

## **Ancient ST 941**

### **Chapter 941 - Attempt at carving formations, Small Success Stage of the Buddha's True Eyes**

The skins of high grade Demonic Beasts were especially thick. Of course, this depended on the Demonic Beast. Fox furs, especially from beasts that had been Martial Saints, were some of the best for making coats, but were not especially thick.

Yu He took a snow white beast skin blanket and covered Qing Shui. She smiled at Qing Shui, feeling a certain sweetness in her heart. After she saw that it had been done properly, she said goodnight and went to her room.

After she went in, she closed the door. Qing Shui did not need her to go through all that trouble. If he had wanted to rest, all he had needed to do was to take out the bed he used in the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal. Furthermore, he would spend six hours in the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal. By then, the sun would have risen. This was how he normally rested.

After he entered the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal, Qing Shui spent some time cultivating and then researched formations.

Finally, Qing Shui started to research the Spirit Sealing Minor Formation.

He knew the effects of the Spirit Sealing Minor Formation. Pernicious aura was a kind of Spiritual Qi, which was just a general term. Pernicious aura, Core Qi of Demonic Beasts, and the Qi of Xiantian were all forms of Spiritual Qi.

The Spirit Sealing Minor Formation had sealing abilities. However, Qing Shui was not aware of how its mechanisms worked, which was why he was spending time to research it. However, after sealing Chi Ao and Chi Feng, it would be able to seal their pernicious aura for a period of time.

Even after they got stronger in a few years, it would still be able to restrain their auras. By then, they might be able to control their pernicious auras. After all, that was what they were cultivating.

They cultivated the pernicious aura of their bodies. The stronger their pernicious aura, the stronger their abilities. Thus, Qing Shui wanted to forge these things, and then carve the Spirit Sealing Minor Formation on them, in order to seal any pernicious aura that was released.

The two of them were only in the Xiantian grade, so Qing Shui felt that it should be easy. One day in the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal was slightly more than three months. He had confidence in succeeding.

First, he researched the Spirit Sealing Minor Formation. This formation used the Spiritual Qi of Heaven and Earth to suppress other kinds of Spiritual Qi, but it still left a path for it to trickle out. It was impossible to completely seal Spiritual Qi off. No one could be completely isolated from Spiritual Qi, as even air contained some Spiritual Qi. Completely sealing a person off would result in his death. As to whether there was a method of completely sealing, he was not aware. However, he knew that it is impossible for him to accomplish right now.

After this, he tried laying a Spirit Sealing Minor Formation. Fortunately, he quickly got the hang of it. Although it hadn't yet succeeded, he knew that he would be able to succeed in slightly more than a day's time.

After laying the formation, Qing Shui would obsessively test it out. Time slowly went by until a glow of formations surrounded him. He knew that he had finally succeeded.

Then, he removed the formation and set it up again repeatedly. This carried on for almost three days before Qing Shui stopped, sat down and closed his eyes. The things he learned in the past three days emerged, every detail clear.

In the following three days, Qing Shui did not touch any formations and instead cultivated. He continued to lay the Spirit Sealing Minor Formation, repeating the cycle. However, he discovered that there were more improvements this time than there had been previously.

Just like this, two months went by. Qing Shui felt that he had a solid grasp on the Spirit Sealing Minor Formation. After all, the Spirit Sealing Minor Formation and Spirit Gathering Formation were formations that were easy to learn.

He had spent so much effort and time because he wanted to understand it deeper and use it later. Now, it was time to forge the pendants.

He first started with some regular metal and produced the pendant base. Then, Qing Shui started to carve the formation on top of it. What Qing Shui was doing was creating a Formation Seal. Formation Seals would be carved on weapons or armors, but they rarely appeared within the Five continents. Even if they appeared, they would not be noticed.

Now, Qing Shui was attempting it, but with only the simplest formation on the pendant. This was a result of his breakthrough in the Ancient Art of Forging and in formations. He only dared to do this after breaking through to the Pentacolor Rainbow Art of Forging. Furthermore, he had only recently grasped formations.

If he had not encountered Chi Ao's and Chi Feng's pernicious aura, Qing Shui would not have attempted to carve formations like this.

High Grade Focused Concentration!

Since Qing Shui started laying the formations, he had been circulating the High Grade Focused Concentration. His Focused Concentration not only increased his abilities by 20%, they also increased concentration and mental capacity. Under such a state, when learning something, his powers of comprehension would be increased.

Fail!

Fail!

.....

Qing Shui failed repeatedly. However, there were no changes to his emotions. This was because he had already anticipated this, and did not feel that it was strange. He carved it bit by bit, learning as he continued.

When breaking through to the Pentacolor Rainbow Art of Forging, Qing Shui had gained methods listed on how to carve formations. However, these were just methods and techniques, with the specific details only being discoverable by experimenting. He had to experiment on how to completely carve the Spirit Sealing Minor Formation.

Carving formations exhausted spirit energy. At first, the carving was very smooth but after 30 minutes, when the side needed to be changed, it would suddenly fail. It was like the sensation of a thread breaking.

It kept failing. The item would have to be completely covered in carvings, regardless of the size. This pendant was not large, but it was not small either. If it were too small, Qing Shui would not have the abilities to succeed at the present. When just starting out, people would start carving on something larger. Something that was too small would require extremely precise carving skills and a large amount of spirit energy.

The Spirit Sealing Minor Formation was relatively simple. Thus, he was able to casually carve it on the palm-sized pendant. However, Qing Shui had already failed countless numbers of times.

The position where he switched sides was very important. This was because he needed to connect the spirit energy of the reversed side together at that location.

“Hmm, connection?”

Suddenly, Qing Shui discovered that he had been wasting time on an insignificant problem. When he started carving again, he began from the front, not in a rush to deal with the connection. Instead, he next chose to work on the reverse side.

Fail!

Fail!

.....

After another string of failures, Qing Shui started to wonder if this method of working from the back was possible. Could it be that he had to complete it all in one go from the front?

Qing Shui sat silently in thought for 15 minutes before continuing. Maybe because he was carving from the back, the difficulty was higher? He was resolute and tried it again. After resting for while, he kept on going.

He was still failing over and over. Qing Shui was already numb to it. He saw that there were not many pendants left. For the sake of carving formations, Qing Shui had forged many simple pendants, but they were just made of regular metal.

Attempting to carve again, Qing Shui was already used to failure. Just as he expected to fail again, there was no sound indicating failure. Looking at the result, he was incomparably happy. Although he had not completely succeeded, this small success was proof this method was feasible.

It was difficult to make the initial start, but there was slow progress after that. It was like climbing a mountain. Although it was difficult, there would always be some slow progress. It was impossible for anyone to just climb it in one go.

He carved it bit by bit. When he finished carving about half the back, it failed. He put down the damaged pendant but was still pretty excited. He then went to eat something and took a rest.

After that, he pondered silently.

Qing Shui continued to forge more pendants and began to carve again. With his earlier success, it was easy to make a start from that point and progress slowly. Seeing that slow progress, he was very happy. It meant a completed pendant was getting nearer bit by bit.

Fail!

Just when he was about to finish the back, he failed again. But on the next try, he actually managed to succeed. This caused Qing Shui to feel surprised. He originally thought that this final breakthrough would be tough, and had even worried about it earlier.

Both sides were completely carved and all that was left was the connection. This connection was the eye of the formation that would activate it and its position was very important. Thus, he was not in a rush to connect the sides with the eye of the formation.

Instead, he picked up another pendant and continued carving. He found that once that he had succeeded once, the carving was easier.

With the High Grade Focused Concentration, he would basically not fail after succeeding just once. Very soon, he had carved tens of pendants. They were all completely carved on both sides. Now, only the final connection was left.

Once he completed the connection, the pendant would be complete. Qing Shui was very excited, because once he succeeded with this Spirit Sealing Minor Formation, it would mean that he would be able to carve formations on weapons and armor from then on.

Maybe even carving the Spirit Gathering Formation...

This would increase a cultivator's recovery speed. In normal conditions, this would increase cultivation speed, and in battle, might even let a little bit of recovery occur.

Qing Shui thought that the future of a Formation Seal Master was not bad.....

Calming his emotions down, he allowed himself to reach a state of no expectations. Allowing his spirit to be calm and temporarily forgetting everything. Qing Shui thought of the Golden Buddha Temple.

He thought about that old man, the Buddha's True Eyes, that Buddha statue. He felt his thoughts turn empty and he slowly closed his eyes. However, his surroundings were all clearly perceived by his mind.

Furthermore, he even saw that Buddha image behind him again. He was astonished, but was still very calm. Suddenly, the Buddha Image opened its eyes. In that instant, Qing Shui was stunned. The profoundness of those eyes was indescribable.

It had spirituality, great changes, slight smiles, grief, righteousness, pain, mercy, killing intent.....

Suddenly, Qing Shui felt an energy enter his body. It was not just pure energy, but partly spirit energy. Suddenly Qing Shui opened both his eyes and a faint golden light emerged.

Buddha's True Eyes!

The Buddha's True Eyes had actually managed to break through to the Small Success Stage. Although it was just the Small Success Stage, he knew that the Buddha's True Eyes was very sharp. It could see everything, see through everything, and suppress spirits. Of course, this was just a saying. Actually, the Buddha's True Eyes could see through the emotions of man, be it grief, pain, or even an injured spirit.....

Qing Shui smiled. Truly, what an unexpected gain. When he had wanted it to succeed, it hadn't. Yet at this random moment, it had broken through.

This success led Qing Shui to feel many things. The things that he comprehended with the breakthrough of Buddha's True Eyes were many. At this moment, he understood a lot more of the world than he did in the past.

### **Chapter 942 - Success, The way of carving formations, Leaving**

Qing Shui's Buddha's True Eyes achieving the Small Success Stage was particularly surprising. These kinds of mental techniques are difficult to train. The time it took to cultivate them was long. However, now that it had directly reached the Small Success Stage. Now it could be truly considered that the Buddha's True Eyes was successfully cultivated.

Qing Shui tried it continuously many times, his spirit energy was strong, the Buddha's True Eyes did not exhaust much. Its effect was to injure spirits and emotions, directly causing the opponent to feel pain.

If the opponent's spirit energy was not strong enough, the Buddha's True Eyes could cause the opponent to go crazy and directly turn him into a fool. Even those with strong spirit energy would still be affected. After all, people who had strong spirit energy were normally people who had suffered a lot. Thus the Buddha's True Eyes could seriously affect their emotions, even causing them to feel like living was worse than dying.

Aside from these, the Buddha's True Eyes also had the effect of directly attacking the opponent's spirit energy, even attacking their body. That faint ripple can injure people and damage their spirit energy.

Even for body cultivators with strong bodies, their spirit energy would be very important too. They were most afraid of cultivators who cultivated spirit energy. They could not defend against them, life or death would be decided in an instant.

Qing Shui stopped in satisfaction. Earlier, not only the Buddha's True Eyes achieved the Small Success Stage, even his spirit energy had some small changes, it became denser but its capacity did not change.

Looking at that pendant, Qing Shui started the final step of his experiments, the connection. He connected the carvings of the front and back together. Once he finished this step, he would have succeeded. He would have opened a new path for himself. He would be able to venture down the path of carving formations.

Nurturing the spirit, Qing Shui picked up a pendant.

He held a Gold Essence Carving Knife! Qing Shui had forged this especially for carving formations. He made it using the Pentacolor Rainbow Art of Forging. When necessary it could become a sharp weapon, but it was a little small.

Taking a deep breath, the carving knife in Qing Shui's hands landed firmly in the space between the front and back. It only needed a stroke there, but that was the crucial point.

Chi!

There was a soft sound, Qing Shui saw a brightly colored strand of smoke. He knew that he had failed. The stroke that he made with his full concentration failed.

Without any hesitation, Qing Shui picked up another pendant. This time, he quieted himself for a while first before making the stroke. However, it still failed. Still, Qing Shui knew that these two strokes were different from each other.

It could be said that his skills in carving formations had attained a higher level, but he had still failed. Soon, 20 pendants were trashed. All 20 had been perfectly carved in the front and back, but they have been destroyed in an instant just like that.

Qing Shui was silent. After the Buddha's True Eyes achieved the Small Success Stage, he discovered that his formation carving skills were vastly better than they were before. Furthermore, when he was carving the pendant, he would always be able to carve the Spirit Sealing Minor Formation on the front and reverse sides.

However, despite that, he still failed. That stroke only required knife skills. Qing Shui felt that he should have succeeded. His hands were nimble from his fist techniques, in addition to his drawing realm, the high grade Focused Concentration, Buddha's True Eyes, Qing Shui felt that he should have been better than a sculptor. However, since he had failed tens of times in a row, it seems that his method was wrong.

"Where is the problem?"

Qing Shui thought as he examined the pendant in his hand. Looking at the marks carved by him, to others, it looked very profound and hard to understand. However, to him, it looked like it was full of spirituality, as though it was alive.

"Mn, it's alive?!"

Qing Shui seemed to have grasped something, however, it was not a firm grasp. He stared blankly without moving. That feeling was very mysterious, he seemed unable to grab ahold of it. However, he did not wish to let it go. He just stood there thinking bitterly, trying to grasp it in his hands.

"Mn, let it revive then!" Qing Shui muttered.

Suddenly, Qing Shui's Spiritual Sense was activated, he could feel that the markings on the pendant were full of Spiritual Qi. However, it was like a living Demonic Beast, just that it was not moving. Feeling this, Qing Shui suddenly understood.

