

Ancient ST 861

Chapter 861 - Demon Refiners Mu Clan

The capital of the Eastern God Country!

“Second younger brother, third younger brother, my house is just ahead. Let’s go inside and we’ll have a drink together,” said Dong Yan as he looked toward Sun Yan and Qing Shui.

Qing Shui and Sun Yan naturally accepted Dong Yan’s offer. They could tell how strong the Dong Clan was by the impressiveness of the luxurious manor far ahead. The Dong Residence stood out very easily as it was the only magnificent residence amongst the neighboring residences.

There was a Golden Eyed Tiger Hawk Beast standing firmly at the foot of the Dong Clan’s entrance door, which quickly flew up and disappeared to the horizon as the three of them approached the entrance. At the same time, a young man guarding the entrance came forward and greeted Dong Yan.

“Young master, you’re back!” The young man smiled as he greeted Dong Yan.

“Yes. Is everything alright at home?” Dong Yan passed through the entrance and looked at the courtyard of the manor.

“Yes, everything’s fine.”

“Alright, go back to your post. Second younger brother, third younger brother, let’s go inside.” A grin was plastered on Dong Yan’s face as he led Sun Yan and Qing Shui into the manor of the Dong Clan.

There were no facilities that a clan of nobility would lack as they had all the necessary furnishings of a proper home. The members of the Dong Clan were all equipped with a set of basic martial skills, including the servants of the household. In a pavilion nearby, there was an old man performing swordplay all by himself.

His movements were slow, much like an elementary swordsman practicing his sword moves. However, Qing Shui was shocked when he noticed the similarity between the old man’s swordplay and the Taichi Sword moves - these two had different approaches but with the same goal. The old man’s swordplay wasn’t as perfect as the Taichi Sword, albeit with the same concept of sword circle form - the sword could distinguish between yin and yang, further becoming the Four Emblems, which would generate the Eight Trigrams.....

Of course, the old man was in the lowest cultivation realm, which could mean that he had just learned the rudiments of the martial arts. However, Qing Shui was silently admiring the superb state of the old man as he already possessed the ways of ‘Taichi’. Indeed, the sea of knowledge knows no boundaries. This old man may be the pioneer of ‘Taichi’ in the World of the Nine Continents - at least from Qing Shui’s point of view.

The world of martial arts knew no limits, as everything stemmed from the ancestral foundations. Most logic behind each martial art had a connection to one another as they were more than one way to perform martial art techniques. If one technique had the same concept as another, countless other techniques would essentially be connected. Only a few could reach a full comprehension of the limitless form of the martial arts in this world.

Dong Yan approached the old man until the distance between them was about 50 meters. He then observed the old man performing his swordplay, along with Qing Shui and Sun Yan. Qing Shui, on the other hand, was more enthusiastic as he observed the old man's movements and forms of the swordplay.

He could pick out the faults in the old man's swordplay down to the miniscule details, which was basically the entire form of the swordplay. Qing Shui knew that they weren't exactly mistakes per se but a form of trial and error. The old man was cultivating more on his mental state than the form itself.

After the time it took for an incense stick to burn had passed, the old man finally stopped his swordplay and turned to look at Dong Yan and his company. He showed an amiable smile and said, "We have guests, I see. How could you make them wait for so long?"

"Grandpa, they are my sworn brothers. Second younger brother and third younger brother, this is my grandfather," Dong Yan smiled and made a short introduction to one another.

"Greetings old man!"

The old man lit up and laughed when he heard his grandson's addresses to the two young men. He knew his grandson too well - he would only recognize extraordinary people, not those with ordinary background as his sworn brothers.

"Alright, since you are Yan'er's sworn brothers, we are family. Come, let's go inside the house and sit down." The old man showed a kind smile and proceeded to lead them into a living room nearby.

When the news of Dong Yan's return spread inside the household, a group of people came to see him. Qing Shui could tell the importance of Dong Yan in the Dong Clan, almost like he was treated as an important successor to the Dong Clan.

After knowing the relationship between Dong Yan, Sun Yan and Qing Shui, the members of the Dong Clan were surprised and asked a few questions to the handsome friends. Those who could be called "brothers" to Dong Yan should never be taken lightly.

After a few polite chats, most of them quickly left the room and let them be. Introductions had been made, so it would be disrespectful to Dong Yan and his friends if they stayed any longer.

"Grandpa, do you know any clans that possess a Sky Penetrating Grass of 5,000 Years or above?" Dong Yan asked his grandfather after the other members of the Dong Clan had left. Only three of them and the old man were left in the living room, sitting down opposite to one another.

Qing Shui couldn't quite tell what the old man was thinking exactly.

"Sky Penetrating Grass?" The old man cocked his head at Qing Shui and Sun Yan.

"Old man, it is I who need the Sky Penetrating Grass," Qing Shui smiled.

"Young fellow, you have a good physique and an extraordinary spiritual energy - the attributes of an alchemist. In the future, you might have a boundless breakthrough toward your spiritual energy," the old man's eyes lit up as he spoke with a dazzling expression.

Around the same time, Qing Shui was staring at the old man's pale white eyebrows of a foot long and his facial hair. Normally, one would be able to judge the lifespan of a man based on the length of their eyebrows, instead of the length of the hair on the head.

Just like this old man, foot long eyebrows meant that he was at least 500 years old or more. Qing Shui had an impression of unfathomable wisdom akin to a bottomless lake from the old man.

The Dong Clan must be quite powerful to be able to maintain a high position in the capital of the Eastern God Country. Qing Shui revealed a smile to the old man and replied, "That was quite insightful, old man. I will count on your blessings to see whether that will happen in the future."

"Haha, yes, you will certainly reach a breakthrough."

"The one from Sun Clan of the Yun City, you will become the pillar of support for the Sun Clan in 20 years." The old man gave a merciful smile at Sun Yan. He felt quite elated to know that his grandson had met such good friends this time around.

The old man was part of the first generation of the Dong Clan. The current clan head was from the second generation and Dong Yan was part of the third generation, as well as the youngest amongst the third generation of the Dong Clan. Some members of the fourth generation were even older than him by a few years.

"The Sky Penetrating Grass is too valuable to be sold in the market and no one will boast about possessing one to the public. Ultimately, you have to find the herb yourself. 5,000 Years Sky Penetrating Grass is rare and scarce in number. It will be very difficult to find one," the old man said to Qing Shui.

"I understand. Which is why I have decided to try my luck in the Sky Penetrating Mountains," Qing Shui replied with a kind smile.

"The Sky Penetrating Mountains will be your best bet but know that the Sky Penetrating Grass will grow in the deeper parts of the mountains, which are essentially the most dangerous areas in the mountains. Based on your current ability, you will need to think of various ways to protect yourself from such risk in order to survive." The old man furrowed his brows as he gave a caution to Qing Shui.

"I know. But the Sky Penetrating Grass is very important to me. I will be extra careful in the mountains," Qing Shui replied, remembering that he still had a few tricks up his sleeves to evade dire situations.

"Grandpa, I have decided to allow third younger brother and members of the Mu Clan to go into the Sky Penetrating Mountains. That way, everyone will be able to look after each other," Dong Yan spoke to the old man attentively.

"That's good. Talk to the Mu Clan when the time comes. Wait, forget it. Let me talk to the Mu Clan myself." The old man hesitated a moment before continuing.

Qing Shui was glad when the old man offered to talk things out with the Mu Clan himself.

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After a meal together, Dong Yan brought Sun Yan and Qing Shui outside to have a walk around. Qing Shui was already informed that he would be travelling with the Mu Clan, a well-known powerful clan in the city.

“Brother, why do the Mu Clan still go to the Sky Penetrating Mountain often despite being extremely strong?” Qing Shui asked curiously.

“The Mu Clan is a powerful family clan of demon refiners. They are required to go into the Sky Penetrating Mountain to seek rare demonic beasts for the purpose of refining them. Sometimes, they are required to find some medicinal herbs to aid in their skills,” Dong Yan explained with a smile. Qing Shui had always found his smile a bit odd sometimes.

“Demon refiners clan?” Qing Shui gave a perplexed look at Dong Yan.

“Being a demon refiner is a powerful job. Their main purpose is to acquire some magical crystalloids from refining demons, which can bring forth a powerful ability for martial warriors. They can also refine the demons into Crimson Pellets of abundant essence. The crystals and medicinal pellets are extremely valuable, especially the Crimson Pellets, which can significantly boost a demonic beast’s cultivation or increase the speed of cultivation of a human being simply by holding the pellet in their hands.”

That was good news. He had finally found a group of demon refiners to join his quest into the Sky Penetrating Mountains. The Spiritual Qi in the Eastern Victory Divine Continent was abundant and most eccentric warriors of various skills would be found gaining experience and proficiency with a high success rate.

Qing Shui wasn’t concerned about the fact that he was an amateur in demon refining, because he would never lose to anyone else. Even though his demon refining skills were learned through trial and error, his success rate of refinement was incomprehensible.

He had heard about sects that specialized in demon refining before but he didn’t think he would be meeting with one so soon and on top of that, the Mu Clan was also a well-known family clan in the Eastern Victory Divine Continent.

Each continent had their own cultures and architectural structures. The Eastern God Country was located at the eastern location of the World of the Nine Continents, which explained the ancient construction of the buildings and structures he had seen in this city. Additionally, the front entrance of each building would have two stone sculptures depicting a beast, either large or small. Some of the sculptures depicted lions and some were statues of kirins. The sculptures were of different sizes but all of them represented an auspicious sign as well as a protection symbol to the family and clan.

Heaven Stepping Road!

This was a famous wide road of the capital of the Eastern God Country, which was comparable to the Martial God Street in the capital of the Southern Country. The wide street was surrounded with enormously tall buildings, which were a sign of power in this part of the capital.

“Second younger brother, I forgot to ask you. Do you have something to do in the capital?” Dong Yan stopped his tracks and faced Sun Yan to ask his question.

Qing Shui was shocked. Even though he had thoughts of concern for others he did not act upon them like Dong Yan did. He turned to face Sun Yan too when Dong Yan asked him the question.

“I want to go into the Sky Penetrating Mountains too but I’m just trying my luck. My senior requires a Peach of Immortality to extend his lifespan,” said Sun Yan as he gave a faint laugh.

Dong Yan wrinkled a frown in his forehead and said, "Although the reason for entering the Sky Penetrating Mountains for a Peach of Immortality was a bit feeble than to find the Sky Penetrating Grass, that was still a realistic goal. I didn't quite expect you to go into the mountains to find such heavenly treasures."

"Can't the seniors of the clan use other ways to increase their lifespan?" said Dong Yan after pondering for a while.

"Actually, no one in the clan wants me to go. If they knew about this, they would never let me go. It will be my grandfather's birthday in a few days, so I want to do something for him. He has already reached his age limit, so the other common medicinal pills that can increase his lifespan won't work on him anymore," Sun Yan forced a smile as he explained his situation.

"I commend your devotion to your family, second younger brother. But don't hope too much for the Peach of Immortality. Prepare another gift as a backup, just in case!" said Dong Yan as he considered Sun Yan's options.

No one in their right mind would sell off an item that could increase one's lifespan by 50 years. Even though this type of item could not compare with the Sky Penetrating Grass, it was still an invaluable treasure.

"Second brother, let me prepare the Peach of Immortality for you. I have been keeping one all this time after I was lucky enough to procure the fruit back in the Greencloud Continent." Qing Shui gave an assuring smile at Sun Yan.

"This won't do. It's too valuable." Sun Yan immediately declined.

"There are many valuable things in the world but this is useless to me. We are brothers, so please take it." Qing Shui revealed a smile as he took out a brocade box and handed it to Sun Yan.

At that moment, Dong Yan was stunned. There was indeed such a precious thing in this world and he had seen it with his eyes. The third younger brother was gracious enough to offer the Peach of Immortality without the slightest hesitation.

In fact, the Peach of Immortality was really not a big deal to Qing Shui as he still had ample time to collect more in the future. Giving one to Sun Yan didn't matter much to him, because he would do anything in his power to help his sworn brothers in a predicament.

"Take it. Consider this a favor owed to third younger brother. Next time, you must run to third younger brother's side should he need your help in the future," Dong Yan chuckled with delight.

"I will!" Sun Yan received the brocade box and replied with a serious tone.

Chapter 862 - Azure Cloud Pavilion, The Eldest Daughter of Mu Clan

Azure Cloud Pavilion!

This was a pavilion located at the Heaven Stepping Road, as well as a business quarter of the Mu Clan. Dong Yan brought Qing Shui and Sun Yan into the pavilion to meet a new acquaintance.

Dong Yan had a strange smile on his face when he mentioned the person they were going to meet.

“Qing Shui, do you want to know who you’re going to meet?” Dong Yan maintained a smile as he glanced toward Qing Shui. They continued their pace causally into the pavilion.

“Of course!” Qing Shui smiled but set his eyes on the Azure Cloud Pavilion instead. This area stood out as an elegant architecture, with the exception of the simple undecorated doors. There was a large tablet above the door, with the words ‘Azure Cloud Pavilion’ inscribed beautifully on the surface.

The handwriting was clearly a woman’s. He could feel a strong air of elegance as he stood outside the entrance of the Azure Cloud Pavilion with the others.

Qing Shui was immediately curious just from the sense of the surrounding aura. He wanted to know who he was going to meet as he turned his head to face Dong Yan with an expression of anticipation.

“There are many beautiful women in the capital but the most beautiful woman I have ever met would be the eldest daughter of the Mu Clan. She is the finest woman in the capital without question,” Dong Yan said as he smiled at Qing Shui.

Qing Shui now understood why Dong Yan would have such an expression whenever he mentioned the Mu Clan in their conversations.

“In other words, you’re saying that the leader of the expedition to the Sky Penetrating Mountain is none other than the eldest daughter of the Mu Clan?” Qing Shui looked at Dong Yan with surprise.

