

Ancient ST 291

Chapter 291 - Wild Fight! Another Technique, Strike!

“Do you guys think he will accept the challenge from the second son of the Gongsun Clan?” some asked curiously.

“The second son of the Gongsun Clan is at the pinnacle of the Xiantian level. The only person who can beat him within the 3 generations of the Gongsun Clan is their eldest daughter. Seems like he’s the next candidate in taking over the clan in the future,” a long haired man with a horrible scar running down the left side of his face answered.

“Look that facial expression of his. He can still be this calm right now. I think he will be able to put on a good fight this time.” Quite a lot of people joined in on the fun.

Right at this moment, Gongsun Jianwu appeared in the distance. Her elegant, sexy body and that small smile which was always on her beautiful face attracted all the attention.

She was watching Qing Shui from a distance but he was already immersed in his own world with his eyes closed, oblivious to his surroundings.

By now, quite a number of people had crowded around the arena and Qing Shui. It wasn’t like Qing Shui couldn’t sense them while in his Qi stance, he just didn’t bother with them. They were just like the ants around him, they could be completely ignored also.

Qing Shui felt weird about this too. Was this confidence? Or was it arrogance? Or was it conceit?

Qing Shui couldn’t help but open his eyes and saw that everyone around him was looking at him. Both compliments and derogatory remarks from their discussions travelled to his ears, but he didn’t particularly care about them as long as they didn’t involve his mother.

If anyone touched this, Qing Shui would make them disappear at all costs.

The youth raised his head and looked at the arena. He was considered a youth due to his young appearance. In fact, anyone around the age of 40 was still considered a youth in the world of the nine continents .

The youth was very handsome. His eyebrows were sharp like a sword, and his eyes were bright like the stars. He had a sharp nose on his beardless white face The two corners of his mouth lifted. Qing Shui smiled. Such arrogance was across his face.

It reminded him of that burly man, the third son of the Gongsun Clan. Then he thought about Gongsun Jianwu. They shouldn’t be siblings of the same mother, but perhaps Gongsun Jianwu and Gongsun Jianyun were.

It was already late in the morning, but Qing Shui was not in a hurry. As long as he walked into this arena within the next 2 hours, it would mean that he had accepted Gongsun Jianyun’s challenge.

“Qing Shui!” Canghai Mingyue and Huoyun Liu-Li arrived.

“Oh, why are you both here?” Qing Shui smiled at the two girls. Although he didn’t really take this competition seriously, he still felt quite happy when two of them took the trouble to come. This was kind of like the care one would receive from a family. Just like being sent off when you were leaving the house. It wasn’t just about walking a distance together, but the warmth received could very well last a very, very long time - even for a lifetime.

“How can we not come to cheer for you when you are facing off against someone today? Could it be that you don’t like me and Sister Mingyue coming?” Huoyun Liu-Li said, seemingly sad but the sly look on her face betrayed her true intentions.

“Why would I? I don’t even have enough time to be happy to see two ladies with beauty that can cause the downfall of cities and countries to come cheering for me. Come, cheer for me!” Qing Shui said and gently hugged Huoyun Liu-Li.

He didn’t have any bad intentions; it was just a gentle embrace with Huoyun Liu-Li. Such an intimate embrace was especially heartfelt. Two hearts beating at close proximity was very wonderful.

The hug they shared was as short as a breath, but it was satisfying. He let go of Huoyun Liu-Li gently then turned towards Canghai Mingyue.

He spread open his arms slowly, but there was no reaction from Canghai Mingyue. She just kept her head lowered, not daring to look at Qing Shui. Qing Shui just hugged that delicate body the same way then slowly walked towards the arena.

But right at this moment, someone in a distance caught Qing Shui’s attention because many around her didn’t dare to approach her. She stood there like a crane, her figure was tall and alluring.

Gongsun Jianwu smiled when she saw Qing Shui looking in her direction. She couldn’t forget the words he said before he left. No one had ever dared to talk to her in such a sarcastic tone.

“So the people of the Gongsun Clan are human and the family members to you, the eldest daughter of the Gongsun Clan, are the most important. I only deserve to be tortured? Do unto others as you would be done by.”

She had lived an extravagant life since she was young. Anything she wanted would be in her hands effortlessly. She would get the best and the most precious things before anyone. No one would dare to refute anything she said.

She was gifted and had an attractive face. On top of that, she was the Chief Senior Disciple of Starmoon Hall! Everyone spoiled her and a big number of men in Starmoon Hall were infatuated with her. To be able to serve her was an honour, so countless men were willing to risk their lives for her.

Qing Shui’s appearance had let her realise the existence of a man who could actually ignore her and disobey her. She quite liked this kind of weird feeling. She liked a challenge because she never liked the feeling of having everything within her reach.

Qing Shui took his eyes off Gongsun JianWu and walked towards the arena. He didn’t understand the intention behind her smile. Was it a greeting? Or was she hoping that he’d go easy on him?

When he walked up to the arena, the man in front of him looked at him in disdain. Qing Shui could never understand them. But he knew that big aristocratic families like them would look down the most upon people without a background like himself; someone who would even latch onto someone else without dignity when his identity was found out by the public.

Although it was only a rumour that he had become Canghai Wuya's grandson, nearly everyone believed the saying that everything happened for a reason and that there was always some truth behind a rumour.

The Gongsun Clan must have known about the situation with Canghai Wuya, so Gongsun Jian Yun must have scorned at his own undignified way of doing things.

Qing Shui ignored his look of disdain. He could care less about other's opinions except for one person. Moreover, sometimes even betraying dignity didn't guarantee that one would be able to latch on to the rich and powerful.

Small characters lived a hard life and also lived in sadness!

After all, the number of pyramid peaks were very limited, so people at the bottom of the pyramid naturally needed to get used to being oppressed. Learning how to live between the cracks, or even live in humiliation while being oppressed was very important. Honourable and well-respected young masters like them would never understand living in poverty and the feelings of weak cultivators. People from two different worlds would never be able to understand each other, just like how the poor could never understand the way the rich splurged on everything.

"Why are you deliberately making things difficult with us, the Gongsun Clan?" Gongsun Jianyun frowned and asked Qing Shui in a condescending tone once they were in the arena.

Qing Shui smiled at him. It was a funny feeling. He didn't know why, but Qing Shui hated this kind of person the most in his previous world. Spending money like water, changing women like changing clothes, settling everything with money. Of course Qing Shui knew that it was jealousy, hostility to the rich and cynicism.

"You're the eldest of the Gongsun Clan?" Qing Shui asked in disdain. He never liked to let irrelevant people win by words.

"Of course not. Why do you ask?" Gongsun Jianyun asked curiously, but his expression remained as majestic as a cock.

"Then why are you standing here in such ignorance? What do you know? You think you're very great? You think it is appropriate of you to simply challenge others?" Qing Shui said with a smile.

"All I need to do is just defeat you!" Gongsun Jianyun naturally said.

The tone that he used made it sound like defeating Qing Shui was something natural which annoyed Qing Shui. That prideful smirk on his face rendered Qing Shui a little speechless.

Was he being arrogant or was he retarded?

"Have you ever thought of what would happen if you can't beat me?" Qing Shui smirked.

Gongsun Jianyun was taken aback then shook his head: "No way. I can for sure win this." That firm tone even convinced Qing Shui that he could defeat himself.

"Are all geniuses this confident?" Qing Shui couldn't help but think to himself. After all, Gongsun Jianyun could definitely be considered a genius. Maybe it was this reputation that made him so proud, so wild and so haughty.

Qing Shui didn't want to say anything else. Talking to this kind of person would only make his blood boil. Why made things hard for himself. Qing Shui silently stood there and nodded at him.

Gongsun Jianyun pulled out a "sword", a glimmering "longsword" three feet in length. Though it looked more like a drill than a sword. The sword hilt was wide, but narrowed sharply towards the tip. The tip didn't even look like a sword tip.

"Take out your weapon!" Gongsun Jianyun reminded him when he looked at Qing Shui's empty hands.

When sons of nobility like them fought, especially under the watch of so many, it was inappropriate for them to get a handicap. It would make their victory less glorious.

"No need. I'm in a rush, hurry up and come!" Qing Shui said calmly.

Qing Shui's words were like a stone thrown into water and it aroused thousands of waves! As soon as everyone surrounding the arena heard him, they broke into discussions.

"Madness, such madness! Did he think that he's a Martial King Grade Cultivator?!" A few voices immediately rang out.

"When will I ever have such balls to stand on the arena and say same thing to a Xiantian Grade 10 cultivator? If I die right after saying that I'd have no regrets," said a youth yearningly, his face was a little pale.

"This is what I call a man! Such breadth of mind! He's too manly! If he can survive today, I shall marry him," a curvy woman in a revealing outfit said to herself.

"Forget about it. Even if he can live today, I'm pretty sure he's not into a woman like you who is in a different man's room everyday," a man said in disgust.

"The losers' scorn for the award is pure sour grapes. Even if I change a man everyday you still wouldn't get your chance, dumb balls!" the woman sneered.

"You have a death wish!?" the youth became enraged.

"I dare you to lay your finger on me. See if you can live another day if you did, soft balls," the woman looked at him even more disdainfully.

The man could only slip away silently!

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Gongsun Jianyun's face was also flushed red with anger. The youth standing opposite of him was astoundingly handsome, but he definitely looked younger than himself in age. Only a handful of

youngsters could win against him and they would need to be a little older than him to be able to fight on par with him.

“You’re the one seeking death, don’t blame me!”

Gongsun Jianyun let out a yell then moved his body along with his sword. He was using the Cloudmist Steps of the Heavenly Palace. Although it was fast in the eyes of average people, it wasn’t so for Qing Shui who had fused the Cloudmist steps with the Free Spirit Steps. On top of that, for the past two days, he had been practising like crazy for a month in the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal.

“Slow! Too Slow!” Qing Shui shook his head at the silhouette of his opponent.

Qing Shui knew this was because he was very familiar with the Cloudmist Steps. After all, he had lost count of how many times he had practised it for the past month and on top of that, since he was pretty good at it too, he was able to fuse the Free Spirit Steps into it.

Qing Shui shook his head and moved. He also used the Cloudmist Steps. Nothing special, just faster. So dizzily fast that it could make one dazed.

The moment Qing Shui moved, the insights he had gained from the carving of the Tiger forms depicted on the stone monuments gave the already powerful stance of Tiger’s Might even more tremendous and impressive effects.

Tiger’s Mount!

Qing Shui raised the Qi Stance to the peak within just a moment and rushed straight towards Gongsun Jianyun with his Cloudmist Steps. He single handedly pounded Gongsun Jianyun’s shoulder with a taichi single whip movement!

KACHA!

The sound of a bone being broken rang out clearly! Gongsun Jianyun was thrown out from the powerful yet soft impact from Qing Shui’s taichi, in the direction of Gongsun Jianwu.

Qing Shui stood in the arena and looked at Gongsun Jianyun struggling to stand up. He landed right beside Gongsun Jianwu!

Gongsun Jianwu hurriedly examined Gongsun Jianyun and discovered that only the bone of his shoulder was broken. He should recover in a month. From the look of it, she must have been extremely worried just now.

“Thank you for going easy on him!” she sincerely said to Qing Shui with a smile.

Chapter 292 - Unrivalled Brilliance, two-color graded Heaven Shaking Hammer

“Thank you for going easy on him!” Gongsun Jianwu smiled at Qing Shui and said.

Gongsun Jianwu’s words made the audience gasp. Everyone was already very astonished to begin with since Qing Shui had defeated a man who was at the pinnacle of the Xiantian Level in just one move. And they were even more surprised to hear Gongsun Jianwu’s words.

“Damn! Having gone easy on him despite defeating one who’s at the pinnacle of Xiantian in one move?” A clean-looking young man spoke very coarse words, possibly too astonished at the feat.

“To be able to defeat one who’s at the pinnacle of Xiantian, doesn’t that mean that he is a Martial Saint...”

“Martial Saint? To be a Martial Saint at such a young age...”

Qing Shui looked at Gongsun Jianyun who was standing beside Gongsun Jianwu. Gongsun Jianwu’s head was covered in cold sweat, his face flushed, but disappointment filled that pair of eyes.

Qing Shui walked down the arena towards the two ladies who were smiling at him amidst everyone’s chattering and cheers. He did not feel that it was something worth feeling happy about, but since the Old Master and Fei Wuji had told him to go ahead and beat the other party up, he decided to do it in style!

Looking at Gongsun Jianyun’s expression, Qing Shui knew that it was going to be a setback, with disappointment, and even more so, doubt towards his own abilities!

Gongsun Jianyun’s mind was running amok, feeling that his hard work for so many years was destroyed in just one move. The disappointment he was feeling inside immediately filled his heart to the brim, even to the point that he was feeling as if all his hopes were dashed.

“Jianyun, are you thinking that you’re a failure?” Gongsun Jianwu fixed Gongsun Jianyun’s fractured bone as she asked, her gaze speaking volumes.

“Sister, am I that useless? Have I brought shame to Gongsun Clan?” Gongsun Jianyun struggled to say.