This is a formation, now, it needs to be activated. Only in this way then would the "Demonic Beast" move.

"I need to activate the energy in the markings," Qing Shui muttered.

Qing Shui stared at the pendant for a long time before picking up the carving knife. He activated his spirit energy and gently extended the carving knife to the markings, then he circulated it. With this, Qing Shui smiled. He could feel the Spiritual Qi in the markings moving with the carving knife.

Then he kept moving it to the front and to the back. Suddenly, he did not pause as he made the cut at the center where the connection should be. He was already very familiar with this move, thus the Spiritual Qi moved from the front to the back. Unfortunately, when he moved, it failed.

He thought earlier that all he had to do was to make one cut, all it took was a slip of his attention and it failed.

However, he was very happy. He took out another pendant before continuing. The pendant was suspended in mid air by his spirit energy. Then he repeated the process once again.

This time, it was completed in an instant, it could even be said to be perfect. Then he moved along the marking on the reverse side, he felt that if he kept moving, he would be able to succeed.

This time, it was very smooth, he moved slowly and smoothly to the end. Finally, Qing Shui stopped. It did not succeed, it became trash. He had failed after stopping at the end.

Qing Shui did not sigh this time. Instead, he spin the trashed pendant around. After one spin, he knew where the problem was. It was because he moved the knife on all three of its surfaces. Furthermore, the reverse side had its start and end broken off. He now knew that he was missing something

Circulation, the cycle of Yin and Yang, the movements of the celestial body, even the movement of human lives was an unexplainable cycle. This was the way, it was the way of the 'Dao' in the legends. The tree shed its leaves and returns to its roots. From nothing to something then back to nothing. Coming and going from a place. The blossom of a flower and the withering of it.

These simple-looking problems contained a complex logic behind it. Qing Shui's eyes brightened. He took another pendant and tried carving it again. This time, his grace changed, there was a kind of strong confidence and maturity.

A turning point!

He familiarly brought the knife to the back, then moving it along all the markings and turned, making a cut across, completing a perfect cycle.

Almost in an instant, a bright gray light appeared on the pendant. However, it dissipated very soon. Although it still looked very ordinary, there were no markings on it. Yet, it was full of spiritual fluctuations.

Success!

Qing Shui looked at the pendant in his hands. He felt the feeling coming from it. Holding it in his hands, his skin seemed to have a faint Qi cover on it.

Success!

In the future, he could attempt to try and carve some things. He could even attempt to do it on some armor or weapons. Although he succeeded, he was not sure that he could do it on everything. There

were many formations, it was extremely profound. It seems that he would have to spend some effort in this direction in the future.

Only after he completely carved all the remaining metal pendants did Qing Shui release his breath. He had spent a lot of time on this, his time in the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal was almost up.

After taking a break, Qing Shui used the purple jade to make a Violet Jade Pendant. It was slightly larger than the one he made for the Mu Can. There were not many differences in their effects. He made three.

Then he started carving the Spirit Sealing Minor Formation. The Spiritual Qi on the purple jade turned even denser. In the instant the carving was finished, the glow it gave off was much more resplendent than the metal ones.

Qing Shui only felt it for a little while and he was very satisfied. He played it down then carried on with the next one.

Success!

Looking at the finished Violet Jade Pendants, he did not expect that meeting Chi Ao and Chi Feng had started him on the path of carving formations earlier. This should be a good thing.

Seeing that it was almost time, that he would be forced out in another half a day, he washed up then left the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal.

The sky outside was still dark. This could not be helped as it was still winter. If it was summer, then it would have been bright already.

Qing Shui walked out and saw that Yu He's door was still closed. So he walked outside. The winter morning was very cold; there was even fog today, he could not see far. However, he was able to sense the fluctuations of aura below the mountain.

There was someone practicing below. Qing Shui did not have to look to know that they were Chi Ao and Chi Feng.

When he went down, he saw that it was indeed the two of them. When Qing Shui saw them, he felt peace in his heart. With an extremely high talent and plenty of effort, their future was immeasurable.

"Morning uncle!" After seeing Qing Shui, they greeted him.

"Morning!"

Qing Shui smiled as he took out two Violet Jade Pendants and handed them over to the pair.

"When you wear this on your body, it will stop the aura from your body from coming out. You don't have to worry anymore."

"Oh! Uncle is really nice," Chi Feng said happily. She was very smart and did not stand on ceremony with Qing Shui anymore. She said Qing Shui was nice, not thank you.

Chi Ao received it happily and smiled at Qing Shui.

This kid was not good at talking to people.

“You two continue, I am going to practice too.” After Qing Shui said that, he walked a certain distance away before starting to practice the Taichi Fist and Back Connecting Fist.

Chi Ao and Chi Feng stood at the side and watched.

Qing Shui had already told them about this two fist techniques the last time already. Thus, now they were watching. They learned very fast and they even had their own unique interpretations.

Qing Shui also noticed the two of them were practicing the Tiger Form, the strong pernicious aura caused the Tiger Form to be very mighty. Seeing them, Qing Shui nodded in approval in his heart. Even a tiger cub was a tiger. Furthermore, they would grow very fast.

After a while, Yu He came as well. Chi Feng had already left to make breakfast. Qing Shui And Chi Ao went back to the stone house together. Qing Shui left some things behind, mainly some pills and ingredients for making bone soup, enough for a few years. If they ate those once every few days, it would strengthen their bones and bodies.

“Elders, Xiao Ao, Xiao Feng, we are leaving. Remember, ten years. If ten years later, you still want to walk down this path, you can come and find me. Uncle will help you.” Qing Shui smiled.

“I knew that you were going to leave soon. I shall not keep you any longer. Be careful on your journey.” The old man smiled at Qing Shui, feeling grateful.

“Uncle, stay for another two days!” Chi Feng looked at Qing Shui, broken-hearted at having to part.

“Uncle still has some things to do, who knows, maybe I can come can find you guys in the future.” Qing Shui smiled.

“Uncle, in ten years we will definitely come and find you,” Chi Feng said with clenched teeth.

Chi Ao also nodded his head resolutely.

### **Chapter 943 - Encounter, Hurting One's Soul Is To Hurt One's Spirit**

Qing Shui waved towards Chi Feng and the old man, Chi Ao. The two strode into the air and landed on the Fire Bird's back as a high pitch bird's cry rang out. They looked toward the three waving figures growing increasingly smaller until they totally disappeared.

After not seeing each other for a night, Yu He felt that something about Qing Shui had changed. She didn't know how to describe it, but she could feel something was different even when he was only standing beside her.

Qing Shui was astonished at a woman's senses when he saw how Yu He stared at him. He smiled and looked at her. His gaze at this moment was very straightforward, unlike how it had appeared in the past, as if he was holding onto some burden.

The Fire Bird entered a barren land. This was the barren land between the Eastern Victory Divine Continent and the Central Continent. They would need to spend quite a long period of time cross this place.

Nine Continents Steps!

## Nine Continents Steps!

Qing Shui used two Nine Continents Steps in a row. However, they couldn't reach any cities and it was just barren land. This was already the ninth day they had been in this stretch of land and right now, the skies were starting to turn dark.

This was considered the central area in this barren land. Basically, they could come into danger at any time. The two of them held onto each other. Although they weren't lovers, they hugged each other tightly.

Qing Shui had let himself loose, at least, more so than before. Right now, he wasn't as restrained or ashamed compared to when he had hugged Yu He in the past. The relationship between a man and a woman was one that came deep from their hearts and since they loved each other, he didn't wish to overthink things.

"Sister Yu, do I have good fortune?" Qing Shui smiled and hugged Yu He.

He wasn't nervous now, but was still a little uneasy. Although the two of them appeared to be very close during the journey, they did nothing more than hugging and could only be said to be bosom friends.

Yu He's body trembled slightly and she lifted her head a bit, looking at Qing Shui's elegant and handsome face. It now seemed to be more mature than before, without the childish feel he had in the past. His eyes were dark and deep, but yet still as clear as before.

The corner of Yu He's lips curled up, but she didn't say a word. However, her smile said everything. Moreover, Qing Shui was no idiot. It would be easy for her to get a guy if she wished to do so and she could find one that could fulfill any conditions she might have. However, she remained single to date and no matter how much he couldn't understand of what she was thinking, it would be impossible for him to overlook all this. Otherwise, what would Yu He think of him?

"I don't want you to say this for other reasons. If you don't have me in your heart, Sister Yu is willing to continue on like this alone." Yu He lifted her head and looked at him, blushing.

"There's no love which has neither rhyme nor reason. No matter what the reason is, love is love." Qing Shui smiled and looked at her.

"Then tell me, what do you like about me?" She looked hesitantly at Qing Shui.

"You're beautiful!" Qing Shui smiled and said.

"This doesn't count. I've seen the women around you. Don't you use that on me." Yu He chided.

"You're very pretty. I like how foolish and stubborn you are. You have always been in my heart, always," he looked at Yu He and said seriously.

Yu He looked into Qing Shui's clear eyes and broke into a smile. She then suddenly landed a peck on his lips before she pushed him away and landed on the ground. "I'm hungry, let's make something to eat!" Yu He's voice rang out.

At that moment, Qing Shui felt the softness on his lips. It made him tremble. He then followed after Yu He. There were no mountains in the area, but there was a stretch of towering ancient forest which was very dark and which occasionally exuded the presence of wild beasts.

“Mmm, there’s someone around!”

Qing Shui looked towards Yu He and realized that she was also straining toward the same direction. It was in the ancient forest not far away.

“Eldest Brother, we’ve finally exit this wretched forest. We can’t even find a woman in this wilderness.” A bright voice rang out.

“3rd Brother, this place is very dangerous. Be on your guard. Don’t always be thinking about women. One day, you’ll find yourself dead in a woman’s arms.” A deep and powerful voice rang out.

“3rd Brother has been trying hard to hold it in for so many days. Eldest Brother had forbidden him to bring any women along when we came and he hasn’t touched a woman for an entire month.”

“It’s really rare to see this. If we were in Sky City, 3rd Brother will definitely not be able to resist touching a woman for more than three days. Humans are really creatures who are pushed to their limits.”

“Hahaha...”

A series of laughs rang out, but they stopped quickly. It was because they saw two people standing not far away from them. The moon was bright tonight and they could see their surroundings very clearly.

Yu He furrowed her brows. Qing Shui was still ok but he overheard something they said—Sky City. They must have came from Sky City.

There were five men in the lead, with over ten others that followed behind them. Since these people dared to cross this wilderness, they were naturally not weak. When the few of them saw Qing Shui and Yu He, they were not shocked, but looked at them happily.

“3rd Brother, to think that we can encounter such a beauty in this wilderness. Even I can’t hold it in anymore. They say a night when the moon is hung high up is a night well suited for murder. However, I don’t wish to kill tonight. It’s too dampening,” the thinnest man on the extreme right smiled and said.

“5th Brother, don’t be reckless. If we’re not careful, all of us might be in danger,” a middle-aged man on the left bellowed.

“Eldest Brother, they’re are so young. How strong could they be?”

“Hmmm, isn’t that guy like the person who trampled our Octagon Inn?” A man on the left who had not spoken till now suddenly said.

“Hmmm, he looks very similar to the portrait. Since we’ve encounter him here, it means that he should be the same person. We’ll see where he can run off to this time around. Grab him! We’ll bring him back and let our Sovereign and the others deal with him.”

“Let’s not alarm him. This fellow’s skill at escaping is the best. He’s very sneaky.” A bright voice came out from the 3rd guy from the left.

With one look, Qing Shui could tell that they had been ranked from the left to the right. What astonished him was that these people were from the Marionette Sect and should be the younger generation of those old guys from the Marionette Sect. They were probably the most elite ones too.

Qing Shui recalled how he had desperately escaped back then and then looked at their cultivation levels. If he was still at the same level as he was back then, he would probably still have to run.

However, right now, these people were nothing to him.

“Eldest Brother, it’s decided, this woman will be mine tonight.”

“We’ll talk after they are captured,” the low voice rang out.

“This lady is like a fairy. Count me in for tonight,” a short man spoke out as well.

“5th Brother, I’ll give you all of those from my home. Don’t fight with me for this,” the 3rd Brother anxiously said to the 5th Brother.

“You have the nerve to bring out those filthy and vulgar women? You can keep them for yourselves!”

“Don’t know what’s better for you!” Qing Shui saw that Yu He was frowning, wanting to take action and thus he bellowed out.

“You bastard. Let’s see how you plan on escaping today!” No one knew how Qing Shui had managed to escape the previous time but this time, they weren’t planning on letting him escape.

“Call out your marionettes. Otherwise, it’ll be too late for you to have regrets.” Qing Shui didn’t continue with the scuffle.

“Everyone attack together! Get him, dead or alive!” The man on the left waved and dashed out toward Qing Shui.

Qing Shui shook his head. Before him, these people were like children who were learning how to walk in front of an adult. Their gap was not just a little bit. They had been blinded by age and appearances.

Buddha’s True Eyes!

Qing Shui stared at a cultivator at the back with quite a strong aura. It was a Grade Three Martial Saint.

Pa!

A light sound rang out abruptly. It was a crisp sound akin to a porcelain object being smashed. Everyone couldn’t help but turn toward the place where the sound came from.

That person was not dead but he stood there, not moving.

