of his Free Spirit Steps seemed pretty high, and there did not seem to be much progress recently.

Qing Shui's and the two ladies' level of comprehension was very high, and had soon picked it up, but they just seemed to be a bit stiff when using it. Let alone "strolling", they could barely "glide".

Cang Wuya had also said earlier that this technique was fully dependent on one's familiarity and comprehension. It required one to comprehend with the heart, so Qing Shui practiced it seriously. However, the effects were not too good, and he kept feeling that something seemed off.

Suddenly, he thought of the state he had entered when he was practicing Tai Chi the other time. The feeling of as if he was in a dream. Qing Shui was also now considered to be slightly familiar with the Cloudmist Steps, and he repetitively performed the Cloudmist Steps as he searched for the same feeling.

Sometimes, the two ladies would calm down to give it some thought before they continued. Cang Wuya only watched from the side, not saying a word. Only smiling as he looked at the three youngsters he was sort of connected with.

For a full two hours, Qing Shui practiced like a robot. Suddenly, he closed his eyes, his body suddenly glided, but his eyes remained closed. He then glided once again. This time around, it was obviously more natural.

Cang Wuya's gaze towards Qing Shui gleamed very brightly. The old man's eyes became bright like the stars, but they turned back to normal in just an instant, the smile on his face turned increasingly warmer.

Even Canghai Mingyue and Huoyun Liu-Li were staring at Qing Shui with their unblinking beautiful eyes, marveling at how Qing Shui was moving with the Cloudmist Steps at a speed which the naked eye could see.

"He is really like a demon. This is too much of a shock. My talent wasn't that bad since I was young either, but I'd already gotten a shock after meeting Sister Mingyue, and now he..." Huoyun Liu-Li looked towards the Canghai Mingyue who was similarly in a daze as she mumbled.

Canghai Mingyue looked at Huoyun Liu-Li, finding it funny. She knew that the latter was very headstrong and seeing Qing Shui's performance made her feel a sense of failure and frustration.

After Qing Shui felt satisfied he stopped, and another hour had passed before he saw other people looking at him. Only then did he then smile, embarrassed.

Qing Shui didn't expect that the Cloudmist Steps actually had a similar mindframe as Taichi, allowing one to perform it casually as one wished to. He now understood why Cang Wuya had said those words from the start. This was why!

"Qing Shui, how did you do it?" Huoyun Liu-Li pouted her lips, saying in a pettish manner as she walked to Qing Shui and lifted her head to look at him.

Qing Shui found it funny to see such a charming lady acting like such a kid and said, "There's no helping it, I've got the right character and a higher level of comprehension."

"Hmph, get over yourself." saying this, Huoyun Liu-Li could not help but smile too.

They continued to spend the afternoon practicing the Cloudmist Steps. Although the two ladies did not experience the chance encounter Qing Shui had, their progress was not bad either, though theirs was

still far behind his. Huoyun Liu-Li would occasionally grumble, causing Qing Shui to not know whether he should laugh or cry. Just from one afternoon alone, Qing Shui had already been called a pervert by Huoyun Liu-Li at least three times.

The term 'pervert' might be seen as a compliment at times though, just like how it was used now. When one's progress was tremendous or one's comprehension was extremely high such that they were beyond description, it would be described as demonic or pervert.

When it was time for dinner, Fei Wuji came over. In the Heavenly Palace, for them, it was like everyone in the family was reunited, even though Qing Shui had only met them twice. However, Qing Shui was still full of respect for Fei Wuji. This man had given him the feeling that he was not only strong, but his eyes seemed to be able to see through many things. Just like Cang Wuya, this man gave off a feeling of so much wisdom and farsightedness that it was close to being demonic.

"Qing Shui, did you beat up the Gongsun Clan's 3rd son's underlings?" Fei Wuji chuckled.

"Mmmm. How did Martial Uncle know this?!" Qing Shui asked, astonished.