Gongsun Jianwu smiled.

“Jianyun, remember, today is an opportunity for you. I long knew that you are not his match, but I didn’t stop you.” Gongsun Jianwu let out a sigh and said.

When Gongsun Jianyun heard his sister’s words, he was stunned as he looked in confusion at the elder sister he had respected at all times. At home, he respected his grandfather the most. Other than him, it was just this sister of his who had great beauty and a head of beautiful tresses.

“You’ve never gone through hurdles and setbacks, and had lived a smooth-sailing life relying on almost your talent alone. Your personality is very weak. Do you really feel that all your hopes are dashed now?” Gongsun Jianwu continued to smile brightly like a flower as she said this.

“Sister, how do you know?”

“It’s written all over your face. Sister is telling you, this doesn’t mean much. It’s impossible for one to never meet a hurdle in his life. It’s normal to fall, but the difference between the strong and the weak is that the strong will stand up each time he falls down, while the weak will choose never to stand up for fear of falling down again.” Gongsun Jianwu said softly, her gaze fixed upon the disappearing back view of Qing Shui and the two ladies.

“Sister, thank you. It’s just that I feel especially bad.”

"It's normal to feel bad. Each setback is a trial. Take each step as a lesson, and stand up where you had fallen. Don't take wins and losses too seriously. Another thing is that fame can be really tiring. While it can bring one honor and respect, it also chains one down. Remember, respect is something that you fight to get for yourself." Gongsun Jianwu reached out her hand to rub Gongsun Jianyun's head.

"Mmm mmm, sister knows me the best." Gongsun Jianyun now felt much better.

"Rascal, I've told you so many times to put down your arrogance, and be honest and down-to-earth, but you just wouldn't listen. With the billions of people in the world of the nine populations, there are just too many geniuses and demonic people. No one can claim to be the best in literature and in martial art. The right thing to do is to work hard and improve yourself. Alright, don't think too much about a single loss. Only one who has gone through numerous storms would then be able to become a towering tree which stretches out to the heaven."

"Qing Shui, what is your real level of cultivation now?" It was the first thing Huoyun Liu-Li said on their way.

"I don't know. The person who imparted me with techniques didn't say, so I'm not sure!" Qing Shui was telling the truth, but the two ladies felt a bit frustrated when they heard that.

"Qing Shui!"

"Mmm!" Qing Shui felt a bit gloomy when he heard Huoyun Liu-Li's words because of her sharp tone.

"The lady who thanked you earlier is so pretty!"

Qing Shui: "..."

"Qing Shui, do you know her?"

"I don't..."

"That doesn't seem right? Why do I feel as if there's something between the two of you when your gazes met? It was just as if you guys had an earlier agreement!" Huoyun Liu-Li pointed out suspiciously.

Qing Shui: "..."

Qing Shui was sweating furiously. To think that this lady's observation skills were so strong!

"Do you want to bring that lady to bed?" Huoyun Liu-Li's revealed a pair of watery sexy eyes.

Qing Shui: "..."

"What, don't you like her?" Her beautiful eyes were twinkling with mischievous smiles!

Qing Shui reached out his hands and pinched her perky butt, causing Huoyun Liu-Li to let out a displeased cry.

"Feels good to the touch, very elastic, well-rounded, soft and tender... If not that it was through clothes, it'd feel even better." Qing Shui grinned and then quickly walked two steps forward to catch up to Canghai Mingyue.

Canghai Mingyue kept on a light smile as she turned to look at Qing Shui, her beauty which could bring the fall of cities made Qing Shui feel a bit inferior.

"I really don't know how you picked up the Cloudmist Steps in just over two days. Even if you had taken two months to reach this stage, you'd already be considered a genius in ten thousand people. You can only be described as demonic." Canghai Mingyue smiled gently and said.

"Do you think being demonic is good?" Qing Shui looked at Canghai Mingyue's from the side, her exquisite earlobe was especially beautiful, her skin was so soft that it seemed that it would break from a tiny touch. She exuded a glow similar to a piece of white jade. Her slender neck looked so perfect that Qing Shui had to urge to grab and kiss it.

"Demonic is of course good. Only a genius amongst geniuses can be considered demonic." A layer of pink covered Canghai Mingyue's white neck, adding further to her beauty.

"Then do you like demonic..."

At that moment, it was just perfect that Huoyun Liu-Li caught up with them, pulling Canghai Mingyue, she threw Qing Shui an annoyed glance and took a few steps forward. She turned back and said, "If you like Sister Mingyue, then do something practical to show it."

"Do something practical? How?" Qing Shui thought about it gloomily. In his previous life, he had not known how to chase girls, nor knew what romance was. He did not know how to be romantic nor had even looked for a prostitute before.

"Liu-Li, what are you talking about!" Canghai Mingyue interrupted Huoyun Liu-Li.

When they reached Cang Wuya's residence, Fei Wuji was there as well, looking at the three of them and laughing!

"Qing Shui, we've underestimated you. To think that you would not lose out even when you're against Jianwu that lass. Seems like our Starmoon Hall will be able to compete with the other halls in the future." Fei Wuji looked at Qing Shui happily.

Only Cang Wuya smiled but did not say a word. Qing Shui knew that this Old Master would definitely be able to tell his true abilities. If not, he would not have encouraged him to do this. Could it be that he had seen through his actual abilities...

"It's just that he is too arrogant." Qing Shui smiled and said.

"Qing Shui, what weapon do you like to use?" Cang Wuya took a look at Qing Shui's hands and arms and asked.

"A Sword!"

"A hammer can work too!" Qing Shui said after giving it some thought. He felt that it would not be wrong to tell the Old Master at this point.

"You can use the hammer?" Cang Wuya asked happily.

Fei Wuji also looked at Qing Shui strangely.

“Mmm, I know of a set of hammering technique used for forging, but its prowess should be not bad.” Qing Shui said seriously.

“Hammering technique for forging?” Fei Wuji asked, astonished.

“Mmm!”

The two ladies on the other hand smiled, not surprised. They had seen Qing Shui forging a couple of times, and had also seen that set of hammering techniques which were extremely profound.

Cang Wuya looked at their expressions, and knowing Qing Shui’s character, if he said that it was not bad, it was definitely very good.

“Wuji, head upstairs to take out that single hammer. You know where it’s at.” Cang Wuya looked at Fei Wuji and said.

Fei Wuji looked at Qing Shui, smiled, and then headed upstairs!

Qing Shui tried to guess what the hammer was like. Since Cang Wuya had treasured it so much, it was definitely not any ordinary hammer. He wondered if it would be extremely smooth when used to forge...

“Qing Shui, you’re very clever, so you know how to hold your reins in when you deal with matters. Old man has high expectations for your future. I still have a while to live, and I would definitely want to be able to see what kind of unrivalled brilliant character you will become in the future.” Cang Wuya smiled happily and said.

“Old Master, you must be jesting...”

In a while, Fei Wuji came down. Qing Shui saw the black hammer in Fei Wuji’s hands and was shocked when he saw the hammerhead which had the height of half an adult human with the thickness of an adult’s waist.

Heaven Shaking Hammer!

The Heaven Shaking Hammer was made from the rare 1000-year coldsteel, and was extremely large and heavy. With one strike, it’s aura was sufficient to shake the heavens!

To think that it was the Heaven Shaking Hammer. Qing Shui looked in astonishment at the appearance of yet another familiar object, feeling overjoyed. Its name was impressive, and it looked even more mighty and powerful up close.

The hammer was close to 4 feet long, the grip was as thick as a person’s wrist and was completely black. The hammerhead had the thickness of an adult man’s waist, and was over 2 feet long. It was also completely black.

It exuded a kind of extremely strong explosive force. Heaven Shaking Hammer, this name was really suitable for it! It was black all over, brimming with energy.

“Master!” Fei Wuji passed the Heaven Shaking Hammer to Cang Wuya.

Cang Wuya smiled and took over the Heaven Shaking Hammer, gently and softly patting the hammerhead! One could tell how much he had treasured it.

“Qing Shui, this is the Heaven Shaking Hammer made from 1000-year coldsteel, but it’s too heavy, while it’s not big, it weighs a thousand jin. However, when it’s used, one’s strength can increase by 20%.”

Cang Wuya’s words made Qing Shui astonished. Was this not a two-color graded weapon?

Chapter 293 - The Legend-Tier Thousand Hammer Refinement Technique, Strife between the Nine Halls of the Heavenly Palace

Cang Wuya’s words caused Qing Shui to be immeasurably stunned, wasn’t that a 2-colored grade weapon?

Qing Shui locked his gaze onto that raven black Heaven Shaking Hammer, and upon activating his heavenly vision technique, Qing Shui was extremely frightened when he saw the attributes of the weapon.

2-colored grade weapon, 20% increase in strength. +300 to strength!

Qing Shui stared at the attributes as his eyes bulged out. This heavenly hammer uses pure strength to obtain victory and was extremely tyrannical. 2-color graded weapons could actually enhance strength by 300, as the limits of 1-color graded weapons should only be able to enhance a certain attribute by 100+ or at the most, +200 to a certain attribute when one’s forging ability was at the peak of the 1-color graded weapon. Only when he broke through to 2,000 hammer strikes did he approach the acme of the 1-color graded weapon.

Although the attributes were extremely shocking, the attributes of this hammer were too one sided as they only enhanced strength. Qing Shui had a feeling that the moment he steps into the 2-color graded weapons realm, he would be able to create even more astounding weapons with enhancement to four attributes instead of two.

“Qing Shui, this heaven shaking hammer is for you. Originally, I prepared this as a birthday gift for my son that year, but sadly...” Cang Wuya passed the hammer to Qing Shui.

“Old man, this is too valuable...”

“Haha, just accept it. Me and Wuji have already accepted you as one of our own. Anyway, you are adept at wielding the hammer. If you don’t accept it, don’t tell me it has no other use other than a an ornament that will decorate my coffin, accompanying me when I’m dead?” Cang Wuya shook his head and laughed.

Qing Shui hesitated, but eventually finally accepted. The weight of the hammer held no meaning to him, after all, the Big Dipper Sword was countless times heavier compared to this. However, the moment Qing Shui grabbed the hilt of the hammer, he felt a surge of strength rushing into his body... An increment of 20% in strength to Qing Shui equates to over a few tens of thousands of jin...

That +300 to strength equates to an increment of 3,000 jin. Although to him, this was like adding frost on snow, the miniscule increment was still better than nothing.

“Qing Shui, is it convenient for you to execute your hammer arts?” Cang Wuya happily laughed. Qing Shui knew that Cang Wuya already treated him as his own son, that’s why he was so happy upon seeing Qing Shui holding on to the hammer he had prepared.

Qing Shui smiled as he agreed, lifting the hammer with his left hand, he unleashed the Thousand Hammers Refinement Technique projecting an air of majesty, profoundness, and tyranny. Maybe it was because of the enhancement in his strength, Qing Shui felt that the force of his hammer swings were many times stronger compared to the previous huge iron hammer he used. No wonder divine weapons were so sought after, not only had his strength and force increased, but it was only now that he could fully unleash the potential of the Thousand Hammer Refinement Technique.

Heaven Shaking Hammer, shaking the heavens with a single hammer. Aptly named, a hammer was originally the epitome of tyrannical weapons. Under the hands of Qing Shui, even a simple swing or chopping stance gave onlookers a feeling that he could tear mountains asunder.

Cang Wuya, Fei Wuji, Canghai Mingyue and Huoyun Liu-Li could only stare in awe and wonder as Qing Shui continued dancing about with the heaven shaking hammer. The imposing aura he emitted was extremely alluring, and the profoundness of his hammer strikes seemed to struck a chord with their hearts, causing them to wonder if this was a long lost legend-tier hammer technique.

Finishing his exertions, Qing Shui felt his whole body was extremely comfortable. When he finally put down the hammer and stared at the rest, he could only smile awkwardly in response when he noted their reactions.

“Good, good, what a good hammer technique. This old man had seen and experienced many top experts using hammers before, but somehow the feeling you gave me was even more hegemonic compared to them. However, you are obviously inexperienced, your hammer strikes... they still lacked something. I believe that as long as you continue to work hard, the hammer in your hands in addition to your hammer technique, will soon become unrivaled in your generation.” Cang Wuya laughed gaily, as he felt truly happy in his heart.

“Old Master you are overly praising me, but thank you for this hammer!”

“Hahaha, go, let’s go in. Everyone is here today, let’s go drink something inside and allow your Martial Elder Wuji to introduce and explain matters of the Heavenly Palace to all of you.” Cang Wuya smiled.

“Come everyone, let’s try out this ‘Amber Wine’ which I have kept for over 200 years!”

Cang Wuya took out a huge vat of wine and poured out half a bowl for everyone.

The translucent sparkling wine emitted a heavenly fragrance, causing waves of sweet drowsiness to overwhelm the senses of those who smelled it.

“Haha, Old Master is truly someone that knows how to appreciate good wine. Here, take this. This alcohol recipe was something that I prepared for senior Canghai, but he didn’t want to accept it. I shall pass this to you to show my gratitude then.” Qing Shui retrieved the recipe of the Tigerbone Yang Amplification Beauty Purification Wine and passed it over to Cang Wuya.