“Old Ma, what’s wrong?!”

“Old Ma...”

The people around him pushed and shouted at him, but he had no reaction. They all suddenly felt a chill.

Qing Shui hadn’t expected the Buddha’s True Eyes to be so domineering. He knew that the guy’s soul had been hurt by his Buddha’s True Eyes.

Legend has it that the spirit is segregated into the ethereal and corporeal soul. There are three parts to the ethereal soul, namely the heavenly soul, the earthly soul and the destiny soul.

There are seven parts to the corporeal soul, namely the Tianchong (Heaven Rush), Linghui (Intelligence), Qi, Li (Strength), Zhongshu (Backbone), Jing (Essence) and Ying.

The three parts of the ethereal soul are also known as Tai Guang (Light of Foetus), Shuang Ling (Bright Spirit) and the You Jing (Quiet Spirit). The Tai Guang relates to the Yang energy and pertained to the heaven; the Shuang Ling represented the changes to the Yin energy and pertained to the five elements; while the You Jing represented the diversity to the Yin energy.

The Tai Guang relates to life and when it is in a body for a prolonged period of time, it could cause the person to feel refreshed and enjoy a long lifespan.

The You Jing relates to calamities and weaknesses. It causes one to indulge in lust and other secular desires, drowning in debauched morals and depletes one's essence. It causes a person to feel a lack of vigor, weakness to the kidneys and one's internal organs and one's meridian channels to be blocked.

In the three parts of the ethereal soul, the heavenly soul represented yang, the earthly soul represented Yin and the destiny soul represented Yang as well.

Once a person's destiny soul was harmed, their life would be in danger.

The Buddha's True Eyes directly inflicted harm on a person's soul.

Qing Shui didn't know if it was because of virtuous karma or that it had yet to reach a higher level, but the person who had been attacked would have damage on his earthly soul.

He hadn't expected this to be so powerful either. Each time he had used the Buddha's True Eyes, he would have to rest for a short moment. It was like accumulating power or could be said to ensure that there was a balance.

"Spirit attack!" The man in the lead suddenly shouted out.

Qing Shui hadn't expected his opponent to be able to recognize his attack. He was also astonished by how powerful the Buddha's True Eyes was, despite only being at the small success stage. However, this Grade Three Martial Saint didn't seem to have any resistance to it at all.

He thought of his Roc's Might. The saying that the Buddha's True Eyes attacked one's soul was not exactly accurate since it was just from the legends. Basically, it attacked one's spirit energy, brain and Niwan Palace.

Legend has it that a person's spirit was split into three immortality aspects (ethereal) and seven mortal aspects (corporeal), which meant that the Buddha's True Eyes was truly an attack to one's spirit. A person's soul is his spirit and injuring one's soul would be inflicting harm on his spirit. Without the spirit, no matter how powerful one was, one could only be like a mountain and could be easily moved by others.

At this moment, Qing Shui seemed to have gained a new understanding on attacks with spirit energy. The Roc's Might and Buddha's True Eyes were both attacks on one's spirit, just like how both the Taichi and the Back Connecting Fist were both fist techniques.

However, the degree of attacks would be different. The Roc's Might would be domineering while the Buddha's True Eyes was comparatively weaker. This was what Qing Shui felt. Right now, he had yet to master attacks on one's spirits and needed to study more into it. After all, there weren't many people who excelled in this area.

On the mention of attacks on one's spirit, everyone was panic-stricken. Such attacks tended to catch people unaware and only those whose spirit energy were sufficiently powerful would be able to withstand the attack. Those whose spirit energy were too weak wouldn't be able to do anything, even if they were to focus all their concentration to deal with the attacks.

#### **Chapter 944 - Scarlet Flame Flying Heavenly Frog, Arrival at the Central Continent**

When Qing Shui saw what these people were like, he had no intentions of letting them off. Moreover, these people were from the Marionette Sect, making Qing Shui feel that it was even more reason for him not to let them off.

These people were considered top notch warriors and would be in the limelight no matter where they went. It was a pity that the population in the world of the nine continents was too great and thus no matter how strong one was, there would always be someone out there who was stronger. Even though they were strong, there were quite a number of warriors who were at their level. This was also something which Qing Shui had only realized after becoming one of those who was at the Martial Emperor level.

If one wasn't of this level, it would be hard for him to come into contact with the events that would occur to the people of this level.

Yu He's expression was cold, not saying a word. She knew that Qing Shui wouldn't let them off, therefore she had no plans to make a move. These people really didn't think much about the two of them.

"Everyone attack together! After we kill this fellow, that woman will be ours!" The 3rd Brother saw that things couldn't be settled easily. When dealing with people who could launch spiritual attacks, they would need to not give the opponent any chance to attack and to kill him directly. It was because people with strong spirit energy tended to have weak physiques.

It might be because this was a means of balancing with the spirit energy.

It was a pity that Qing Shui was an exception.

Looking at the people who were charging over, Qing Shui took in a deep breath and stomped down.

**Mighty Elephant Stomp!**

Right now, Qing Shui's physical strength had reached 90 stars and the Mighty Elephant Stomp which had reached the great perfection stage now gave him a strength of 900 stars. These before him were unable to take this attack. Before this tremendous attacking prowess, they were taken aback and had no other choice but to scatter off in all directions.

However, other than the five people in the lead, the others couldn't even escape. The tremendous explosion caused them to be turned into dust, created a deep crater in the ground and dust to be blown all over. Those who were hit had completely disappeared.

Even though the five of them were able to escape, they weren't able to get off completely unscathed. Two of them suffered from serious injuries. If Qing Shui were to let them off, they would naturally be able to escape. However, Qing Shui wouldn't do that. He wasn't that much of an idiot...

There were also three people who were flabbergasted and attempted to escape without any hesitation. How could Qing Shui let them off? He shot out two ordinary Coldsteel Beads.

This was sufficient to deal with people of their level. With a flash, by the time the two Coldsteel Beads went through their two heads, Qing Shui had already caught up to the last person. This guy with a burly build was the guy who was called 3rd Brother.

The primordial flames in Qing Shui's hand turned into a Primordial Flame Whip and he lashed it out.

"Don't kill me..."

It was a pity that he hadn't even finished his words before he was killed by Qing Shui's Primordial Flame Whip. These people deserved this fate, since those who committed too many sins would only end up dead. People like them would end up in a horrible state.

Even if he didn't kill them today, someone else might do it. It was just that if they were lucky enough, they might be able to live through their lives safely. After all, with their strength ordinary people would have to shun them...

Mighty Elephant Stomp!

Qing Shui once again used a Mighty Elephant Stomp to turn the surroundings into debris before he gradually walked toward Yu He. These people were considered to have been buried. When people died, nothing was left.

"Let's continue on our way for a little further!" Yu He looked at the surroundings and said, smiling.

"Alright!" Qing Shui and Yu He once again advanced on the Fire Bird. They had used up both uses of the Nine Continents Steps earlier.

...

Three days later, Qing Shui and Yu He truly entered the most central spot between the two continents. This was also the most dangerous spot. Qing Shui wasn't very worried. He had yet to use the Nine Continents Steps and if worst came to worst, he could just escape with Yu He.

Recently, they had started to come across groups of demonic beasts. However, it was still quite manageable since he activated his Roc's Might and there was also the Fire Bird's pressure. Ordinary flocks of flying beasts wouldn't dare to get near.

However, there were also exceptions. When they come across groups of large-scale ferocious flying beasts, Qing Shui and Yu He could only hide temporarily or choose to land. There were many places

where they could hide on the ground and if it didn't work, they would escape on the Fire Bird. Those ferocious flying beasts wouldn't be able to do anything to them.

Gu!

Gu...

Qing Shui suddenly heard a series of piercing cries which were both like cries from frogs and crows, but just sounded worse. Suddenly, from their left side a group of densely packed dots appeared in the air.

Qing Shui frowned. This was the fourth time today, but this time around those black spots were moving very quickly. Very soon, Qing Shui's expression changed slightly. Even Yu He was shocked and appeared slightly unnatural.

Scarlet Flame Flying Heavenly Frog!

These creatures were not very big, but were still about three meters in size. Their bodies were like flames and they looked like burning toads. However, it was a pity that they were too big. They looked like frogs but yet had wings. Their bodies were tough as steel and like the Blood-Thirsty Bald Eagles, they were proficient in the use of poison and fire. These Scarlet Flame Flying Heavenly Frogs were even more terrifying because they could both fly and leap. Each time they leaped, it would be at least 300 meters...

If they were to be targeted by a group like this, they would basically be goners, no matter if they were in the air or on land. It would be fine if there was just one of them, but there were countless of them now...

The center of this wilderness was really extremely dangerous but Qing Shui had his Nine Continents Steps, so he wasn't too worried. Even Yu He wasn't that worried either.

Gu gu...

The Scarlet Flame Flying Heavenly Frogs scattered out and surrounded Qing Shui. Seeing how arrogant these ugly creatures were, Qing Shui couldn't help but want to kill some of them.

"Since you guys specialize in fire, then we'll see whose fire is stronger." Qing Shui thought to himself and let the Fire Bird fly at great speed before he let the Fire Bird take another Gale Pellet.

Usually, when they were traveling the Fire Bird would tend to take some Gale Pellets if the situation allowed it to. This would allow them to travel faster. However, the prerequisite was that the number of times it took the Gale Pellets didn't exceed the Fire Bird's limits.

Even if medicinal pills could allow a temporary increase, it wasn't impossible to do so without any limits. The temporary improvement would cause a strain on the body and it was necessary for it to take sufficient rest. Qing Shui had the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal, so basically, it was as if it had taken one Gale Pellet once every 100 days.

Very quickly, Qing Shui's hands condensed two Primordial Flame Balls that were the size of the heads of two children. He continued to condense them, as he looked toward the densely packed group of Scarlet Flame Flying Heavenly Frogs.

Duo-Star Explosion!

Qing Shui threw the two Primordial Flame Balls which were as quick as lightning, instantly killing many of them. That short moment of outlash and the black hole that was created formed a strange wave of power, swallowing up tens of the Scarlet Flame Flying Heavenly Frogs in the area. The sparks from the explosion also had tremendous prowess, with the sparks having a terrifying penetrating power. Adding on to its terrifying high temperature, many of them were burned to ash.

Those who were unlucky enough to have their brain penetrated would die instantly. The same went for those whose Core or heart were penetrated...

In this moment, an empty space was created from the explosion.

There were many horrifying cries and many of them plunged.

Qing Shui let the speed of the Fire Bird remain constant and allowed a number of the Scarlet Flame Flying Heavenly Frogs to be able to catch up to him. The limits to his Primordial Flame Whip was 50 meters and he didn't wish to take any risks since there were many of them. He didn't wish to let them get within a 50 meter range of him, especially when Yu He was next to him.

Therefore, he used the Primordial Flame Balls, Roc's Might and Buddha's True Eyes!

Each time he used the Roc's Might and Buddha's True Eyes, he would only be able to kill one of them. These Scarlet Flame Flying Heavenly Frogs were all high level Martial Saints and were not able to withstand Qing Shui's attacks. After all, Qing Shui's spirit energy was considerably strong.

Seeing that he had done sufficient damage, Qing Shui then picked up Yu He, put away the Fire Bird and disappeared by using the Nine Continents Steps.

The Scarlet Flame Flying Heavenly Frogs were demonic beasts who didn't fear death. As long as it was a live creature, they wouldn't care how strong it was. They would just charge on forward until they've eaten their target.

"These desolate beasts are so scary. If I were to be escaping alone, it'd take a lot out of me," Yu He smiled and said after arriving at a new location.

"Thank goodness these creatures aren't very strong. Otherwise, they would be really terrifying, no matter if it's in the air, on the land or in the water." Qing Shui hadn't expected a powerful toad to be so terrifying just from growing a pair of wings.

"Your treasure is really powerful. It's a pity that the skill can only be used twice everyday. Otherwise, it would only take a little while to reach wherever you want to go." Yu He seemed to be exceptionally happy.

"A man who is content will feel happy. I'm content with it right now. As it is, it can still save me quite a lot of time."

...

"Qing Shui, look, it's Sky City. We've finally arrived at Central Continent," Yu He looked at the city far away and said happily.

On the way here, there were clouds in the sky and they didn't see Sky City. However, there was not a single cloud in the sky today and Sky City seemed to be flickering, appearing very majestic.

They had spent a lot of time on this journey ever since they first left after the new year. It had already been three months, but the temperature was slightly warmer as they moved toward the Central Continent. Of course, there were still exceptions, such as Cold Ice City which was winter all year round and would snow every few days.

Mmm, thinking of Cold Ice City, Qing Shui thought of Hai Dongqing again.

"Let's find a place to stop, have some food and get some rest." Seeing that they were about to reach the Sky City, Qing Shui smiled and said.

Although they had been in the wild for the past few days, they had tents and Qing Shui had even prepared a bed for Yu He. They had good food and good sleep. Furthermore, both of them were very strong and didn't feel tired. Even if they did feel tired, it would be more mental fatigue.

At the mention of looking for a place to stay, they thought of the Octagon Inn. Back then, he had dealt them a great blow and he wondered whether they had rebuilt the place or had they moved out of this area.

After arriving at Central Continent, Yu He took out something that was similar to a firework and lit it up. Although Qing Shui felt a little puzzled, he knew that she was informing someone.