“Correct. The Azure Cloud Pavilion is the living quarters of miss Mu. She has been leading the expedition to the Sky Penetrating Mountain for a few years already.” Qing Shui could feel a sense of gloominess from Dong Yan when he mentioned the woman of the Mu Clan.

As they approached the front entrance of the Azure cloud Pavilion, two maidservants appeared and walked out from the door.

“Young Master Dong, welcome!” The maidservants were petite, yet their voices were clear and strong but with a tinge of politeness. They were said to be one of the best of their kinds as well.

“Is the young lady available?” Dong Yan asked the maidservants with a grin. Currently, Dong Yan wasn’t the frivolous man he was at the Dongfang Clan but a gentle brother of the neighborhood.

“Could it be that Dong Yan likes young miss Mu?” Qing Shui allowed himself a smile as he looked at Dong Yan. He decided to ask Dong Yan himself later during his free time.

“Yes. She’s upstairs drawing. Young Master Dong, you may enter now.” The maidservants showed polite smiles and proceeded upstairs immediately. Before they left to announce their arrival to the eldest daughter of the Mu Clan, they took a few glances at Qing Shui and Sun Yan standing behind Dong Yan.

The three of them started walking into the Azure Cloud Pavilion. The building inside was moderately spaced - not too spacious and not too narrow. The living room on the ground floor was less than a thousand square meters. The hallways stretched in curves, creeping upwards in winding paths. An aura of nobility filled the air, with a subtle smell of books lingering between the hallways.

The scent of books was the best smell in the world.

The three of them strolled along the hallway and followed the stairs covered in red silk upwards. The pavilion was three-storeys high and most importantly, there was a strange rule that they had to follow in this building.

The rule was set up due to the overwhelming number of people who wished to gain an audience with the eldest daughter of the Mu Clan. Strangers were allowed to enter but they must display some sort of specialty in order to remain inside. If one failed to show an extraordinary skill to her, the outcome would be unthinkable. In the past, two wealthy men had thought she was easy to push around and disobeyed the rule. They were able to go inside the Azure Cloud Pavilion and got out without any problem. But as they reached the streets, they began to go mad and fought each other in public. Their clothes were shredded in the process and as a result, they brought shame to their family. Subsequently, both the wealthy men took off from the capital, as they were too embarrassed and humiliated to remain any longer.

From then on, no one had dared to plot against the Azure Cloud Pavilion ever again. Demon refiners have many tricks up their sleeves and Miss Mu was no exception as her power was known to be around the level of a Peak Martial Saint. She was the best demon refiner in the city, with the ability to stun her opponents with a small crystalloid, causing them to go mad.....

The three of them continued toward the third floor, where the space was increasingly becoming narrower. The whole area had been segmented into three parts too. As they climbed to the third floor, the two maidservants were already standing in front of the door, waiting for their arrival.

At the far end, there was a woman standing in front of a long desk but with her back facing them. Qing Shui shuddered when he saw her back. He couldn't quite describe his exact feelings.

Overwhelmed?

The slender and tall woman was wearing a golden phoenix pleated dress with wings stretching to both sides of the fabric. The phoenix pattern seemed quite vivid and lifelike, with realistic details down to the fine points. Her hair was tied up high in a bun, which brought out the beautiful structure of her long powdered neck.

The slightly loose dress could not cover the silhouette of her figure. Although her bosom and her butt were not exaggeratedly defined, they were quite noticeable as the graceful outlines pushed against her clothes.

No wonder Dong Yan said she was one in a million in the Eastern God Country. Undeniably, she could easily best all the women in the continent without much competition solely with the view of her back. Moreover, Qing Shui could sense a fluctuation of pure Spiritual Qi from the woman's body, which in a way, could be a reflection of her charm.

In a sense, her beauty was on par with the women in the Portraits of Beauty. His arrival in the Eastern Victory Divine Continent was quite theatrical when he recalled his journey so far. Even though the purpose of coming to the Azure Cloud Pavilion was largely due to him, he was able to do so because of Dong Yan.

The three of them stood still. Sun Yan and Qing Shui did so because Dong Yan wasn't moving. Sun Yan in particular was entranced by the view of her back. After staring at the woman for awhile, he finally sighed and cocked his head to the side.

"Why are you sighing, sir?"

At that moment, a clear voice rang out. Her voice was mellow, which sounded graceful to their ears, as if they were being lifted up in the air gently like a feather. Qing Shui had heard similar voices like hers before - for example, Di Chen, Yiye Jiange, Canghai Mingyue and Hai Dongqing; their voices had somewhat similar effects..... Even though their tones were different, their voices were very pleasant to the ears.

"My dearest miss, I feel unworthy to be graced with the view of your back." Sun Yan smiled bitterly.

Qing Shui didn't expect Sun Yan to speak such words. The woman in front of the long desk didn't seem to show a big reaction. Instead, she put down her paint brush and slowly turned around to reveal a divine appearance that could captivate the hearts of men.

Her pleasantly arched brows sat proportionally on her smooth-looking skin, in contrast to the her bright gleaming eyes. Her shoulders were sharply padded, which enhanced her graceful figure and her independent aura. She was a refined woman, much like a delicate orchid arching in an elegant posture.

The golden phoenix dress added a touch of nobility to her poise, making her seem like a fairy from the Ninth Heavens.

Despite her elegance and refined demeanor, Qing Shui still felt that the woman from the crystal coffin was more divine than she was. However, this eldest daughter of the Mu Clan was not inferior as she possessed an elegance akin to the woman in the crystal coffin - both of them were sophisticated and charming in a similar fashion.

"Mr. Dong, these two must be your friends," the woman's voice rang out once again. Her voice was quite pleasant. Listening to her voice was a very invigorating experience.

"They are my sworn brothers, closer than biological brothers, in fact," said Dong Yan. He added the last few words nonchalantly, yet he was quite serious about his choice of words.

Miss Mu and Dong Yan had known each other for a while and she knew the young master of Dong Clan was very perceptive toward people who had attempted to approach him, which was why he only had a handful of friends. However, every man was born to be exceptional. If these two could become Dong Yan's brothers of close bonds, then it was enough to say that these two men were undoubtedly outstanding and remarkable.

"Rules are rules. If you want to stay in the Azure Cloud Pavilion, then you must show me a specialty skill that will allow me to feel content," the woman curved her lips as she said to Dong Yan, Qing Shui and Sun Yan.

There was a hint of mystery in her tone. Her voice was undeniably as beautiful as ever.

Sun Yan glanced toward Qing Shui and nodded his head. Then he extended his right arm, promptly gathering an overwhelming Spiritual Qi around his body from the surroundings of the room. It was at this moment that the woman finally spoke in a clear voice, "You pass!"

"Your turn!" Sun Yan prodded Qing Shui after a moment of silence. He wanted to see Qing Shui's specialty skill - something extraordinary to satisfy his curiosity.

"Patience, brother. Let me think for a moment. There's too many to choose from and I can only show one." Qing Shui wasn't fooling around but 'too many' wasn't entirely true either. He racked his brain trying to think of one skill that would truly awe the woman in one fell swoop.

The others were left speechless by Qing Shui's words. How many specialties would one require in this world? Normally, having one specialty skill was enough to defy nature, much less having multiple up his sleeves.

"Were you drawing just now, miss?" Qing Shui perked his head up and asked the woman.

"Yes, I was!"

Qing Shui paused, then continued to asked the woman, "Well, does drawing count as a specialty?"

"Of course. The greatest artist can conquer the whole world with painting alone," she smiled as she answered Qing Shui.

"Then I will paint a portrait!" Qing Shui said while thinking of a subject to paint.

"Please go ahead!"

Initially, he thought about using her as the subject but that would be quite disrespectful to do so as they had just met each other. Qing Shui picked up her paintbrush and proceeded to dip the brush into the 'ink' with his eyes closed.

The woman's expression changed as she kept watch on his movements. Her eyes were brightly lit and she found herself staring at him with anticipation.

Suddenly, Qing Shui's blood flow turned berserk, which seemed quite exaggerated yet necessary. It was quite indescribable when he felt an abrupt change to his blood flow and before he knew it, he began moving his hands. His brushwork was flexible and lively with a bit of force in his movement. After a while, he had made a rough sketch of his art.

An outline of a beautiful figure appeared on the portrait.

After that, the facial features of the portrait became more distinct. The more distinct the portrait appeared, the more shocking the woman was. Within a few moments, Dong Yan and Sun Yan had the same expression as the woman as they continued to follow Qing Shui's brushwork on the portrait.

When he finally finished the portrait, he stopped and put down the brush before he opened his eyes. Even though he took a lot more time compared to Sun Yan, he had shown a unyielding flow in his effort to accomplish his composition of the portrait. Qing Shui took the effort to draw the portrait with unfathomable details, resulting in a portrait akin to a live figure of a beautiful woman.

The woman in the portrait had her hair tied up high. Her brows were soft-looking, illustrating a kind expression on her white face. The white complexion wasn't a product of a powdered makeup but her natural skin with a hint of rosy glow. She had the features of a goddess but with a pair of eyes depicting the cold winds of winter.

Even though her eyes were beautiful, there was a hint of hatred and helplessness in addition to the dazed expression in her eyes. With one look at the portrait, everyone could tell that the woman in the portrait was undeniably as beautiful as the eldest daughter of the Mu Clan - the figure in the portrait was a woman as dignified as the goddess.

Qing Shui didn't realize that he had drawn the woman from the crystal coffin. Worst of all, he had drawn the exact expression of the woman when she woke up and stared at him.....

Looking at the portrait, Qing Shui was inevitably brought back to the memories of that moment. The woman in the crystal coffin did not kill him but spared him instead. She must be hating herself for not being able to kill him right away.

Qing Shui let out a long breath of air, as if he was letting out a deep sigh of relief.

"So cold but so beautiful. Is she your wife?" The eldest daughter of Mu Clan asked curiously. She didn't expect this man to possess a skill in drawing much superior than hers, much more superior, in fact.

Qing Shui was stunned by her question but shook his head to her reply. He wasn't prepared for her question but didn't want to brush her off without giving a definite answer. In such circumstance, one would require much practice to be able to draw a woman to such an extent, even without emotions or personal feelings.....

Qing Shui wasn't troubled by her question. He put on a smile and replied, "I'm not sure if this is considered a skill. If it's not, I can try something else."

"You really do have other skills? Are you sure you want to show something else?" The woman smirked.

"Then this should be enough. Let's leave it at that!" Qing Shui didn't want to expose his abilities too much, so showing another one was quite unnecessary. He had other aces up in his sleeves but who wouldn't have at least more than one in order to survive in this world?

"Then sit wherever you please!" The woman welcomed them to the 'couch' inside. In front of the couch was a small table with cups of tea freshly prepared moments ago.

"Actually, Miss Mu, today we came to ask you for a favor," Dong Yan spoke slowly after they had all settled down.

"Oh, do tell. You rarely ask favors from others, so I will not refuse if it's within my capability."

Chapter 863 - Preparation, Peak Martial Saint Thunderous Beast

"Oh, go ahead. You, Young Master Dong, seldom asks for favors. As long as it's within my means, I won't reject you."

The lady sat opposite Dong Yan and company. In the middle, there was a very large tea table between them, keeping them at a distance of three meters apart. This was how Mu Clan's Young Miss did things. Usually, people would be unable to get within three meters of her.

"My brother Qing Shui wants to enter the Sky Penetrating Mountains. Therefore, I'd like for you guys to let him join you when you enter. I'll definitely offer my great thanks," Dong Yan said to the lady.

The lady was in no hurry to promise Dong Yan. She frowned slightly and looked at Qing Shui. At this moment, it was as if she wanted to use her beautiful eyes to see through Qing Shui.

"You're sure that you want to go?" The lady said softly, looking at Qing Shui.

"I'm sure!"

"To be honest, even for us, we don't have absolute confidence that we'll be able to stay alive. It's just that we've been quite lucky. I won't say much if you were to want to go but I won't be able to guarantee your safety. It's because no one who goes will be able to guarantee that they'll be able to come back," the lady smiled lightly and said.

Qing Shui knew that the lady was in fact saying this to Dong Yan or maybe she was telling him but the intention was for Dong Yan to know about it. The lady's cautiousness was something which Qing Shui felt was good. This was only normal.

"I know. Actually, I would have gone in even if I went by myself. However, Eldest Brother is worried and wants me to find company. This is why we're here to trouble Miss." Qing Shui was speaking the truth.

"If that's the case, I don't mind going together. With more people, we can help take care of each other. After all, there's still some time before we enter the Sky Penetrating Mountains. During this time, you can decide to withdraw anytime. It's really dangerous inside."

Qing Shui knew that she didn't wish for him to go since she wouldn't feel at ease. She was leading her own people in and could command them as she wished. The efficiency would be greater this way. If there were outsiders, that would not be the case. It was not good to be giving instructions to outsiders but if her own people were all able to return with just the exception of himself, she would find it hard to explain it to Dong Clan.

"I understand. When the time comes, there's no need to stand on ceremony with me. I'll listen to whatever you say. If there are any accidents, I would be the one to be blamed too. The blame wouldn't be on you." Qing Shui knew what the lady was thinking and thus made it clear.

The lady knew that Qing Shui could tell what she was implying. This was good as well since it wouldn't be that nice to make everything too clear. She then turned to Dong Yan, "There's no need for thanks. I just hope that everyone will be safe."

"Miss Mu, when will we be setting off?" Qing Shui gave it some thought and asked

"Between half a month to one month," the lady gave it some thought, smiled and said.

"Mmm, is there anything I'll need to prepare?" Qing Shui gave it some thought and said.

“If you have medicine for injuries or antidotes, try to bring as many as you can. They might be useful. It’s best if they are medicinal pills which can instantly recover one’s physical strength. If you don’t have any, I’ll prepare some for you. Bring along everything that you feel is useful. It’s extremely dangerous in the Sky Penetrating Mountains and sometimes, there’s nowhere to hide and the only option is to fight it out. We might even need to kill a large group of demonic beasts,” the lady said casually.

