

## Ancient ST 2071

### Chapter 2071 - Collapsed at the First Blow, a Slap in the Face

Once Qing Shui had laid his eyes on those men, it was certain that they were about to run out of luck. Those men's strengths were nothing compared to Qing Shui and Shen Huang. Although Shen Huang's strength had been temporarily debuffed before, even Qing Shui was unclear where Shen Huang's strength was at, now that she had recovered.

Qing Shui's current strength was nothing to be taken lightly as well. His Heavenly Dao had risen in power. He could exhibit strength that surpassed his usual prowess. For example, with the strength of 1,000 million, normally one could attack for 1,000 million of damage. With the increase in power in Heavenly Dao, he could attack for 2,000 million or even 3,000 million of damage.

This was one of the benefits of the Heavenly Dao Realm, the ability to exert strength that could crush anyone. It was similar to how difficult it was to have water flow upward but leveraging the force from the natural flow of any body of water, the power was incomparably immense.

Just like a car that was traveling slowly on the road, with an enormous tailwind, the car would be traveling much faster.

This was referred to as borrowing power. Even borrowing power scaled on how much the power was borrowed from the moment. Power could even be generated. Borrowing power was a small part of the Heavenly Dao.

Qing Shui was relaxed. He felt completely different from when he first arrived. Seeing the group approaching made him feel as though he was watching a group of clowns. The only problem was that these were not normal clowns but ones with a formidable backing.

The one known as the Third Brother walked forward while staring at Qing Shui and Shen Huang. He was focusing mostly on Shen Huang. He made no effort to hide his expression of lust. This was the difference between those born from powerful houses and commoner houses. Those from the powerful houses were arrogant, even if they appeared humble on the outside.

They were the type of people that believed any beautiful woman belonged to them. This was a view ingrained within their hearts from birth. Heaven was first and they were second. Once they set their sights on a beautiful woman, without care for the circumstances, they would try to contaminate their beauty.

Qing Shui watched that guy's expression while feeling various impulses to punch him in the face. Qing Shui had already recalled the conversation the two had before. Qing Shui had warned the person named Huo Lei before, but he did not listen. This time, he would surely make him remember.

"Brat, if you apologize on your hands and knees, maybe I will leave your life intact." The man smirked as he threatened Qing Shui.

Qing Shui did not pay him any heed. Shen Huang was also very calm. She had seen these types of people before. It was business as usual for her. Those words would have no effect on her. These people had no relations to her and nothing they said could affect her in any way.

"I am Huo Yun of the Fire Manor. I am wondering if the lady would follow me. I will take good care of you in the Fire Manor. You could go anywhere in this Blazing Fire Land," The man looked at Shen Huang with a vulgar expression.

That smile and expression were from someone filled with arrogance who belonged to a powerful house. That would make any woman who didn't have many worldly experiences to fall for it but for Shen Huang, he was an existence lower than insects.

"Qing Shui, why do I feel that this guy is an idiot?" Shen Huang asked Qing Shui with a laugh.

"That is because this guy is definitely a giant idiot." Qing Shui said seriously.

Qing Shui's words were too rough, even if they were spot on. She had heard what those two brothers were discussing before. Those two were lower than animals.

Qing Shui laughed, "if I don't scold them, it won't feel right."

Huo Yun was stunned and immediately became enraged. He had always been the one calling other people idiots. He did not think he'd be called by someone else. Those two had no idea what they were up against. Huo Yun revealed a smile to Qing Shui, his smile filled with killing intent, "Brat, are you trying to get yourself killed?"

"You? An idiot? Killing me? You are just a fool with some garbage martial arts foundation. An idiot who gets praised by some nobody and starts to think big about himself. Who are those two around you? They are just here to protect you. Do you really think you are some big shot? You are just one brick head," Qing Shui laughed as he spoke.

Huo Yun was angry to the point that he could explode. To be called an idiot, and a brick head at that, he was extremely infuriated. Even though he had a better life than most, without the Fire Manor, he was nothing.

"You are the real idiot around here. Luck is also a part of one's strength. Being born in a powerful clan is also strength." Huo Yun rebutted with disdain.

"Of course. That's why people say that idiots have dumb luck." Qing Shui laughed as he spoke.

"You dare to call me an idiot again?" Huo Yun was about to explode from anger.

"You are not just an idiot. You are a bit better than an idiot, but you are not as fortunate as one since today will be your worst nightmare." Qing Shui replied with scorn as he finished the conversation. His expression pissed Huo Yun off.

"I will have you die! Who are you to laugh at me?!"

Huo Yun retrieved a red longsword and thrust it toward Qing Shui.

The speed was fast. It was a Lava Sword, a sword that was forged from fire metal derived from lava. It carried an overwhelming fire elemental. Qing Shui had observed the members of the Fire Manor for a bit before. He knew immediately that the Fire Manor practiced Fire Elemental Martial Arts.