The Octagon Inn hadn't been rebuilt and there was nothing but ruins there. The fact that the place had fallen, even if it was by the hands of others, went to say that this place was an unlucky spot. Those who were rich wouldn't choose this location, yet the poor wouldn't be able to afford it, thus it was now empty. The Marionette Sect wouldn't care about just leaving this place alone. However, it was a pity that in the past, the Octagon Inn's daily revenue was really quite significant.

Heavenly Cloud Pavilion!

Qing Shui and Yu He moved a few streets away and stopped before this inn. It wouldn't lose out to the Octagon Inn from the past and could even be said to be even more luxurious.

"Let's decide on this place!" Qing Shui looked at the sign and thought to himself.

"Alright, we'll do as you say."

Hearing Yu He's words, Qing Shui smiled, feeling something strange growing in his heart. During their journey, Yu He had often used this tone with him, being like a docile lady. However, she was actually a dignified, strong and mature lady who was an unrivaled beauty.

The decor of Heavenly Cloud Pavilion wasn't as luxurious as the Octagon Inn, but it appeared majestic. It was something one could clearly sense upon entering. There were engravings on the walls and even the wall paintings would be demonic beasts or cultivators. The color scheme of the place wasn't bright but it was clean and grand looking, having a gracefulness compared to other places which had only the luxurious image.

**Chapter 945 - Heavenly Cloud Pavilion, Yu He's departure**

The carpeting from the entryway of the Heavenly Cloud Pavilion to its interior was brown. It suited the simple, minimalistic design of the building, giving the entire place an uplifting elegance. Qing Shui liked this particular style of architecture. Even though everyone could appreciate buildings like the Octagon Inn, which were built to look luxurious, Qing Shui felt that both styles could display their owners upper-class status and taste.

Once he entered, a waiter quickly came to welcome him. "Table for two? Please come in."

"Thank you!" Qing Shui replied as he and Yu He followed the young waiter to the upper floors. For a restaurant of this size to operate in Sky city, it should not be any less influential or powerful than Marionette Sect.

More importantly, it had a 'Heavenly' in its name, though Qing Shui wasn't sure if it had anything to do with its position in Sky City.

The two of them were brought to the third floor and were directed to a table in a corner as the tables by the windows were already full. Qing Shui told the waiter to get them one portion of every specialty dish in the restaurant.

"Do you know who owns Heavenly Cloud Pavilion?" Yu He asked as she smiled at Qing Shui.

"I have no idea. Is it Sister Yu's?" Qing Shui shook his head and replied lightheartedly.

"No. You have a rich imagination. But I do own a share of this Heavenly Cloud Pavilion" Yu He grinned.

"Oh, so my guess was pretty close then." Qing Shui was somewhat amazed by Yu He. Silken Web Ridge in Eastern Victory Divine Continent, Heavenly Cloud Pavilion in Central Continent... After all these years since they last met, he realized that he really could not read this woman well.

"I told you this before. We, Hundred Flower Valley, have strategic strongholds in five different continents. Of course, we have to run some businesses. Otherwise, we won't be able to afford the upkeep costs." Yu He explained when she saw Qing Shui deep in thought.

"I'd never expect that Sister Yu would become such a powerful chief in these areas within these few years. You should be well-respected in these five continents, I guess." Qing Shui smiled at Yu He.

Yu He shook her head, "You will know soon enough. I don't deny that we are quite powerful, but we are in an awkward position. There is an extremely powerful presence within the five continents. You will meet them soon. They are the true overlords here," Yu He laughed.

Qing Shui was a little stunned. He had traveled to many places and have met many people with outstanding capabilities, but he had never fought with any true top experts before. He knew these top clans and sects: Tantai Aristocrat Clan of Southern Viewing Continent, Putuo Mountain of the Southern Sea, Central Continent Buddha Sect, Demon Gate, even Godly Sword Clan of Sky City, Eastern Victory Divine Continent. In actual fact, Godly Sword Clan was not the most powerful clan in Eastern Victory Divine Continent despite being one of the top tier clans in the capital city. However, Qing Shui did not have time to actually explore the whole continent then, likewise, he also did not cross paths with people of a higher level.

“You don’t have to worry. When dealing with people of that level, all we have to do is to avoid provoking them. If we don’t cause any trouble for them, they will also leave us alone,” Yu He said in a rather carefree manner, seeing Qing Shui’s expression.

Qing Shui gave a wry smile. The problem was that he was going to provoke them. Whether it was Demon Gate or Lion King’s Ridge of Northern Sacred Lu Continent, he needed to deal with them. Despite that, he smiled and nodded.

The waiter came back with nine fragrant dishes. The mouth-watering aroma which was simple, yet tasteful was just like the overall atmosphere of the restaurant.

Qing Shui handed Yu He a pair of chopsticks, “Let’s eat. We can have a look at Sky City later. By the way, who owns the remaining 90% share of Heavenly Cloud Pavilion?”

He hesitated before he asked his question because he knew that their relationship was much closer now, perhaps one could say that they have already confirmed their relationship. However, he did not mind if she avoided answering him if she was uncomfortable.

“It belongs to Sky City.” Yu He replied directly, without any hesitation. Anyway, it was common knowledge that Heavenly Cloud Pavilion was owned by Sky City.

“Sister Yu, do you know people from Sky City?” Qing Shui asked while he ate, since he was rather curious about Sky City.

“I don’t know anyone. But one of the members in Hundred Flower Valley is the wife of a Vice Castellan of Sky City. We are as close as blood-related sisters,” Yu He said cheerfully.

“Oh!” Qing Shui was more than aware of the benefits of nepotism in any sort of setting. He wondered if he could build a connection through his relationship with Yu He...

After they both finished their meal, more than ten women arrived at the entrance of the restaurant. They were all dressed the same. They each wore a white top and a simple skirt and had a long sword in their hand. They quickly approached both Yu He and Qing Shui when they saw them.

Qing Shui knew that they could only come here because of Yu He’s signal and because they had many insiders in the Heavenly Cloud Pavilion.

“Mistress!”

The woman leading the group whispered.

Yu He waved, “Anything urgent?”

“Elder Master went to gather outside the city and head to Northern Sacred Lu Continent immediately,” the woman replied.

Yu He frowned, “I got it. Get ready, we will gather outside the city in an hour’s time,” Yu He replied softly.

The group of women left, they were all very young but they were all at least Martial Saint or above. When he saw how they moved in unison, Qing Shui quickly realized— Unison Assault!

They were definitely skilled in Unison Assault. It was not a type of formation, but a well-executed Unison Assault could also boost the synergy in a group attack. An expert execution of Unison Assault was definitely comparable to some formations. With that said, Unison Assaults were not easy to perfect and there were some formations which are simply beyond the reach of Unison Assaults.

“Qing Shui, I’m sorry, I need to leave now. I will look for you after I settled matters.” Yu He smiled apologetically.

“Please go ahead to resolve your matters. I won’t delay you any further. Please be careful. I will walk with you to the edge of the city.” Qing Shui smiled reassuringly. When both of them left, no one came to get any payment from them. Once they were outside, they sat on Qing Shui’s Fire Bird and headed for the city’s outskirts. Yu He had a faint smile on her face, but Qing Shui could sense her distress.

Qing Shui held her hand, “Sister Yu, I won’t send you any further. Please be careful.” Qing Shui looked at Yu He and said gently.

Yu He felt a wave of warmth within her heart, she smiled back at Qing Shui. “Don’t worry. I have traveled to many places over these few years. I can protect myself.”

“Let me give you something. There are directions on it, read it carefully. It might be useful to you.” Qing Shui passed Yu He an Interspatial Silk Satchet.

Yu He was not sure if she should accept it.

“You don’t need to be reserved about it. Anyway, I am almost even yours, what’s wrong with accepting a little something from me?” Qing Shui chuckled and teased.

“Haha. I don’t want you,” Yu He laughed and accepted the Interspatial Silk Satchet. She suddenly hugged Qing Shui and planted a kiss on his lips. Once their lips touched, she quickly explored the inside of his mouth...

Qing Shui found it amusing that she had already stolen his kiss twice. It was weird that she did not know how to kiss even at her age but he liked that... He held her lips in his and sucked in gently, calming Yu He down. Her beautiful face flushed a bright red.

Qing Shui inserted his tongue into her mouth and toyed with her satin lips for some time. Just then, Yu He pushed Qing Shui away and blushed as she looked at Qing Shui, “We’ve arrived. I will leave now. Take care!”

Qing Shui waved at her and watched as her figure disappeared into the distance. There were more than twenty people waiting for her. Another woman was also watching Yu He leave with the group of people.

Once the group left, the woman sky-walked over to Qing Shui. Her outfit was about the same as Yu He and the others, but she was slightly older. Yet, she was still very sexy and was at the age where women have a sexy appeal.

“Master Qing, I am Weng Xue.” the woman’s skin was snow white and delicate. Her single lidded phoenix eyes were very pretty, she had a dainty nose and a lanky figure. Her perky breasts were accentuated by her slim figure. Her beauty was in no way inferior to Yu He.

Qing Shui could also guess who she was now, “Nice to meet you. Just call me Qing Shui.”

“He’er mentioned you before. She treats me as her blood related older sister and I also treat her as my younger sister. I am an orphan, so she and my master are my closest relatives,” Weng Xue said as she smiled amiably at Qing Shui.

This woman was very intelligent, she definitely had a way with people. Furthermore, Yu He had already spoken with her to help introduce Qing Shui to Sky City. Besides, her relationship with Yu He was really as close as real siblings.

“Sister Xue, sorry for troubling you.” Qing Shui did want to see Sky City and this was his chance. Naturally, he would take any opportunity he saw.

“It’s nothing. We’re one family anyway,” Weng Shui replied with a courteous smile.

“Sister Xue, please accept my gift. It is just my sincerity.” Qing Shui took out a purple jade pendant and gave it to her.

“I should be the one giving you a gift.” Weng Xue smiled.

“This purple jade is good for your body and your complexion and it has some other properties as well. It will be useful. Since we are family, please accept it.” Qing Shui grinned, he could sense that this woman was not stingy. Besides, he also took into account her relationship with Yu He.

For a woman to be taken as the first wife of the Vice Castellan of Sky City, she definitely had her own undeniable charm, personality, abilities, mannerism and traits.

Weng Xue thanked Qing Shui and accepted the jade pendant. She was quite surprised when she examined it. She did not really give it much notice at first but now that she saw it, she knew that it was really quite valuable. It was not something that one could just buy.

She heard that Qing Shui was a very close friend of Yu He and that Yu He had known him for many years. When she first saw Qing Shui and how handsome he was, she thought he was just Yu He’s childhood friend and perhaps a person that Yu He had already planned to marry. Now that she looked at him closely, she realized that she underestimated him.

She remembered when Yu He returned with Qing Shui to Victory Divine, but now she remembered his other identity. She remembered the picture of the young man who had destroyed the Octagon Inn with one stomp. Previously, she found him familiar but did not think of it. Now, she was certain that this young man was the mortal enemy of the Marionette Sect.

“Brother Shui, you must look for me if you get into any trouble in Sky City.” Weng Xue urged Qing Shui gently with a smile.

From her expression, Qing Shui knew that the woman before him must have realized something. After all, he knew that pictures of him were now all over the streets. He could also guess that Marionette Sect already knew that he was going to Sky City.

“Thank you. Sister Xue. Marionette Sect can’t deal with me anyway,” Qing Shui laughed out.

Weng Xue was quite shocked when he said that. She couldn’t help watching Qing Shui curiously. They were now on Weng Xue’s Cloud Crane and were flying towards Sky City.

Weng Xue looked carefully at Qing Shui, finding that he was definitely beyond her expectations. In the past, she joked that Yu He was taking advantage of the young and inexperienced man, but now she knew that this young man was actually more than qualified...

#### **Chapter 946 - Sky City's Vice Castellan Qin Zongheng, Sworn Sister**

Her Cloud Crane sped towards Sky City and due to its extreme speed, reached the huge city in two hours. This gave Qing Shui the impression that Sky City was indeed a powerful and influential place. A two hours ride on the Cloud Crane was quite some distance. The Heavenly Cloud Pavilion was still powerful despite its distance from Sky City. From this, Qing Shui could tell that Sky City had a firm control over the area, to the extent that even the Marionette Sect didn't dare provoke them.

Sky City was too enigmatic. Qing Shui did not know if there were any experts like those elders in the Sky Prison Sect. However, from inferring the relative strength of the Marionette Sect with Sky City, he guessed that there were definitely some Beginner Grade Martial Emperors.

This was probably the reason why Weng Xue had been shocked when he had mentioned to her that he could defend himself against the people from Marionette Sect. He had meant that he could defend against members of the Marionette Sect by himself at his age. She was not sure if her husband could even do that and her husband was of an older generation than Qing Shui.

Yu He had become the mistress of the Hundred Flowers Valley with her Hundred Flowers constitution. It was an innate gift that others couldn't get, no matter how jealous they were. Otherwise, the title would never have landed into Yu He's hands. It is precisely because of Yu He that Weng Xue first had the impression that Qing Shui was no ordinary man. After observing him for just a short time, she could tell that he was special. He had an extraordinary presence and aura.

His aura was similar to that of some of the old Elders in Sky City, which made her feel that he was probably a top-tier cultivator. With that in mind, Weng Xue couldn't help looking at Qing Shui every now and then because she felt that Yu He and Qing Shui were very compatible. She even looked forward to them confirming their relationship.