Qing Shui secretly snuck glances at Canghai Mingyue. Although she would be hurt when she heard the name of Canghai, nothing could be done about it. Firstly in order to heal, she had to accept reality. Only with acceptance would the wound in her heart slowly close up, eventually recovering with time.

Cang Wuya laughed as he accepted. Upon looking at the recipe, his eyes widened in wonder and shock. "Hai, to think that you have such a valuable alcohol recipe, this old man shall shamelessly accept it then."

"Haha as long as Old Master is happy, Qing Shui is happy too. Thank you for everything!"

Qing Shui's words caused the smile on Cang Wuya's face to be even wider. Cang Wuya nodded in a satisfied matter as he motioned to Fei Wuji, "This kid really knows how to please his elders."

Fei Wuji's only response was a twinkle in his eyes.

"Martial uncle, can you tell us more about the internal situation of the Heavenly Palace? Me, Mingyue and Liu-Li, sometimes still feels like we are wading in the dark." Qing Shui laughed.

Fei Wuji smiled, as he slowly started, "Actually, not many people fully understand the truth of the matters and complex relations of the nine halls within our sect. If you fully understand the matters within one of the nine halls, you could already be considered very knowledgeable."

Qing Shui thought about it, and understood that there was over millions of disciples in powerful sects like this.

"Let me start from Starmoon Hall. Regardless, i'm still an elder of the hall, and my master is a supreme elder there." Fei Wuji laughed.

"During the time the Heavenly Place was founded, the founder had nine disciples, which eventually branched out to the nine halls you know now. However, one of the disciples was the son of the Heavenly Palace's Old Man, and the other 8 disciples chose to allow the son to obtain the position of the Palace Lord of the Lingxiao Treasure Hall, and even vowed that neither they nor their descendants would never have any designs on the Lingxiao Treasure Hall. Not only that, but even the disciples they recruited would be first passed on to the Lingxiao Treasure Hall for selection."

In this case, the power of the Lingxiao Treasure Hall should be the strongest?" Qing Shui asked, after the explanation of Fei Wuji.

"Initially it was so, but after ten thousands of years, the eight other halls sprang out to contest the Lingxiao Treasure Hall, for the position of the Lord of the Heavenly Palace." Fei Wuji sighed.

"Hmm so what were the results?" Qing Shui was extremely interested. Such a story was very familiar to Qing Shui. No matter how good relations were between the previous generations, it was very hard to control the quarrels and internal struggles between members of the later generations. Time could diminish everything they worked for, and nothing could stand up to the test of time.

"Hehe. Currently, although on the surface the Lingxiao Treasure Hall appears to be the strongest, they would only band together with the other halls in the case of an external threat. In times of peace, there will frequently be conflicts between them and the other halls. The Palace lord of the Lingxiao Treasure Hall is still an inherited position, passed down one by one throughout the generations"

Internal strife, Qing Shui's emotions had no fluctuations even when he thought of these two words. There were too many cases of internal strife between father and son, or brothers against each other in his previous world. Especially for the royalty, so he was long since immune to it.

“Only the Lingxiao Treasure Hall still has the descendants of the original Heavenly Palace old man, the other positions of Palace Lord and Mistresses of the eight halls were all not inherited because of blood relations. Other than Starmoon Hall, Misty Hall, Constellation Hall, Starday Hall, they were all taken over by external members while the other four halls in addition to the Lingxiao Treasure Hall are still inherited via blood relations.”

“What about the level of power of each hall?” Qing Shui knew that each respective hall had their own secret skills and techniques, thus resulting in a difference in power levels.

“The weakest are Starmoon Hall and Misty Hall, but I’m not very clear about the power levels of the others.” Fei Wuji bitterly laughed as he replied.

Chapter 294 - The storm after war, he already has a woman with him now

Qing Shui’s expression went blank, and even Canghai Mingyue and Huoyun Liu-li were the same. Qing Shui did not expect that the weakest among the Heavenly Palace's nine halls were Starmoon Hall, the one he was staying in, and Misty Hall, the one the two ladies were at.

Since Misty Hall was full of ladies that verdict was acceptable, but surely Starmoon Hall had its own reasons. Qing Shui looked at Fei Wuji doubtfully, but wasn’t so astonished; there were ranks within the martial arts, with the good ones and the bad ones.

“Are you going to ask why is it the Starmoon Hall and Misty Hall,” Fei Wuji chuckled.

“Martial Uncle, please tell us quickly, don’t leave us hanging,” Huoyun Liu -li said in a childlike manner.

“The Supreme Elder won’t be get involved in the internal affairs of the Heavenly Palace; the Elder, Guardian and 3 generations of disciples will be the main powers. From the duels carried out every 5 years, one will know the difference in abilities amongst the 9 halls. Starmoon Hall and Misty Hall are the weakest because of the lack of successors. Starmoon Hall, especially. The fact that their Chief disciple is a female made the men in Starmoon Hall ashamed.” Fei Wuji laughed.

Isn’t it so, thought Qing Shui, though they talk about gender equality, Qing Shui was agreeing with the gender status in this society - only gender equality on the surface. Just like the issue now, if a male was to be the Chief Disciple, even if he was the weakest, it would not be as embarrassing.

“There are only 2 female Chief Disciples in the 9 halls of Heavenly Palace, one was Misty Hall, the other Starmoon Hall. Misty Hall, because it has only ladies in it. Plus, for every duel, the abilities of the Chief Disciples from the 2 halls were far weaker than the others’. The Chief Disciples fight to build morale, but it’s a pity that they had no chance of doing that...” Fei Wuji shook his head bitterly.

Qing Shui now understood the Heavenly Palace slightly. To be exact, he had only scratched the surface of Starmoon Hall and Misty Hall.

At this moment Qing Shui was still unaware, but the news about Qing Shui defeating Gongsun Jian, the pinnacle of Xiantian, with one blow had spread like wildfire in the Starmoon Hall. This information was spreading rapidly; even other halls had received the news.

“Haha, our Starmoon Hall is set for a revival, the men in our Starmoon Hall won’t have to carry the label of having deficiency in Yang and excess of Yin, how exciting.” Someone in the square of the Starmoon Hall sighed deeply.

“The higher the expectations, the greater the disappointment. It’s better not to carry too much hope,” a woman tutted nonchalantly.

At the same time in the square of Constellation Hall, it was equally rowdy, the imposing atmosphere evidently more powerful than that at the square of Starmoon Hall, made one feel that it was a little more dignified and majestic than the “Starmoon Hall”.

Talent, it was all because of talent!

“Senior Luo! I have looked for you for so long, Fei Fei said you might be here, so here I am.” a coarse voice sounded in a corner of the square, behind a rock.

On the rock stood a crude young man known as Senior Luo. His body was long and slightly burly, his arms fairly long. The entire person looked well-proportioned.

The young man heard the voice and turned around. Big eyes and bushy eyebrows, squarish nose, and lips that are quite thick - not a handsome appearance but he gave off a friendly feel.

“Junior Dan, why’re you looking for me!” The one called Senior Luo laughed lightly. His voice was very charming, with a friendly attraction.

“I just heard something that you’ll be absolutely interested in!” The burly and strong Junior Dan said good naturedly.

“Oh, something i’ll be interested in, let’s hear it.” Senior Luo leapt down from the huge rock and landed silently.

“Heh heh, a newbie from Starmoon Hall defeated Gongsun Jianyun of the Gongsun Family with one bare punch, and it was when the latter was initiating an attack with a weapon.”

The initially calm eyes of Senior Luo flashed with a bright gleam immediately after hearing it, his common features looked very manly that instant.

“Haha, the duel New Year next year will be more interesting,” Senior Luo chuckled.

“Senior Luo, could that person be comparable to Chief Disciples of other halls?” Junior Dan asked in astonishment.

“Chief Disciple? Haha, it would be difficult for the Chief Disciples of Starmoon Hall and Misty Hall to make it into top 10 of other halls,” Senior Luo was still smiling, that tone of his seemingly calm as always.

“Doesn’t it mean he is stronger than Gongsun Jianwu of Constellation Hall?”

“If he defeated Gongsun Jianyun with a single blow like you said, he should be more powerful than Gongsun Jianwu.”

A scene that happened simultaneously on another square!

“A single blow thrashed a man at the pinnacle of Xiantian?” a handsome and sharp man asked.

“Yes, Senior Song, is there going to be any change in the Starmoon Hall?” a young man with thin and small eyes asked, as though currying favour.

“The Martial King Level can also defeat the pinnacle of Xiantian, do you know why it was Gongsun Jianyun who challenged that guy and not Gongsun Jianwu?”

“Oh, Senior Song please do tell!” the frail shadow of the skinny young man with small eyes arched his back slightly.

“Because he wasn’t worthy enough to make Gongsun Jianwu display his moves, and that’s why Gongsun Jianwu was still the Chief Disciple for Constellation Hall until now. This means that guy was just lucky, or he just entered the Martial King level.” The man touched his nose and replied confidently.

“Senior Song’s eyes are like flaming torches, Junior is filled with admiration...”

Qing Shui did not know that for the large half of the day, he was the topic of many people’s conversation, even the Gongsun Family was no exception.

“Grandfather, Grandson is ashamed!” Gongsun Jianyun stood before Gongsun Yikong,

Gongsun Yikong’s hair was half white, with only a few locks of black hair, making one suspect if his youth was being restored. The old man was calm and collected, his eyes were especially charming and especially bright. From the contour of his face one could see that he was definitely a handsome young man when he was younger.

“Haha, the Gongsun Family is not afraid of losing face, but afraid of weak rascals who don’t dare to come forward for fear of losing face. Jianyun, what the Gongsun Family has today, the prosperity we have today is not because of luck, but hard work. If one loses confidence over a little failure, the Gongsun Family would still be just a common family on the streets.”

“Thank you Grandfather, I know what I have to do.” Gongsun Jianyun respected his grandfather the most in the family, hence he listened to every word of Gongsun Yikong.

A little while after Gongsun Jianyun left, Gongsun Jianwu appeared!

“Grandfather, you were looking for me,” Gongsun Jianwu was an obedient girl in front of Gongsun Yikong; her demure appearance now would make Qing Shui shocked, for she looked a little bewitching right now.

Although that pair of eyes was still unmatchedly sexy, the glow that was revealed and her exterior were at different extreme ends; was it natural or a guise?

“Lass, come, let us grandfather and granddaughter have a talk.” Gongsun Yikong’s face lit up with an amicable smile when he saw Gongsun Jianwu.

Gongsun Jianwu smiled and sat down. “What could have made Grandfather so happy.”

“Lass, what do you think about Qing Shui that chap?” Gongsun Yikong chuckled and asked.

Gongsun Yikong was shocked, as her face looked embarrassed. Gongsun Jianwu looked at Gongsun Yikong and bantered, "Grandfather, what do you really want to know!"

"I want to know if you dislike Qing Shui?" Gongsun Yikong laughed.

"Why do you ask that?" Gongsun Jianwu blushed, but asked eventually.

"I want to look for Old Cang, to marry away my granddaughter who still isn't hitched," Gongsun Yikong looked at his tomboyish granddaughter, whose standards were so high that none of the other Chief Disciples from other halls matched them. But the "old and cunning" Gongsun Yikong happened to witness the conversation between Qing Shui and Gongsun Jianwu under the oak tree the other day.

Gongsun Yikong still had high expectations for his granddaughter, and he could definitely feel that Qing Shui was uncommon, and did not halt the conversation then. He had just found out Qing Shui's identity, as he was the one who defeated his grandson with a single blow.

His motive was not just that, as he also knew that Qing Shui and Cang Wuya were unrelated!

"Grandfather, what are you talking about, I'm not marrying him." Gongsun Jianwu suddenly seemed bashful like a young girl. She discovered her rapid heartbeat, and had no explanation for it.

Qing Shui gave her the feeling of being out of the ordinary. Although he was also good-looking, she had seen too many good-looking ones who were lacking in their abilities. However, she had never seen any who thought nothing of her. Many men were unable to hide the desires in their eyes after they saw her, which irritated her.

There were also many who pretended to be gentlemen with high morals, but after turning her back she would feel hot gazes on her sensitive parts. Such people were less than those who gawked at her openly.

Qing Shui was different. His clear eyes were attractive, and when he looked at her, that pair of eyes was filled with admiration and, due to some unknown reason it was not desire but hatred. This stirred up the competitiveness in her.

She could feel that Qing Shui did not deliberately act so as to attract her attention, because even a good performance would have flaws! But she did not see any flaw in Qing Shui!

Never had anyone said anything cruel or stinging to her. Only him. He insulted her without any tinge of consideration or pity, making her speechless.

She suddenly thought of the 2 women beside him, so beautiful, comparable to the Chief of the Misty Hall. No one had ever seen the full appearance of the Chief of Misty Hall, but that pair of eyes already made other women ashamed of their own appearances.

They were very intimate, and there were two of them...

"Grandfather, I'm not marrying him, he is already taken." Gongsun Jianwu was still blushing a little, with the demure and proper look of her. The sensual poise and air she exuded was that of a great beauty.