“Oh, I have all of these,” Qing Shui quickly smiled and said.

“Oh, then that’s good!”

Seeing that it was about time, Dong Yan and company took their leave, with the lady seeing them to the door. Looking at the time, the three of them went to look for an inn for a drink.

There was an inn not far away from Azure Cloud Pavillion, “Elegance Inn”!

To be able to set up an inn along Heaven Stepping Road, they were definitely no ordinary people. The three of them entered and very quickly, a waiter came out to welcome them. The three of them sat in a corner. They neither wanted to enter a private room nor mix with the crowd, thus they chose a corner in the hall.

They opened a pint of “Flowerain Wine” and a strong fragrance flowed out. This was a mellow wine which had aged at least 100 years. Qing Shui did not take out his treasured collection of mellow wines, each of which had an age of 1,000 years. It was just that it was not appropriate to take it out now. Moreover, it was still better to try the local wine available when in a new place and he wanted to store some in his collection. After all, there was sufficient space in the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal.

“Have you guys heard? Cheng Clan has come across a Chieftain Level demonic beast in the Sky Penetrating Mountains and all of them were wiped out. Cheng Clan is considered to have fallen.”

Just as the three of them were drinking, an abrupt voice rang out, causing Qing Shui’s brows to furrow tightly. It was because Qing Shui had come across a Chieftain Level demonic beast back in the Flowerfruit Mountain.

“This was all because of their greed. A large majority of the capable people in the clan had entered the Sky Penetrating Mountains, all for the sake of that Bloodjade Crystal. Then this happened.” The one who spoke was a long-haired middle-aged man from the same table as the previous person who said that.

“I heard that there’s no match for that Chieftain Level demonic beast amongst all Martial Emperor cultivators,” a guy who was wearing a beautiful set of clothes said.

A Chieftain Level demonic beast had basically reached a powerful level and those who had entered its territory, regardless whether man or demonic beast, would have their abilities weakened while its own abilities would be strengthened. With one side being weakened and the other side strengthened, the gap was very very different.

“Do you know what that Chieftain Level demonic beast was?” A young man asked curiously.

“It seemed to be the Golden Dragon King!”

...

Qing Shui was also slightly nervous. If he were to come across a Chieftain Level demonic beast like that, would he be able to escape? He had the chance to use the Nine Continent Steps twice and had also six hours in the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal. Now, his spirit energy had soared by a lot and as long as he was not completely confined, he should be fine.

Moreover, he still had the Buddha's True Eyes. Qing Shui had long since started to cultivate the Buddha's True Eyes and its greatest use now was to increase his spirit energy and increase his resistance to attacks from spirit energy. It also let his Vajra's Glare progress even faster.

He had yet to reach the small success stage and did not have the ability to attack his opponent's "soul".

...

In the middle, Qing Clan knew that Dong Yan's grandfather had gone to Mu Clan once. Although Miss Mu was the one to call the shots in regards to entering the Sky Penetrating Mountains, there were still a couple of experts from Mu Clan who had gone alone. It could be said that she was the only youngster from Mu Clan who was entering the Sky Penetrating Mountains. The others were at least middle-aged, with a great majority of the group being old men. They were Mu Clan's main force.

In the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal!

Qing Shui watched as his demonic beasts were gradually powering up. After all, there was plenty of time in the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal. During this time, the Fire Bird and the Jade Emperor Queen Bee had powered up the fastest. It could be because they had been "born" in the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal.

One thing that made Qing Shui happy was that the horde of Jade Emperor Bees had grown to close to 1,000 in number. Before the Jade Emperor Queen Bee attained a breakthrough to Peak Martial Saint, the Jade Emperor Bees would no longer increase in numbers.

Out of the 1,000 Jade Emperor Bees, half of them were at Peak Martial King level, three of them had attained a breakthrough to elementary Martial Saint. This made Qing Shui very excited. After a few more years, they would all become powerful demonic beasts and it would be a big group of them. Maybe, by then, the numbers would grow even higher. Imagining the scene where all the Jade Emperor Bees shot out their stingers made Qing Shui very agitated.

The Gold-Silver Colored Butterflies were always around. They could fly around in the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal, going everywhere. Even some medicinal herbs had started to appear on some empty spaces far away. Those were the acts of the Jade Emperor Bees and the Gold-Silver Colored Butterflies. They must have unintentionally scattered the seeds.

That Ice Snow Sacred Fruit from two days ago had also matured. Qing Shui once again fed it to the Thunderous Beast. The two Ice Snow Sacred Fruits had pushed it to Peak Martial Saint and its cultivation had increased by a tremendous leap. It was quite a big achievement for a Grade Ten Martial Saint to reach Peak Martial Saint.

Even Qing Shui felt that luck was on his side. The two Ice Snow Sacred Fruits were well worth it. It had increased the Thunderous Beast's physical strength from one star to three stars, causing him to feel very excited.

He could not help but looked at the Thunderous Beast's powerful battle techniques.

Violet Thunder Protection: Unique ability of the Thunderous Beast, can increase all abilities to become two times stronger. It doesn't deplete energy and automatically circulates. If it received physical attacks, the Thunderous Beast has a chance of inflicting paralysis on the opponent.

Having its abilities increased, the Thunderous Beast which now had a strength of six stars, had improved greatly in various aspects. Most importantly, those who dealt it physical blows would end up in a tragic state. As for those who attacked with magic arts, the Thunderous Beast could dodge with its speed. Moreover, the Thunderous Beast's resistance ability was now also extremely powerful.

Thunderbolt: Releasing an electrifying attack through the Core within four hundred meters. The attack would have a slight paralyzing, speed reducing, reaction reducing effect on the opponent. The effects could be accumulated.

"Mmm, it has leveled up!"

Qing Shui hadn't noticed the distance previously but now, he realized that it could reach twice as far as before. This was good. It could now attack opponents from afar now.

There was not much change to the Violet Lightning Strike and the Lightning Recovery.

As for medicinal pills and such, Qing Shui had accumulated enough of them and naturally did not need to worry. He had also accumulated quite a lot of experience for the next alchemy recipe.

...

Unknowingly, half a month went by. Qing Shui didn't stay at Dong Clan but at the Elegance Inn on the Heaven Stepping Road, the place where the three of them had had a drink the previous time. It was very close to Azure Cloud Pavillion.

Sun Yan had returned to Yun City and said that he would return after some time. Therefore, there was only Qing Shui and Dong Yan now and they would occasionally go to Azure Cloud Pavillion.

"Eldest Brother also came to Azure Cloud Pavillion frequently in the past?" Qing Shui smiled and looked at Dong Yan.

"Not really," Dong Yan shook his head and said.

"Does Eldest Brother like Miss Mu?" Qing Shui looked seriously at Dong Yan, waiting to check out his reaction.

Dong Yan didn't appear to find it strange nor was he surprised. He merely looked at Qing Shui, gave it some thought before shaking his head and saying, "It's normal for men to like her. But it's not good to fall in love with her, otherwise you'll go crazy."

"She eventually has to get married. She can't possibly refuse to get married forever?" Qing Shui smiled and looked at Dong Yan.

“Regardless of whether she will be getting married or not, our relationship will stop at friends. There’s no other possibility. And if a guy who’s good enough for her doesn’t appear, she might stay single forever,” saying this, Dong Yan also smiled.

Qing Shui shook his head. He had not expected that a person like Dong Yan would also have moments where he would feel inferior. It wasn’t hard to feel inferior. For example, the fact that Dong Yan was not as powerful as her was sufficient.

Dong Yan appeared very at ease when he said this but Qing Shui knew that he was controlling himself, making himself not fall in love with that lady. Knowing that nothing would come of it, so he shouldn’t go ahead with it. Otherwise, in the end, he would be the one who would be covered in injuries.

“But third Brother, I feel that you have a chance.” Dong Yan looked at Qing Shui and that familiar smile appeared again.

“Me? Forget it. I already have several wives and a few kids,” Qing Shui smiled and said.

Chapter 864 - Heading toward Sky Penetrating Mountains

“Third brother has married quite early but a man having three or four wives is very common. However, it would seem a little difficult for Miss Mu and other women to share the same man. This miracle will be for third brother to create. I await the future,” Dong Yan said with a slight mischievous smile.

“I truly don’t have any interest now!” replied Qing Shui as he shook his head. What he said was the truth. This woman was very beautiful, not the least bit inferior to the women in the Portraits of Beauty.

In fact, from the start Qing Shui had never assumed that the girls within the Portraits of Beauty were the twelve most beautiful. However, they absolutely had the best skeletal structures, outstanding spirit and had divine bodies. After all, the World of the Nine Continents was incomparably vast and the number of humans living in it could not be counted.

Dong Yan did not continue saying anything as this kind of matter was unpredictable. What’s more, he was unable to act naturally in front of this woman.

Between a man and a woman, if one party feels inferior in any aspect, there would basically not be anything happening unless the opposite party takes the initiative. However, that was seemingly impossible, as there was no one who would love a person who would feel inferior in front of one’s self.

Qing Shui did not have any feelings for the woman after standing in front of her. At least he did not feel inferior, as he did not have any ulterior motives. Therefore he was able to continue being magnanimous and open-hearted.

“Okay, they’re here,” Dong Yan said as he pointed towards big miss Mu and a group of people.

Qing Shui looked over to see approximately twenty incoming people. The majority were old people and leading them was big miss Mu dressed in a phoenix dress. Her beautiful hair was tied up high in the air as usual, with a white jade hairpin in it, making her appear even more noble.

Faintly rocking while she walked, her gait appeared to give off the feeling of walking on air. Her entire being gave off the feeling of superiority, with a noble and grand feeling rushing into their eyes. This was a superior elegance that came from the deepest level of her.

This was a woman that made even Dong Yan feel inferior.

"I'm ready," the lady said softly.

"Yes, I'm prepared too," Qing Shui replied with a smile.

"I'll have to trouble Miss Mu then," said Dong Yan toward eldest Miss Mu.

The lady nodded her head before whispering, "Then let us get going."

"Okay. Be careful and have a safe journey. Take care," said Dong Yan to Qing Shui and eldest Miss Mu with a smile.

"Thanks!" the lady replied with a smile.

"Big brother, let's have a drink after I return," Qing Shui said to Dong Yan while waving his hand.

.....

Among the twenty people, Qing Shui and big miss Mu were the only young people. There were two middle aged refined males among the rest, who were uncles of the Mu Family girl. From the looks of it, a man at eighty years of age truly was at the peak of his charm.

The rest were all old people. Without a single movement on his face, Qing Shui was able to sense that all of them were at least Peak Martial Saint experts.

There were two old ladies among them, while the rest were old men.

Everyone was riding alone on their flying mounts. Before setting off, the Mu family girl had said that if the situation became irreversible, the more people who are able to escape the better it would be. There was no need to prove one's loyalty, as long as the Mu Family was able to preserve as much strength as possible.

Qing Shui knew about the situation she was talking about. This was similar to the situation the Cheng Family had faced when met with the "Golden Jiao King" in circumstances where they couldn't escape total annihilation; whoever could escape should escape, even sacrificing one's life to give others the chance to escape.

The lady's mount was a golden Luan. Qing Shui summoned his own Fire Bird. The Fire Bird was known as a red Luan within the World of the Nine Continents and was also called the Fiery Luan. They were considered the same species of demonic beast and the only difference between them was the element they possessed.

Di Chen's mount was a Blue Luan. It was said that the Luan was the offspring of the phoenix, possessing the bloodline of the phoenix within its body. Looking at the Golden Luan which was not a bit inferior to his Firebird, Qing Shui still felt that his Firebird was more formidable...

When the Mu Family girl saw Qing Shui's Firebird, she was flabbergasted for a moment. There were not many of this kind of mutated beast. Furthermore, the Luan was comparatively intelligent, thus wanting to subdue it with brute strength was impossible.

The demonic beast mounts of the remaining people were similarly very strong, with eagles, falcons and other feathery birds. All of them were fundamentally built for speed and endurance. Even if their attack power was insufficient they still needed to have speed and endurance.

The twenty some gigantic flying demonic beasts flew towards the east in an earth-shattering manner. It was a spectacular sight, as after all each demonic beast was very large. With their wings spread out, they were akin to a cloud, added with distance between them when they spread out, they looked as if they could cover the skies and envelop the earth.

This was the Eastern God Country, also considered a prefectural region of the Eastern Victory Divine Continent. After all they were connected together and this it was difficult to separate clearly. This place was already the most eastern part and only needed a three day journey to reach the Sky Penetrating Mountains.

A three day journey wasn't a short distance but that was normal. The Sky Penetrating Mountains were filled with all kinds of dangers and they could not be too near to the city. Therefore the city was quite a distance away from it to ensure its safety.

On the way, the members of the Mu Family were regularly thrown into disorder. It was fortunate that Qing Shui's Firebird was a pretty good mount. Its intelligence was extremely high and in fact was a cut above the Mu Family girl's Golden Luan.

Although Qing Shui had not given it any heavenly treasures for a very long time, the Spiritual Qi within the Realm of the Violet Immortal was much thicker than on the outside, even the Eastern Victory Divine Continent was unable to compare with it.

The Firebird's strength had already reached approximated nine thousand countries but was still much more weaker than the Lightning Beast. The Lightning Beast was like an "assassin" to Qing Shui and was used for a single target kill. Even when collaborating with him, it would also be used for single target kills.

The Diamond Gigantic Elephant was able to attack multiple targets. The Mighty Elephant Stomp was very formidable, however this was the Sky Penetrating Mountains. With a killing power of less than nine stars, the Mighty Elephant Stomp would be barely enough in coping with the strong demonic beasts present here.

Therefore Qing Shui had upgraded the Lightning Beast, as strong demonic beasts that could threaten such a large group of people would generally not appear in a large group, the possibility of beasts appearing alone was the largest. Therefore, the usefulness of the Lightning Beast here would be immeasurable.