She suddenly laughed, amused by her own thoughts. When had she become like this? She shook her head and stared off into the distance as Sky City became clearer and clearer before them. Just as its name implied, the famous Sky City was situated high above sea level.

Her Cloud Crane gradually flew upwards and Qing Shui estimated that Sky City was at least 10,000 meters above ground level. Weng Xue spoke to Qing Shui about some random matters but oddly, they did not even mention Sky City in their conversation.

"Qing Shui, you have to be careful around the Marionette Sect. Those people are very vengeful and ruthless. If you need help, you must tell me. I will help in any way I can." Weng Xue repeated once again when they were close to Sky City.

This time, Qing Shui nodded his head earnestly. He understood Weng Xue's sincerity. The way she acted clearly showed how close she was to Yu He. As a result, he replied with a smile, "Okay. If I find myself in a bad spot, don't act like you don't know me, Elder Sis!" Qing Shui joked. He readily changed what he called her.

Weng Xue was delighted when she heard Qing Shui's words. She was a very sharp woman and understood his witty remark. She suddenly felt a sense of kinship with Qing Shui, as if there was some fate bringing them together. Perhaps because she had been an orphan, she liked having him as her younger brother.

"Alright, I will treat you as my relative in the future. You'll be my younger brother." Weng Xue declared happily with a serious expression.

"Elder Sis!" Qing Shui called her again, happily.

"Alright, I'll hold a welcome banquet for you."

Weng Xue's Cloud Crane flew directly into Sky City as Weng Xue finished her sentence. Qing Shui had a clear view of the entire city now. To be precise, it was on a mountaintop but the structures made it look like a castle town.

Sky City was a moderately sized town about 100 li wide. There were many courtyards and pavilions, even a natural lake and a river. Both were formed from the melting glaciers of the mountain range. Looking at the size of the place, Qing Shui guessed that there were no outsiders in Sky City. The term 'City' was probably only used to represent the power and influence of this place, just like with the Poison Mountain Stockade and the Sky Prison Sect. It was actually far smaller than a true city like Hundred Miles City, which covered over 1000 li.

Her Cloud Crane dove down towards an area with a few magnificent-looking manors and landed. Each of the manors was very large and Qing Shui could feel the presence of numerous powerful auras beyond his perceptive abilities.

Weng Xue kept her Cloud Crane and walked towards the entrance of a manor. The guards who saw her quickly bowed and greeted her, "Madam!"

Weng Xue acknowledged them with a nod and walked into the manor with Qing Shui. They walked through an independent courtyard, surrounded by various pavilions. Qing Shui immediately sensed that there were not many people in the manor. There were only a few guards and servants.

Qing Shui knew that Weng Xue's husband was the Vice Castellan of the city, but it seemed to him that the man kept a low profile.

"Mother!"

"Mother!"

Two four to five year old children ran towards them. The boy looked slightly older and was followed by a middle-aged woman. Weng Xue cheerfully carried one of her children.

"Auntie Feng, you should rest for a while. I will take care of the two kids." Weng Xue said warmly to the middle-aged woman.

The middle-aged woman smiled and nodded her head before she bowed and excused herself.

"Hu'er, Bing'er. This is your uncle. Quickly greet your uncle." Weng Xue said as she carried both her children and looked at Qing Shui.

Qing Shui was a little caught off guard. He did not expect that she would have children and hadn't thought about it at all. But even he himself had a few children, so this was not really all that surprising.

The two children were very cute. They both had long hair and their exquisite faces were just like fine porcelain. Their black eyes were like black jewels sitting atop their sharp little noses. They both slightly resembled Weng Xue.

"Mother, what is an Uncle?" The young boy asked Weng Xue an odd question.

"Well, are you close to Bing'er?" Weng Xue asked gently.

"Yes, she is my little sister. If anyone bullies her, I will beat them back ten times as hard." Hu'er replied, raising his fists.

"He calls me Elder Sis. We are siblings, just like you and Bing'er." Weng Xue told the little child patiently, taking this opportunity to teach her children.

"Mother, are you closer to him or us?" The young child asked in alarm, as he stared at Qing Shui.

"Little brat, you two are my most precious!" Weng Xue was tickled by his reaction.

Qing Shui was quite entertained by the child's logic. He took out two Wondrous Fruits and handed one to the boy. "Call me 'Uncle' and I will give this to you. It's very delicious."

Even without Qing Shui description, the boy already knew that it must taste good. When Qing Shui just started opening the sealed box containing the fruits, the boy had already started salivating because of its smell. At the same time, Weng Xue was startled when she saw the fruits in Qing Shui's hand.

"Uncle!"

The two children quickly took the fruits from him and started nibbling...

"Wondrous Fruit!" Weng Xue exclaimed.

"Elder Sis, you know what this is." Qing Shui chuckled. Since Yiye Jiange could also recognize the fruit, it did not surprise him that Weng Xue could recognize it too.

"The Wondrous Fruit is one of the most amazing fruits in the World of the Nine Continents. It is extremely precious! It is usually best consumed by children under 13 and can raise their potential by 10% and their natural aptitudes by even more. This is quite valuable!" Weng Xue was quite shocked, as she said this.

In actuality, adults could also consume the fruits, but they were most effective for children. No one would waste any on adults.

"Xue'er, you have a guest." Just then, they heard a clear bright voice.

Qing Shui could feel the person's aura. He looked behind him and saw a man who could still be considered young. The man had a calm mannerism. He was very handsome and the corner of his eyes curved upwards almost like a smile, but his other facial features were sharp and firm. The man walked towards them with a smile, but he still had an intense oppressive air about him.

“Daddy!”

“Daddy!”

The two children ran towards their father with their half-eaten fruits. The man carried both of them, one in each arm. His expression quickly mellowed and was filled with his love for his two children. Then, he noticed what they were eating and exclaimed, “Wondrous Fruit!”

“Zongheng, you’re back. Let me introduce this young man that I just acknowledged as my younger brother. He’s Qing Shui.” Weng Xue said, smiling.

“Hi, I am Qin Zongheng. You look familiar.” the man smiled, he placed his children down and lifted his hand for a handshake.

“Hi, I am Qing Shui. I am the person that the Marionette Sect is looking for.” Qing Shui gave a faint smile.

Even if the man was slightly wary, Qing Shui was not really that concerned. The fact that the man still treated him in a good-natured manner meant the Weng Xue really held a place in that man’s heart. Qing Shui gladly shook Zongheng’s hand.

“Since you are Weng Xue’s brother, we are all one family. You don’t have to be too formal with us. Come inside. Let’s have a good drinking session tonight.” Qin Zongheng said invitingly.

He trusted Weng Xue and could also tell that Qing Shui was no common person. He did not think too much about it. Anyways, the Marionette Sect could not compare to Sky City, as they were on two entirely different levels.

During that time, Weng Xue eyed him and further suggested, “Zongheng, I treat him as my real younger brother. You should bring out your best wine.”

“Xue’er brother is also my brother. Thank you for your Wondrous Fruits.” The man thanked Qing Shui sincerely, as he watched his children happily nibble on their fruit.

“It’s nothing. I have children too. I like your children and these fruits are the perfect thing for them.” Qing Shui beamed.

Weng Xue was quite stunned when she heard that Qing Shui already had children. However, she still followed them to the main hall. The dining table was already filled with plates of hot dishes. Weng Xue had previously already ordered her servants to make preparations for a small banquet.

“Brother Qing Shui, I am a little curious. How did you get to know Xue’er?” Qin Zongheng smiled as he asked Qing Shui.

“Brother Qin, I first met Sister Xue only two hours before. Sister Xue’s younger sister is my very good friend.” Qing Shui replied lightheartedly. He did not wish for the man to misunderstand their relationship. He only knew now that the man had actually been concerned about the subject and it seemed he had already endured asking that question for some time.

Qing Shui did not expect that a powerful, firm man like Qin Zongheng would actually act like this. Perhaps, people would lose their confidence when it came to things that they truly cared about.

Qin Zongheng only felt insecure because he could tell that Qing Shui was quite a talented young man. A powerful young man with good looks was very attractive to women. No matter how much Qin Zongheng trusted Weng Xue, he was still worried. After all, men could be very selfish. The stronger their love, the more selfish and worried they could become.

“Brother Qin, in my heart, Sister Xue is just like my real sister.” Qing Shui actually admired Qin Zongheng’s character. For a man of his stature to only have one woman, it really showed his dedication.

“He’er and Qing Shui are very good friends!” Weng Xue laughed heartily. After he heard what Weng Xue said, Qin Zongheng’s eyes also lit up. He took a closer look at Qing Shui.

“Elder Sis, I feel that we really have quite the affinity. I am happy to have another sister. I would like to raise a toast to you.” Qing Shui lifted his cup of wine and finished it in one gulp.

Weng Xue did the same and said, “From today, we are siblings. I’m truly happy.”

### **Chapter 947 - Form, The path to Demon Gate, Consternation**

There were only five of them at the dinner table, including the two children. Weng Xue was quite powerful. She was a Peak Martial Saint with the strength of about 50 stars. Qin Zongheng was an Early Martial Emperor and Qing Shui felt that he must be very powerful.

“We are family now. Qing Shui, don’t stand on ceremony. Have more wine!”

Qin Zongheng drank enthusiastically with Qing Shui. One of the reasons he could hold the title as the Vice Castellan of Sky City was because of his exceptional ability. At least, in terms of reading people, he was definitely better than others. His wife, Weng Xue, also helped in his career over the years. Her influential position in Hundred Flowers Valley meant that she was well known in the group of upper-tier cultivators. She had also helped solve many of Qin Zongheng problems.

His title meant that he was the successor of the current Castellan. However, although a Vice Castellan was chosen from each generation, the position of Castellan was not passed down, but was instead based on a person’s strength, not his age nor generation.

For someone to become the Castellan, they not only had to be capable but also had to have a network of powerful connections. After all, a person who wants to achieve great things will need loyal supporters. Even though aristocratic clans disallowed internal conflicts within their clans on the surface, the fact was that members in a clan definitely had their own choice of successor. The Elders would never really clamp down on it, as it was an important requirement for a successor. It was important that the future successor was able to gather supporters so that future internal power struggles could be avoided. Only one with absolute talent and strength could bend things in their own favor.

“Qing Shui, why are you on Marionette Sect’s wanted list? Could you tell me?” Qin Zongheng smiled amiably at Qing Shui. Now that he considered Qing Shui his family, he believed that it was necessary to resolve the issue with the wanted posters with Qing Shui’s portrait.

“I was eating in Octagon Inn when the people from Marionette Sect commented that I was suitable to be their marionette. I had no choice but to stomp and destroy their restaurant to escape.” Qing Shui explained nonchalantly.

“That’s preposterous! Those people are getting too arrogant in Sky City. I will ask my grandfather to help you resolve this matter.” Qin Zongheng replied furiously.

“Elder Brother Qin, please let me resolve this myself. It’s alright, I will make them pay.” Qing Shui said, as he did not want to owe others any favors. Even though he treated Weng Xue as his sister, he did not want to owe them any debts. Besides, he felt that Marionette Sect could be easily destroyed.

Qin Zongheng’s brow furrowed slightly. He thought for few minutes before saying, “Marionette Sect might not be that intimidating, but in name they are still a branch of Demon Gate.”

When Qing Shui heard what Qin Zongheng said, he was surprised. He did not expect that the issue would actually involve Demon Gate. He did not know the exact strength and influence of Demon Gate and only knew that they were formidable. Now that he saw how serious Qin Zongheng became when he mentioned them, he could further confirm that.

Qing Shui fell silent, as he considered his options going forward. Although the Marionette Sect did plan to turn him into their marionette, he was basically unharmed and caused significant losses to Marionette Sect.

Also, he had every intention to deal with Demon Gate. However, this was not the right time. Currently, Qing Shui was hesitant to take action to eliminate Marionette Sect. He thought that perhaps it might be better for him to attack them at a later time.

“Younger Brother, no one in Sky City will dare to harm you. Furthermore, if Marionette Sect really takes action and you retaliate by destroying them, Demon Gate will not be able to say anything.” Weng Xue said quietly.

Qing Shui smiled when he saw Weng Xue’s sincere gaze, “Thank you Elder Sis, but I am not in a hurry to resolve this issue. I have already dragged this for a year. Anyway, I wasn’t hurt. I will just leave this for later, besides it wouldn’t just disappear.”

“Qing Shui, large clans and sects are all very concerned with their reputation. If we help you get rid of Marionette Sect, Demon Gate will definitely not try to seek any compensation from Sky City. However, I’m worried for you. They may not travel such a long distance to look for trouble with us, but they can definitely find you.” Qin Zongheng replied when he saw Qing Shui still deep in thought.

“I understand. Brother Qin, why don’t you tell me more about Demon Gate. I’m quite curious about that sect.” Qing Shui said casually while smiling. Qing Shui found it rather dampening that he could not get rid of Marionette Sect due to the complications. Who would have known that Marionette Sect had a connection with Demon Gate?

More importantly, he definitely needed to pay a visit to Demon Gate, since Huoyun Liu-Li’s background was linked to Demon Gate. If he knew how powerful Demon Gate was, he would be able to gauge when he had enough strength to pay them a visit. Them as well as Lion King’s Ridge. Once he resolved both matters, he would be unburdened.