"He indeed has two women beside him." Gongsun Yikong said, frowning and touching his forehead.

“Lass, would you mind if your future husband has other women?” Gongsun Yikong thought for a while before asking again.

Gongsun Jianwu was silent. Her eyebrows were slightly knitted, as she frowned!

“Lass, capable men will not be lacking in women. Only useless weaklings will have difficulty even finding old wives. How about this, you think about it, Grandfather won’t force you. Grandfather has said before, you will decide your own future. I will support you no matter who you choose to marry, anyway the Gongsun Family has alot.” Gongsun Yikong smiled generously, extending his hand to pat Gongsun Jianwu’s head.

“Thank you, Grandfather, Grandfather is the best to me!” Gongsun Jianwu grinned and replied, not attempting to hide any of the reluctance in her eyes.

Gongsun Yikong looked at Gongsun Jianwu and smiled dotingly, “Silly lass, I’m your grandfather, there’s no need to be polite!”

Chapter 295 The power levels of the various halls in the Heavenly Palace. Qing Shui’s father, Yan Zhongyue, has died??

Gongsun Jianwu felt really happy, although normally in a huge and powerful clan such as theirs, the freedom of marriage wouldn’t be under the control of individuals. The fate of most children born in these powerful clans was that they were used as chips, e.g. setting up an alliance with the other powerful clans to secure business benefits.

“Lass, grandpa won’t interfere in your marriage. You can make your own decisions. However, Grandpa has to warn you: A good man has to be fought for. A man of his calibre wouldn’t lack any beauties by his side. In addition, there was some friction between our clan and him so I don’t think he would approach you out of his own initiative.” Gongsun Yikong laughed.

“Grandpa, do you really wish for me to marry him?” Gongsun Jianwu blushed as she snuck a glance at her grandfather.

“Heh heh, grandpa promises you that no one in our Gongsun Clan will interfere in this. And as for that guy Qing Shui, I strongly approve. You could try hanging out with him and see how it goes.”

Back when the young master of the “Cotton Hall” proposed marriage to her, Gongsun Yikong also allowed Gongsun Jianwu to make her own decision. But to think that he was actually ‘promoting’ Qing Shui on his own initiative this time round.

“En, en. I understand, Grandpa!” Whenever Gongsun Jianwu thought back to that disdainful attitude Qing Shui had towards her, she would involuntarily grit her teeth in frustration.

“Hmph, even if I don’t marry him, I must make him fall in love with me.” Gongsun Jianwu determinedly stated in her heart. But soon after, as she thought back to what she just said, she couldn’t help but to jump in shock.

Gongsun Yikong had a knowing smile in his eyes as he noted the reaction of his granddaughter. Although the expression in her eyes wasn’t love, there was determination, but more importantly... curiosity. With

his experience, he understood that curiosity was the most critical criteria in the beginning before couples got together.

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Qing Shui was still with the two ladies over at Cang Wuya's place listening to Fei Wuji expounding the situation and common info and knowledge of the Heavenly Palace to them.

"Martial uncle, can you tell us more about Misty Hall? We have no knowledge regarding that at all."
Canghai Mingyue implored Fei Wuji.

"Hehe, the Misty Hall? Very well, just listen to what I say. No questions are allowed."

"Wh...okay!"

"Ever since the time of the Heavenly Palace Old Man, the Misty Peak was headed by the only female disciple of our sect ancestor. And from then on, it only accepts female disciples unlike the other halls who had a mixed ratio between males and females."

"To tell you the truth, the techniques and cultivations arts of the Misty Hall are actually all duo-cultivation techniques! However, their duo-cultivation techniques are rather special. It's possible to cultivate the set of techniques alone and although it couldn't be compared to the strength gained if they really duo-cultivate, the strength gained from cultivation alone is not too bad as well. Not only that... their set of duo-cultivation techniques are unsuitable for male-female coupling, which was why the disciples of the Misty Hall are all females."

The two ladies, Canghai Mingyue and Huoyun Liu-Li, immediately turned red. Even Fei Wuji's expression was somewhat unnatural. After all, he was an elder and was talking about sketchy stuff like duo-cultivation to two young girls.

However, Qing Shui was only thinking about the legendary supreme beauty mistress of the Misty Hall practising the duo cultivation technique. After which, he suddenly remembered. Canghai Mingyue and Huoyun Liu-Li belonged to the Misty Hall as well. Doesn't this mean that... they will be practising duo-cultivation techniques, too?

Qing Shui cast a glance at the two ladies, locking gazes with Liu-Li. Liu-Li immediately shifted her gaze away in panic. Her shyness was extremely adorable, so adorable to the extent where it could drive men mad.

"The cultivation art the disciples of the Misty Hall are cultivating is known as the [Mystic Art]. It can be considered a high-tier technique, but the requirements to cultivate it are quite stringent. It required a higher-than-average comprehension before one can successfully cultivate it."

"The Misty Hall is slightly stronger when compared to Starmoon Hall. However, the number of disciples for the Misty Hall could be considered the lowest among all the other Halls. Because of the stringent conditions to cultivate the [Mystic Art], there are only about five thousand disciples within Misty Hall, compared to over eight thousand for the other Halls."

After explaining this far, Fei Wuji paused as he laughed before continuing, "For the five-yearly inner competition among the Halls of the Heavenly Palace, the Misty Palace never really had any interest in

competing, so they are always ranked last. As for Starmoon Hall, our disciples are seriously too... weak. In the end, a decision was made to rank the Misty Hall above the Starmoon Hall to give our disciples a healthy dose of humiliation as well as to encourage them to work harder.”

“Five-yearly inner competition?” Huoyun Liu-Li involuntarily asked. After all, this was the second time she had heard of this.

“Haha, I knew you would ask this, but even if you didn’t, I would still explain it.” Fei Wuji laughed, causing Huoyun Liu-Li to stick her tongue out at him.

“Every five years, members of all Halls would gather in the public square in front of the Lingxiao Treasure Hall to have an exchange among disciples of the different Halls. Only third generation disciples are allowed to participate, and the criteria was that at the very least, one must be at the 5th level of Xiantian. There’s no limit to the number of disciples per Hall that can participate and the rulings of the competition was as such. As long as you lose a single match, you will be knocked out of the competition. Victory and defeat are also recorded, and at the end, the scores will be tabulated which thus results in the ranking of the Halls.

“Then... what about the inner competitions of the chief disciples?” Qing Shui knew that the chief disciples wouldn’t easily compete against others. They were all the strongest disciples of each Hall.

“They are limited in the sense that they can only compete against each other. Their matches would usually be scheduled near the end of the competition. If not, it may affect the morale of each Hall.” Fei Wuji smiled.

Qing Shui chortled. Initially he had still wanted to challenge the chief disciples, but it seemed that it wasn’t possible now.

“Qing Shui, the end of next year would be the commencement of the five-yearly competition. I want you to participate in the competition with the status as the chief disciple of our Starmoon Hall,” Fei Wuji remarked.

Qing Shui was stunned. After recovering, he asked, “What about the original chief disciple? And would even the palace lord agree?”

Speaking of the palace lord, Qing Shui realized that even till now, he had no idea who the palace lord was. Despite that, Qing Shui wasn’t as interested as him compared to the legendary supreme beauty, the palace mistress of the Misty Hall. Qing Shui truly wanted to compare the palace mistress with that portrait of beauty to see if her beauty was truly that mesmerizing.

Cang Wuya silently laughed as he sipped his tea, not saying anything.

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Qing Shui left. On his way back, he suddenly discovered that many people were staring at him with looks of shock and wonderment on their faces. Not only that, there were people greeting him and there were even some taking their initiative to befriend him.

“Hey, Qing Shui!”

“Hey...”

Qing Shui was somewhat depressed that his name was already public knowledge. On the way back, he was somewhat taken aback that many females would randomly pop out to introduce themselves to him, and as long as he replied a single sentence, they would be full of smiles and bounce away in delight.

“I’ve greeted him, now it’s your turn...”

Qing Shui was speechless. So it was just the girls wanting to get a thrill out of teasing him...

The time was still quite early when he returned to his residence. However, he didn’t expected to run into Yan Ling`er who was standing by his door. Upon seeing Qing Shui, Yan Ling`er approached with a radiant smile on her face.

“Brother Qing Shui!”

Qing Shui stared at the petite girl. Indeed, she should address him as elder brother, but sadly, he would never acknowledge their blood ties.

Qin Shui sighed. “Forget it, what will be will be. In any case, this isn’t her fault. She doesn’t know anything as well.” Qing Shui helplessly thought to himself.

But still, Qing Shui hardened his tone, “So what do you want exactly?”

“Brother Qing Shui, are you still angry? I also know that the Yan Clan was in the wrong in this matter. But what can I do about it...?” Yan Ling`er’s eyes glistened with wetness as she spoke pitifully.

“What has the conduct of the Yan Clan got to do with me? I just don’t like those whose character can’t even be compared to humans. They can’t even be compared to demonic beasts.” Qing Shui smiled.

Yet, his smile in Yan Ling`er’s eyes, when compared to his anger, made her heart even colder.

“Brother Qing Shui, let me explain to you some of the matters of our Yan Clan. Maybe after you hear that you will understand why Sister Qing Qing would sell tea leaves out there in the streets.” Yan Ling`er bit on her lips as she lightly spoke.

At this moment, Qing Shui’s heartbeat quickened immensely. Even he himself could hear the thumping sounds his heart made. After all, the incident with the Yan Clan had been buried in his heart for almost twenty years and the day of reckoning would come soon. This matter could be said to be the reason for all his efforts and hard work earlier.

Yan Ling`er had also asked herself before whether Qing Shui was an enemy of their Yan Clan. But after thinking about it, she realized that he was not. Back then when Qing Shui passed by the Yan Country and saw the lady of the Yan Clan getting humiliated, no one stepped out to help her. She knew that in his heart, the members of Yan Clan were all worse than beasts.

“When uncle Zhongyue was still around, nobody dared to bully Sister Qingqing. Even Mistress Xiao had to step carefully on the surface...”

After the first part of the sentence, Qing Shui stopped paying attention to what Yan Ling`er was saying; there was only a notion of thought in his brain. “Yan Zhongyue died, even before he could take revenge on him. The man his mother had been pining for, left silently just like this. What about the debt Yan Zhongyue owned for abandoning Qing Shui’s mother?!”

Qing Shui felt a bout of anger so intense that his body trembled. Even his face turned red.

"Brother Qing Shui, are you okay? What's happening?" Yan Ling`er panicked as she asked in concern.

"I'm fine." A hoarse and heavy voice unlike his own rang out from his throat. He knew that this matter had just gotten complicated.

Chapter 296 - Why Would I Hate You, Blue Lotus Art, The Appearance of Lotus Flowers

"Your Uncle Zhongyue is that lady's father?" Qing Shui deliberately asked, wanting to rid Yan Ling`er of the little bit of her wariness.

"Mmm mmm, it's a pity that he died when Sister Qingqing was ten years old!" Yan Ling`er said sympathetically.

"That lady has been selling tea leaves in the streets since she was ten years old?"

"Did no one in the Yan Clan care?"

"What about her mother?"

"What about her grandfather?" Qing Shui asked, puzzled. Qing Shui felt that this was a sly move towards Yan Ling`er, but it was the faster way he could get to understand more about the Yan Clan.

"Grandfather hasn't been interfering in the Yan Clan's matters for many years. It was said that Sister Qingqing's mother is at a faraway place. The reason Sister Qingqing has been hanging so strongly for so long is because she trusts that her mother will come back for her."

Saying this, Yan Ling`er herself broke out in tears!

Qing Shui could sense that Yan Ling`er was truly kindhearted, and it seemed that she had a very close relationship with his "elder sister".

Qing Shui stood there, not moving. He was waiting. The Qing Shui now really could not help but want to head off towards Yan City immediately, but his rationale made him suppress this thought.

"Not long after Uncle Zhongyue passed away, Madam Xiao, no, that woman from the Xiao Clan gained power very quickly, gaining control of the Yan Clan partially. But that lady was still not satisfied with this, and relying on the support she received from the Xiao Clan, she tried to seduce my eldest uncle. In reality, the Xiao Clan is basically in the control of my eldest uncle and this woman from the Xiao Clan."

It may be because Yan Ling`er was infuriated, and could not help but wish that these savageous and cruel people could die earlier, Qing Shui finally saw it for himself that there was no kinship in reputable clans, such that it was possible even "he" had died in the hands of that woman.

"The Yan Clan's clan head doesn't care about this?"

"The Yan Clan should have plenty of experts who are loyal to the clan. Are they all just letting a woman putting the Yan Clan through all this while they do nothing at all?"

Qing Shui realized that things were not as simple as he had thought. Previously, he was prepared to head to the Yan Clan right after he had stepped into Xiantian. Thinking about it made him feel how childish his thought was.

Now, he realized that the Yan Clan had an invisible thread connected to it and was very, very far away.