Fire Elemental was the most berserk amongst the Five Elementals with its encompassing attack power.

The red longsword emitted a faint red glow. The tip of the sword was spraying a flaming blaze that was three feet long. With Origin Qi powering the flames, it could reach a melting temperature. The flames had a formidable defense breaker effect.

Qing Shui laughed as he saw his opponent's attack. To use a fire attack in front of Qing Shui when he could negate 70% of fire damage was laughable. Qing Shui countered with Dragon-capturing Hands.

Seeing Qing Shui use his bare hands to block Huo Yun's sword, he yelled in anger, "Die!"

Bang!

Then, the unthinkable happened in front of them. Qing Shui had managed to grip Huo Yun's longsword. With Qing Shui's current martial realm level, even without Dragon-capturing Hands, he could easily grab onto Huo Yun's sword. Though Qing Shui could negate 70 percent of the fire damage, he could still feel the heat from the longsword. It was doing no damage to Qing Shui.

Huo Yun was shocked. Qing Shui could grab his longsword without being hurt. He tried to pry his sword out of Qing Shui's grasp, but it would not move. Qing Shui then struck him with an elbow strike.

With the increase in strength of Heavenly Dao, any attack or ability Qing Shui used would contain immense strength. It carried a power that struck out with an unexplainable feeling. The attack felt perfect, as if it could not be resisted.

Bang!

Huo Yun was sent flying as he spat blood. Qing Shui did not follow up with any attacks. It would be at least half a year before Huo Yun could leave his bed.

This was the difference between their strengths. The words that Huo Yun boasted about the difference of strength between a genius and a commoner echoed in his mind. Without even being able to defend against Qing Shui's attack, this was irony. This was a direct slap in the face for Huo Yun.

### **Chapter 2072 - Struggling Between Life and Death? You're Thinking Too Highly of Yourselves!**

Strikes after strikes, Huo Yun was critically injured from them. If Qing Shui wanted, he could have ended his opponent in split seconds. However, there was no need for him to do that as becoming a nemesis of the Fire Manor wasn't something to be proud of. Besides, if he were to leave now, the Northern Blue Domain was still a great distance away. He reckoned he would never be found.

Still, Qing Shui did not intend to stay in the Northern Blue Domain forever. He believed in karma. It was a magical connection. The seed you planted today might ripen in just a day's time; where virtue has its reward, evil has its retribution. In this mystical world, there were many of such amazing things happening on a daily basis.

Qing Shui looked towards Huo Lei after defeating Huo Yun to say, "It seems that you have already forgotten what I said just a few days ago."

Huo Lei's legs were shaking. This person was a monster. Huo Yun had been one of the strongest among the younger generation of Fire Manor, even if he wasn't close to being in the top five of Fire Manor's younger generation. It was well-noted that the man opposite was also very young, and those who could

gain a win against Huo Yun must have wielded quite the power. After all, even the most powerful young man of Fire Manor wouldn't be able to defeat Huo Yun in just one move.

How dreadful this was. At this moment, Huo Yun returned Qing Shui's gaze with panic evident in his eyes, forcing a smile that was uglier than crying. He said, "I have made a really poor decision. We admit defeat this time. I hope you can be magnanimous."

Qing Shui didn't think that this guy could have such a drastic change. Even when members of a big clan were in front of death's door, they wouldn't have surrendered this soon. Moreover, there were still stronger contenders who had yet to make a challenge.

Huo Lei was a rich man's son and an even bigger jerk, but he still had some brains. Enough to know when to fear death, at least. Sometimes, not only would it help in saving your own life but it could also prevent the clan from falling into ruins.

Even if the other party couldn't compete with the clan in terms of strength, they could always gain back their dignity at a later time. To back away from a battle meant it was a decision made under special circumstances. Hence, he believed that backing out was no big deal. On the contrary, one might never be able to prove oneself otherwise.

"Each of you can leave after slapping yourselves on the face twice. Of course, you may choose not to do so. However, I cannot guarantee your lives if you don't." Qing Shui said without requiring many thoughts.

Qing Shui was putting them on the spot, knowing that some of the middle-aged men were not of a low status. In fact, they might even have been of a higher status than Huo Lei. These people were here to take the position of the tyrant, so how could they leave just like this? If they didn't slap themselves then Qing Shui could help them do so in a moment.

Huo Lei frowned. "I have already admitted defeat. Is it really necessary to throw us into this dilemma of life and death?"

"You think too highly of yourselves. You wish it'd be a dilemma. Killing you would be an easy feat for me, but I don't want to kill innocent people. Even so, I will not hesitate to abolish your cultivations or leave you handicapped. I'm going to count to three. You will bear the consequences if you don't do it. It's your choice: To give yourselves two slaps, or for me to do it for you before destroying your cultivations as well as breaking your legs. Don't blame me when the beast from this area comes out to play."