"Gongsun Clan's 3rd son has always been one to throw his weight about. The fact that you've beaten his people up is the same as having beaten him. The news is spreading like wildfire out there. Everyone is waiting to watch a show." Fei Wuji seemed to be very happy as he said this.

Qing Shui could not understand Fei Wuji's feelings. He had already gotten himself into trouble, but why did he seem to be very happy?

"Martial Uncle, you're not angry?" Qing Shui could not help but ask, puzzled.

Qing Shui's words made Fei Wuji and Cang Wuya break out in laughter. And then, Cang Wuya started to feel emotional.

"Canghai, Wuji and that son of mine used to be especially mischievous when they were young, creating trouble every so often. This old man was the one who had clean up the mess for them. Back then, what I enjoyed most was to clean up their mess, or even try to put in a good word for them in front of others. It's because the elders from both families were on relatively good terms with each other. Well, it's natural for kids to be fond of fights, so I'd be happy even if I have to pull down my face in front of others. It's because it shows that my child and disciples were the most outstanding."

Cang Wuya's words made Qing Shui's heart warm, and even Canghai Mingyue listened silently when hearing about her father. However, her expression was very gloomy.

"Until one day, my son was killed by someone's deliberate 'accidental' attack, and as his father, I had no other choice when the other came to offer their apologies. Who would be able to accept having their son killed? But the other party's abilities did not allow me to take action. After all, the involved parties were the younger generation. In the end, in an unsuitable situation, Canghai could not restrain himself but killed the person who was his younger Martial Brother's murderer. I did all I could, but was still not able to keep him in Heavenly Palace." Cang Wuya shared the story of the past solemnly, telling them the reason why Canghai was chased out of the sect.

It was no wonder Canghai Mingyue was treated like his biological granddaughter. Canghai was brought back and raised up by him and was no different than his biological son!

“Back then, Wuji and Canghai were still immature. Now, only Wuji is left. Your Martial Uncle Wuji’s status is special. My old bones haven’t moved for a very long time, and our group has been desolate for very long. Whether we can stand up again will be up to the three of you. If you have any problems, this old man will fend them off for you. You guys only need to be rest assured and do whatever you wish.”

At that moment, Cang Wuya’s strong aura spread out to the surroundings, not threatening but yet shocking!

“Qing Shui, the other party already knows that you are with Master, and the one to deal with you can only be another 3rd generation member. I feel that you shouldn’t have any problems, just feel free when you deal with them.” Fei Wuji chuckled.

“Thank you Grand teacher, thank you Martial Uncle!” Qing Shui stood up to bow respectfully.

“We are a family, no need to be so courteous. In the future, when you guys get married, you must treat me to more wine!” Fei Wuji laughed as he bade farewell to the Old Master, and nodded to the rest and left.

Qing Shui was feeling puzzled, and also took his leave after Fei Wuji left.

He had not even reached his residence when he met a young lady with a demonic figure. Exaggerated curves, seductive vixen eyes, long thick and black lashes, and a small perked nose which seemed especially sexy.

This was a lady who one would associate with the bed in one look. She had a different type of seductive charm as Qinghan Ye. Qinghan Ye was seductive right down to her bones, while this lady was a vixen.

“So young?” The lady mumbled!

Qing Shui looked at this vixen-like lady, puzzled, not understanding what she meant.

“Are you interested in playing with me?” The lady blinked her pair of vixen eyes at Qing Shui. It was so charming that one’s nose would burst out with a nosebleed.

Qing Shui stared at the lady in a daze for a while, and his body started having a reaction. That seductive expression of hers was so intoxicating that he had the urge to carry her to his bed and roll around with her. However, Qing Shui could sense that this lady had spikes, and her cultivation was at the first level of Martial King. Her two long and slender arms were more like two longswords.

“You’re sick!” Qing Shui forced out these words with a slight smile, moving away and taking his leave.