"Grandfather had handed the Yan Clan to my eldest uncle, and would not step out unless there are any major issues. There are some experts in the Yan Clan, but it's strange how they all seemed to have qualms about a certain person," Yan Ling`er said, puzzled.

"Who?"

"Isn't Yan Clan the strongest clan in the Yan Country?" Qing Shui felt that this person was certain the crux of everything.

There was nothing but curiosity from Qing Shui's tone. He knew that Yan Ling`er was simple-minded, but at least she was not stupid.

"Xiao Clan's clan head, Xiao Shishui. Rumor has it that he is an important character in a certain sect, and that sect is not one which a country could afford to offend," Yan Ling`er said worriedly.

"Why did your Sister Qingqing come out to sell tea leaves? How did a Young Miss from the Yan Clan fall into such dire straits?" Qing Shui realized that till now, he had yet to understand this, so he asked.

"Four years ago, when Sister Qingqing was sixteen years old, the Xiao Clan's Eldest Young Master Xiao had wanted to take Sister Qingqing as his concubine, and Madam Xiao had actually agreed on her behalf. After all, she was already considered half a clan head then. But Sister Qingqing put up strong resistance, and just because of this, that Eldest Young Master Xiao got kicked by Sister Qingqing, at his critical part..."

Qing Shui knew that she must have kicked the man's important part, but he knew that that Eldest Young Master Xiao was fine, since he had seen him when he first came to Greencloud Continent.

"What happened thereafter?"

"After that, Sister Qingqing was chased out by Madam Xiao, who claimed to want to let her experience life like that of a beggar, to let her know how precious a life she had been living in the past, enjoying all the good clothing and good food. They had hoped that this would make Sister Qingqing change her mind, but they did not expect Sister Qingqing to have persisted for four years since then, not giving in no matter how hard life was."

Qing Shui suddenly thought of the person called Guo Polu. While Qing Shui had not seen him before, he could never forget his name. It was because the lass his mother had been thinking of was indebted to him. Qing Shui would not forget the Yan Clan and the Xiao Clan either, since they were clans that he had set his mind on eliminating.

"You are a kindhearted girl. I hope that when the day comes, you'll not hate me!" Qing Shui said and smiled lightly.

Seeing Qing Shui's warming smile, she said, "Brother Qing Shui, that won't happen. Why would I hate you?"

Qing Shui bade Yan Ling`er goodbye, and could not hold back his sigh. This girl did not simply just want to get closer to him. The other time, that lady Xi Yue had said some strange things.

"One day, you'll cry. Go on and hate me, this was an encounter that should never have happened. It'll only make you feel worse." Qing Shui shook his head, entered the bedroom, and immediately entered the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal.

Recalling Yan Ling`er's words, he thought of how that "elder sister" had no one but herself to rely on. Qing Shui had initially thought that Yan Zhongyue would be good to her, since he had loved his mother, and would definitely treat their daughter well. Well, it seemed that he had done so, but it was a pity that he had died. Thinking about this, Qing Shui had the sudden urge to cry. He did not know why he felt this way.

It may be because he hated him, and had nowhere to vent his hatred...

Cultivation. He could only attempt to forget by focusing his mind on his cultivation. These things weighed down Qing Shui's heart as if they were a few big blocks of mountains, making it hard for him to breathe.

The circulated gradually. Suddenly, Qing Shui thought of his <>, the <> which he had abandoned.

Ever since he broke through to the 4th layer of the Ancient Strengthening Technique, Qing Shui had abandoned the Blue Lotus Art which he had trained to the 4th level. At that time, Qing Shui who had stepped into Xiantian felt that the biggest advantage of the Blue Lotus Art was to act as an aid to allow him to cultivate the successfully.

Thinking about it, Qing Shui realized that there were many things which could achieve an unbelievable effect at certain timings. Therefore, Qing Shui decided to continue his cultivation for the Blue Lotus Art. He looked forward to attaining the stage where he would be encompassed by nine lotus flowers.

Although he had not been cultivating this technique, Qing Shui did not lose his touch. After all, back then he practised the first four levels of the Blue Lotus Art an endless number of times.

But he did not know why after he had reached a breakthrough with his Ancient Strengthening Technique, Qing Shui realized that his Blue Lotus Art was at the lowest level amongst those of his age in the Qing Clan.

At this moment, the Qi of which was much stronger than the Blue Lotus Art gradually started to circulate, flowing through the meridian channels. Qing Shui circulated his Qi according to the Blue Lotus Art, but gradually added in the Qi of Ancient Strengthening Technique. This was not something strange, since he had previously trained the two together before.

But this time around, Qing Shui felt that something was very different, although he could not really pinpoint it. He just felt that previously, there were many parts which did not seem smooth, but now everything was flowing smoothly without any resistance at all.

The feeling was akin to that of eating ice cream in the scorching summer, all 3,600,000 of his pores were cleared. However, Qing Shui did not feel surprised, but felt that this was how it should have been.

In the past, whenever he achieved a breakthrough in his Ancient Strengthening Technique, his Blue Lotus Art would also gain a breakthrough of a similar level. This time around, Qing Shui felt that even if there was no breakthrough, he would at least be able to reach the pinnacle of the 4th level. Back then, Qing Shui had abandoned the Blue Lotus Art just after reaching the 4th level.

This time around, Qing Shui's practice went very smoothly, and he even felt as if everything was going out of hand, so much so that he was fully intoxicated in the feeling.

Qing Shui was as if he had forgotten about the passing time, not expecting that he would be able to enter the 'state of no conscious' even when he was just practising the Blue Lotus Art. Most importantly, he had entered it unknowingly.

Time passed by slowly, and suddenly, he stood up with his eyes closed, his hands pushed forth while forming a hand sign in the shape of a lotus, not creating a sound.

After pushing forth a hand sign, Qing Shui abruptly opened his eyes. A golden colored lotus flower the size of a basin appeared before him.

It was a nine-petaled lotus flower!

Qing Shui looked at the translucent sparkly golden colored lotus flower which was beside him, beautiful as if it was just an illusion, exuding a strong aura. Qing Shui gradually reached out his hand towards it.

Qing Shui reached out his hands very slowly, afraid that it would disappear once he touched it!

Qing Shui noticed that there was a faint connection between him and the lotus, and it was just then when his hand touched the golden colored lotus flower.

"It's material... and hard!"

Although he had suspected it, he was still astonished. After all, it looked translucent!

Qing Shui used that weak connection to slowly control the lotus, and discovered that it could actually be moved about with flexibility. It was just that he needed to exhaust the Dan Tian's "Divine Strength". This made Qing Shui overjoyed.

To think that a flower which would only appear when one reached the Martial Commander grade seven with the Blue Lotus Art, would appear when his Blue Lotus Art had only reached the Martial Warrior grade four!

"This is not right!"

Qing Shui suddenly felt that something was amiss.

The color of the lotus flower!

The lotus flower which should have been white was now a golden color. Qing Shui stood there in a daze, looking at the lotus flower before him which was exuding a faint light.

Qing Shui controlled the movement of the lotus flower, increasing its speed, until sounds of the lotus slashing through the air could be heard.

Gradually, the golden colored lotus flower which felt very light was in his complete control. Qing Shui noticed that it was because he had channeled in the Qi of Ancient Strengthening Technique. The more he channeled in, the greater the level of exhaustion, but the lighter it became.

It was just as his mother had said, that it could be used for both attack and defense, and to think that it also had additional effects and can be used as a weapon. It was just that there was a distance restriction and it could not exceed two meters from where he was.

After Qing Shui cut off his connection with the golden colored lotus flower, its color gradually turned faint as it dissipated in the air.

This was just like the condensation of the Qi of Xiantian!

Did the Blue Lotus Art mutated?

Qing Shui could not help but think of that. He knew that this was all because of the Ancient Strengthening Technique, but to be able to cultivate a lotus flower was still something which made him very happy. It was a pity that he could not probe out the actual prowess of this lotus flower.

Hmmm, one flower?

Qing Shui formed a hand sign again, and a golden colored lotus flower appeared. He then controlled the connection with this lotus and formed another hand sign.

It was another golden colored lotus!

...

It was until the fourth golden colored lotus flower appeared and no matter how much he tried, he could not create a fifth. Qing Shui then knew that the fourth level Blue Lotus Art could only create four lotus flowers. Qing Shui only wanted to try out how many he could control.

Qing Shui felt like smiling, looking at the row of golden colored lotus flowers placed before him. Just one of them alone was beautiful enough, and now with four of them, it was like the blossoming of a hundred flowers and was extremely beautiful!

Qing Shui attempted to control the four flowers, but once he moved, the connection to two of them broke off. Qing Shui was unfaltering as he tried hard to control the remaining two. Qing Shui was already quite at ease when he tried to control just one of it earlier, but controlling two of them was still a bit tough for him. Thank goodness that Qing Shui had perseverance.

Gradually, Qing Shui found out another use for the spirit energy, which was to multitask, being able to do two, three, or even four things at once...

Chapter 297 - The Lost Gongsun Jianwu

Qing Shui gradually realized another formidable use of the spirit energy - Attention Diversion; that was to divide the attention for two tasks, or even three, four tasks.....

Qing Shui thought about the enormous amount of spirit energy needed to reach the 9th Lotus Manifestation Stage. Then it hit him - he was now at the 4th Layer of

and at the same time at the 4th Level of Blue Lotus Art.

The most important thing now was that four lotus flowers had manifested. Perhaps this ever changing Blue Lotus Art advanced together with the Ancient Strengthening Technique? Then to reach the 9th Lotus Manifestation Stage would mean that he needed to cultivate to the 9th Layer of the Ancient Strengthening Technique.....

As soon as he thought about this Qing Shui couldn't help but smile wryly. Not that he never thought of cultivating to the 9th Level of the Ancient Strengthening Technique, but he had only fantasized about it a little. After all, reaching the final few layers would be as difficult as climbing up to heaven.

Fortunately, Qing Shui did not aim too high for now. That target was too far away so for now, he only aimed to reach to the 5th layer to fulfill his mother's wish. It was about time to settle the twenty years of debt, along with the interest. Even the interest alone should be quite a lot.

He tried his best to control the two golden lotus flowers, and was becoming more used to it. On top of that, Qing Shui also kept increasing the amount of power he was pouring in. The power and the speed stirred up also gradually became faster, even the golden halo on the golden lotus flowers were glittering from the "divine power" that was poured into them.

With two golden lotus flowers, Qing Shui realized that the distance he could control was increased to four meters. This made him quite happy. He wondered if the distance would increase along with the number of lotus flowers.

But he didn't really experiment with it. For now, he just wanted to control the two golden lotus flowers well first. These kind of "things" cohered by the "Qi of Xiantian" had good offense and defense power, even on the same level as some false divine weapons. Just that it had large consumption, so it wouldn't last long. So the importance of Divine weapons came into play.

If it was a fight between the strong and the weak, then one could just directly cohere a bunch of divine weapons to vanquish the weak instantly. After all, not much Qi of Xiantian should be depleted within such a short time. However, it would become trouble if time dragged on.

He let the last two golden lotus flowers vanish into the air. Qing Shui was already prepared to completely give up on the Blue Lotus Art at first. It was out of his expectation today that his Blue Lotus Art would transform. He would consider this a pleasant surprise.

Next, Qing Shui practised his alchemy with the Golden Flint Iron Cauldron. He had already accumulated about one-third of experience lately without realizing it. But Wind Water Primordial Pellet still needed about 330,000 points of experience. This amount of experience was a little more than the Beauty Pellet from last time.

The Small Revitalizing Pellet that he had been synthesizing was still the 1st level of King Grade Medical Pills. Judging by the effects, the Great Revitalizing Pellet and Beauty Pellet should be 2nd level of King Grade Medical Pills. It was too bad that he couldn't synthesize them in such a short time.

Medical Pills of 10th Level King Grade were capable of doubling the cultivation of cultivators. Then what about those of Royal Grade? Could it raise it by a few folds? And what about the following Emperor Grade, Saint Grade and Divine Grade?

Could it be that the Saint Grade Medical Pills were able to let humans instantly be reborn as God? Qing Shui quickly shook his head after that. He had a hunch that even the ingredients needed for Emperor Grade Medical Pills were rare, let alone the Saint Grade Medical Pills. They could even be legendary herbs, which had been heard of but never seen before.

There was a medicinal field in the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal specially for Qing Shui to use for his alchemy. That field was just right for Qing Shui's usage cycle. By the time he had used up the last patch, the patch which he gathered from in the beginning would have been restored. So he could use them in circulation.

For alchemy, Qing Shui only practised synthesizing the Golden Sore Ointment, along with the Small Revitalizing Pellet and the Endurance Pellet once in between. Perhaps it was due to high experience and proficiency, he was able to synthesize two extra pellets. These extra pellets had the same medicinal properties as the originals.

These were specially for Cang Wuya and Fei Wuji!

On the continent, there was a drug resistance theory which stated that frequent usage of any type of medicine could cause drug resistance. The better the quality, the greater the resistance.

Just like how two Small Revitalizing Pellets can be ingested while only one Great Revitalizing Pellet can be ingested. Qing Shui guessed that for pellets like the Great Revitalizing Pellet or higher graded medicinal pills, a person could ingest only one pellet in a lifetime.