Qing Shui remembered Lin Zhanhan’s enmity with Lion King’s Ridge. The Lin Clan was once a large clan in Northern Sacred Lu Continent, a branch of Talisman Gate but was annihilated by Lion King’s Ridge.

“The main concept of Demon Gate is stealth. Even their name gives them a veil of anonymity. But it is undeniable that they are very powerful. They take on a very different approach to cultivation compared to the usual practices. They focus on speed and lethality in their martial arts. Their moves are even more effective than poison. They usually aim to kill with one attack. If they fail to kill with their one-shot attack, they will retreat. After that, they will seek another opportunity. They are good with disguise and trickery. They will use any method to kill their target and rarely fail.” Qin Zongheng replied patiently.

“Path of the Assassin!” Qing Shui suddenly exclaimed when he heard Qin Zongheng’s description, since that was exactly how assassins act. “Demon” seemed an apt term to use in their name. Other people might think that assassins were like demons, but to Qing Shui, they were nothing to be afraid of.

If they practiced Path of the Assassin, they may be fast but that would also mean that their strength would be considerably weaker. Their unconventional techniques, poison, hidden weapons and even simple Unison assaults might cause problems for others but to Qing Shui, those were nothing more than unorthodox little tactics. Those tactics might scare others, and give Demon Gate a great advantage in battle, perhaps even tenfold their true ability. But those were just child’s play to Qing Shui. Their tendency to act secretly could also provide an additional chance for Qing Shui to kill them even more easily.

Qing Shui had originally decided not to touch Marionette Sect first, but now his will was wavering. He just needed to confirm Demon Gate’s ability to see if he could also take down Demon Gate at the same time.

“Would they send their most powerful people if they found out Marionette Sect was destroyed? Do you know how powerful the strongest person in Marionette Sect is?” Qing Shui wanted to have some preparation, as it could become difficult if the gap in strength between him and his enemies was too wide.

“I am not very clear about that, but I know that their top cultivators are only at Grade Five Martial Emperor. From what I know, no one in the Five Continents has broke through to the realm of Grade Five Martial Emperor.” Qin Zongheng answered thoughtfully.

This information was rather startling. Every grade before Grade Five Martial Emperor was measured by 1000 stars. The max base strength of a Grade Five Martial Emperor cultivator was 5000 stars, while one could enter Martial Emperor realm at just 1000 stars. However, he did not know if they were at that level of strength with or without their weapons.

“Elder brother Qin, do they need the additional boost from their equipments and weapons to reach Grade Five Martial Emperor or is that their base strength?”

“Yes. It is with their weapons and all sort of equipments and items they can use. Once a person reaches the realm of Martial Emperor, their weapons will almost take on a spiritual nature. A cultivator’s weapon can bring them to a new height of strength. As long as the cultivator can fully harness the power of their weapon, it will be taken into consideration. But once a person reaches an undefeatable level, normal weapons and armors are usually not that effective.” Qin Zongheng replied with a smile.

“That would also mean that Demon Gate doesn’t have any cultivators stronger than Grade Five Martial Emperor. Regardless, their equipments...” Qing Shui grinned.

“With that said, if a person’s base strength was at Grade Five Martial Emperor, they could easily defeat the entire Five Continents.” Qin Zongheng chuckled.

When Qing Shui heard this, he was relieved. Right now, he had his Violet Star Thunder God. One Raging Blow could reach the level of 2600 stars, that was half that of the top cultivators’...

His Emperor’s Qi could reduce his opponent’s strength to 4000 stars. He did not know if his Vajra Subdues Demons and Fiery Golden Eyes would work and he doubted their effectiveness in this case.

With his Nine Palace Steps and formations, he should be able to protect himself.

“In the World of the Nine Continents, for people in the Five continents to exceed the realm of a Grade Five Martial Emperor, it is said that they must venture to the remaining four continents or otherwise obtain some legendary item.” Qin Zongheng said to Qing Shui.

When Qing Shui heard about the other four continents, he was no longer that shocked. He once thought that the World of the Nine Continents was on a singular piece of land.

This secret about the World of the Nine Continent was already discovered over 10,000 years ago.

In actuality, very few people in the World of the Nine Continents traveled extensively. People usually didn’t even travel more than half of their own continent. Perhaps, they might not even go out of their own cities. There were actually very few people who traveled out of their countries, as the land was really too large. Even those with flying demonic beasts could not leave as they pleased. There were many powerful people outside the circles they know and with so many demonic beasts roaming around, the skies were actually more dangerous than being on land.

“It is rumored that the four other continents are above our lands. I am not sure if that is true.” Qin Zongheng chuckled, as if he did not believe those rumors himself.

“Legend has it that the sky is made of nine divisions and we’re standing on the lowest division. What is your view on that, Brother Qin?” Qing Shui asked lightheartedly.

“True or false, I only know that we are in our Five Continents, so I don’t want to think about anything else. When one reaches that level, one would naturally figure it out. Come, Brother Qing Shui, drink.”

“Big Brother, I heard we have a guest.” they heard a bright voice and footsteps outside.

The people were already at the entrance of the manor, but did not enter. Qin Zongheng looked at Qing Shui and said, “They are my brothers. You can just sit here, I’ll go look.”

“Let’s go together!” Qing Shui stood up and they went to the entrance. “Uncle! Uncle!”

The two young children quickly ran forward. Qing Shui laughed when he saw that. He could see that the relationship between the brothers was quite good since children were usually most sensitive to such relationships.

“Tianzong, you sure got the news fast.” Qin Zongheng patted the handsome beside him and laughed.

“Big Brother, shouldn’t you introduce him to us?”

“This is my wife’s brother, Qing Shui.” Qin Zongheng introduced Qing Shui, as he invited the others in.

“Qing Shui, they are my brothers, Tianzong, Qizong, Yunheng...”

There were eight of them, with the inclusion of Qin Zongheng, their family had nine sons. Qin Zongheng was the eldest. His father had five wives and not a single daughter.

“Since he is your wife’s brother, we’ll count him as our brother.” the group of people stared at Qing Shui, as if trying to read him.

“Uh, he looks really familiar. I am sure I’ve seen you before.” a young man behind him said suspiciously.

“Brother Tianheng, I’m the person wanted by Marionette Sect.” Qing Shui said calmly and friendly to the man who was slightly older than him.

As the brothers have different mothers, their age gap was not large. At max, the difference was about 3 to 5 years.

### **Chapter 948 - Marrow Nibbling Golden Silkworm, Cure**

“Oh, no wonder you look so familiar. The Marionette Sect is just asking to be destroyed. Qing Shui, if you plan on attacking them, let us know. We’ll help,” the man said earnestly.

“Brother Tianheng, thank you. I can deal with them myself, they aren’t a threat.” Qing Shui chuckled.

When Tianheng heard Qing Shui say that, he was quite shocked. There were not many people who would blatantly disregard the Marionette Sect’s power. Even their eldest brother, Zongheng, might not have full confidence to do so. Assuming that Qing Shui was just being polite, he did not say much after being a little taken back.

Everyone sat down and continued eating and drinking. Even though they were all young people, the atmosphere was still a little tense. Thankfully, Qin Zongheng and Qin Tianzong knew how to handle such situations.

As the atmosphere got friendlier, Qing Shui spoke more. After all, it would be impolite of him to stay silent when the others were asking him questions. Luckily, they didn’t ask him anything sensitive. They also talked about some of the aristocratic clans in the Central Continent and Qing Shui listened with interest.

“Do you know that there is a new expert in the Central Continent’s Buddha Sect?” Qin Tianzong laughed as he looked at the others.

“Second brother, don’t joke around. The Buddha Sect has the title of the strongest sect. It is rumored that the experts there are all very powerful. So how powerful can this new expert from the young generation be?” one of them immediately asked, it was a man who had a rather anxious appearance.

“Seventh brother, don’t get too excited. Listen to me. The expert doesn’t have a name. He is tall and fat, so everyone calls him Master Fattie. His master is Buddha Sect’s Diamond Reverend,” Qin Tianzong guffawed.

Everyone laughed and some of them even sighed in awe. After all, it did not impact them much, as those people were so far away. However, Qing Shui was astounded when he heard this because he thought of one person.

Fattie!

Fattie was brought away by a fat monk. Later on, he heard that he went with the monk and learned some fantastic abilities. Now that Qin Tianzong mentioned this Master Fattie, his intuition strongly suggested that it was the Fattie that he knew.

Qing Shui wanted to find out more about 'Fattie' but decided against it after a few moments of thought. If they were fated to meet again, they will. All that was important was that the other party was well.

Most of the people left after an hour or so. There were only three people remaining at the dining table. The two children had run away much earlier.

"Elder Sis, I'm leaving now." Qing Shui stood up.

"No, you just came. How could you leave so early?" Weng Xue tried to persuade him, standing up quickly when she saw that Qing Shui was about to leave.

Qin Zongheng also stood up hurriedly but then he suddenly sat down again. His face turned a ghastly white as he tried his best to stand up again. He was expressionless but a thin layer of sweat appeared on his forehead.

Qing Shui and Weng Xue both heard his soft groan. When she saw her husband's condition, Weng Xue anxiously went over to support him. She asked worried, "Did it flare up again?"

Qing Shui looked at Qin Zongheng, puzzled. He saw that Qin Zongheng's body was now slightly bent and that the area about his chest dented inward slightly. Qing Shui couldn't resist using his Heavenly Vision Technique. He was surprised to discover that there was a golden worm in the man's body.

Marrow Nibbling Golden Silkworm!

Qing Shui looked at Qin Zongheng, flabbergasted. He wondered who did this to Qin Zongheng. When he looked again, he noticed that the worm was only ten centimeters away from Qin Zongheng's heart. The vessels within the vicinity of his heart and the path to his brain were sealed with silver needles. The Marrow Nibbling Golden Silkworm wasn't large and Qing Shui could tell that it had stopped after it nibbled slightly at Qin Zongheng's organs.

Qin Zongheng gritted his teeth and his body grew limp. The color drained from his face as blood streamed down the side of his mouth. They could even hear his teeth clattering because he had grit them so tightly.

Qing Shui was impressed that he did not make a sound after that groan. Qing Shui could understand that pain and he immediately understood why Qin Zongheng could take the title of Vice Castellan.

Weng Xue gave Qing Shui an apologetic look and quickly took out a white jade bottle. She poured out two white medicinal pills the size of soybeans and fed them to her husband.

"After some time, that Marrow Nibbling Golden Silkworm will grow larger and those silver needles will be unable to block it," Qing Shui suddenly said.

Weng Xue looked at Qing Shui, stunned. Qin Zongheng reacted in the same way. No one else but the pair knew about the situation.

“Snow-hearted Echeveria Pill is a good medicine.” Qing Shui walked over to them slowly.

He went over and quickly hit a few pressure points on Qin Zongheng’s body. Hitting a few pressure point to relieve the man’s pain was nothing to Qing Shui. He couldn’t believe that a person could actually survive with such a poisonous worm inside them. However, it seemed that if nothing else was done, Qin Zongheng would definitely die.

No matter what, Qing Shui was really impressed by both of their ability to converse, appearance and mood. They seemed to have decided that it should not affect their daily lives. Qing Shui was sure he could not be as unaffected as them if the same thing were to happen to him.

“What can I do? I will leave my life to fate. I am happy just to live a few more months.” Qin Zongheng sighed and smiled.

“Oh, younger brother, how did you come to know about this poisonous creature? How did you know my husband’s condition?” Weng Xue was still stunned.

“That’s because someone planted the same type of worm inside me in the past.”

Qin Zongheng and Weng Xue were astonished by Qing Shui. Weng Xue looked to Qing Shui and asked, “You were cured?”

“Yes, I am fine now!” Qing Shui replied happily.

“Young brother, can you let us know how you did it. I will definitely reward you.” Weng Xue urged Qing Shui.

“Do you treat me as your brother?”

“I may be a woman and I don’t play politics. But I definitely take you as my true brother.” Weng Xue replied with full honesty.

“Elder Sis, are you saying that I am a person that plays politics?” Qing Shui laughed out.

“No, no. I was just too eager to know.” Weng Xue explained.

“It’s alright. It’s alright. Just remember that you’re my sister.” Qing Shui took out a large case.

“Qing Shui, what is that?” Qin Zongheng asked.

“I consider myself a physician. Afterall, I got rid of the worm myself. Brother Qin, will you let me help you get rid of that poisonous worm?” Qing Shui smiled to Qin Zongheng.

“I still have three months to live. I have already survived for two months. I have nothing to lose. Just do what you have to do to take it out.” Qin Zongheng chuckled ecstatically.

Qing Shui knew that the worm was life-threatening, so he could empathize with Qin Zongheng. Qing Shui calmed him down and made him relax, while he thought about how he would cure the man.

He could not use the previous method he used on himself. The main problem was that this worm could move very fast and through its victims’ meridian. In the World of the Nine Continent, once an ailment involved a person’s dantian and meridians, it would basically be very difficult for any physician.

Another factor was that medicines had no effect on the worm. It could not be damaged by an external force either. Even people highly proficient in acupuncture would be unable to do anything. The worm exists in its host like fish in water. Another method was to obtain the unique 'antidote' from the poisoner, which acts as a bait to attract and extract the poison silkworm. But even in a powerful place like Sky City, no one could use that method. Either the poisoner did not have the antidote or did not plan to reveal it.