When she got a scolding, the lady broke out in laughter. Her beautiful smile made the blooming flowers nearby all pale in comparison.

“What are you laughing at?” Qing Shui tried his best not to look at that face which could be said to be a femme fatale’s.

“I’m laughing because you called Xi Yue a nutcase!”

“You’re crazy...”

“Thank goodness you’re not calling me a nutcase. Thanks!” The lady continued to smile prettily like a flower.

Qing Shui: “...”

“Speak up. If not, I’ll be taking my leave.” Qing Shui really did not know how to handle such ladies, and an extreme beauty at that.

“I’ll stop teasing you. I’m passing you a letter on someone else’s behalf.” After handing a letter to Qing Shui, she smiled and turned and left.

Qing Shui looked at that rounded beautiful bosom which had a fatal seductive charm to it as it moved slightly when she sashayed. It formed a fatal curve when put together with that slender waist of hers, giving others an urge to touch it.

Qing Shui lowered his head and saw that it was an envelope. There were very obvious words written on it, ‘Challenge Letter’!

“Look, it’s Gongsun Jianwu!” Qing Shui heard an abrupt voice saying.

“Wow, our Moonstar Hall’s Chief Disciple, so beautiful!”

...

Qing Shui was extremely astonished. To think that that lady with such a perfect demonic figure was Moonstar Hall’s Chief Disciple, the most outstanding amongst Gongsun Clan’s 3rd generation. And she was a very beautiful lady on top of that.

Qing Shui fell into a daze for a very long time before he looked down at the letter in his hands. There was only one line, “Three days later, see you at the arena at late morning!” The letter was signed off by Gongsun Jianyun!

“Mmm? It’s not against her?” Qing Shui knew that the lady from earlier was called Gongsun Jianwu. Then Gongsun Jianyun was also part of the 3rd generation of Gongsun Clan since his name also started with ‘Jian’, just like Gongsun Jianwu.

It was just that he had no idea who Gongsun Jianyun was. However, he was not worried and he could not help but smile. Thinking of how the one to challenge him was not Gongsun Jianwu was likely because they did not want to bully a new member.

Back at his residence, Qing Shui did not come across Yan Ling`er and Xi Yue. He entered the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal, and the first thing he did was to just get some sleep on the bed.

After he woke up, he continued his never changing training regime. Qing Shui did not wish to ignore anything, since he knew that every skill had their use. It was just that when it would be of use was beyond his control.

After calming down, Qing Shui let his mind run amok. Looking at the beauty portrait on that screen with the majestic mountain and river portrait, Qing Shui realized that he would never have enough gazing at it. It was an unspeakable beauty.

He could not help but think of Gongsun Jianwu again. Why was she the one to deliver the letter? What did she meant when she first spoke? Why did she follow with an even more seductive line?

“She’s doing this on purpose, thinking of making a fool out of me? Or was it just for fun? Regardless of which it was, she definitely can’t be really thinking of having some fun with me!” Thinking of this, Qing Shui could not help but smile.

Chapter 289 - Amalgamation of Movement Techniques!

Qing Shui laughed the moment he thought of Gongsun Jianwu. This supreme beauty was too frivolous, despised normal worldly conventions. Even when he scolded her saying that she had slight mental problems, she still felt that she was a tad better compared to Xi Yue, who was scolded as a crazed lunatic.

Qing Shui was deciding whether or not he should accept the challenge because his original intentions were to remain low profile, not showing off his true abilities so early.

However, yesterday it seemed as though Cang Wuya and Fei Wuji had the intention to let him and the two ladies, as well as others of the junior generations, to restructure their hall. But Qing Shui only had an extremely vague understanding of the Starmoon Hall. There was actually a supreme elder in the Gongsun Clan, as well as another elder and the chief disciple Gongsun Jianwu. The Gongsun Clan should still have some other hidden forces, like protectors and guardians.

There were only a limited number of Supreme Elders in the Heavenly Palace, and each of them was extremely powerful. Usually, they wouldn’t care about matters of the Heavenly Palace and would only interfere in events that had great impact.