The main point was that they were hard to synthesize. The amount synthesized in a single cauldron was estimated to be very little, and on top of that, the failing rate was extremely high. Thus, every pellet was extremely valuable.

On the very next day, Qing Shui went to the public square for his morning practice. This time there were even more people, and they all greeted Qing Shui warmly, even the men. Qing Shui responded with a smile, but he already knew the reason.

"Don't tell me that this Chief Disciple has to be forced to his position?"

Qing Shui didn't want to position himself at the mouth of the storm. Many had fought hard for this Chief Disciple position, but they all had a background and he couldn't even scale up to them now. Although he was under the care of Cang Wuya and Fei Wuji, he didn't want to owe them too much, especially on personal favors.

Qing Shui gave away the Tiger Bone Liquor recipe and the Small Revitalizing Pellet as presents. These were all his repayments, and he was still repaying. Repaying Cang Wuya for teaching him the Cloudmist Steps, Heavenly Thunder Slash and also Divinity Protection. Whether or not he could repay all of them, he'd still try his best to.

Qing Shui continued practising his taichi fist. He was working on the conception so he didn't put in much power, as it was more on the posture. Regardless, it was still quite a sight. Qing Shui closed his eyes and moved according to his own feelings.

"Look at how well his punches are, way better than my Iron Fist. Such soft movements..." a man with a moustache murmured in admiration.

“That’s right, don’t underestimate his softness. It’s something that not even a Grade 10 Xiantian cultivator could withstand. I can already feel the pressure from above,” someone immediately chipped in.

.....

Qing Shui was speechless. He could faintly hear all these words. Such was human nature. After they had witnessed how he defeated Gongsun Jianyun with a single blow, even effortlessly pulling a few punches would earn some flatteries from the others.

The light from the morning sun shone on the field and on Qing Shui’s body. He indulged in the “vitality” of the morning sun. That was the scent of “living”, a strong and healthy scent.

Qing Shui took a long and shallow breath before he exhaled slowly, as if to expel all the waste and some other negativities from his chest.

He even felt the pores on his body slightly open. The feeling of absorbing energy from the morning sun was wonderful. Although there wasn’t any obvious effect, it certainly lifted his mood.

The morning was turning late gradually. Many were already walking towards the area around the arena in the center because there would be a continuation in the talk about the next ten movements of the “Heavenly Palace Sword Art”.

After Qing Shui saw the Elder lecturer, he slowly walked towards the seats nearer to the arena.

“Let us learn the next ten movements in the Heavenly Palace Sword Art today. I shall demonstrate the first twenty movements one round again to help everyone refresh their memory.”

The demonstration by the old man was not too fast, but the combination of vigor and strength was just right. Although he was gesturing, Qing Shui could still feel the vigor in it. The next ten movements obviously had a more powerful stance than the first ten, and they were even a little more violent.

The old man started to explain the next ten movements after he demonstrated a round of the first twenty movements. He slowed down the speed of his explanation, and would even sometimes repeat some details twice or thrice.

Qing Shui earnestly digested, listened and watched. As expected, the stance of the Heavenly Palace Sword Art was increasingly powerful towards the end. But Qing Shui was happy, because not too much effort was required for him to learn this sword art due to the Tiger Form. This made him decided to take some time to observe the tiger carvings on the stone monuments again.

This time it took a complete four hours to explain the ten movements. He had said that he would only repeat once, but now he kept on repeating.

“What a nice Elder, he’s so responsible!” Qing Shui chuckled.

In the end, the old man continuously put on the demonstration three times and even explained everything patiently!

“Alright, everyone try to familiarize them and have a discussion. We will continue the rest again in another ten days.” The old man slowly came down from the arena after finishing his sentence.

After he had left, the people below the arena started to leave alone or in groups of three or five. They started to practise while everything was still fresh in their minds. Qing Shui was no exception.

Like the old man, Qing Shui restrained his Qi stance because for now he still relied on using concept. Average people around him would feel like he was only practising his form. Although it looked like the real thing, it was lacking the stance. However, people with better potential would be able to feel the difference.

The old man who hadn't gone far looked at Qing Shui in surprise, the shock in his eyes was not concealed. In the end, he left with a smile.

"Qing Shui!"

Qing Shui was surprised to hear this familiar voice!

He turned around and saw Gongsun Jianwu standing in a distance looking at him, smiling. Her dimples were like flowers on her cheeks. As usual, she was in a black flowing dress, her curvy figure was smoking hot especially the size of those delicate breasts and the curves of her perky buttocks. They made Qing Shui's mouth go dry.

"What is it?" Qing Shui looked at the beautiful face which could seduce like a fox spirit. That smile could make a man worked up. Although Qing Shui ostracized her, he couldn't deny the fact that he was sexually interested in her.

Hearing Qing Shui's curt response made Gongsun Jianwu feel a little uncomfortable although her expression remained the same. "Thank you for holding back last time," she said happily.

"You've thanked me before," Qing Shui said indifferently. Although he yearned to have sex with this kind of woman, he refused to get involved with this kind of "bad woman".

"Can't we be friends?" Gongsun Jianwu asked sadly. Her voice was not loud, but it was still audible to people around them.

The power of gossip was scary. A few of the people looked at Qing Shui and Gongsun Jianwu in shock and left hurriedly.

"Friends?" Qing Shui was surprised. From the moment he had beaten up the third son of the Gongsun Clan and broke Gongsun Jianyun's shoulder on the arena, Qing Shui had never thought about getting involved with any members of the Gongsun Clan.

The surprised tone of Qing Shui sounded more like a mockery in Gongsun Jianwu's ears. At that very moment, many people nearby were looking in their direction.

"Sorry to bother you," she smiled and turned around to leave. Her silhouette looked a little lonely. Qing Shui's mouth moved but he didn't say anything in the end.

He sighed and continued to practise the Heavenly Palace Sword Art that he had learnt today. His feelings however, were in a bit of a mess. All he could think about was that lonely silhouette of Gongsun Jianwu's when she was leaving.

Her silhouette was a little like Mingyue Gelou and also a little like Shi Qingzhuang. Even the extraordinary Yiye JianGe had moments like these. However, that strong silhouette from the Yan City was even more desolated, isolated and soul piercingly lonelier than hers.

Chapter 298 - Stone Monument of the Resting tiger, 'Inner state of immovable like the Mountains

"Wow, to think that someone could actually ignore Gongsun Jianwu. This is something new!"

"I really suspect if he's actually impotent..."

...

"Elder Mo, are you sure that Qing Shui can win Jianwu?" A white-haired handsome middle-aged man asked, exuding great aura which seemed to be more like surging waves.

"Palace Lord, I believe I'm still able to judge this clearly. He is not only stronger than Jianwu, he probably wouldn't lose out to the Chief Disciples of the other halls." Elder Mo smiled and said.

If Qing Shui were here, he would notice that Elder Mo was the elderly who had imparted them with the Heavenly Palace Sword Art.

"Of course I trust that Elder Mo has good judgement. I'm aware of the prowess of the Golden Eye."

"It seems like you're full of admiration for this young chap," The handsome middle-aged man who was Starmoon Hall's Palace Lord said gently.

"Admiration? Of course I'm full of admiration of him. But he is with Old Master Cang and Elder Fei," Elder Mo said looking as if it was a pity.

"Oh, so that's the case. It seems like our Starmoon Hall would rise again in the future." The Palace Lord chuckled, his voice low but strong, such that one would be able to stand listening to it for a very long time.

"Then in next year's competition, should we have Jianwu or Qing Shui as the Chief Disciple?"

"About this, mmm, I'll have a talk with that lass. I'll check if she'll take the initiative to step down, if not, we'll let them have a sparring." The Palace Lord gave it some thought before he said to Elder Mo.

"Mmm, Starmoon Hall's male disciples are hopeless, causing us old men to lost face, too," Elder Mo said and chuckled.

"I'm the Palace Lord, but I'm no different. Even Starmoon Hall's men would scold me."

Qing Shui practised at the square for a short while before he left. It was already past noon and many people had gone for their lunch. Qing Shui directly entered the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal from a place with no one around.

It was very convenient to settle his meal in the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal, since everything was available. Most important, the things that were left inside would not spoil even if left for a very long period of time.

Even if Qing Shui stewed a pot of fish and left it in there for sixty to seventy days, it would still be fresh and tasty, and did not go bad at all.

Qing Shui knew that this was the uniqueness to the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal. From the start, Qing Shui could finish a pot of fish every half a month. The pot of fish would not spoil within the half month period, and after being heated up, it would be no different from a freshly stewed pot of fish.

There was once when Qing Shui did not manage to finish the food before he was kicked out of the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal. When he entered the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal once again, while it had only been half a day in the actual world, it had been over seventy-five days in the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal. What had astonished Qing Shui was that the leftover fish and that All Aspect Nourishment Soup had not gone stale at all. After heating them up, they tasted just as good as before.

Every since then, Qing Shui would stew fish, fish soup, turtles, and the All Aspect Nourishment Soup unceasingly. This way, it would be more convenient when he was settling his own meals.

After his meal, Qing Shui walked around in the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal. But suddenly and unexpectedly, he noticed that the thousand-year Gloomy Wood had already sprouted.

Just like how it was with that nameless branch, Qing Shui had high hopes on what it would sprout from it. But after all, in his memory, since this thousand-year Gloomy Wood was only a material for a magic treasure, and he had not much use for it for now, he decide to sow it, having little hope that it would actually sprout.

A green tender branch which was one inch long sprouted out from the tip of the thousand-year Gloomy Wood. Yes, it was a most vibrant green color, so green that it was astonishing, and had given out a dangerous aura.

The closer Qing Shui got to it, the more he could sense the cold aura it was giving out, or rather, a chilly aura that was spine-chilling. It was how they said that the more beautiful an item was, the more dangerous its poison. Such a strong chilling aura was comparable, if not stronger than that of the thousand-year coldsteel.

If the chilly aura from this inch of sprout was even more threatening than that of the thousand-year coldsteel, what would become of it in the future? Could it be that this thousand-year Gloomy Wood was also chopped down from a tree?

Qing Shui noticed this was a troublesome issue. However, it should only be possible for things like wood blocks to be chopped down from trees. What kind of object was this thousand-year Gloomy Tree?

Did it sprout fruits?

He could not help but think of the Heaven Shaking Hammer made from the ten thousand year coldsteel. Qing Shui recalled that when he first received it, he did not feel the cold aura it was emitting. But considering that it was a weapon made from a ten thousand year coldsteel, it should not be such that he could not feel any cold aura from it at all.

Qing Shui lowered his head and looked at the young sprout of the thousand-year Gloomy Wood, so green that it was exuding a weak glow, and it was extremely beautiful!

Since there was no way to forge any magic treasures at the moment, let it grow then. At the very least, in the future, there would be no lack of thousand-year Gloomy Wood. It'd even better if there were some unexpected rewards. Qing Shui, happiness would always come at you suddenly.

He went up to the screen with the majestic mountain and river painting, picked up the Heaven Shaking Hammer, and once again looked at it with his Heavenly Vision Technique to see that it was still a twenty percent increment to his strength, a three hundred point increment to his strength.

Could it be because of the lack of workmanship of the blacksmith who had made this Heaven Shaking Hammer, that he had not been able to forge it to be with cold poison? When he grabbed it in his hands, he also did not feel any cool aura. It was just slightly colder than the usual metals.

When he was waving it around the other day, he could only feel its power and aura. It did not have any cold poison nor was it so spine-chilling cold...

Just to prove that he was right, Qing Shui went to the empty spot where he usually went through his training when he was in the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal, increasing his aura, and channeling his strength into the Heaven Shaking Hammer. The black hammer itself was like a bundle of dark clouds, and when he had channeled strength into it, its surface emitted a faint black fog.

He waved and hammered!

Qing Shui continued to increase the amount of strength channeled in, striking, horizontal slashing, and hammer vibrations...

The thousand year coldsteel had seemed to be like a block of ice, but the Heaven Shaking Hammer in Qing Shui's hands which was made of ten thousand year coldsteel was black and bright. He could not understand why this was so.

After spending some time thinking about it but yet could still not understand, Qing Shui decided not to think about it anymore. He left the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal and headed towards the stone monuments which were at the back of the mountain. It had been a few days since he had last came.

Tomorrow, he still had to learn the Heavenly Thunder Slash from Cang Wuya and the thought of it made him very excited. Every man revered violence, and the martial techniques in the Heavenly Palace, the one which Qing Shui yearned to pick up the most was the Heavenly Thunder Slash which would raise one's attack by thirty percent.

There was not much for him to do in the afternoon, which was why he had planned to take a look at the stone monuments. He was afraid that if any damage were to come to them, he would feel too depressed.

The area where the stone monuments were was still filled with people walking about. It would not change just because someone had come by, or had not gone. However, the only difference was that if there was a beauty appearing before a certain stone monument, there would be more people standing before that particular stone monument, men in particular.

Qing Shui continued to look at the Tiger Form which he had not finished going through. He looked for the stone monument he should be looking at to discover that there was not a single person in front of it.