Very quickly they had arrived at the city walls. The walls here were even higher than those of the continent's capital and were also very hard and stable. This was built to withstand bestial tides. Although demonic beasts of Martial Saint Stage and above were able to fly, there were many more demonic beasts that were below Martial Saint Stage and they were not possible to be fully killed off.

On top of the tall city walls were strong mechanical bows. This kind of bow required the energy of one's inner core to operate them. The arrows they launched were coated with strong poisons or made with the bones of strong demonic beasts, thus their might was rather strong.

Flying past this city, they were met with a large swampland, with numerous pathways branching from the central path. This gigantic swampland was a natural barrier for the city, however it was a pity that it could not block flying demonic beasts.

The Mu Family girl led the group as they flew towards their destination with ease. Flying behind her was Qing Shui and his Firebird. Looking at the figure on the back of the Golden Luan, he could only sigh as he thought, was it a good or bad thing for this woman to have such great strength?

The lady within the crystal coffin was undeniably stronger than this lady. However, Qing Shui would avoid even thinking about that lady even in his subconscious mind. He did not know why either.

Although he had woken her up and even helped her dispel the poison in her body, he had taken away her most precious thing. At that time it was already very fortunate she didn't kill him. However, Qing Shui still felt that he fell slightly short of making it up to her. He had left without turning his head then in fear of his life and also for his pitiful pride.

There was no one else to blame when you have a good heart and did bad thing. That matter with Yun Duan made up for the pain in Qing Shui's heart, making him feel slightly better. He was unable to be unaffected by his feelings. Therefore, he had currently put in some effort to avoid being entangled in any new relationships. However the world was full of variables and fate makes fun of people.

On the back of the Fire Bird, Qing Shui daydreamed due to the abundant free time. Just like that they had flown for an entire day. Even Demonic Beasts needed to stop to rest for a while, the energy consumption when flying quickly was very high.

Once they left the city, there was still a very long distance to the Sky Penetrating Mountains, which was basically no man's land. However no one could be certain that there were no villages or hidden families living in this region.

The skies had already turned dark. This was a vast and expansive wilderness and one could not see the end of it. The ground below their feet was strewn with weeds and one could see a ten metre tall stone slope not far from where they landed, looking especially clean. Everyone started to walk over there, as it was best to pitch tents there if they were to have a rest.

Putting away their mounts, they walked towards that stone slope. This time Qing Shui saw the Mu Family girl walking without her feet touching the ground.

At the top of the stone slope was a flat surface that was not big, looking glossy and clean. Not only was it enough for them to pitch their tents there, it gave them a vantage point to have an endless view of their surroundings. A distance not far from them was a stream, its gurgling noises ringing clearly.

Qing Shui pitched his own tent, while the others also pitched theirs. Qing Shui's actions were very quick, however when he brought out a bed, it made everyone gawk...

One had to know that everyone present had Interspatial Silk Sachets, however most of them were not capable of fitting such a big bed in them. Today there were only two present, with the Mu Family girl having a similarly powerful Interspatial tool.

It was considered very common for a Martial Saint and above to have a Interspatial Silk Sachet. However this did not mean that a Interspatial Silk Sachet was not precious, just that the higher grade Interspatial Tools were more precious.

After pitching the tents, everyone went to rest and eat. If there were wild beasts in their surroundings, they would eat some wild game, if not they would eat the food they have brought along.

Looking at his surroundings, Qing Shui started walking towards small stream.

“What are you doing?” the Mu Family girl who had coincidentally looked at Qing Shui asked.

Hearing her words, Shui gawked. Never did he imagine that she would ask about him. Actually, even the lady did not know why did she acted out so suddenly. After all, there was still no danger around here. In addition he was only going to leave for a moment, it wasn't necessary for her to ask in such an urgent manner. Furthermore, he still had some urgent business to settle...

“I'm going to find something to eat. It's alright. There isn't any danger around here,” Qing Shui said as he looked at the girl who was currently feeling slightly unnatural.

“Let's go together then!” added the girl immediately.

Qing Shui knew the other party was concealing something or perhaps she was worried about him.

“Okay!”

The two of them proceeded to walk toward the small stream not far from there.

The old people and the two middle aged men of the Mu Family were astonished for a while upon seeing this happen. This was the first time they had seen their young miss standing alone with a man...

“Third uncle, seventh uncle, I'll go prepare something to eat,” a middle aged man said to two of the old men in the lead.

“They've already left. Just let them go. Miss hasn't taken any action yet,” said an interested old man.

Qing Shui and the Mu Family girl walked over to the little stream. The grass growing on the ground impeded their movements, resulting in them walking very slowly. When they had arrived here, they had all been sitting on their individual mounts, thus there was not much interaction between them.

Although it could be considered that they had interacted a few times in the city, this was the first time they were together by themselves.

Until now Qing Shui still did not know the name of the girl and only knew her as the big miss of the Mu Family.

“How many times have you been to the Sky Penetrating Mountains?” Qing Shui asked softly after walking a distance. With the two of them keeping silent, the atmosphere was slightly stifling.

Chapter 865 - She Has the Mystical Connection Divine Sword?

“This is the tenth time” the lady said softly.

“How often do you guys enter Sky Penetrating Mountains?” Qing Shui asked casually.

“This is not fixed. Most of the time, we would enter twice a year at most, with no fixed timing. We just happened to be going in this time and you had the same intention,” the lady smiled and said.

As they carried on with their casual chat, they arrived by a river which was only a 100 meters wide and about 100 meters deep. It was so clear that one could see the bottom of the river and the gushing sound of the water was very calming.

There were plenty of fish and prawns in the water and since the water was very clear, Qing Shui had wanted to catch some. He decided that the menu for the night was to eat fish and drink fish soup.

Qing Shui took out the Pure Gold Fishing Rod and looked at the sky. Although it was going to be dark soon, it was not very late yet. Moreover, if he were to use the Pure Gold Fishing Rod, he might be able to fish out something good. And even if he couldn't, at least the fish and fish soup for dinner would be settled.

Qing Shui held the fishing rod and looked at the lady from Mu Clan, “It's not late yet. How about we catch some fish?”

“Alright, I haven't seen someone fishing before.” The lady seemed to be looking with great interest at the fishing rod Qing Shui was holding.

The two of them found a spot and Qing Shui tossed in the fishing line.

Looking at this small river, although Qing Shui knew the great power of the Pure Gold Fishing Rod, he had not held much expectation that anything good would come of it. The water here was so clear that he could see the bottom with one look. Therefore, he shouldn't be able to fish out any treasures.

Moreover, he had not planned to fish out any treasures. He only wanted to catch fish and prawns.

“It's moving!”

The lady saw that a fish had bitten the hook and said happily.

However, after the lady said that, the fish which had bitten the hook escaped.

“Ah, I'm sorry.” The lady looked at Qing Shui apologetically.

“It's nothing. This is very normal.” Qing Shui smiled to indicate that it was not much.

On the second attempt, he successfully fished up a Green Tailed Fish which was about one foot in size. The lady from Mu Clan looked from the side, not making a sound but joy was reflected on her face.

She was usually very busy or rather, she had been busy since she was young. Although she had outstanding talent, she still needed to spend a large amount of time on her cultivation. Therefore, she had spent all of her time cultivating.

Moreover, she still had a powerful treasure. Otherwise, the rate of her progress would not be as fast.

She had eaten a good share of fish and prawns in her life but this was the first time that she had seen someone fishing from so close up. She felt that this was very new and she even had an urge to attempt it herself.

Qing Shui didn't look at the lady from Mu Clan but he could sense faintly the ripples in her heart. He could easily guess that this lady should have gone through a lot. If she hadn't, she would not have reached the level she was at today. It seemed like she was so busy that she did not even have the time to fish.

This was not an exaggeration. Not everyone could have a Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal like he did and could at most rely on medicine or other items to make better use of their time.

He then continued to successfully fish up three Green Tailed Fish, five crabs which were one foot in size and a lobster that was the size of his palm. Qing Shui turned to see that Mu Clan's lady was looking at his fishing rod.

"Do you want to give it a go?" Qing Shui smiled and said. He could tell that the lady had wanted to try but couldn't bring it up.

"Alright!" The lady said happily.

Receiving Qing Shui's Pure Gold Fishing Rod, after listening to Qing Shui's explanation of how it was used, she then started to fish.

When she fished up her first fish, she was extremely happy. This was the first time that Qing Shui had seen her with such a smile after having seen her so many times. It was a really happy smile. When a dignified lady smiled, it would be so graceful that one would be stunned.

"I've managed to catch something!" There was a grace and a hint of charm in her voice.

The lady's tone had an unconcealed joy to it, as if she was a kid who had received a toy she liked. Qing Shui smiled and watched from the side. He didn't know what he was feeling now but he was happy to see the lady being happy as well. It was a very simple feeling, just like the spreading of happiness. For example, when you're with a few people, when someone smiles at you, you'll smile back.

Qing Shui took out a bucket and then started to clean up the fish, prawns and crabs.

The lady seemed to like fishing and only after Qing Shui told her that it was enough did she turn to see that the whole bucket was full. She smiled and brought back the fishing rod, handing it back to Qing Shui.

Qing Shui put away the Pure Gold Fishing Rod, lifted up the bucket and headed back with the lady. This was the first time the Pure Gold Fishing Rod had not fished out something good but it was within his expectations.

If he were able to fish out good items and treasures regardless of the place, then Qing Shui wouldn't have to do anything but to go fishing every day.

On the way back, he found some dried wood and started a fire directly when they arrived at the tent. There was roasted fish, fish soup, as well as things like roasted prawns and crabs.

Qing Shui didn't dare to say that his culinary skills were top notch but with the outstanding ingredients and his skill, he had not come across anyone who could do it better than him. It was also fun to be making some food in his free time, especially when he was at home, cooking for the women he liked and for his children. It was a great happiness and enjoyment.

When that intoxicating fragrance flowed out, even those old fogeys couldn't help but twitch their noses and stare at the steaming fish soup, roasted fish...

They had eaten a lot of fish before and while this 'fish type' was quite good, it could only be considered above average. However, this fragrance was even better than the best top grade fish they had eaten before.

There were more than twenty of them and each of them had brought their own utensils. Qing Shui was the last in the line and he finished up a huge serving of fish, prawns and other food.

Even the lady from the Mu Clan ate a roasted fish and drank a bowl of fish soup. Although she was considered to have eaten the least amongst the people here, she knew that this was the one time she had eaten the most and she still had a craving for more.

"This is the best food this old man has eaten in my life. Haha, I wouldn't have any regrets even if I were to die in the Sky Penetrating Mountains this time," an old man finished up the last mouthful of his fish soup and said happily.

"Seventh Uncle, you're still young. There's still plenty chances in the future. Don't be thinking otherwise," a middle-aged man looked weirdly at the old man and said.

"Rascal, you enjoy eating even more than me. Don't think that I have no idea what you're planning. Go tell that to the lass." The old man clearly didn't fall into the trap.

"This is really considered a world grade delicacy. The spiritual energy in Eastern Victory Divine Continent is very strong and I've also eaten quite a lot of good food but to think that an ordinary Green Tailed Fish could taste this good. The skill of those imperial chefs are dogsheet when compared to this young man's," an old man said.

"Old Eight, we're eating. Can you be more civilized?"

"Cough cough..."

Mu Clan's lady was next to Qing Shui. Maybe it was because they were closer in age and thus they just naturally stood next to each other with no other thoughts. However, to other people, this looked like a entirely different scene.

It was because many people realized that the two of them looked very harmonious or rather, they seemed to be a good match when they were standing together. It was a feeling they gave off. This young man was very mature and hid a terrifying power. He was also giving off an indescribable feeling.

After the meal, it was still early. The old men started to gather around in groups to chat. They were brothers, partners and companions who had been working together for many years. They had great rapport and strong relationships. It was a true brotherhood.

Therefore, they had endless topics to chat about.

Mu Clan's lady had returned to her tent. Qing Shui looked at the sky and greeted the others before he entered his tent. He then went into the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal.

However, before he did that, he called out the Ten Thousand Poisonous Violet Sable.

This way, if someone was looking for him, he could be notified.

His Heart of Roc was already at the large success stage but the Roc Spreading Wings was still at the small success stage and was still far away from attaining the large success stage. His abilities were improving rapidly but it still required a very long period of time. For each technique to reach the greatest height, it would take a tremendous amount of time. Moreover, Qing Shui was cultivating over ten techniques. If he didn't have the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal, he wouldn't be able to afford to do so.

Thousand Crane Slash!

This technique had already reached the large success stage and as he swung his hands, three pairs of palm shadows attacked at the same time. This was the prowess of the Thousand Crane Slash. It was just like the Nine Waves Great Golden Buddha Palm, just that one technique emphasized focused attacks while the other was for dispersed attacks, both of which had their own advantages. However, the current prowess of the Thousand Crane Slash was still not comparable to the Six Waves.

The concentrated attacks of the Nine Waves Great Golden Buddha Palm had high damage and could be used against people with powerful defences. On the other hand, the Thousand Crane Slash's dispersed attacks, when used against people stronger than him, especially those with defences stronger than his attacks, would be basically useless.

Unless the palm shadows could attack the opponent's vital spots.

Thousand Hammer Technique!

Roc Spreading Wings!

Refining demon!

Talisman Drawing!

Drawing the [Hundred Forms of the Tiger]!

...

The next day, Qing Shui woke up very early and walked toward the river. He was going to have his morning practice there but before he arrived, he could hear the sound of the swinging of swords. After walking further, he saw the lady dancing with the sword at the river bed,

She was still wearing a golden colored pleated dress but Qing Shui knew that it was not the same one she was wearing before since the spiritual aura on it was different.

The lady had a golden colored longsword in her hands and what had astonished Qing Shui was the glow and the powerful spiritual energy on the golden colored sword which was over three feet in length. It was as if the sword was able to form a Divine Connection.