Qing Shui decided to cast aside all these troublesome matters temporarily. At the very least, he was now under the protection of Cang Wuya and Fei Wuji and could be considered safe. The main objective of him joining the Heavenly Palace was to learn some of their consummate techniques, and now that he had learnt some of them, his objective could be considered already achieved.

He didn’t have a sense of belonging to the Heavenly Palace; he only felt goodwill towards people who treated him with kindness and ignored all other things. If people gave him an inch of respect, he would return the respect given by a foot. Kindness must always be repaid. Just like his goddess master Yiye Jiange, even now he was already making plans on her behalf when she steps into the Lion King Ridge in the future.

Sadly, Qing Shui knew that it would require at least twenty years. There were too many unknown factors through this period of time. Would he even be able to survive after storming the Yan Clan? And if he succeeded, will he get married? If sons and daughters were born to him, would his personality and priorities change then? There were too many variables! For the sake of his family, would he then be like now, still as determined to get revenge for the blood debt of Yiye Jiange? He truly didn’t know; no man could predict the future and nothing was eternal.

Inside of the Violet Jade Immortal, Qing Shui cultivated the and continued his normal routine - refining the soulshake bell, practising his alchemy, smithing, etc. In addition to that, he added the Cloudmist Steps to his daily routine. Now that he had already understood the essence of the Cloudmist Steps, he was like a fish in water when executing it.

Revising the old, while learning the new, practice makes perfect! Qing Shui didn't know how many times he had executed the Cloudmist Steps in practice; he had entered into a state where he shut out all external distractions and was only focused on the Cloudmist Steps. This time round, as he stepped out with the Cloudmist Steps, he unconsciously executed the Free Spirit Steps together with it. Not only did the two skills not clash against each other, they somehow combined perfectly together. One of the discoveries he made was the massive boost he gained in speed after the two techniques were combined, causing his speed to be obviously many times faster even when compared to Canghai.

Qing Shui's mouth was open wide in astonishment. This speed was truly terrifying, especially combined with his hidden weapons. He would even be able to deal with those that have a higher cultivation base than him. Even if he couldn't defeat them, fleeing wouldn't be a problem as well!

Qing Shui was overcome with joy. Back then his Ghostly Steps couldn't keep up with his cultivation level until it evolved into the Free Spirit Steps. But from then on, there had been no improvement in his movement techniques.

Qing Shui didn't know which realm had his Free Spirit Steps reached, but it has been a long time since he trained in that. He didn't have the chance to learn any consummate movement techniques up till now - the Cloudmist Steps of the Heavenly Palace! However, Qing Shui didn't expect that the Free Spirit Steps could actually combine together with the Cloudmist Steps, synergising extremely well. This was undoubtedly the strongest support-type cultivation art in this world! Using the essence of the Cloudmist Steps as main, while the insights from the Free Spirit Steps as support, his speed broke through his previous limits and had reached an extremely terrifying realm.

Qing Shui also doesn't know if his Free Spirit Steps could be level up. There may be no limits to it, akin to the Deer Canterng Steps as well as Tiger Form. Initially he thought that the Great Perfection Stage was already the final peak, but after his insights gained at the back mountain with all the stones carvings and depictions, he realised that that was not the case.

"Seems like the degree of synergization between the two movement techniques is still not very high. I would probably need a period of time before I can fully master this." Qing Shui spent another ten days in his spatial realm focusing on this technique, his hard work paying off as evidence by the increase in his speed. "Hehehe, this is a good thing." After the training, Qing Shui laid on the ground for a rest, before exiting the spatial realm.

The next day, when Qing Shui went to the public square for his morning practice, there were already many people there discussing the challenge issued by the Gongsun Clan's second young master to Qing Shui, even rumors of Qing Shui being related to Cang Wuya started spreading around.