When Qing Shui saw the image on it, he understood why it was so. A inscription of a tiger was inscribed on it, with a tiger lying down, eyes squinting, feeling lazy, giving one the feeling of peace.

When Qing Shui saw this carving, his hair stood up. It was because this carving did not appear very gentle in Qing Shui's eyes.

This tiger's expression was akin to an unmoving mountain, and would definitely not lose out to that Tiger carving he saw back then. Of course, people who did not understand this would never be able to understand its crux.

Qing Shui stared at the fierce tiger on the stone monument, and while the smooth lines of the tiger's body was lying down on the ground, Qing Shui knew that it could immediately launch the most fearsome attack in an instant.

Qing Shui looked at the stone monument and unknowingly, the circulation of the Qi of the slowed down, but its strength increased. Qing Shui stared at the whole tiger fixedly, not wanting to miss out on any single detail.

Many people came and left, not understanding why Qing Shui was looking at the gentlest tiger, and very very intoxicatedly at that. Some of would stop for a moment, and then left, shaking their heads and sighing.

Unmoving like the mountain!

Qing Shui finally understood what it meant to be unmoving like the mountain. It was like the old chaps in the Heavenly Palace, each of them being like an existence which was unmoving like a mountain.

By right it was only those who had accumulated hundreds of years of comprehension and experience would be able to arrive at the Unmoving Like The Mountain Realm.

Unmoving like the mountain. For one to stand there like a block of mountain, emitting an aura and pressure which would stop one from coming close...

The concept of this monument was simply for one to be unmoving like the mountain. Amongst all the beasts, only the ferocious tiger would be able to achieve this, and only the ferocious tiger would be able to have dignity of the King of beasts.

The moment Qing Shui was comprehending this, the Qi of which had been circulating in his body unceasingly underwent an intriguing change, causing a huge change to occur to Qing Shui.

Insight!

This was a leveling up in terms of one's conception, and was something that was hard to come by, just like a person's disposition. Disposition was something built up by time and the environment, so is the same for concept.

Qing Shui only felt that the Qi of flowing through in his body, and that liquid in his Dan Tian suddenly condensed a lot, just like how they had increased a lot in amount, and had become more dense in his meridian channels and his Dan Tian, allowing him to feel his strength strengthening by a lot throughout his body.

Pa!

At that moment, he suddenly broke through from the 95th cycle to the 96th cycle, and it seemed to show signs of being able to breakthrough to the 97th cycle.

While he felt that he had gained a lot of strength earlier, once again, he received additional increment, bringing so much astonishment to Qing Shui such that he was at a loss. It was like a person who had suddenly won a prize of five million, and had just collected the money when someone told him that something went wrong, and what he won was actually thirty million instead.

"Haha, it's going to reach the 97th cycle soon, and it'll be the final cycle for the 4th layer of the after the 98th cycle. So long as I can break through the 99th cycle and enter the 100th cycle, it'll be the 5th Layer of the and I'll be able to head to the Yan Clan then." Qing Shui smiled happily, and was even laughing out loud.

Many people in the surroundings all casted a strange glance towards this handsome guy who had been standing in the same spot for the whole afternoon, and now, he seemed to be smiling foolishly.

"Lunatic..."

"Did he fall out of love? Who would bear to abandon such a handsome man? It's a pity that I'm already attached, if not, I'd offer myself to him in marriage." A woman with thick makeup on looked at Qing Shui, feeling heartache for him.

"Aunty, you? He'd be able to get a better candidate if he had casually grabbed someone," A man said and chuckled.

"You heartless person. Do you think I don't recognize you?"

"The other day when you were having the ball of a time on me, what was it that you had said?" The woman asked.

The man ran off sneakily!

Qing Shui rubbed his nose and shook his head, "To think that I've gotten ahead of myself!"

Qing Shui would never have expected to be able to comprehend the state of being unmoving like a mountain from this inscription. Not only did it increase his aura by at least fifty percent, the condensation of the Qi of the would at least increase Qing Shui's powers by over ten percent, which had a greater effect than a Small Revitalizing Pellet. And most importantly, there was an intriguing change to his aura.

Qing Shui was well aware of the importance of exerting pressure. Why would he not be overjoyed to increase it by fifty percent? "Unmoving like the mountain, haha, unmoving like the mountain!"

Chapter 299 - Qing Shui as the Chief Disciple? Image of Yin and Yang

"Immovable like a mountain, haha. Immovable like a mountain!"

Recalling what the woman said just now, Qing Shui shook his head. He laughed and prepared to leave. Valiant customs are prevalent in the world of nine continents, and although rare, such a woman can be seen every now and then.

Having spent more than an afternoon staring at the stone tablet, Qing Shui glanced at another behind it. Much time would be needed to finish looking at this one, but Qing Shui knew that many stone tablets might need only a short amount of time, just like the one on Ferocious Tiger Hunting a Wild Boar.

However, for Crouching Tiger on the Mountains and Resting Tiger, such level of stone tablets required half a day's time, though Qing Shui was already at the Perfection Stage of cultivation of Tiger Forms. If one was not proficient in the Beast Form Fist, it would be difficult for him to discover anything even after a year. What's more, few people would have the patience to persist for a year.

"I don't even know when would I be able to finish reading all these stone tablets." Qing Shui had the feeling that the tablets at the back would be incomprehensible to him, and even if he did manage to complete them all, he would need a large amount of time.

When Qing Shui arrived at his lodging, he noticed an old man standing there before he could go upstairs. Qing Shui recognized him; he was the old man who lectured on at the square. He had heard from others that the man was called Elder Mo.

Qing Shui had a good impression of the old man, and naturally greeted him, "How are you, Elder Mo?"

"You must be Qing Shui. I was waiting for you!" Elder Mo smiled at Qing Shui.

He did not know why Elder Mo was standing here, and he was even more clueless since the man had been waiting for him. Thus, Qing Shui was fairly astonished when he heard those words.

"Waiting for me? Why would Elder Mo be looking for me?" Although shocked, Qing Shui managed to blurt out his question.

Elder Mo looked at Qing Shui and said slowly, "The Palace Lord wanted me to ask if you were interested in being the Chief Disciple of Starmoon Hall."

"Chief Disciple? Doesn't Starmoon Hall already have one?" Qing Shui replied doubtfully. He thought of Gongsun Jianwu, the Chief Disciple of Starmoon Hall, and the sight of her walking off forlornly in front of him today. She would feel even more terrible if he accepted the position of Chief Disciple.

"Mm, Jianwu has agreed for you to become the Chief Disciple," Elder Mo replied straightforwardly. It seemed that he was fully aware of the situation and has dealt with it. After all, it would be rather embarrassing for the Chief Disciple to be pushed out by someone else.

Qing Shui hesitated for a while before rejecting this unthinkable position. "I won't be the Chief Disciple. I am not suitable."

One must know that in every Hall of the Heavenly Palace, the position of Chief Disciple was especially honorable. The Chief Disciple of aristocrats was the most outstanding disciple, the future candidate for the Palace Lord. He would then become the Palace Lord if nothing goes wrong.

With regards to the inheritance of Sects, the Chief Disciple would be one of the more important candidates running for Palace Lord. Thus, Chief Disciples from all halls were considered to be the same

rank as Elders in the Heavenly Palace. Even if a Chief Disciple fails to become a Palace Lord, he would be an Elder.

To be a Chief Disciple, one must be superior in terms of his spirit energy and talents. Thus, even if he was to be replaced by someone more outstanding, his cultivation would enable him to be an Elder.

Moreover, though cultivation was important in the Palace Lord Selections, one's mind, thoughts, moral character and conduct were equally essential. Hence as long as one was selected to be a Chief Disciple, it was uncommon for him to be replaced.

Qing Shui's words shocked Elder Mo. He had thought that presenting this term would make Qing Shui ecstatic; after all, there were only nine Chief Disciples among the millions of people in the Heavenly Palace.

The honor bestowed upon Chief Disciples was exceptional and their selection was also extremely stringent. Qing Shui was looked upon favorably so quickly due to Cang Wuya and Fei Wuji. Without them, he would have needed to go through the strict assessment in spite of his abilities.

Elder Mo was blank for a few moments. Qing Shui's reply was beyond what he expected. Such a good fortune was uncommon because after becoming a Chief Disciple, not only would one attain a distinguished status, but the martial techniques, medicinal pellets, armor suit, and weapons that one could possess would be of the highest grade, just below Supreme Elder and Palace Lord.

Hence, Elder Mo did not think Qing Shui would reject it. For a moment, Elder Mo was dazed and speechless; the offer he stated just now was only phrased as such out of politeness - he had wanted to say "Palace Lord wants you to be the Chief Disciple".

Qing Shui saw the look on Elder Mo and laughed. "Elder, I currently have no plans of being the Chief Disciple. Is there anything I can help with?"

"I underestimated you. A Chief Disciple of the Starmoon Hall would be in a position to fight for it if presented to someone else, but you are not interested," Elder Mo remarked with a sigh.

"Elder Mo is wrong. It is not that I am not interested, but I do not have any plan for it now. I have unfinished business," Qing Shui replied seriously.

Elder Mo looked at Qing Shui and chuckled in a knowing manner. "Then let's not talk about this for the moment. Would you be able to participate in the duels among the halls next year as a Chief Disciple?"

Qing Shui thought about it; there was still a year's time before next year's competition. To him, this amount of time was like fifteen years.

He wondered how much progress would he have in these fifteen years, but it should still be possible for him to participate in the duels amongst Chief Disciples. Perhaps he might have to depend on the Heavenly Palace when confronting Lion King's Ridge in the future. In that case, he should have at least the status of an Elder as he occupies the position of Chief Disciple, or even Palace Lord.

Even if he did not rely on the Heavenly Palace, he would need a unique character and foster some presence. He would also require a group of people with him when he builds his standing ground in the world of nine continents, and the Qing Family would be the best candidates.

“Elder, this I will promise you; I only hope that you can talk to the original Chief Disciple about it.” Qing Shui once again thought about Gongsun Jianwu.

“Alright, you don’t have to worry about this. It’s a deal then. This is for you, you can freely enter the Library of Heavenly Palace, but the books inside are not allowed to be taken out.” Elder Mo grinned and handed over a token similar to the Purple Heavenly Palace Token Canghai had given him.

“Heavenly Palace Library!” Qing Shui had not expected that. In fact, he had almost forgotten about it. The most treasured place among the clans and aristocrats was the Library, and thinking about it made Qing Shui slightly excited.

Qing Shui received it and said, “Thank you, Elder!”

Elder Mo left and Qing Shui examined the exquisite purple token. The word Heavenly Palace was written on it. Qing Shui thought the token was neither gold nor silver, but it was abnormally tough.

Qing Shui returned to his room and trained hard the whole night. The was still at the peak of the 96th cycle. He knew he would make a breakthrough within three days and was only accumulating the cycles now without any barrier. As long as sufficient strength was accumulated, he would be able to break through it.

At the morning training, others had already gotten used to Qing Shui’s presence. Although there was still some commotion about it, the air around Qing Shui had apparently made people shrink back and stop themselves from approaching him.

Immovability like a mountain meant the aura of immovability. This was the ascension of character attained yesterday when Qing Shui entered the inner state of immovable like a mountain of Resting Tiger stone tablet.

At the square, Qing Shui executed the form and concept of Taiji. The smooth manner of the execution was especially beautiful!

At the end of the morning training, Qing Shui made his way to Cang Wuya’s lodging. He was feeling slightly excited today for he was going to learn Heavenly Thunder Slash from Cang Wuya.

Qing Shui was very keen on the Heavenly Thunder Slash of Heavenly Palace. That technique could increase attack by thirty percent, which was definitely not a small number, especially for those with superior attacks.

Canghai Mingyue and Huoyun Liu-Li were already there. The two beauties were laughing and conversing with each other happily, but fell silent when they saw Qing Shui.

Although they were not talking, both had a sly smile as they looked at Qing Shui, making him bewildered. Could they have been talking about him? Talking so happily...

The techniques were taught directly by Cang Wuya and this time was no different. Cang Wuya looked at Qing Shui and the two women, smiled before slowly saying, “Heavenly Thunder Slash is the strongest, most ferocious, and most penetrating technique of the Heavenly Palace. It includes the power of the thunder in its attack, but to be able to employ the power of the thunder, you must at least reach the Obscure Realm. By then, you would have a chance to numb your opponent instantly.”

Cang Wuya's words made Qing Shui's eyes light up. The technique actually had a numbing effect. Once a party was numbed, even if it was only for an instant, it could result in death or at least a serious injury as there was no room for error when two experts exchange blows.

"The numbing effect would occur when we attain the Obscure Realm. Even if it's short, serious damage can be dealt." The gleam in Qing Shui's eyes shone even brighter.

"Once I master the Heavenly Thunder Slash, I must attain the Obscure Realm within the shortest time possible," Qing Shui silently vowed.

Cang Wuya saw Qing Shui deep in thought and laughed. "Although numbing can cause serious damage, the probability is low, and if the spirit energy of your opponent is powerful enough, there would be almost no effect on his mental techniques."