One!

Right after his speech, Qing Shui began to count. The expressions of his opponents changed drastically. Humans naturally liked to gamble, but not many of them dared to gamble with their lives, especially under these circumstances. Although it was not Qing Shui's intention to force them to their deaths, he was sure there would be people unable to take the pressure.

Two!

Piak, piak!

One after another, the resounding slaps rang, leaving all but the two middle-aged men who were staring daggers at Qing Shui.

Qing Shui wasn't surprised. Those two men were pretty strong, and warriors at their level had their dignity. Furthermore, no one could be sure that this young man would be able to defeat them and they had their confidence. If they could be so easily intimidated by Qing Shui's threats then their lives up till this point would have been a waste.

Three!

Qing Shui turned his attention toward the two middle-aged men once he was done counting. "Alright. Since you have made your choice, you may go. The two of them will stay."

Huo Lei was now caught in a dilemma, and it would be even worse if he withdrew.

"If you don't go then you will be dealt with after I'm done with them. Don't say that I didn't give you a chance. Of course, you can always choose to place your faith in both of them."

What a joke. Why would they slap themselves if they had wished to place their faith in the two men? Wouldn't their slaps be a waste if they did? The others made a hasty retreat, taking Qing Shui's words as a cue.

The two middle-aged men didn't react much at all. It was no surprise that Fire Manor's young masters would do this, nor was it the first time. Still, it was good that at least they were not in danger. Everything would be well once they defeated the young man.

Qing Shui was just thinking of approaching the two men when they began advancing toward him with their weapons. They each held a long sword, but they seemed to have no wish to challenge Qing Shui alone, nor did the latter care that they were going to fight him together.

Mighty Earth Stomp!

A flash of his silhouette cut across at the landing of Qing Shui's foot.

With a glimpse of a golden glow, the Golden Battle Halberd appeared in the hands of Qing Shui, slamming down with immense power.

The increment of the realm, coupled with the Heavenly Dao made Qing Shui's attack feel as though a mountain was pressing down from above.

Qing Shui had already managed to make a lightweight object grow heavy in the past. Even a wicker could transform into a thousand pounds. Even so. His realm was not worth mentioning. His realm now, compared to the past, was very different. This was the true power of Heaven and Earth, the power of a Heavenly Dao.

Bang!

Golden Battle Halberd struck heavily against the two Fire Swords, and their legs shook at the same time. Despite using only his might, Qing Shui had actually managed to compete with those who were a lot stronger than him. Furthermore, there were two of them against a single Qing Shui, amounting to double the strength mustered.

Those two people were even more powerful than every single person from the Yu Clan from the Azure Rainbow City, even though they must have been mere senior serving members in Fire Manor. It seemed that Fire Manor, as expected, was really powerful.

Qing Shui didn't use Emperor's Qi, or the Art of Pursuing, not even the Heavenly Vision Technique. The Golden Battle Halberd in his hand was swept forth horizontally, emitting a powerful force.

His attacks were quick, but his opponents did not lag behind either, with their attacks colliding with Qing Shui's. Both sides had their own techniques which allowed them to unleash thousands of attacks with great speed.

With every collision, Qing Shui's bones were becoming stronger. After the combination of consuming the Peach of Immortality, and the improvement to his Heavenly Dao realm, his body needed to be stabilized. The two people in front of him happened to be much-needed candidates to make it happen. After all, the strength of each opponent was nothing less than 30 million Dao. Qing Shui merely used his body's strength to counter his opponents and realized that it was just enough. Such opportunity was truly hard to come by.

The longer the fight dragged on, the more skilled he got. Qing Shui had long mastered his Nine Stances of the Ancient Divine Battle Technique and had integrated it with Tai Chi and other techniques. However, during this battle, Qing Shui didn't exhibit too many of those techniques and instead countered with brute force.

On the other hand, the two middle-aged men were becoming more surprised by the minute. This young man was powerful, being able to fight against both of them without lagging behind at all. It was like his Origin Qi was still in surplus, and they were beginning to feel powerless.

Snap!

The Fire Sword broke. Qing Shui's Golden Battle Halberd had cut through the broken Fire Sword and toward one of the middle-aged men's shoulders, disabling his arm.

The Golden Battle Halberd's precise penetration took its effect. Although the opponent's weapon was decent, it was nothing when up against the Golden Battle Halberd.

### **Chapter 2073 - A Woman's Mind, Back to the Northern Blue Domain**

Once one of them was injured, Qing Shui no longer had any desires to continue fighting. Besides, he had more or less achieved his own objective. The battle had proven to be very effective for his own hardening and the Golden Battle Halberd in his hands was able to pierce through its target.