"That Qing Shui was the person who crushed the gang of the third young master from the Gongsun Clan. This time round there would surely be a good show to watch. I wonder if Qing Shui will accept the challenge from the second young master of the Gongsun Clan," someone in the crowd exclaimed in excitement.

"With no power behind him, how could he dare say Xi Yue is a lunatic? Shattering the bones of all of Gongsun Clan's third young master's subordinates, and even threatening to break his legs. Do you think really he is someone without a powerful background?" another random person replied.

“I heard he was the long lost grandson of Supreme Elder, Cang Wuya,” someone added.

Qing Shui stayed silent.

Qing Shui knew that after he was challenged by Gongsun Jianyun, the matter was probably spread by those in the Gongsun Clan. This was to force him to accept the challenge. After all he had been through, how could his heart be bothered by how others looked at him? Ignoring them, Qing Shui faced the direction where the sun rises, as he slowly closed his eyes.

Insight!

Qing Shui felt that he made vast improvements when he previously practised the Taiji Fist and the Cloudmist Steps after he entered into the state of epiphany. However, Qing Shui understood that gaining insight was far from enlightenment, but even so, flashes of insights would already hasten training and cultivation speed by a huge degree.

Moving his body in motions of the Taiji Fist, his speed was even slower compared to the day before, but yet the slowness in his speed seemed to be cloaked in a layer of profoundness!

“Look at the strength undulations when he punched out. Although his movements are so slow, the amplification of strength is at least ten times,” somebody sighed in admiration.

“You hadn’t seen him punching at his ‘fast’ mode before. His attack speed at the very least, is as fast as lightning!”

After casually eating breakfast, Qing Shui headed towards Cang Wuya’s location and when he arrived, the two ladies were already criticizing their Cloudmist Steps. The training space allocated there was vast and had a sense of serenity in the air. From afar, the silhouettes of the two beauties were already extremely enchanting. Canghai Mingyue emanated an imposing air when she executed the steps and Huoyun Liu-Li was even more charming than usual.

After seeing the appearance of Qing Shui, Huoyun Liu-Li broke out into a smile and happily ran up to and pulled Qing Shui along for him to join them in their practice together. Many question marks bloomed in his mind but he could only let himself be pulled along.

“Liu-Li wishes to compete in speed against you.” Canghai Mingyue smiled.

“Compete in speed?” Qing Shui stared at Huoyun Liu-Li in confusion.

“She just grasped the essence of ‘slowness’ in the steps, and combining it with her total insights, and even I lost out to her.” Canghai Mingyue continued with a laugh.

“Ah, how do you want to compete?” Qing Shui grinned staring at the two beauties who were watching him in anticipation.

“From here to the great pine tree over there, let’s see who returns first.” Huoyun Liu-Li pointed to a huge tree about three hundred meters away in the distance.

“Sure, can Yueyue be the umpire? We will begin when she says start.”

Qing Shui and Liu-Li stood ready at the crude line the ground drawn by Canghai Mingyue. As Canghai Mingyue announced the start, Huoyun Liu-Li immediately dashed out, her movements appeared blurry, her steps extremely quick.

Qing Shui was in no hurry, he especially took the time to admire the bouncing of Huoyun Liu-Li's perky butt cheeks before he burst into motion. Qing Shui didn't use the 'sliding steps' of the Cloudmist Steps nor did he understand how to use the 'slow steps', but rather, he used the combination technique between Free Spirit Steps and Cloudmist Steps, which resulted in a burst of speed so fast that he was instantly next to Liu-Li and as long as he stretched his hand out, he could embrace her into a hug.

Huoyun Liu-Li was shocked beyond words. She had a head start of a few seconds, yet Qing Shui was already beside her. However, in spite of this she still continued methodically executing the sliding steps while using the insights of slowness to complement it, raising her speed to her maximum, fully bringing out the essence of the Cloudmist Steps.