"There can actually be such effects if our spirit energies become powerful enough?" Qing Shui thought of the Image of Yin and Yang in the sea of his consciousness. That item can continuously strengthen his muscles, bones, vital points, internal organs, and his spirit energy.

Although the effect was small, it was unceasing. Even the small flesh of a mosquito was still flesh! What's more, an unceasing accumulation!

Qing Shui recalled the Potential Fruit he had eaten before which strengthened his spirit energy. It was something one could only wish to come across, and it is unknown how many pieces one can consume. Qing Shui hoped to stumble upon it again in the future. After all, he had gained quite a bit from it the other time - his spiritual sense had increased a level because of it.

Qing Shui grinned and nodded at Cang Wuya, and continued listening to his explanation!

"Heavenly Thunder Slash is not a martial technique. It is a form of cultivating Qi. Put simply, it is used to gather Qi, concentrate the Qi, form an air explosion, and from there, acquire a strong and powerful explosive force."

Cang Wuya explained slowly, described the way of cultivating Qi by using the Heavenly Thunder Slash. One would know the dominance of this way of Qi cultivation by listening to Cang Wuya's explanation.

Chapter 300 Heavenly Thunder Slash, Strong Power of One at the Pinnacle of Martial King

It was only today that Qing Shui found out that a Qi circulation technique could be so violent, akin to a violent storm. If it was just him alone, it would be hard to comprehend this.

Even if one were to lay their hands on the Heavenly Thunder Slash manual, without someone to provide guidance, it would be very easy for the practitioner to hurt his meridian channels. This is a Qi circulation technique, and could be used with hands-on combat or with weapons, but the prerequisites for the practitioner of the Heavenly Thunder Slash were very high.

Comprehension!

This was something that was very crucial. If one's level of comprehension was very weak, he would be destined to not cross paths with high level martial techniques. Even if they were to lay their hands on them, if one's comprehension was too weak, even if they were to go through tough training for ten

years, it would not be able to compare with one day's training of one with a high level of comprehension. This was the importance of comprehension!

Just with comprehension criteria alone, it would cut off eighty to ninety percent of the people. Those with a high level of cultivation or known as geniuses were all those with a high level of comprehension.

Preservation!

This was a condition which was of similar significance to that of comprehension. With preservation, there was nothing which cannot be done. This saying showed the importance of perseverance. Even an absolute genius would not be able to achieve anything without perseverance. Perseverance was to set a target, and remained persistent while working towards it, facing any hurdles and hardships with courage.

Persistence was the hardest!

Comprehension and perseverance, as well as being born with the advantage, and adding it to hard work in life were important for a practitioner. Qing Shui lacked neither talent nor perseverance. If he did, there would be no way for him to have reached the Obscure Realm with his Basic Sword Techniques.

The Heavenly Thunder Slash's incantation was not very long. On the contrary, it was very short. However, it was difficult to understand. Time passed by gradually during the attempts, queries, explanations, demonstration and circulations. After a period of circulation, he would seek guidance from Cang Wuya.

The sun gradually moved towards the west, and it was then that Qing Shui was able to circulate it a little, but he had yet to reach the level of Qi explosions.

Canghai Mingyue and Huoyun Liu-Li had also grasped it a little; especially Huoyun Liu-Li, who was exceptionally happy when she started to get the gist of it. It might have been because Qing Shui and Canghai Mingyue had learnt it, and now she had learnt it, too.

By the time they completed one more round of practice of the Heavenly Thunder Slash, Cang Wuya had already finished cooking, and the three of them left after having dinner with him.

On the way back, Qing Shui was feeling extremely agitated!

It felt as if he had discovered that there was a girl who was secretly in love with him; a sweet and wonderful feeling.

"I've finally learnt the Heavenly Thunder Slash!" Qing Shui thought to himself happily.

Qing Shui recalled how astonished he was the day he first saw Canghai use the Heavenly Thunder Slash, and ever since then, he had yearned for the day when he could learn it as well. Having an increment of thirty percent to his attack was still quite terrifying.

This day had finally come. When he reached his room, Qing Shui directly entered the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal!

Heavenly Thunder Slash!

Back then, Qing Shui seemed as if he had merely picked up a little of the skill, but in the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal, he did not try to hide anything. Instead, he increased his aura. A series of pitter patter sounds came ringing from the bones in his body.

He started to gradually circulate the Heavenly Thunder Slash, and then gradually incorporate it into his Taichi. It was because the slow speed at the start was very compatible with Taichi.

Single Whip!

Incorporated with the Heavenly Thunder Slash, the Taichi Single Whip became grotesque, but Qing Shui did not stop. He continued to perform the Taichi Single Whip under the circulation of the Heavenly Thunder Slash.

One day passed by!

In between, Qing Shui also practised the a few times, but it still remained to be on the verge of breaking through to the 97th cycle, and was at the stage of accumulating experience.

The beginner stage was actually the most crucial, just like the foundations of a building. The reason why Qing Shui had practised the <> the way he did was just because it was the foundation to sword arts.

For each martial technique, Qing Shui would place additional emphasis on the beginner stage, doing his best to study it completely. Like how it is now for the Heavenly Thunder Slash, from the beginner to the familiar stage, Qing Shui had put in a lot of effort and patience.

This time in the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal, other than spending some time for alchemy, and tempering the Soulshake bell, he spent very little time on his sword techniques and Thousand Hammer Technique.

For the rest of the time, Qing Shui had spent time on cultivating the Heavenly Thunder Slash. This time, Qing Shui once again displayed his inhumane perseverance, spending half a month's time completely on it.

The effect was still quite astonishing. However, Qing Shui discovered the difficulty of the Heavenly Thunder Slash. It was because after the whole half month's time, Qing Shui barely managed to reach the familiar stage.

Having reached the familiar stage, Qing Shui once again incorporated the Heavenly Thunder Slash into his Taichi, even though he could not create Qi explosions, nor did he have the might which was akin to that of two dragons that Canghai had once displayed.

Today after breakfast, he still headed for Cang Wuya's place. Qing Shui had been practising the Heavenly Thunder Slash in the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal, gaining more familiarity with it the more he trained. However, he also encountered more problems and wanted to seek guidance from Cang Wuya.

Time passed by very quickly, and in the blink of an eye, another two days had passed. Qing Shui trained at Cang Wuya's in the day, and would return to the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal to go through tough training at night.

Two days' time in the actual world was about a month in the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal. During this time, Qing Shui had finally cultivated the Heavenly Thunder Slash to the familiar stage.

Now when he incorporated the Heavenly Thunder Slash into his Taichi, it no longer seemed awkward. On the contrary, it brought out large surging waves of power from the initially soft rhythms.

Hidden Strength of Waves!

"Qing Shui, this is too much of a blow. To think that in less than three days' time, you have achieved such a level of familiarity," Huoyun Liu-Li said coquettishly and pouted her lips.

Qing Shui smiled. He had the heaven-defying Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal. Without it, his progress would not be so perverse that he was unable to explain it.

Canghai Mingyue also looked at Qing Shui quietly. After all, the way Qing Shui was seemed too outrageous, but she was still very happy. Towards her own feelings, she also felt slightly anxious.

Ever since he had agreed to Grandmaster's ambiguous conditions, she felt closer to Qing Shui. While they were close before, there was more between them now.

For the past two days, Cang Wuya had seen Qing Shui's horrifying progress and was even stunned for a short moment. This was a demonic existence and the most talented person he had seen in the past three hundred years.

It was a pity that he did not know that Qing Shui had the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal. If he knew, no one knew if he would be thinking of the same thing. It was a pity that Cang Wuya had only thought about this in his heart, and Qing Shui could only unknowingly accept the compliment.

At night!

In the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal, the Qi of was fully focused on circulating the Ancient Strengthening Technique, one cycle after another. Qing Shui could feel the strong prowess of the Qi of in his meridian channels.

That solid feeling was like that of the grinding mill, or even better, the pushing of mountains. It was extremely solid and was unobstructed. After ninety-six cycles, he successfully entered the 97th cycle.

Pa!

That loud crisp sound was like heavenly melody to Qing Shui.

Qing Shui was very satisfied with that moment of progress. To a warrior, there was nothing happier than when achieving a progress in his abilities.

Now, Qing Shui felt that his strength was at about four hundred thousand jin. The strength from achieving the great perfection stage for his Tiger Form and large success stage for his Bear Form seemed to be quite a lot, but it was not that much either. The increment from the Small Revitalizing Pellet was quite good, too.

Qing Shui thought that if he could break through to reach the pinnacle of the 99th cycle, his strength would probably be at least five hundred thousand jin. If he were to add on the set of battle armor he had forged, with Heavenly Thunder Slash's thirty percent increase in attack, and then equip the Heaven Shaking Hammer to get that twenty percent increase in strength...

It would be a strength of close to eight hundred thousand jin!

Qing Shui was shocked by his own inference. Usually, a 1st grade Martial King would have a strength starting from three hundred thousand jin. What would it be like to have a strength of eight hundred thousand jin...

When a practitioner increased by one grade, his powers would be one fold stronger. Take for example the Martial King. Starting from grade 1, a grade 1 Martial King practitioner would have a strength of three hundred and fifty thousand jin, a grade 2 Martial King would have seven hundred thousand jin of strength, a grade 3 Martial King would have one million fifty thousand jin of strength, a grade 4 Martial King would have one million four hundred thousand jin of strength... and a grade 10 Martial King would have three million five hundred thousand jin of strength...

The strength of a grade 10 Martial King state would still be just the basic strength alone. If there was precious medicinal pill or equipment added, considering that a person at that level tended to be equipped with good weapons and armors which and would also have had taken quite a large amount of medicinal pills, the person's strength would be simply outrageous.

Back when they had come across the old blind chap who was a grade 7 Martial King, just a brush had almost cost him his life. And it was when his physique had been tempered by the to be sufficiently strong.

That strength was too scary. The strength he thought about was under the condition when not much precious medicinal pill had been taken. Qing Shui recalled that there were no Martial Saints in the Greencloud Continent, but there were many of those who were at the pinnacle of the Martial King level. Qing Shui guessed that each of them would have an increment in their strength by one fold or more.

Their strength were at least at seven million jin...

What was seven million jin like? Qing Shui was dazed. Probably a small mountain would be flattened with just a punch. That strength was too horrifying. It was the prowess of one at the pinnacle of Martial King level.

At that moment, Qing Shui thought more about the prowess of medicinal pills, armors and weapons. To lay their hands on divine weapons, people would fight till they break their heads, or even go bankrupt.

In the world of the nine continents, strength was everything.

Alchemy, Ancient Art of Forging... Qing Shui realized that he was too blissed. If he managed to concoct the Great Revitalizing Pellet and the Beauty Pellet, these two types of medicinal pills would be able to increase Qing Shui's powers by fifty percent.

It was a pity that it was something that was so near yet so far. That gloomy feeling made one feel very helpless!

Suddenly, he saw that the Golden Sore Ointment he had been concocting for so many days had already piled up. He bottled it up in porcelain bottles, and realized that there was actually about one thousand jin of Golden Sore Ointment.

The next day, Qing Shui gifted them to Cang Wuya, Fei Wuji, Canghai Mingyue and Huoyun Liu-Li each with about fifty jin of it. This medicine was especially effective for external injuries, and was exceptionally mysterious. It was targeted for external injuries!

Qing Shui gave some to the two ladies, and got them to keep some for themselves, but they can give the remaining to other people to get favors!

In fact, even reputable clans and families would need such medicine since there would be endless injured members daily.

The next day, Fei Wuji approached Qing Shui and asked, "Qing Shui, do you still have a lot of these? How much do you have? Starmoon Hall can buy them all from you."

"Martial Uncle, I don't have much of them, and would only have about fifty jin each month, but it costs quite a lot. They require a small amount of one thousand year medicinal herbs, and these have been my accumulated stock for a few years now," Qing Shui answered and smiled. The Heavenly Palace is a major sect, and the Starmoon Hall should have quite a lot of medicinal herbs.

"How about this: you list down all the medicinal herbs that you need, and whenever you're free, you can give us some. As for the payment, you can decide. What do you think?" Fei Wuji offered and chuckled.

"I won't need any payment, but I'll still provide fifty jin every month in exchange for the experience I accumulate for alchemy," Qing Shui replied, not blushing at the very least.

After insisting a few times, Fei Wuji let Qing Shui have his way. Qing Shui wrote down the names of a few medicinal herbs and even listed some of them which were required for the Five Dragon Pellet and the Great Revitalizing Pellet.

Even if they did not have them, Qing Shui would be able to come up with some excuses. After all, the impression he had given them was demonic enough. What with the mysterious fruits, seasonings...

Qing Shui did not write down the Beauty Fruit since Old Master Cang also knew about it. After all, the old man was still considered an alchemist. Qing Shui now knew that the Old Master was just a half-baked alchemist and had only tried it due to interest.

"Qing Shui, I still have two prescriptions here, and I have the medicinal herbs as well. It's a pity that this old man had not been able to concoct them successfully. These prescriptions are considered quite good, so I'll let you have them!"