When Qin Zongheng saw Qing Shui taking out his gold needles, he was a little disappointed. They had already sought the help from some of the experienced physicians in Weng Xue's clan, but they had no success using gold needles. It was impossible to kill that parasite with gold needles. Even Physician Yong in Sky City could only use silver needles to seal up Qin Zongheng's heart and important organs and help preserve his life for another six months, unable to extract it.

But that disappointment only flashed over his face for a second. He really did not know what to expect from Qing Shui who was so much younger than those old physicians who had spent over 100 to 300 years researching but were still unable to deal with his condition.

Although one's skills were not determined by their age, medical skills and knowledge definitely correlated to a person's age. One had to accumulate experience, especially when using acupuncture. Cultivators in this world would all find it mysterious that needles as thin as a bull's hair could actually pierce through meridians without any issue.

"Did you try acupuncture and failed? Don't worry, just trust me." Qing Shui assured Qin Zongheng without even lifting his head. Weng Xue and Qin Zongheng instantly felt a sense of awkwardness.

Qing Shui got Qin Zongheng to lie down. Qing Shui's hands suddenly gained a translucent glow. Now that he was more powerful, his hands glowed like clear, high-class jade.

Saintly Hands!

Qing Shui clenched his fists and hammered down on Qin Zongheng's chest rapidly.

Bang!

Qin Zongheng did not even blink when he saw the flurry of punches raining down on his chest, it was so fast they could not really hear the distinction between the sound of each hit.

After he had almost hammered Qin Zongheng entire chest, he stopped abruptly. Now Qin Zongheng understood how incredible Qing Shui was because he could feel a comfortable warmth flowing through his body.

Qing Shui gestured and a hundred shining gold needles floated above Qin Zongheng's body.

Spirit energy!

There are some cultivators who could manipulate matter telepathically in mid-air. This required a very large amount of spirit energy and was also a secret skill.

"Elder Sis, don't let anyone bother us right now!" Qing Shui said to Weng Xue who was standing beside him.

“Don’t worry, no one will disturb us.” Weng Xue walked over to the entrance and commanded the guards not to let anyone in.

Chi!

Qing Shui slowly inserted a gold needle into Qin Zongheng’s chest. A hissing sound suddenly sounded, as almost half of that nine inch gold needle disappeared beneath his skin.

After that, Qing Shui did not hurry. After a few seconds, he inserted another three needles simultaneously. After he had inserted a total of nine needles, he flicked the gold needles and they started spinning with a buzzing sound.

As the number of gold needles in his hand gradually reduced, the number on Qin Zongheng’s chest increased, until it was almost completely covered.

Qing Shui slowly reduced the area the gold needles covered. He reduced the numbers till the needles showed a circular Yin Yang Image in the middle of Qin Zongheng’s chest. An image which resembled a Big Dipper Sword could also be seen.

A thin layer of sweat had already started appearing on Qing Shui’s face. Weng Xue looked beside him with a nervous face but she did not dare to move or even make a sound. Meanwhile, Qin Zongheng had already lost consciousness.

Needle Removal!

Qing Shui continuously removed the other surrounding needles and aimed them towards the center. If Mu Qing was around, she would be able to see that Qing Shui had created a formation with his gold needles, it was part of a Nine Palace Eight Trigrams Formation...

Trap!

Qing Shui had managed to trap the poisonous worm!

### **Chapter 949 - Central Palace Blood Essence Reservoir, Keeping a Marrow Nibbling Golden Silkworm, A blessing in Disguise**

Trap the silkworm and extract it.

That was Qing Shui’s current plan. He would have used another method in the past. There was another method that he considered but did not use, as he did not want to risk hurting Qin Zongheng.

Buddha’s True Eyes! It was a pity that he couldn’t try it out.

After that, Qing Shui used Roc’s Might and slowly approached the Marrow Nibbling Golden Silkworm only to find that it did not react...

A quick thought came to him: this Marrow Nibbling Golden Silkworm was more powerful than the one that was planted in his body. It could even ignore his spirit energy. Qing Shui had originally planned to condense his spirit energy into threads to kill the parasite, but now it was apparent that it will not work.

Ding!

Qing Shui stabbed the Marrow Nibbling Golden Silkworm accurately, but was surprised to find that its hide was so thick that his gold needle could not penetrate it and was reflected off instead.

Is this Marrow Nibbling Golden Silkworm really so tough?

It seemed to be as hard as a diamond or even harder. Spirit energy had no effect on it. Once it entered a person's body, it was like a dragon in the ocean. Unless it came out of the body by itself, there was no effective medicine. Even if he could cut open the patient, the Marrow Nibbling Golden Silkworm could escape easily. It could easily dig into any of its victim's organs, even dig through soil and stone.

It was an inch long and it had the girth of a baby's finger. A Marrow Nibbling Golden Silkworm was indeed the most unreasonably effective poison in the world. It was rumored that if a Marrow Nibbling Golden Silkworm was nourished by an expert cultivator or one with a special bloodline, it would mature into an extremely powerful creature.

But usually nobody dared to keep such a creature. It was just like a venomous snake or a ferocious wolf. One would never know if it would turn on its owner. If so, it would be lethal.

Remove!

Qing Shui activated his gold needle and trapped the Marrow Nibbling Golden Silkworm. Both his hands moved quickly above the Yin Yang Image, flicking each of the needles. The rotating needles gave the illusion that the image was actually moving.

Gradually, the image got brighter and brighter, especially, the center of the image. It shone brightly like a mysterious Yin Yang Image.

More and more sweat appeared on his forehead, but Qing Shui did not care to wipe it away. He went into a high focus mode and channeled all his aura to his two hands, trapping the Marrow Nibbling Golden Silkworm within the area of the Yin Yang Image.

Get out!

Qing Shui suddenly hit the extreme end of one of the gold needle. The bull-hair like gold needle started trembling. The speed of the vibration was beyond description. If they weren't gold needles, there was no way they could withstand the intensity.

After this, he could see a bright spot following the barrier of the needles. It was as if there was a small snake under Qin Zongheng's skin, which was glowing faintly.

Pu!

Suddenly with a spray of blood and a flash, the light headed for Qing Shui. Qing Shui was shocked, he must avoid it at all cost. He took out the metal canister he had previously prepared. It was made of 10,000 year coldsteel. He targeted the Marrow Nibbling Golden Silkworm and then was not sure what he should do next.

Qing Shui could feel his Dantian suddenly reacting. The slightly liquefied Qi in his Dantian changed into liquid at a more rapid speed and spun in his Dantian in a whorl like a never ending hole. Just when the Marrow Nibbling Golden Silkworm was about to enter the canister. There was a large flow of energy

which sucked Marrow Nibbling Golden Silkworm towards himself. To the observers, it was as if the Marrow Nibbling Golden Silkworm rushed towards Qing Shui of its own accord...

Everything happened too fast, so Qing Shui froze on the spot. Weng Xue was also dazed when she saw the empty canister and Qing Shui's expression. She knew that something went wrong, after all she saw the glow entering his body.

This time around, it was actually Qing Shui's Dantian which absorbed the silkworm into his body. Though Qing Shui was worried, he was not particularly nervous but rather he was very surprised. When he regained his composure, Qing Shui grinned awkwardly and wiped the sweat off his face. He helped Qin Zongheng up and healed his wounds.

"Elder Sis, it's a success. I will go take a bath now." Qing Shui turned away after giving Weng Xue a complex expression.

"Qing Shui, what will happen to you? How could I stay calm with you like this?" Weng Xue gave Qing Shui a worried look, she already witnessed how painful the experience was from the way her husband acted.

Qin Zongheng was still unconscious at that point.

"You've forgotten that someone planted that in me before. It is easy for me to extract it," Qing Shui smiled and said lightheartedly.

"I will give you this medicine. Don't leave. You must let me see that you are able to extract it yourself, otherwise, I won't let you leave." Weng Xue grabbed onto Qing Shui tightly.

"Okay. Don't worry. I am alright. I will let you see it when I extract it out." Qing Shui took the bottle of Snow-hearted Echeveria Pill and smiled at her.

Even though she was still a little unconvinced, she released Qing Shui.

"Don't worry, Elder Sis. Trust me. Since I can remove the poisonous worm from Brother Qin, I can also force it out of my body."

Weng Xue remembered Qing Shui's shocked expression and felt that it was not as simple as he had explained. She could tell that it wouldn't be as easy as he claimed. She felt as if she had put Qing Shui in a terrible situation and was uneasy.

After she met Qing Shui, he gave her a Violet Jade Pendant and her two children a wondrous fruit each. All these were very valuable items but the most important gift he gave to her, was Qin Zongheng life...

After he went upstairs to take a bath, Qing Shui shut his room door and used his Inner Sight. He had already used up his maximum time quota for his Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal for the day.

When he used his Inner Sight, he was stunned.

It is rumored that humans have three Dantians. But basically, everyone could only use one Dantian, the Lower Dantian, which is the one that was around the lower abdomen. It is the most common and most important Dantian.

Around Qing Shui's Zhongfu acupoint was where the Middle Dantian was located. He could actually develop his Upper Dantian with his Niwan Palace in his sea of consciousness. Qing Shui was surprised when his Niwan Palace produced a small marble, because that meant that he had developed his Upper Dantian.

The Upper Dantian controlled one's spirit energy, the Lower Dantian one's Qi and the Middle Dantian controlled one's marrow...

He finally realized that the Marrow Nibbling Golden Silkworm had entered his Middle Dantian and that controlled his blood and bones. To rear a Marrow Nibbling Golden Silkworm, one had to feed it with blood essence. With this in mind, he looked toward his own Middle Dantian.

There was a pool of blood there!

That area was quickly liquefying. There was already a Blood Essence pool which was about the size of his palm. The color of the Blood pool was not beautiful, it was instead rather plain but it still had a jade like quality. It was shaped like an octagon, with one side representing each direction.

The most amazing thing was that the blood in the pool was dark red with a light tint of brilliant purple. He suddenly saw a purple gas mixing with his blood.

This was his Blood Essence Reservoir!

At the other end of the purple gas, he saw his Emperor's Qi connected.

He could see the Marrow Nibbling Golden Silkworm swimming freely in the reservoir as if it enjoyed its environment...

After he observed it for a long time, suddenly a mysterious spirit energy started binding with the Marrow Nibbling Golden Silkworm. It was just like the binding process with his demonic beasts. A sudden surge of energy overflowed from the Blood Essence pool.

Qing Shui measured his own ability and found that it had increased!

Ten stars!

He did not expect that when his Central Palace turned into this Blood Essence pool, it would help him gain ten stars of strength. Now Qing Shui's base strength was already at 100 stars. He could feel an extraordinary change in his body.

His Spiritual sense seemed to have leveled up and his entire world seemed very different.

The most profound change was not the 10 stars of strength brought by the Blood Essence pool. The thing was that the Blood Essence pool controlled his blood and bones. He could feel a large change in terms of the hardness of his bone and his recovery pace, etc.

Bones are what support the entire structure of a person. The strength and speed of one's muscles are intricately connected to a person's bones. A person's blood was their river of life, so it brought energy around the person's body...

Once again, he had received a blessing in disguise. However, Qing Shui felt that he needed to get to the bottom of the issue with the Marrow Nibbling Golden Silkworm, otherwise he could not stop worrying. He felt that there shouldn't be much of a problem since he saw their spirit energy connecting.

After this connection, Qing Shui was really amazed. This was because he could fully control the Marrow Nibbling Golden Silkworm in his body. Qing Shui could not believe, he had quickly called it to come to him.

When he reached out for it, it immediately appeared on his hand.

Now, Qing Shui was convinced. This was really a large blessing!

Qing Shui stared at the little one inch creature in his hand. It was shining brightly and was quite weighty. It was beautiful. He could see its two silver white eyes which were the size of a pinhead, they were rather cute. Its body was glowing, yet it had a translucent quality. It seemed to have some sort of armored skin which looked very tough. It stared at Qing Shui, not moving.

Qing Shui found it amusing that this little creature could cause so much pain to a powerful man like Qin Zongheng, who was already at the beginner grade of Martial Emperor.

"Later when I leave, I need you to cooperate," Qing Shui said as he felt a response from his sea of consciousness. Qing Shui placed it in the canister. He now had another incredible weapon he could use to kill. With some time, even if he was dealing with a Martial Emperor, he would be able to use his Marrow Nibbling Golden Silkworm to properly punish his opponents.

With all that time and the time he spent 'curing' Qin Zongheng, it was now getting dark. He walked out of the room he was given and back into the main hall. The two children were now eating their dinner and both Qin Zongheng and Weng Xue were frowning.

When he saw them, Qing Shui knew that he made the right decision to acknowledge Weng Xue as his sister. In the future, he would have a close relationship with Sky City. Qin Zongheng was very powerful, so he had already removed the silver needles in his own body without Qing Shui. Even if Qin Zongheng did not inherit the governing rights to Sky City, he was definitely a powerful man in the region.

"Brother Qing Shui!" Qin Zongheng rushed over when he saw Qing Shui.

"Elder Sis, Brother Qin, don't worry! Look here." Qing Shui shook the 10,000 coldsteel canister.

"I must look at it. Don't lie to me." Weng Xue walked over and said in a serious manner.

Qing Shui opened the canister a little. As the Marrow Nibbling Golden Silkworm glowed, it could be clearly seen even through the small gap. Weng Xue recognized the glow and finally believed him.