Canghai Mingyue had a bitter smile on her face as she stared at Qing Shui. From what she could see, Qing Shui was only utilizing the 'common steps' of the Cloudmist Steps. These 'common steps' were executed only when the user wanted to travel long distances. It was the step that could be sustained the longest and used up the least amount of energy. Despite this, there was something different. From her observations, Qing Shui's 'common steps' had a blurry quality similar to the essence of the 'slow steps', but yet Canghai Mingyue definitely knew that what Qing Shui was using was merely the 'common steps'!

Chapter 290 - White Frost Nectar, Don't Do Unto Others What You Don't Want Others To Do Unto You

After reaching the tree, Qing Shui still returned as usual. It was just that when they had almost reach their destination, Qing Shui reached out his hand and took Huoyun Liu-Li's, grinning as he overtook her amidst her glares.

Canghai Mingyue was full of smiles at the side while Huoyun Liu-Li pouted angrily, "Hmph, can't you give in to me a little?"

"Liu-Li, 'Sliding Steps' and 'Slow Steps' may seem magnificent and will be good for sneak attacks, the energy expenditure is very high. That's why while it is very important to train it well, you must really be careful when using it against your opponents. After you use it, even if you cannot pin them down, you must at least be able to inflict injuries onto them." Qing Shui smiled gently and said.

"Mmm mmm, Old Master also said the same thing earlier, but I just wanted to show off a little in front of you. Hmph, even if you don't compliment me, you should have gave in a little." Huoyun Liu-Li said bitterly.

At that moment, Cang Wuya came out, looking at them, full of smiles. After he had the three of them performed the Cloudmist Steps once, he broke into wider smiles, especially Qing Shui's Cloudmist Steps which surprised him so much his stood there agape.

If it was not that he had seen it for himself, it was impossible for him to believe that there was someone with such great talent. However, after giving it some thought, he decided not to think too much about it. Qing Shui harbored great powers, and he would only have been able to do this with a talent that surpassed that of others.

Today, the three of them continued to learn the Cloudmist Steps, since if one were to be too greedy, they would not be able to accomplish much. It was why Cang Wuya did not say much but just looked at them from the sides, giving pointers at any point of them so that they would take lesser detours.

Today, Qing Shui left slightly earlier. He had initially planned to head to the stone monument area, but decided against it since time was not to his advantage. However, he had already arrived at the back of the mountain.

“Forget it, I’ll take it that I’m giving myself a short break today and take a walk around the back!” Qing Shui found himself a lousy excuse as he headed towards the opposite direction from the stone monument area.

The back of the mountain was a desolate area despite it being very vast. However, this was where couples tend to rendezvous. While it was already deep in autumn, it did not affect the passion between the couples as the seasons would not be able to affect the passion of an affectionate couple.

During his walk, he surprised a few couple, especially a couple who were deeply engrossed in their entanglement in a remote area. The man used his strong body to lift up the smaller sized lady with snow white skin, but they were closely bound together, moving in sync in large movements, perspiring it out.

But because of Qing Shui’s sudden appearance, the man came earlier than expected and finished the act. The man glared at Qing Shui, pissed, and blocked the lady’s naked body with his own.

Qing Shui immediately apologized and quickly left, thinking, “I better not scare that dude such that he won’t be able to raise it up forever. I’ll feel too sorry for him then.”

There were a layer of vegetation covering on the desolate hill, which was why most of the time, forests would be the ideal location for a rendezvous. However, there would always be those who would do it behind big boulders like the couple from earlier.

Other than men, there were only women. Food and sex were but human nature, the most important things. Qing Shui shook his head, and just as he was about to head back, he saw a large spread of pine tree forest in the distant. While said that there was a piece of forest, there were only two trees. It was just that they were so big that it would give one the impression that it was a forest.

The location was just nice at the highest spot, and the two humongous pine trees had their branches widely spread out, covering everything. One would be able to reach the lowest branches just by reaching out one’s hand.