Mystical Connection Divine Sword!

To think that it was the "Mystical Connection Divine Sword"! At first glance, the name of the sword slipped out from Qing Shui's mouth. Although the grades of the treasure which he knew of from his previous life was not accurate, this sword was definitely the best one Qing Shui has seen so far.

It was no wonder that this lady could lead Mu Clan to the Sky Penetrating Mountains. This “Mystical Connection Divine Sword” definitely played a huge role.

Another thing was that this Mystical Connection Divine Sword was different from the one Qing Shui knew about. The one he knew of was only seven inches long and was hidden in the body, linked to the owner in the heart. When required, it would release a stream of golden light, locking the enemy and killing them without any notice.

In the world of the nine continents, everything he knew could only act as references. After all, only the things that he has come across whilst working his way through this world were real.

And just then, the lady’s longsword flew toward Qing Shui, its sword Qi like a rainbow and its speed was extremely fast. This made Qing Shui tense up. He took a step to the left and then two steps backward, dodging this sword.

The lady’s eyes lit up as she darted over, grabbed the Mystical Connection Divine Sword and once again stabbed toward Qing Shui. Each of her sword attacks had an indescribable rhythm, as if they were alive.

They were really connected to her heart.

Chapter 866 - Arriving at the Sky Penetrating Mountains, The Strength of Golden Jiao King?

Looking at Sword Qi that shrouded him, Qing Shui raised his speed to its limit. The powerful Cloudmist Steps had many types of steps fused in it. In addition to the Nine Continents Boots that he was wearing on his feet, Qing Shui was still very formidable in speed.

The steps of the woman were agile and graceful like a butterfly, yet as quick as a snake. Her sword technique was also growing swifter. Qing Shui was already pressured in dealing with her. If he had to withstand this, he must retaliate.

He couldn’t use his Hidden Weapons. Putting aside the issue of being able to cause injury, they weren’t suited for sparring.

He took out the Big Dipper Sword and immediately resisted her advances with the Basic Sword Techniques. When it came to the realm of Sword Techniques, Qing Shui had not seen anyone better than him. Rather than swapping pointers, it was more like they were swapping sword technique pointers.

Neither party used their full strength and they didn’t go further than necessary. Although the ‘Basic Sword Techniques’ was simple, it was most direct without any flashy movements. Even for Qing Shui’s current realm, it remained simple and unsophisticated with a strange imposing beauty. It was easy to be neglected for its simplicity.

The woman had only found out how high this young man’s sword technique realm actually was along with his speed during their exchange. She only realized now that everything this man knew was top-notch. His cooking skills, sword techniques and drawing.....

“Just what else does he know? What is his strength?”

The woman seemed to have realized that she was wondering about too many things. Why was she wondering so much? But then again, she couldn't stop herself from wondering and she didn't know why either. She merely wanted to know how he could cultivate all these to such a realm.

Perhaps her mind wandered when she was thinking, she seemed to be unaware when Qing Shui's sword stopped at her neck. By the time she snapped back to reality, her Mystical Connection Divine Sword had already cut Qing Shui on his shoulder.

Qing Shui thought that this would be considered over the moment his sword had reached her delicate neck. He didn't expect it to be over this quick either, although it was just a simple spar.

"How sharp. It's simply all-conquering." Qing Shui took a look at the wound on his shoulder. Blood was gushing out from it. He didn't expect things to turn out this way at all. He wasn't on his guard so this woman managed to stab him very easily.

Qing Shui was dazed. The look in his eyes was a little strange. Fresh blood stained his entire shoulder crimson very quickly. The woman was startled before she frantically apologized, "I'm so sorry."

The woman actually came over. She held Qing Shui's arm, took out medicine and poured some on it. Qing Shui could smell a faint delicate fragrance in the air as the woman approached. It smelled very nice. It was the best fragrance in the world.

"It's alright, I was the one who didn't evade." Qing Shui silently moved a step backwards and pulled his arm out of her grasp.

"I'm really sorry!" The woman had a very serious look on her face and was very apologetic.

"Injuries are unavoidable in sparring. I'm alright, I'll go clean up the wound," Qing Shui laughed in a relaxed manner.

"I'll help you dress it." The woman offered after hesitating for a moment.

"I can do it myself. There's blood all over, it's better you don't touch." Qing Shui smiled after he finished his sentence and then made his way behind the big tree that was not too far away.

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Qing Shui had declined her good will because he didn't want to be involved with her. Not even a little. Especially in this kind of situation, he didn't want to have any physical contact with her.

That was because he knew that this type of woman basically had never experienced any contact with men. Perhaps she had said something like this today because she was apologetic. However, Qing Shui didn't want her to do something like that because he was also afraid. Not only that, this type of woman was especially clingy.

The woman watched Qing Shui's silhouette. This was the first time a man had rejected her and had refused her offer to dress his wound. She didn't know what to feel. Should she rejoice, be happy or be disappointed?

Disappointed? No. She had met a man with some integrity.....

If Qing Shui had known about the thoughts of this woman, he wouldn't know what to think.

He took off his bloody clothes and applied some medicine. Qing Shui had a very special constitution. His speed of recovery was very fast. After simply dressing the wound, he changed his clothes and came out.

When he came out, he saw that the woman was still there in the distance. She seemed to be waiting for him. Qing Shui walked over to her. It was still very early right now. The sparring earlier had lasted only for a little while so he still had to go through his morning practice.

"Is it serious?" The woman asked apologetically. After all, he got stabbed by her before they even entered the Sky Penetrating Mountains. They would be reaching the Sky Penetrating Mountains very soon so she was actually very worried, in a guilty way.

"I'm fine. Don't worry. My body recovers very fast. It'll be completely healed by tonight at the latest. I'm going to practise my fist for a while," Qing Shui finished his sentence with a smile and walked away to somewhere a little further.

The woman opened her mouth but didn't say anything. She thought that Qing Shui would return.....

She had done it on purpose, although she felt very apologetic about it.

Otherwise Qing Shui wouldn't be hurt.

After Qing Shui walked away, his mood grew a little heavy. He didn't know what attitude he should show her. Accidentally? She should be able to feel the sword on her neck. For someone with that strength, it was impossible for her to be distracted. Even if she was distracted, he would be able to tell from looking.

Although she might have something on her mind at that time, that stab must have been on purpose. She wanted him to return now so she thought of injuring him so that he wouldn't be able to go to the Sky Penetrating Mountains. After all, this wound normally wouldn't completely heal in less than a month.

Qing Shui slowly practised his taichi fists at a distance as thoughts kept running through his mind. Should he go alone or go with her? He could only guess at the reason why she had done this on purpose but not the exact reason.

However it was simply impossible for a situation like this to happen for someone with her strength.

The woman watched Qing Shui's silhouette and the slow movements of his fists. She was really distracted earlier but it wasn't to the extent where she would cause an accidental injury. This was a spontaneous decision on her part and she had even subconsciously decided to do it, although it didn't seem to have achieved the end result that she desired.

The woman from Mu Clan sighed before making her way towards the tent.

After Qing Shui returned this time, breakfast had already been prepared. However the taste was as different as heaven and earth compared to last night. In fact, it was actually rather hard to swallow.

"Cough cough. We have been eating this before. Let's all stop behaving like this. Besides, we can't always let Qing Shui cook!" The fourth uncle of the Mu Clan woman, Mu Yiping said gloomily. He also thought that the food tasted very bad.

Since their previous meal was delicious, which was rare for them, the disparity between that and this was simply too great.

Qing Shui also knew now that the Fourth Uncle of that woman from Mu Clan was called Mu Yiping and her other Sixth Uncle was Mu Yiang. Among the elderly men, other than Mu Yiping and Mu Yiang, the others were addressed as Third Uncle, Seventh Uncle and Eighth Uncle. Qing Shui didn't know the name of that woman from Mu Clan, neither did he have any intention of finding out right now.

The two grandmothers weren't directly related to the Mu Clan but had been in the Mu Clan for a hundred years so they were basically no different than the Mu Clan people. The woman from Mu Clan addressed them with Granny. It seemed like they had watched the woman of Mu Clan grow up.

They continued their journey towards the Sky Penetrating Mountains after they packed up. No one other than the woman knew of the incident where Qing Shui was stabbed and no one had realized it so far either. The woman always seemed a little guilty whenever she looked at Qing Shui.

This had even become a little knot in her heart.

She thought that her actions were a little too petty. After all, she had already agreed yet she still did something like this even though her motive wasn't a malicious one.

Qing Shui hadn't had much reaction from the beginning to the end but he had refused to let her dress his wound and this flustered her a little. Despite everything, this was her first time being rejected by someone.

After two days, the Sky Penetrating Mountains had come into view in the distance. They would arrive in another two hours.

They saw quite a number of people along their way. They were all riding on a flying beasts and looked strong. This had broadened Qing Shui's horizons quite a lot. It seemed like there were really many people coming to the Sky Penetrating Mountain everyday and on top of that, they were all powerful cultivators.

"Let's take a break on the outskirts of the Sky Penetrating Mountains for tonight. We'll go in early tomorrow morning," the woman suggested to everyone.

Qing Shui saw that there were a lot of tents pitched in the surroundings. It seemed many people had made the same decision too. Looking at the sky, only half of the afternoon had passed. There was still quite some time left before nightfall.

He raised his head to look at the mountains that penetrated the skies. The towering and enormous mountain silhouettes gave people a heavy feeling. Qing Shui had felt the same way when he was at the Giant Beasts Mountains and it deserved to be called dangerous grounds.

"Is your arm alright?" The woman's voice came from Qing Shui's side. She had tried to slow down their journey as much as possible and also ensured that they reached here at this time. This way, they would be able to stay one night in the outskirts of the Sky Penetrating Mountains.

Qing Shui turned his head around and smiled, "It's completely healed."

He rolled his sleeve all the way up to his shoulder and revealed a scar that was only about three inches long. He didn't want this woman to keep thinking about it so he helped her to eliminate her worries.

Seeing that scar that no longer seemed significant, the woman inwardly breathed a sigh of relief.

"Give me some brief explanations about these Sky Penetrating Mountains!" Qing Shui realized that both of them really didn't have much to talk about with each other.

"Sure!"

The two of them walked slowly toward the Sky Penetrating Mountains, their walking pace was very slow. Then the woman spoke up. "The dangers in the Sky Penetrating Mountains are hard to predict. Not only are there formidable demonic beasts and poison beasts, the Qi of Xiantian cannot be activated in some places. Then there are also poisonous miasmas, poisonous insects and herbs. All kinds of deadly dangers lurk around here. But a thousand li into the Sky Penetrating Mountains is still relatively safe. Most people hunt for treasures around this area." The woman provided a brief explanation.

When Qing Shui heard this, he wasn't really bothered about the poisonous things as he wasn't really allergic to any of those. However, he was startled as soon as he heard about how the Qi of Xiantian might not be able to be activated and agreed that this Sky Penetrating Mountains was indeed dangerous. There should be some powerful demonic beasts dwelling in there or some mystical objects.

Mystical objects existed in the World of the Nine Continents. For example, the 'God Slaying Stone' that was classified by grades. Different grades would prevent cultivators or demonic beasts of the same level within a specific range from activating the Qi of Xiantian and dantian energy so that they could only use their physical strength. This was why some special buildings would utilize the suppression of the God Slaying Stone. Every single one of them was a priceless treasure.

Basically most cultivators could only use 1% of their strength when they were unable to activate their Qi of Xiantian or if their dantian was sealed. Some cultivators would even instantly be crippled into an ordinary person.

Other than areas where Qi of Xiantian couldn't be activated, there were also some demonic beasts of Chieftain level. They also possessed mysteriously formidable strength and were very reactive on their territory.

"How far did you manage to go when you all went to the Sky Penetrating Mountains before?" Qing Shui asked after thinking for moment.

"Ten thousand li. That was our limit." The woman answered Qing Shui.

"Where is that Golden Jiao King roughly located? Will it be further than ten thousand li?" Qing Shui asked with a smile.

The woman gave Qing Shui a weird look before finally answering him, "The Golden Jiao King should be further away than ten thousand li but the people from the Cheng Clan were very unlucky. They bumped into it right around the ten thousand li range."

Chapter 867 - Hard To Find the Sky Penetrating Grass, Treasure Beast Treasure Hunting Pigs

When Qing Shui heard the lady's words, he also felt that Cheng Clan was really unlucky. Since they dared to enter deep 100,000 li in, it meant that they were pretty powerful but were just unlucky to have come across the Golden Jiao King.

Sometimes, this was how people were. Everything would be decided in one unlucky event. Therefore, luck was very important. It was not something that could be grasped or seen but yet seemed to exist.

Qing Shui didn't ask why they had gone to the Sky Penetrating Mountains, since it was not something he should be asking. In this area, he had been insisting that things were none of his business or were related to other people's secrets, he wouldn't take the initiative to ask. It was just like now, how he would not ask in detail why the other party had come to the Sky Penetrating Mountains.

"Are you here to look for something in the Sky Penetrating Mountains? Is it something that you are at ease to share? I can see if it's located somewhere I know of," the lady looked at Qing Shui and spoke softly.

"Of course. I'm here to look for Sky Penetrating Grass which is 5,000 Years or older," Qing Shui looked at the lady and said slowly.

Hearing Qing Shui's words, the lady was stunned and didn't speak for a long time.

Qing Shui looked at that extremely unnatural expression on her beautiful face and asked, "What's wrong?"

"I can be very sure that there's no Sky Penetrating Grass within 100,000 li. The Sky Penetrating Grass is deeper within the Sky Penetrating Mountains." The lady hesitated for a moment before replying.

Qing Shui was stunned as well. Although he had expected this result, he still felt an indescribable sense of helplessness. It was because if it was not within 100,000 li, it would be really hard for him to get his hands on it.

"Then does Miss know how deep in I would be able to find Sky Penetrating Grass?" Qing Shui thought that since this lady from Mu Clan had came here not less than ten times, she should know something about the place. Even if she hadn't encountered them, she should know something about them. Moreover, there had been people who had gotten their hands on Sky Penetrating Grass from these mountains.