"Qing Shui, you are really my benefactor." Weng Xue eyes beamed.

Qin Zongheng looked at it and nodded his head, "Indeed. Qing Shui, I won't say any grateful words to you. Just know that if you have any requests or if you need any help, your big brother here will do all he can."

“It is really okay. Don’t be so courteous if you take me as your brother.” Qing Shui laughed and placed his canister into his Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal. The two other people did not actually notice that the Marrow Nibbling Golden Silkworm returned to Qing Shui’s Blood Essence pool in that instant.

“Qing Shui, you must get rid of that worm properly. It is quite horrible.” Qin Zongheng warned worriedly.

“It’s okay. I can use it as an alchemy ingredient, so I will keep it.” Qing Shui knew that none of them would even dare to touch it. It was just like any other lethal poison. Qin Zongheng already experienced that horrible pain, as the silkworm nibbled at his organs and bones every day. He really had had enough of that pain, if it weren’t for his wife and his children, he would have killed himself.

### **Chapter 950 - Leaving, Eagle Jiao Beast, Follow The Trail**

Now that Qing Shui had saved his life, the tears of gratitude weren’t enough to show how grateful Qin Zongheng was. The promise of standing by Qing Shui’s side through severe trials wasn’t a lie and the debt of gratitude would never be fully repaid. Weng Xue looked at Qing Shui with eyes full of tears, but with a sincere smile flashing across her face.

Even though Qin Zongheng could feel pain in his flesh, as well as his mind, Weng Xue was the one enduring the most excruciating pain in her heart - the suffering she had born on her shoulders was nothing short of exhausting. Because of that, Qin Zongheng was more than determined to persevere as long as he was still breathing. No matter how painful it was, all he had to do was to endure the pain with perseverance.

The purpose of saving Qin Zongheng’s life was more complex than one could imagine. Qin Zongheng was the son of Sky City’s City Lord. Sky City was extremely powerful, definitely much stronger than the Mu Clan and the mighty sect of the Godly Sword Clan.

If Qing Shui was right, there should be Grade Five Martial Emperors in Sky City. Cultivators of such strength would be comparable to the members of the Demon Gate. However, such powerful sects were known to extend their power by setting up sect branches all over the continent, allowing the sect members to harbor a superiority complex and a condescending attitude. Most people would be repulsed by the arrogance and egoistic nature of these sect members.

The Qin Clan was, of course, the strongest clan in Sky City. They had absolute power, as no one would dare provoke their wrath and no one would compete with them for the position of the strongest clan.

However, their absolute authority would only be effective within Sky City. The Central Continent was vast and wide, so most powerful sects would set up their power within a specific region. The stronger the sect became, the more they would gain exposure to the other regions, allowing the other sects to realize their power beyond their horizon. In spite of that, sects that were able to monopolize multiple regions were rare in the past several years.

Sure, most sects were competitive in nature and some would form an association to protect their position by combining powers - even if they were weak to begin with - to defeat the bigger and more powerful sects. One association would be able to contend with one powerful sect in most cases, thus securing the benefit of protecting their own clans with certainty.

Qin Zongheng now realized that Qing Shui was not an ordinary man. The physicians from the internal clans, alchemists and even the powerful cultivators from the aristocratic clans were not able to get rid of the 'poisonous bug' no matter how much they tried, yet Qing Shui was able to heal him completely. Judging by his medical skills alone, he would be able to climb to the top of the aristocratic clans in no time. If his medical skills were already impressive, then it wouldn't be strange to think that his martial cultivation was extraordinary as well.

Qin Zongheng then turned to look at Weng Xue, the love of his life as well as his life savior. Although Qing Shui was the one who saved him, he would have surely died if not for Weng Xue's acquaintance with Qing Shui.

"Little brother, it's late. Whatever it is, you must stay for the night" Weng Xue had developed a deeper friendship and indescribable kindness to Qing Shui. They had bonded a form of love much closer to that of family.

Weng Xue adjusted Qing Shui's collar and said, "It's almost time for dinner. You are not allowed to go under any circumstances, you hear?"

Qin Zongheng was exploding with happiness as he looked at Qing Shui and said, "We will have a drink tonight, dear brother. I know you are busy but surely you mustn't worry your elder sister too much."

Using Weng Xue's name to hold back Qing Shui was quite effective.

"Then I'll stay for the night!"

"Hmph, don't blame me for not treating you well as an older sister. This is your home, now and forever will be," Weng Xue shot an angry look at Qing Shui, as she softly scoffed.

"Yes, yes. I'm wrong," Qing Shui quickly replied.

Qin Zongheng and Weng Xue were unexpectedly different than he had imagined. Even though both of them had a big heart, they were never ones to show their emotions openly and easily. However, Qing Shui could clearly tell that they were sincerely happy through their expression right now. Their happiness emanated from the bottom of their hearts, a genuine feeling shown to the man they called as their little brother.

"Come, let me raise a cup to you. Thanks to you for saving me, brother," Qin Zongheng stood up with a wine cup raised in the air, as he spoke with a serious tone.

"Brother Qin is too kind. Let me raise my cup for you!"

"This won't do. I must raise this cup in honor for you!" Qin Zongheng raised his cup even more adamantly, insisting with a determination as solid as steel.

"Little brother, let him have it. I should raise my cup too, in honor of your help in saving my husband." Weng Xue raised her cup with a brilliant grin, as she said in a serious tone. With the cup raised to the air, she gulped it all without a drop left.

Qing Shui watched as Qin Zongheng drank his wine as well, so he decided to drink without constraint and enjoy his time with them for the night.

"I will raise this cup for Big Sister and Brother Qin then. Congratulations to Brother Qin for recovering from the poison. I wish dear sister and Brother Qin a happy life with lots of prosperity." And with that, Qing Shui raised his cup and drank the wine!

The couple laughed merrily and joined in again. Weng Xue raised her cup and smiled. "You too, little brother. Here's to having your wish fulfilled. Cheers!"

The Three of them sat down and began chatting as they ate their dinner. It was at that moment that Qing Shui felt them becoming closer, as though they were true brothers and a family of genuine love and bonds. Perhaps it was true - real friendships could be born through countless adversities and misfortunes.

"Qing Shui, tell me. What sort of relationship do you have with He'er currently?" Weng Xue asked, as she looked at Qing Shui slowly. She continued after seeing a calm expression on his face, "That girl has never praised anyone in her whole life, but she seems to praise you quite a lot."

"I will not lie to you. She and I, well, if everything goes according to plan, she is to become my wife in the future," Qing Shui replied with an awkward smile.

Weng Xue was surprised to hear those words, but smiled nonetheless, "You should put more effort to that. I'm hopeful that one day your wish will come true."

Qin Zongheng made note of Qing Shui's plan silently. His wife was from the Hundred Flowers Valley and now Qing Shui would be marrying another woman from the Hundred Flowers Valley as well and on top of that, she was a valley head too. With that, he knew what he should do in the future. The Sky Cloud Inn was actually a business belonging to Weng Xue after all.

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"Qing Shui, be careful on your journey. If you ever come back to the Central Continent, you must return to see us." Weng Xue held her son in her arms, as she bid farewell to Qing Shui.

"Take care. If there's anything at all, please don't hesitate to contact us," said Qin Zongheng while he took his daughter in his arms.

"Uncle!"

The little kids called out to Qing Shui cheerfully.

"I definitely will. We will see each other again." Qing Shui smiled waved goodbye, as he jumped onto his Fire Bird.

Weng Xue waved back at Qing Shui, as he flew away. She and Qin Zongheng knew that Qing Shui meant to meet them again at the ancient ruins three years from now.

"He is so mysterious!" Qin Zongheng said, as he watched Qing Shui slowly disappearing into the horizon.

"It seems like He'er likes him. I didn't think he would become your savior the moment I met him, you know." Weng Xue sighed with emotion, as she reminisced her first meeting with the young man.

“To be exact, Xue`er is my savior. Meeting you was the greatest happiness in my life,” Qin Zongheng said, as he glanced at his wife lovingly.

“Don’t say such things here, the kids are listening.” Weng Xue was flushed in red; it was a blush of happiness and excitement. Qin Zongheng had recovered and so her worries had been lifted. She felt quite at ease as she stood beside her recovered husband.

After that, both of them held their children and rode the Cloud Crane towards Sky City. They took a long journey to send Qing Shui off, a distance away from Sky City.

After their farewells, Qing Shui headed to the sky and flew far away. As for the Marionette Sect, he decided not to confront them for now. He wasn’t in a hurry to look for them currently, so he decided he should go back home for now.

The Marionette Sect had chosen to let him go before this. But if they were sensible enough, they would not act rashly and blindly on their next move, otherwise they would be put at a disadvantage.

There was another thing that had made Qing Shui elated inside the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal. He initially thought that the Marrow Nibbling Golden Silkworm that he had cultivated with his blood and essence would affect him tremendously, in a sense that he would be devitalized, slowing the rate of advancement to his power or stagnating his overall improvements and so forth.

But the silkworm had managed to stay inside the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal for about three months and within this period, the Marrow Nibbling Golden Silkworm dwelling inside the pool of blood and essence, did not once affect Qing Shui negatively. Even though the silkworm had absorbed an amount of energy from the pool, he did not feel like he had lost anything at all.

Because of that, Qing Shui felt relieved. Although he had suspected that the silkworm would affect his martial cultivation, he still took it in and cultivated the silkworm. The amount of blood and essence the silkworm could absorb was limited, especially after it had grown into an adult.

Moreover, he was still puzzled why his Central Palace (also known as the Heavenly Palace) had suddenly turned into a blood and essence pool. Perhaps that had something to do with the silkworm. His body was driven to the point of extreme exhaustion after he had treated Qin Zongheng’s body. Whether that was a coincidence or the silkworm’s fault, it had definitely spurred an odd change to his body.

That wasn’t important anymore. Ultimately, he had treated it as a coincidence to get that matter off his mind.

And with that, the Upper, Middle and Lower Dantian were all fully developed. The Lower Dantian had also formed a core, as well as the core of Nature Energy, the core of State of Immovable as Mountains and the core of Emperor’s Qi.

The Central Palace had experienced another change this time, even after expanding beyond the proximity of the [Heavenly Dan]. However, the Central Palace was, in essence, the precedence for the blood flow and bones. This time, it may be nothing more than a normal breakthrough.

In spite of everything, Qing Shui was still confused about his current cultivation realm - he didn’t know which level he had reached. Nevertheless, he was quite fond of the pool of blood and essence, which

had increased his strength by about ten stars, as well as strengthening his blood and bones by several times.

Not only had he saved Qin Zongheng, he had achieved a bunch of great benefits for himself too. At the very least, he had established a friendship with Qin Zongheng, which meant that future cooperation between them both had been made possible. After all, the news of his successful effort to cure Qin Zongheng would travel throughout Sky City, including the important figures and the higher-ups. The elders would not object to the idea of having Qing Shui as their acquaintance.

The Demon Gate was still far away, yet the Marionette Sect was already here. Qing Shui couldn't quite understand whether the Marionette Sect was trying to expand their influence or create more places to conceal their operations, but he knew that they would not stand a chance against him, even if they were to dispatch the strongest members of the sect to pursue him.

However, these people would not try anything, unless it concerned the matters of annihilating an entire sect.

In any case, Qing Shui wasn't too worried. He had the capability to flee at any given time. Moreover, he had the Marrow Nibbling Golden Silkworm, which would become a terrifying trump card within these next few days.

No one could stop him from going forward!

The Fire Bird was extremely fast, so there was no rush for Qing Shui to use the Nine Continent Steps for now. Qing Shui was currently all alone in this journey. He traveled continuously until the last few minutes of the day before using the Nine Continent Steps twice, immediately traversing to the next day. As usual, he would spend six hours inside the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal until the sky had become bright again.

He slept and ate his food inside the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal, so when the next morning arrived, he woke up and traveled towards his intended direction immediately.

However, less than two hours into his journey, he suddenly felt like he was being followed.

"Very reckless." Qing Shui shook his head. He didn't have to turn around to see who they were, because he knew he was being followed by the members of the Marionette Sect.

Without a shred of fear in his eyes, he allowed Fire Bird to maintain a steady speed as they flew forward. He pretended that he hadn't sensed them and looked at the surroundings nonchalantly - at the rivers below and the mountains ahead.

He continued on until afternoon when he was about to cross the border of Sky City. Beyond the border was a land of wilderness that stretched far away, a common sight for most cities. Once he had crossed to the other side, he knew the pursuers would make their move.

Before he was able to cross 300 li from the outskirts of the city, Qing Shui immediately stopped moving and stood on the back of the Fire Bird. Then, a few flying beasts appeared and approached from behind, as well as from both sides.

If Fire Bird had flown through the wilderness with its usual speed, he would have completely evaded his pursuers. However, he decided against fleeing and turned to face his opponents. Qing Shui was motionless, as he looked at the pursuers with cold eyes.

Three giant Eagle Jiao Beasts with large eagle bodies attached to heads of the ferocious Jiao with 100 meter wide expanded wings were approaching quickly. Behind each of the demonic beasts stood two elderly men - which meant that Qing Shui was followed by exactly six pursuers.

“We couldn’t touch you when you were protected by the Qin Clan in Sky City. But now that you’re traveling alone, your fate is sealed. This is what you get for offending our Marionette Sect. We will do whatever it takes to turn you into a marionette,” a familiar voice rang through Qing Shui’s ears.