But at that moment, what that had attracted Qing Shui was something on the branches which looked like white frost. As they looked very beautiful, Qing Shui moved even quicker towards the pine tree forest.

It was Frost?

Suddenly the words White Frost Nectar appeared in Qing Shui’s mind, “Wouldn’t the white stuff on this pine tree’s branch be White Frost Nectar then?”

These words would make easily connect to a few lines of poetry, and Qing Shui recited them out naturally, “The leaves thicken; their white deas turns to frost. He whom I love, must be somewhere

along this stream. I went up the river to look for him, but the way was difficult and long. I went down the streams to look for him, and there in mid-water, sure enough, it's he! ”

“Can I be considered the said person you love?” A seductive and coarse voice rang out from somewhere which was neither near or far away from him.

Qing Shui was surprised. When he came here earlier, he attention was fully captivated by this pine tree such that he had not noticed that there was someone else under the flourishing pine trees.

However, he could immediately tell from the voice to whom it belonged to. He threw a strange look towards the source of the voice, and while he was very astonished, when he turned his head, he had regained his natural expression.

Gongsun Jianwu!

It was the lady who had delivered the challenge letter to him previously, a lady with a demonic figure like that of a vixen's. Today, she was dressed in a black colored suit which hugged her body tightly, showing off that wonderful curves which was so seductive that one would spew blood. Coupled with that pair of beautiful eyes which could draw away one's soul and that curve of her faint smile, it was extremely charming!

Her red lips which were slightly apart revealed snow white beautiful teeth, so white that it was glaring. Qing Shui quickly draw back his gaze after a short while. He was afraid of making a fool of himself. This lady's beauty was much like that of a vixen's, and the vixen-like aura was exuded from all over her body naturally, not because she was trained in a certain set of martial technique.

Qing Shui knew that this lady was the typical type of ladies who could bring the fall of countries and trouble to its people. Compared to the historical records of Bao Si, Daji, Chen Yuanyuan ... she would definitely not lose out.

Qing Shui realized that he did not have a favorable impression of a lady of such extreme quality. He was slightly repulsed to such ladies who overly displayed their seductiveness, and he would feel that they were bad women.

A woman like her was very beautiful, and would be a fine creature to a man in bed. Even a person like Han Qingye would be hard to win her. While this kind of woman did not had a Nine Yin Body and might not be one of those Divine Bodies, the level of attraction and seduction that guys would have towards her would not be any lower than towards them.

Qing Shui felt that a woman like her should be spending her time on some guy's bed every night. He subconsciously was averse towards a lady like her, even if she was really beautiful.

“Why are you here?” Qing Shui did not reply her question. He did not want to have anything to do with her. Moreover, he was now on a semi-opposing state with her Gongsun Clan.

“Haha, it's known to all that this is my private land!” Towards Qing Shui's cold words, Gongsun Jianwu did not care about it in the least as she continued to smile brightly like a flower.

She liked to see the Qing Shui's gaze which did not give a hoot about her, and she would be even happier if he were to speak to her coldly. It was because no one else had ever treated her like this before.

"This pine tree forest at the back of the mountain is your private land?" Qing Shui was a bit perplexed.

"That's right, Palace Mistress had given this place to me as a reward. Everyone in the Starmoon Hall knows this." It was her unchanging smiling face, and her seductive coarse voice.

To Qing Shui, these seemed to be like an enjoyment, but even more so, a torture!

"Why do you want this pine tree forest at the back of the mountain?" Qing Shui asked, not knowing what to make of it.

"For cultivation!" Gongsun Jianwu said straightforwardly.

"You must be here to absorb these Qi of White Frost Nectar, right? Qing Shui asked, his interest piqued.

"White Frost Nectar? Hmmm, you are also aware that I'm here to absorb this Qi!"

"Oh, do you know how old these two pine trees are?" Qing Shui suddenly thought this and quickly asked.

"I think it's 3000 years!" Gongsun Jianwu said as she looked at Qing Shui, puzzled.