"I'm not very sure but I've heard that someone had found the Sky Penetrating Grass about 300,000 li inside," the lady from Mu Clan hesitated and said.

Qing Shui thought that since there was one near 300,000 li deep, then there might possibly be another. At the same time, it also meant one thing, which was that there should be the existence of Sky Penetrating Grass from this range onward.

Another thing was that there were people who could enter 300,000 li in, while Mu Clan could only enter 100,000 li in. It might be because Mu Clan had done this for the sake of the future and for safety purposes did not want to take greater risks.

“Thank you. After you guys have completed your mission or have reached the limits where you can go, there’s no need for you to care about me. I’ll go look for the Sky Penetrating Grass. Thank you for bringing me here.” Qing Shui smiled and said.

“With your abilities, if you were to head deeper beyond 100,000 li, chances are that you’ll die. Is the Sky Penetrating Grass more important than your life?” The lady frowned and asked. After all, Dong Clan had entrusted her with the task of taking care of him and even Dong Clan’s Old Master had brought it up himself. It was just that at the beginning, it was only agreed that he would be entering the Sky Penetrating Mountains with Mu Clan and there was no mention that he was going to look for the Sky Penetrating Grass. It was not something she could bring up on her side.

“I’d like to give it a try. Don’t worry, Dong Clan won’t blame you.”

“If I had known that you were here to look for the Sky Penetrating Grass, I’d definitely not have brought you along,” the lady sighed and said.

“I’ll familiarize myself with the environment while I’m with you guys before I enter slightly deeper in. It might not be as dangerous as it’s imagined to be.” Qing Shui seemed as if he was consoling himself.

“Can you not go? Don’t be hoping to be lucky,” the lady spoke through clenched teeth.

“I really need the Sky Penetrating Grass. I’ll be very careful,” Qing Shui hesitated a moment before saying.

This time around, the lady did not say much. She knew that Qing Shui would definitely go.

Very quickly, the two of them returned to the area where their tents were. Not long after, two old men from Mu Clan walked over to Qing Shui.

It was Mu Yiping’s and Mu Yiang’s third and seventh uncles. Their intentions were very clear, which was hoping that Qing Shui would not go deeper into the Sky Penetrating Mountains. They were on quite good terms with Dong Clan’s Old Master, who had specially gone to Mu Clan for Qing Shui. Therefore, these two old men were also hoping to change Qing Shui’s decision about entering deeper into the mountains.

“Sirs, don’t worry. There shouldn’t be any problems.” Qing Shui had not expected the two of them to be persuading him relentlessly. He knew that it was because of Dong Clan or it could also be because of his culinary skills...

For the past few days, Qing Shui had mostly been the one in charge of cooking and everyone’s taste buds had been trained up by him, making it hard for them to eat ordinary cooking.

“We knew that this might happen but when the time comes, before you leave, let us know.” One of the old men gave it some thought and said.

“Of course, that goes without saying,” Qing Shui smiled and said.

...

The next day, after the sun rose up and the fog in the mountains gradually scattered, Qing Shui and the others had entered the Sky Penetrating Mountains. There was only one huge entrance to the valley into the Sky Penetrating Mountains and upon entering everything lit up.

A vast swath of wilderness that stretched beyond the borders of one's vision appeared before his eyes. Out there, there were many mountains in great numbers. This strange feeling gave him a visual impact, as if he was looking at a painting. It was from the viewpoint of a third party.

It was relatively safe within 1,000 li and there were basically no dangers there. Therefore, they sat on their rides and flew past this distance, stopping only after they had reached the 1,000 li point.

This was a transitional point!

Although there didn't seem to be any dangers from here and they had also not come across any dangers within the past 1,000 li, Qing Shui didn't dare to let his guard down. It was because upon entering the Sky Penetrating Mountains, he could sense a tremendous dangerous aura which was very suppressing. If one was not strong enough, the person would definitely not be able to unleash his abilities at full power.

Spiritual suppression!

Amongst the Sky Penetrating Mountains, if one's spirit energy was not strong enough, the further one entered, the more suppressed the person would feel and to the extent that just the suppression alone would weaken one's abilities by a lot. This was the reason why many people could only enter 1,000 or 10,000 li into the mountains. If they were to enter even deeper, they would have the abilities of normal people or feel weak and collapse.

From the 1,000 li mark onward, they would encounter many dangers and more so in the air. Sometimes, there would be a whole flock of demonic beasts passing by and thus it was safer on the ground. It was easy to hide amongst valleys or caves on land.

Within the first 1,000 li, they could still see groups of people but beyond the first 1,000 li, the number of groups around diminished and they might not even come across a single group even when half the day had passed.

"Bloody Vines!" Someone pointed to the midpoint of the cliff walls in the distance and shouted.

Qing Shui looked toward the direction the person was pointing to. It was a blood red colored vine type plant. Amidst the green plants around, it was like a huge blood red colored python and there was a translucent, blood red, fruit on it that was the size of a baby's fist.

"Haha, not bad. We're off to a good start. I've said that we should take this path and it seems like the decision was right," the old man who was called Old Eight smiled and said.

"We might have come across a 3,000 Years Bloody Vines Fruit if we were to choose the other routes and not this which is not even 2,000 years of age," an old man smiled and interrupted.

"Old Seven, are you out to challenge me?" Old Eight asked, infuriated.

The other people didn't give any response. They were used to such situations and had long been numbed. Even if they were to start fighting, no one else would even furrow their brows.

They only picked that fruit. Qing Shui faintly recalled that the Bloody Vines Fruit could change one's blood quality, making it more active and increase the user's talent, abilities and physiques. It was quite a good item and the effects could be accumulated. Just one alone would not bring much impact but the effects would still be very obvious.

There were really a lot of good things within the Sky Penetrating Mountains. However, there were also plenty of dangers around. Even just for the distance which they had travelled, they had already chased off demonic beasts more than ten times. They had all been elementary Martial Saints, some of which were alone, some in a small group and some coming in a horde of over a hundred of them.

However, the people here were strong enough and thus could chase them off easily. If it was a weak group, they would have died many times over. Interests and dangers came in the same ratio and thus the benefits they received were also tremendous.

This was just the beginning. The deeper they went in, the greater the danger and the more powerful the demonic beasts they would encounter. The routes would also be restrictive since there would be weeds that were taller than humans, many of which came with sharp thorns. There were those in a multitude of colors, those which were scarlet and those which were pungent. Therefore, they were only able to fly over them, being careful of any miasma or poisonous creatures like poisonous snakes and worms.

Three days passed by and the group had only entered another 1,000 li deeper. The deeper they went in, the slower their speed. Earlier, they had even pushed back a horde of high level Martial Saint demonic beasts of about 100 in numbers.

This caused the lady from Mu Clan to frown. They had only entered 2,000 li into the Sky Penetrating Mountains. The situation seemed to be a bit different than from the past. By rights, at this depth, there shouldn't be such powerful demonic beasts.

Thinking that they had only encountered this once, she relaxed her brows and continued to head in, seeming as if she had no targeted destination, yet at the same time, as if she had everything planned out. Her actions which followed made Qing Shui extremely astonished. She let out over ten golden-colored piglets that were about one foot in size.

Treasure Hunting Pigs...

The pigs were about one foot in size, their bodies like diamond and their speed was extremely fast. They darted about in the mountains. Qing Shui had not expected that this lady had such treasures and ten of them. Each of them were very cute and chubby, making one have the urge to hug them.

Treasure Hunting Pigs were treasure beasts and they were not very strong. Their bodies were tough as diamond and both their speed and endurance level were very strong. Their only unique trait was that they could look for treasures and thus the name Treasure Hunting Pigs.

Treasure beasts were unlike mutated beasts and fantastic beasts. An existence like the Treasure Hunting Pigs didn't hold any attacking prowess but their survival abilities were very strong and were the dreams of many people.

Treasure beasts were covered in treasures all over. Take the Treasure Hunting Pig for example, it had a golden-colored pearl in its body which had a tremendous worth. However, no one would kill a Treasure

Hunting Pigs to take away its golden-colored pearl since the greatest worth of a Treasure Hunting Pig was its ability to search for treasure.

The lady would be following the direction of the Treasure Hunting Pigs from then on. With over ten of them, they managed to reap great rewards, with most of them being medicinal herbs or wild fruits that were about 3,000 years of age.

However, these were already considered very good at this location. Of course, there were also those which had a greater age but were quite few. In fact, in the first 1,000 li, there were also 3,000 Years or even 5,000 Years medicinal herbs but most of them were not over 3,000 years.

It was really convenient with the Treasure Hunting Pigs. Qing Shui continued to look at the running golden-colored creatures and then at that graceful and poised lady, feeling that she was really blessed with great advantages.

Chapter 868 - Violent Blood Bear, Finding another Deity Statue again

Actually, when had he not been blessed by the heavens? Merely, Qing Shui was feeling slightly envious at the moment. He was truly only a little envious, but that was it.

However, the others did not have such a feeling. Currently, he was already aware of the reason as to why this lady would lead members of Mu Family to the Sky Penetrating Mountains. It was not only due to her being strong and having exceptional talent, it was also because she had more than ten Treasure Hunting Pigs.

Owing to the Treasure Hunting Pigs, their harvest was many times greater than if they didn't have them. The reason she had not let them out earlier was perhaps because there were still other people in the vicinity.

Now that they had travelled over 2000 li into the mountain range, basically no one else could be seen. It would be hard to locate them even if there were others around. The Sky Penetrating Mountains was very large and akin to a maze.

Just like that, everyone split up. Each pair followed a Treasure Hunting Pig. It was agreed that whistles would be used for communication. In addition, the Treasure Hunting Pigs could communicate with one another. Therefore, they weren't afraid of getting lost, only worried that they would be too far away and unable to assist one another in times of danger.

Over twenty people and more than ten Treasure Hunting Pigs. It was almost exactly two people per pig. Due to some carelessness, only Qing Shui and the Mu Family girl remained, as well as a Treasure Hunting Pig.

"Let's go, we'll follow it!" said the girl with a faint smile.

"Okay!" replied Qing Shui.

Squeak Squeak!

The cry of the Treasure Hunting Pig was shrill and resounding. It appeared to be sending a message to its comrades, telling them that this particular route was already occupied and for them to head towards other places to hunt.

Originally, it still felt quite lively with over twenty people being together. All of a sudden, only the two of them were left. This made the atmosphere feel a little cold and lonely. It was quiet all around, with only the sound of wind blowing and the occasional roars from beasts. If a person without cultivation was to be here, they would be frightened till their knees went soft.

As time passed by, Qing Shui and the woman followed after the Treasure Hunting Pig as it unceasingly travelled back and forth. All of a sudden, a three metre long demonic beast lunged towards the Treasure Hunting Pig. The Treasure Hunting Pig did not have the slightest reaction however.

Xiu!

The stone that Qing Shui had prepared in his hand shot out, directly piercing the demonic beast's skull. The stone had drawn a bright line of light in the air. This was the result of its speed reaching the limits.

Pu!

The demonic beast had met with a violent death without making a single cry.

The woman looked at Qing Shui as her eyes twitched. With her formidable strength, she was naturally able to see the might of that strike. This long-ranged shooting was an ability that every cultivator knew. However, it was like the disparity between a child and a giant when compared with him.

Exactly how much did he know? If he were to specialize, would he have already achieved the peak now?

"Thank you. Actually, the vitality of the Treasure Hunting Pig is very strong. Biting the Treasure Hunting Pig would only result in the destruction of the demonic beast's teeth." the girl smiled as she spoke.

Qing Shui smiled. He was also aware of it. However, after seeing the little foot-long pig and a demonic beast being a giant wolf that could almost eat it with a single bite, he had unknowingly used a hidden weapon to kill the giant wolf.

The giant wolf was only an Early Martial Saint demonic beast. However, Qing Shui had displayed his hidden weapon techniques. There was nothing wrong with that though, since there was no need to hide it from people.

Although the Treasure Hunting Pig did not have any strength of its own, even Early Martial Saint demonic beasts were unable to harm it. This was the reason why they continued to exist till this day.

Squeak Squeak!

Qing Shui looked at the dense forest halfway up the mountain, from where the cries of a Treasure Hunting Pig were ringing. Qing Shui and the woman rushed over to the location of the sounds, since these sounds generally indicated that it had discovered items of a spiritual nature.

Upon reaching their destination, the two of them were astonished for a while. It was a hidden mountain cave. An excitement that was hard to suppress flashed across his face as they arrived at its entrance.

This was because the aura within was too familiar to him. The pressure was much stronger than the outside. Looking at each other, the woman took the lead and entered with Qing Shui following behind her.

A large hall, this was a large hall that gave Qing Shui a familiar feeling. However, there was a lot of dust in here, with even more traces left behind by demonic beasts. With a single look, they found a few flying beasts and three giant bears currently snoring loudly in their sleep.

Although there was a pressure here, it was only present within the great hall. Strong demonic beasts would still be able to live here as they like. These three giant bears were over ten meters long, their gigantic bodies resembled a small mountain.

The body shapes of demonic beasts were unlike that of birds. The wings of birds spanned over half of their body, and they would look very big when they extended their wings. Demonic beasts did not have any wings, but their gigantic bodies shocked people. The terrifying power they had and their immense roars made people feel uneasy.

Perhaps because they smelled the odor of humans, the three giant bears suddenly stood up. Their gigantic eyes flashed red as they looked towards Qing Shui and the woman. The Treasure Hunting Pig had already run off to some unknown place.

Violent Blood Bear!

Their entire body was brown and had blood red eyes. This kind of bear easily became berserk. Once they entered berserk mode, their entire body would turn blood red and their strength would become twofold. Upon being injured or seeing blood, their strength would increase even further.

The Violent Blood Bear had a strength of one to three stars. Within the Sky Penetrating Mountains, everything was abnormal, yet it was also considered normal. Therefore, one should not be shocked to meet with any strong demonic beasts. Just like the Cheng Family, they could only blame themselves for being unlucky

If the three Violent Blood Bears before them were to turn berserk, their strength would multiply, and they would be much more powerful. Although Qing Shui and the woman did not feel threatened, they didn't dare to be careless. At this point, the three giant bears lunged towards them.

Qing Shui held the Violet Gold Divine Shield in his left hand and the Thunder God in his right.

Presently, Qing Shui's base strength was one star, with his defense being slightly more than one and a half stars.

Diamond Qi, Diamond Protection and Diamond Crossing Rivers allowed Qing Shui's strength, defense and speed to double.

The Nature Energy increased his base strength by 60%, Mental State Akin To That Of Immoveable Mountains increased his base strength by 50%, Frenzied Bull's Strength increased his base strength by 30%, the Heavenly Thunder Slash increased his strength by 30%, the Shield Attack increased his strength by 20%, the Heavenly Talisman increased his strength and defense by 50%, the Combination Sword Technique increase his strength by 40%, and the Thunder God doubled his entire strength.

Qing Shui was also holding the Violet Gold Divine Shield, which increased his base strength by an additional 100%. He jumped with a rush and the Violet Gold Divine Shield in his hand suddenly smashed down on the Violent Blood Bear.

(Prady's Note: (((((1.0+0.6+0.5+0.3)*(1.30))*(1.20))*(1.50))*(1.40))*(2.0)) = 14.41x base strength...)

Bang!

Qing Shui wasn't sure why the mountain cave could endure such strong energy fluctuations. Was it due to the Deity Statue? Perhaps due to the mountain being very large while this cave being very small? It was just like using a needle to poke a small hole in a rock, very hard for this small hole to cave in.

The gigantic Violent Blood Bear was smashed by such an overbearing attack. The Thunder God in his right hand immediately unleashed Heaven Falls and the Earth Rends, aiming towards the gigantic skull of the giant bear who was currently dizzy.

Bang!

Roar!

As the hammer struck down, the gigantic bear was smashed. Blood directly spurted from its head, reaching tens of meters in height. The giant bear roared savagely, but that was merely a fierce final roar.

Its entire brain was already jolted till it shattered, it would've been weird if it weren't dead.

Compared to Qing Shui, the lady wielded her Spiritual Link Divine Sword skillfully. Every stab would reach the bone. The bear had already entered berserk mode. It appeared even more fierce and savage with blood covering its entire body.

Under the stimulation of blood, the other Violent Blood Bear had already started to berserk, lunging towards the woman. The Violent Blood Bear was a kind of demonic beast that never cowers regardless of the situation. Therefore, if one were to met a large pack of Violent Blood Bears, there were only two options, either to kill them all or flee.

Qing Shui had basically killed a Violent Blood Bear in a single move. She had previously sensed the huge energy fluctuations within Qin Shui's body. This made her very shocked. She only had her current achievements due to obtaining a saint ranked item, could he possibly be the same?

The woman discovered that ever since she had met this man, the frequency in which she felt shocked was much higher than before. So much so that she had the urge in wanting to understand him, wanting to know how he achieved it. However, she knew that she could not ask, as he definitely had his own treasures. Asking would only lead to suspicion. Furthermore, he definitely wouldn't say it.

Qing Shui had stopped one, while another was killed by the woman. The remaining bear was easily dispatched by the two of them.

Afterwards, the lady took out a medicine bottle and skillfully picked apart the Violent Blood Bears. After retrieving their cores and gall bladders, she poured a bit of the powder on them. Very quickly, the three bears dissolved.

Corpse Dissolving Powder!

Corpse Dissolving Powder was an item that was only effective towards corpses of people and demonic beasts. As long as one still had any signs of life, it would be of no use. This medicinal powder was very

strange, and it was refined from the bones and blood of a certain demonic beast. It was relatively valuable as it could not only dissolve corpses, but also able to purify the surroundings.

The Corpse Dissolving Powder was especially important in such a place. Presently for example, they would have to remove the corpses and stench of blood if they wanted to stay in this place for a while. It would easily attract the attention of nearby demonic beasts otherwise. If they weren't careful, that would be truly unfortunate.

At first, Qing Shui was prepared to use his primordial flames to burn the corpses. However, he knew that the woman would definitely have her ways, since she had come here quite a few times.

After cleaning up this place, they went out to take a look. After discovering that there were no problems, Qing Shui headed back. The woman was standing there, appearing to be waiting for him.

"Qing Shui Deity Statue, do you know about the Deity Statue?" the woman asked Qing Shui with a smile.

"I've seen it before." replied Qing Shui affirmatively. Qing Shui felt relieved for a moment. Looks like this wasn't the first time the lady had seen the Deity Statue. She also had her own stroke of luck. Furthermore, it was most likely related to the Deity Statue.

"These are yours" said the woman as she handed the Violent Blood Bear's core and gall bladder to him.

"We've already agreed that all the items are yours. I'm only here to search for the Sky Penetrating Grass." Qing Shui shook his head as he refused.

The lady paused for a moment, she then smiled and said, "What about this Deity Statue? Is it mine?"

"Naturally!" replied Qing Shui with a smile.

The lady gently sighed and said, "If there is the Sky Penetrating Grass that you need inside the cave and I also want it, would you take action against me?"

He replied after hesitating, "No!".

"Really?"

"I won't!" Qing Shui replied with more certainty this time.

"We'll split it evenly. If you don't agree, we'll leave right now." The girl said as she smiled towards Qing Shui.

Qing Shui did not know what was on her mind at the moment. After hesitating for a while, he nodded his head and replied, "Let's open it first and take a look. If you still insist at that time, I'll split with you."

"You have that much distrust in me? Do I look like that sort of greedy woman?" the lady replied, appearing to be extremely angry.

Chapter 869 - Grade Eight Sunstone, The eighth Portrait of Beauty

This was the first time that Qing Shui had seen this third kind of expression from this lady. A faint smile, a worried expression, and the previous slight anger. Of these three expressions, the first one was for everyone, while the second and third were for himself.

She was very beautiful regardless of her expression, beautiful to the utmost degree. Qing Shui did not dare to look more and only laughed while turning his head to the side.

“You’re not greedy, but I’m greedy.” Qing Shui said as he shook his head.

“Okay, let’s go and see what’s inside. What a coincidence that we’re actually able to come across a Deity Statue. In so many years, I’ve only come across one before, and that was a long time ago. That occasion changed my life.” said the lady. While she talked, she seemed to have realized something. She had been acting slightly unusually today. She was talking more than usual and did some things that were slightly abnormal. Her mind also seemed to be slightly confused.

He did not know what exactly was happening to her, however, she knew that it was related to the man before her.

Qing Shui smiled and nodded his head and the two of them walked into the inner temple.

The deeper they entered, the greater the pressure!

The two of them could be considered as people who had received great benefits from the Deity Statue. Therefore, both of them had a considerable amount of anticipation about the good things that this Deity Statue would bring to them. Qing Shui truly hoped that this Deity Statue would be able to bring him two stalks of Sky Penetrating Grass.

At that time, he would use the other items to exchange with this lady. Since she was able to say those words previously, that meant that he still had hope. He would not let her suffer a loss.

As the two slowly headed towards the inner hall, the pressure gradually grew stronger and stronger. When Qing Shui saw the familiar gigantic Deity Statue, he had some complicated feelings.

If they did not have the Treasure Hunting Pigs, perhaps it would have been very hard to discover this place. This area was extremely well concealed and was covered in dense vegetation. In the vast and expansive Sky Penetrating Mountains, even if people walked by, it would still be very hard to discover this place. This was because it was impossible to search every inch of land.

Therefore, even though they had not gone very deep into the Sky Penetrating Mountains, those who entered the mountains would most likely search within 1,000 li from the entrance. There were many places to search as there were mountain peaks everywhere. Therefore, the search sites were not only on the ground but also halfway up the mountain, on the mountain peaks, caves as well as underground.

“Will you do it, or should I?” asked the lady as she smiled towards Qing Shui.

“You go for it!” Qing Shui did not wish to fight with her over it. Furthermore, he wished to see how this lady was going to get the box from underneath the Deity Statue.

“Okay!” the lady replied straightforwardly.

Resisting the pressure, the lady slowly walked towards the Deity Statue. Qing Shui looked at her, knowing that it was impossible for her to use her hand to directly take that box. Therefore, the method she would employ should be similar to his.

The lady resisted the pressure and walked approximately half the distance, then she drew out her Spiritual Link Divine Sword and proceeded to control it, sending it flying towards the box.

Humm Humm!

There was a sharp resounding hum, and he saw the Spiritual Link Divine Sword enter a crevice in the box. A swaying moment then followed. However, a change happened at this very moment.

This was followed by an intensification of the humming noise. The Spiritual Link Divine Sword vibrated even more intensely, however, the box only vibrated gently yet did not seem to have the slightest movement.

Controlling an object!

The lady's Spiritual Link Divine Sword could leave her body and be controlled with her mind, just like Qing Shui's hidden weapons. However, at present, the results were unclear. Despite this, he could tell that her sword was very strong, otherwise, it would have been destroyed by the pressure.

Qing Shui did not know if she had used this method to retrieve the her previous box. However, this time he had felt that it would be difficult for her to obtain it. Mental strength was very mysterious and its strength was very weak, similar to Qing Shui's Hidden Weapons. Qing Shui mainly used his hand to unleash his hidden attacks and only used his mental strength to change their directions.

The lady had similarly used her hand to launch the Spiritual Link Divine Sword and then she tried to use her mental strength to drag it back. This wasn't impossible, but the difficulty was high. The Spiritual Link Divine Sword could be considered a treasure, but he still didn't know if she could achieve it.

After trying to pull it out twice and being met with failure both times, she did not continue trying. Instead, she sent out an extremely sweet sounding clear whistle and the Treasure Hunting Pig quickly came running over. What happened in the next moment left Qing Shui dumbfounded.

This golden colored Treasure Hunting Pig was actually able to ignore the pressure...

Its plump little body ran straight for the Deity Statue and it used its head to lift the box up. At this moment, the lady used her mental strength to control the Spiritual Link Divine Sword, which in turn controlled the path of the box. Just like that, the box slowly arrived by the lady's side.

Don't look down on this Treasure Hunting Pig for being only a foot long. Its entire body was tough like diamonds. Although it wasn't powerful, its defensive capabilities were shocking. Furthermore, it had great strength and an even more astonishing stamina and its survival capabilities were extremely impressive.

Just like that, the lady walked over to him with the box in one hand. With a faint smile on her face, she looked at Qing Shui who stood somewhat close. The lady gently sashayed as she walked. Her golden phoenix dress was unspeakably moving and her beautiful eyes were akin to the limpid autumn waters. Her exquisite nose was akin to jade.

"Let's see what's inside this box. It could be the Sky Penetrating Grass that you want." said the lady towards Qing Shui with a light smile.

Qing Shui smiled but did not say anything.

Walking out of the great hall, the girl used her Spiritual Link Divine Sword to pry the box open. The box was not large, and there were only a few things within it. A book, a painting and a blood red gemstone that looked extremely powerful. Standing by the side, Qing Shui could clearly feel the spiritual energy fluctuations on the gem's surface. The gem seemed to hold some kind of berserk power.

Other than those items, there was also foot long stalk of a mysterious medicinal plant.

With a single look, he could tell that it was the Sky Penetrating Grass. Its entire stalk was translucent like jade and rainbow colors swirled on its surface. The grass radiated a power Spiritual Qi. From its Spiritual Qi, Qing Shui was able to confirm that it was definitely over 5,000 years old. Although this grass was only a foot long, it gave people the sensation that it was especially tall and straight. At the tip of its stalk were a few star-like specks of snow white silver grains that looked extremely splendid and magnificent.

Sky Penetrating Grass, this was the Sky Penetrating Grass!

The lady first picked up the painting. Qing Shui knew that it was a Portrait of Beauty, and it was the eighth one he has seen.

The lady slowly opened it before gawking. Immediately, she looked oddly at Qing Shui, before passing it over to him and asking, "Why is there a painting of your wife here?"

Qing Shui gawked and took a look. This was too coincidental...

The woman in the painting had her hair bunned up and her black brows painted a certain gentleness. Her countenance was as radiant as snow reflected on clouds of sunset. Despite lacking makeup, she was as beautiful as the Goddess of Mount Ba and her beautiful eyes looked like ice on a winter day.

Wasn't this the lady in the crystal coffin? This was too coincidental. He had just drawn her in the Azure Cloud Pavilion and now the genuine painting had appeared... It had to be said that in regards to drawing skills, Qing Shui was far too inferior in comparison. In a single painting, the artist was able to make it difficult for people to shift their gaze. Qing Shui looked at the painting of this woman and stared at those bone-chillingly cold matching beautiful pupils. They were beautiful, akin to ice and snow, pure but cold to the bone.

When Qing Shui thought about the matter that happened between them, he felt a burst of bitterness. It was an indescribable feeling. Looking at the painting again, a complicated expression hung on his face.

The Mu Family girl stood at the side and looked at the absentminded Qing Shui. She felt that this man had become more and more mysterious. Why would the box of the Deity Statue have a painting of his wife?

Although the one he had painted was incomparable to this, the copy he had painted would also be able to fetch an astronomical price. All of this made her feel bewildered.

How does one explain this? Could it be that this man had hidden this painting here?

Only Qing Shui knew the reason. This was a Portrait of Beauty. That woman being one of the Portraits of Beauty was not a strange at all. However, it just so happened that this was too coincidental. Casually, he placed the painting into the Realm of Violet Jade Immortal. Since this lady had misunderstood, he would let her continue to misunderstand.

“Grade Eight Sunstone, increases one’s base strength by 200%.” The lady took out the high purity blood red stone.

“For you!” said the lady as she threw the stone at Qing Shui.