"Too bad it's only been 3000 years, so this White Frost Nectar can only be considered being of an inferior quality. But it's still a medicinal herb which is over 1000 year old." Qing Shui thought to himself.

"Mmm, I'm leaving, you can carry on!" Qing Shui felt that he had spoken for long enough with this lady.

"Erm, can I ask you for a favor?" Although Gongsun Jianwu had put it across as a request, her expression and tone were very calm and natural, as if she was just describing some events.

"What favor?" Qing Shui asked, puzzled.

"If you're able to defeat my 2nd brother, I hope that you can go easy on him and don't injure him too badly, is that alright?" Gongsun Jianwu said seriously.

"Did you tell your 2nd brother not to give me too bad a beating?" Qing Shui asked calmly, looking at that beautiful face which seemed even more breath-taking when being serious.

"I..."

"Members from Gongsun Clan are important, Miss Gongsun's family is the most important, while I can only wait to be bullied? Don't do unto others what you don't want others to do unto you." Saying that, Qing Shui smiled and turned to leave.

"Don't do unto others what you don't want others to do unto you..."

When Qing Shui returned to his residence, the sky was already turning dark. Each time he passed by Yan Ling'er's residence, he could not help but think of the pure and cute girl. It was a pity that he would need to bring her pain in the future. Thinking of this, he would always think of Yan Clan uncontrollably.

Qing Shui had already tried very hard to let himself forget this feeling of vengeance, but sometimes, it was really hard to forget. Before his wish was fulfilled, he would probably need to take a few decades or even his whole life to put this down.

Qing Shui knew that vengeance could make one lose one's senses, cloud one's eyes. It was why he vented all his energy in training. It was only by doing so could he not think of anything else.

In a blink of an eye, another two days passed. For the past two days, Qing Shui would still head over to Cang Wuya's place to practice the Cloudmist Steps in the day and enter the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal at night to do his training. While it was only two days time, to Qing Shu, he had a full one month worth of time.

He had already managed to be reach the stage of 'fluent' for the Cloudmist Steps. If other people were to find out that someone could reach this stage within just a month, their jaws would definitely drop. However, to Cang Wuya, it was even more astonishing since to him, Qing Shui had only taken two days time to reach this level...

The realms to the mastery of techniques were divided into beginner, familiar, fluent, master, ancestor, truth, obscure, heaven and providence! Each realm were further segregated into elementary stage, intermediate stage, expert stage, and great perfection stage!

However, Qing Shui's Nine Animals Mimicry Techniques was a supporting technique and was not graded in the same way as how the world of the nine continents did. It was only divided into small success stage, large success stage and and great perfection stage. However, Qing Shui felt that the great perfection stage for the Nine Animals Mimicry Technique was likely to be comparable to the Truth Realm in the world of the nine continents.

When he woke up in the morning, he washed up and headed to the square to start off his morning practice. Today was the day for his battle with that Gongsun Jianyun from Gongsun Clan. In this world, once one party had challenged another and had fixed the time, regardless of whether the other party was agreeable or not, the challenger would always appear punctually at the said location. The challenged party had to turn up within two hours time, if not, it would be seen as a forfeit.

Now, Qing Shui carried on with his morning training as if it had nothing to do with him at all, while that Gongsun Jianyun was already waiting on one of the arenas nearby. So long as Qing Shui took a step up on the arena, the battle would already have started, and one would be responsible for one's own life or death. This was the brutality of challenges in this world.

If he did not accept it, he would be deemed a coward and would not be able to raise his head in front of others. And once he accepted it, it would be down to the individual or heaven's blessings in the event of injuries, paralysis or even death.

There was still some time before late morning. Qing Shui did not throw a single glance towards Gongsun Jianyun who was on the arena. He merely focused on his own Taichi, full engrossed in his practice.

"Do you guys think that he will accept 2nd Young Master Gongsun's challenge?"