Qing Shui did not understand why he was giving this stone to her so he looked at her perplexedly.

“It looks like this Deity Statue and you are brought together by fate. First, it has a painting of your wife. This stone is the same as the one I’ve brought. Since I can only use one, this one is for you. The one you’re currently carrying should be the Black Divine Stone(black treasured stone). In the future, I’ll find a top-notch forging master to forge it into a weapon for you. Or you can just wear it. My weapon can’t be inlaid.” The lady’s pleasant voice rang out.

Qing Shui looked at the divine stone that looked like a sunstone to him. The red agate in this world might not have the same effect, and it might not even be called a red agate.

“Earth grade peak combat technique ‘Raging Blow’, suitable for hammers... this is also for you, take it!” the girl exclaimed again as she tossed the book towards him. At this moment, she was actually really depressed. The items within this Deity Statue box seemed unexpectedly be tailored for this man.

Actually, she had been stunned from the start by that painting. This Deity Statue gave her a feeling that these were left for him by his woman...

Especially the last item, the Sky Penetrating Grass.

He had come here specifically to find the Sky Penetrating Grass...

“For you!” Standing up, the girl handed the Sky Penetrating Grass to Qing Shui. Coming to the Sky Penetrating Mountains to search for treasures and finding the Deity Statue, she had felt that she had not come here for naught. Thinking back on the previous time she had been here, not only did she obtained martial arts manuals, she had also obtained the Spiritual Link Divine Sword, the sacred item ‘Holy Bracelet’ and some mysterious medical pills and a grade eight sunstone...

This time around, if she were to obtain the Sky Penetrating Grass, it would be considered a huge harvest, and an absolutely huge one at that. This kind of heavenly treasure was truly too hard to come across. She honestly wished to keep it for herself and perhaps this grass was originally hers since she found it first. However, despite this she still handed to Qing Shui for some curious reason.

The Deity Statue this time was comparatively inferior. Why would it contain a painting of a woman? The martial arts manual were also inferior, they were not even at the heaven grade. Only the Sky Penetrating Grass was a good item. However, this man had come here just for the Sky Penetrating Grass. She had felt all along that they should divide the spoils equally and the man came here just for the grass. In the end, the one who drew the short end of the stick was her. Furthermore, this man seemed to be very mysterious to her. Perhaps this could be considered a gigantic opportunity for her!

Feeling more and more depressed, when she compared this feeling to her previous excitement, the disparity made her feel like vomiting blood.

Qing Shui truly had never thought that this lady would hand over all these items to him. Other than the Eighth Portrait of Beauty, he placed the other four items into the Realm of Violet Jade Immortal. These

items were the Grade Eight Sunstone in his hand, the earth grade peak combat technique and the Sky Penetrating Grass that the girl was currently handing over to him.

“Take it. Your luck today is truly good.” Although the lady was depressed, she still happily handed the grass to Qing Shui. Regarding this man, there wasn’t any like or dislike, only an intense curiosity.

“I can’t obtain such huge benefits for free. These few things are priceless. I’ll make an exchange.” Qing Shui did not immediately take the Sky Penetrating Grass offered to him, as he did not like to owe others.

“As long as you agree not to go to the deeper regions of the Sky Penetrating Mountains, all of these will be the reward for your agreement, is that okay?” thinking about it, the girl replied him with a smile.

Chapter 870 - Formidable ‘Raging Blow’

Qing Shui remained silent and didn’t look at the lady. She had already come over next to him. If he did not respond, he felt that he would be unable to accept it.

“Look, we’ve already found one stalk. Is that not enough?” asked the lady as she faintly knitted her black brows. Even when she was frowning, she maintained an air of elegance.

“I need at least one more stalk.” replied Qing Shui with a bitter laugh, as he looked towards the lady.

“Look, we found a stalk from the Deity Statue. Let’s search some more. There might be other Deity Statues, right?” the lady tried to console Qing Shui.

He knew that the lady was trying to dissuade him from entering the depths of the Sky Penetrating Mountains alone. Deity Statues were not at all easy to chance upon. Finding one today was already an enormous stroke of luck.

“Thank you, but nothing will happen to me.” Qing Shui still did not accept the Sky Penetrating Grass from her, and instead passed her the “Raging Blow” and Sunstone.

“What’s the meaning of this? Those are for you. Keep them. Although I won’t prevent you from going, you should think over it clearly. You’re not an impulsive person.” Sighing, the lady took a step forward, stuffing the Sky Penetrating Grass in his hand before walking toward the exit.

Qing Shui hesitated for a while before keeping the items in the Realm Of The Violet Jade Immortal. Following her out of the inner hall, he saw the lady standing at the cave entrance. As if nothing had just happened, she said, “Let’s go to another place to search. There just might be Sky Penetrating Grass there.”

“Wait, here’s something for you.” Qing Shui hurriedly shouted towards her. These items were too precious, and he couldn’t bear taking them for free. He had to compensate her, so that he wouldn’t owe her, or at least owe her somewhat less.

The lady smiled as she looked at Qing Shui and replied, “It’s alright. There’s no need to be so courteous. Travelling here together, I can consider you half a friend. Treat this as me helping you this time.”

“If you don’t accept, I’ll just return those items to you,” said Qing Shui softly.

This sentence forced her to have no choice but to nod her head.

Qing Shui had already made preparations for this the previous night. Therefore, he directly threw an Interspatial Silk Satchet over to her. "It's inside. However it's best if you see it later. There's a piece of paper inside that has everything already written down."

"Okay, no problem!" replied the lady as she kept the Interspatial Silk Satchet. Although she did not know what he had given her, she felt that it was incomparable to the items from the Deity Statue. Therefore, Qing Shui had asked her to open it later.

When they exited the cave, it was already quite late. Hearing the whistles in the distance, Qing Shui, the lady, and the Treasure Hunting Pig rapidly headed to the gathering point. Qing Shui looked at the skies. As they were around the mountainside, the sun seemed to set exceptionally early. Since the surroundings were all tall mountains, the valley had long periods of darkness.

When they arrived, everyone was already present. Furthermore, there were two freshly killed wild mountain goats. Although this place was very dangerous, there were still some wild animals. Under this kind of pressure, most wild animals were not affected. Pressure was a thing that the more one could resist, the more one felt. Perhaps it could be said that the pressure here was a sort of intangible intimidation.

Regardless of how dangerous a place was, there would always be an uncountable number of low grade demonic beasts and wild animals. They were the lowest on the food chain, but the most numerous, as this was the only way for them to continue existing.

Making food was already a habit for Qing Shui and he would do it at least once a day. Within this period of time, he had obtained some ordinary spices from the mountains and taught the others how to use the spices. This made those old freaks start to love making food. Although they were far from Qing Shui's cooking skill, they were already able to create a flavor that made them slightly emotional...

Roasted lamb and stewed lamb soup. The meat was tender and soft, with a good taste. The roasted lamb was golden yellow in colour, and neatly arranged on a tray. The meat was flaky and soft, oily and textured, with a fragrant smell. It was extremely delicious...

This was a platform halfway up a mountain. The view was extremely good, and the air was fresh. Standing here, one would feel great. Pitching their tents up and finishing up their food, a few old men started to compete with each other over who had found the most items.

Qing Shui returned to his own tent, as it was about time for him to enter the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal to train.

Upon entering the Realm of Violet Jade Immortal, he looked at the Eighth Portrait of Beauty on the ground. It was opened up, the cold and indifferent gaze of the woman in the painting staring at Qing Shui.

Sighing, Qing Shui picked the painting up and hanged it on the Magnificent Mountains and Rivers Screen. Eight portraits of Beauty were hung, mutually contrasting with one another, dazing Qing Shui for a moment as he looked at them.

Sunstone, a Grade Eight Sunstone that increased one's base strength by 200%. It was not the slightest bit inferior to the Violet Gold Divine Shield, The main benefits of the Violent Gold Divine Shield were its few supplementary abilities, or else it would be too inferior to this glorious Sunstone.

It was a pity that he had already inlaid the black gemstone and did not have the ability to inlay more gemstones now. Perhaps the Pentacolor Art of Forging would allow the usage of more gemstones!

Subsequently, Qing Shui took out the Peak Earth Grade combat technique, "Raging Blow". He never had any prejudice towards the grade of the combat technique. As a person who was able to master the Basic Sword Techniques up to the Early Heaven Grade, he would not be overly focused on the grade of a combat technique.

Combat techniques were differentiated into Houtian, Xiantian, Legend and Divine grades. Within the Xiantian and Legend grades was the Earth grade, and the "Raging Blow" was of this grade. Although most people would call this a divine technique, experts would treat this as something of little value.

There were four stages within each grade of combat technique: Heaven, Earth, Xuan and Huang. Heaven was the highest and Huang was the lowest. The "Raging Blow" was generously classified as being in between Xiantian and Legend. To be more specific, it was a Heaven Stage combat technique of Xiantian grade.

Some combat techniques were slightly special, making them stronger than the Xiantian grade but far inferior to the Legend grade. Hence, some people deemed it as an Earth grade, and it was gradually recognized by that name.

Qing Shui slowly opened the Raging Blow. At first look, he already liked its name. Upon opening it up, he saw only one move. This meant that the Raging Blow was just a single hammer move.

Qing Shui carefully inspected this move and discovered its difference from other hammer moves. Originally, he had felt that this hammer move that had appeared in the box of the Deity Statue was slightly unusual. Upon seeing it now, he discovered the mysteriousness within.

The Raging Blow wasn't the name of some hammer technique. This technique had similarities to some of Qing Shui's hammer techniques like the Heaven Shaking Strike, Heaven Falls and Earth Rends, Jolting Heaven Strike and his other hammer techniques with the greatest killing power.

However, there was something slightly different about this. Qing Shui stared at the Raging Blow and, unknowingly, his mind started sinking into it. Even the aura of his subconscious mind started to have a subtle change.

Suddenly, Qing Shui clenched his right hand, his left foot slightly moving forward, and smashed his right fist forward. This fist looked extremely awkward, but produced a surprising feeling when it was executed.

That was the feeling of power, the special feeling of violence!

Raging Blow!

So that's how it is!

At this time, Qing Shui was very excited, as he had discovered that the power of this fist had combined all the hammer techniques he had known. The Heaven Shaking Strike, Heaven Falls, Earth Rends, Jolting Heaven Strike, and the Mountain Splitting Strike were all combined together. However, although the current level of fusion was minimal, this kind of force still had 50% more might than any single technique.

“That strong?”

Qing Shui felt simply incredulous. The Raging Blow was akin to a Divine technique to him. With just a small amount of training, it was already much stronger than the Basic Sword Techniques that he had trained for so long.

Qing Shui did not quite understand. The progress of his Basic Sword Techniques was ordinarily quite slow, but he felt that it seemed to have no end. In principle, that was probably true, but a human’s potential and life span were both limited, so he did not know how many moves he could combine together.

This hammer technique, Raging Blow, was simply like sweet rain after a drought for him, causing Qing Shui to enter a feverish and fanatical state that he was unable to stop.

Displaying this move over and over again, the speed at which Qing Shui unleashed the strike gradually grew quicker and quicker. The strength of the fist also seemingly increased slowly, before he started to launch the fist from different angles.

Qing Shui knew that he had replaced the hammer with his fist as he displayed the strike. The flowing feeling of water was akin to entering a dream, and it seemed that he could not stop. It was like rocking on the the sharp edge of a wave. He didn’t want to stop and if he did, it would feel like vomiting blood.

An unknown amount of time passed before Qing Shui slowly stopped, just like an intense fire burning out. He proceeded to immediately lie down on the ground and sleep. He had overdrawn his spirit, and the Yin Yang Image unexpectedly had not replenished the consumption, causing his spiritual energy to show signs of collapse.

When Qing Shui awoke, he did not know how much time had passed. He had already recovered, with his spirit full. He had originally thought of eating some pills to recover, but he was not facing an enemy at this time, so resting immediately would have great benefits for his body.

Standing up, he calmed himself down before clenching his right hand suddenly and sending out a fist. The fist still looked awkward, but it produced a feeling of stealing the work of a heavenly craftsman!

The great art conceals itself!

Qing Shui recalled the feeling he had gotten when he had launched the fist. He previously felt as if the blood in his body had instantly churned and boiled. The gigantic power that suddenly rose up made him feel as if in that instant, his entire body had an energy that was unable to be completely used.

Raging Blow!

However, this strike seemed to be especially wasteful in its consumption of spiritual energy. The most important point was that the move was a little slow. An expert would feel that it would be slightly too

easy to dodge, and this might be the reason why it could not become a Legend Grade combat technique!

Medicinal pills and martial arts were the fastest ways to increase one's combat capabilities and power. This definitely applied to the current Qing Shui. The Raging Blow allowed his normal attack to increase by 50% in power. This extra 50% was calculated after all this power-ups!

The previous training wasn't comprehension but something that was even better. The improvements he made could be seen as a humongous leap. This allowed him to master the Raging Blow to a pretty high level in such a short period of time.

Time to make something to eat, because he was famished.

While Qing Shui was training in the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal, in another tent, a lady was currently sitting in a daze. She stared blankly at the items on the table. There were many things like the Peach of Immortality, Five Elements Fruit, Vermillion Fruit and many medicinal pills and even wine. All of these items were incomparably precious, especially those mysterious pills...

Who exactly is he?. The lady sunk into a deep thought. People were just inherently like that. Although curiosity killed the cat, people would still be unable to resist and wanted to know more and satisfy their curious hearts.

The lady knew that she had never felt anything like this before. In the past, if others wanted to talk to her, she did not have the mood to listen, much less having her curiosity piqued. However, the current her did not know what this feeling was.

Perhaps the two of them were the same type of people, and that was why they were so close...

The lady shook her head and kept all the things on the table. The value of these items far exceeded the value of the Sky Penetrating Grass, especially those few mysterious pills that were important to her.

Thinking of the moment he had insisted on giving them to her, she started laughing!