The charm of Iaido was now translated into the use of the Golden Battle Halberd. Qing Shui used to practice the art of Iaido for decades and had never forgotten about it even after many years. Now that his realm had increased tenfold from what it used to be, the power of a single blow had naturally increased in proportion.

A stroke of a Large Golden Dragon Palm Imprint was delivered from the Golden Battle Halberd, holding the last man in its clutches.

Using the Golden Battle Halberd to summon the Dragon-capturing Hands, he was able to lock down his opponents in just a moment. In addition, *laido* was used with the Golden Battle Halberd to land its mark on the man's chest. Its impact sent the man flying backwards with blood and organs gushing out from the wound.

While it wouldn't have finished off his opponent, he would never regain his cultivation in this lifetime either. At best, he could recover up to half of his current capabilities. Qing Shui would show no mercy to those who aided tyrants. At times, these people were pitiful but where there was sympathy, there existed factors to hate. For example, if Huo Lei needed women, the two men would capture one on sight for Huo Lei to abuse.

In smaller territories like the former Hundred Miles City, these people were just runners. However, at the Blazing Fire Land of the Haohan Continent, they were a part of a big clan. Hence, these runners had a high status here and were also very capable.

Qing Shui retracted his hand and looked back at Shen Huang, saying, "Let's go!"

Shen Huang nodded and said, "Let's get out of here quick. I want to go back. There are still things I have to deal with."

Qing Shui knew that Shen Huang was worried about the possibility of other Fire Manor members returning. The people who would arrive after this must be terrifying in strength so it was wise to leave now while they could. Even so, this woman wouldn't allow herself to flee. She didn't wish to leave here as if escaping.

"Mm. Now that I've beaten them up, it's time to go. They won't be able to catch up with us." Qing Shui flashed a smile at Shen Huang.

Shen Huang was relieved, and a happy smile appeared on her face. This man was generous and open-minded, not at all petty and much less arrogant. He wasn't pedantic either. This was nothing even for Qing Shui's past life, but to flee during chaos was still embarrassing.

Qing Shui didn't find it shameful. On the contrary; sometimes, one would be a fool not to run away.

With a reach of his hand to hold Shen Huang's, he felt her pull.

From that gesture, Qing Shui understood immediately. The woman wasn't the same as she was before. A person's mind would broaden when at the brink of death; what used to be an impossible task would suddenly seem resolvable.

He was reminded of the previous life when a man—an ordinary man—who had an inferiority complex and never dared to confess to the girl he adored. Due to his low self-esteem, despite the many times he had attempted, he could never confess and was utterly convinced that she would never accept him. After all the effort he went through, he still couldn't make himself confess.

Still, change was the only constant with life. The man had eventually been diagnosed with leukemia and without much time left in the world. When it happened, all his concerns seemed to have dulled and he didn't care anymore. Even a confession to the girl didn't seem like a difficult task anymore. It paled in comparison to the worries of life and death.

There was another case that was akin to this, except this person's terminal illness and short prognosis were a mere lie. Hence, once he was declared healthy, his personality took a complete turn. He was a lot more cheerful than before. He became more positive, his skills had improved and he was more daring. He was a completely different person from the man who used to be afraid of speaking.

These incidents were also applicable to the martial world. Many would have an epiphany when tethering on the edge of life and death, changing the course of their fate in a split second. The fine line between life and death was also the easiest to break through. However, while escaping death was possible, the rate of success was less than 1 percent.

Therefore, going through a close call was a blessing in disguise. Whether it was the former technology world, or the current World of the Nine Continents, people who had survived a close call would gain a great deal in return.

What had just happened allowed Shen Huang to achieve so much more.

Qing Shui had planned to let go of her hand when he noticed Shen Huang's expression and understood how she felt. He didn't know what it would mean for him to let go but he didn't want to put her on a difficult spot after witnessing her expression and the subtle reaction to his touch.

Slowly, Qing Shui let go of her hand, only to be stopped by Shen Huang, clutching onto his hand in a tight grip.

"What's wrong? Why are you letting go when you've held onto my hand for the past few days?" Shen Huang asked Qing Shui with a serious expression.

Qing Shui laughed. "You might have been affected by the threat earlier but you're fine now. I know that this incident will embed me a little deeper in your mind, but I could still feel the shred of hesitance. I want you to be happy."

"Alright, Qing Shui. I don't know if I love you, but you're definitely the most important person in my life." Shen Huang answered earnestly.

"I know!"

With that, Qing Shui landed at Dazang City with Shen Huang in tow.

This was the point that he had set their destination for earlier.

Seeing as New Year celebrations were still going on, the air was filled thickly with the festivity. In just a few days, Shen Huang had experienced a crucial turning point in her life.

"Miss, are you going back to the Imperial Cuisine Hall with me?" Qing Shui asked shortly arriving in Dazang City.

"Mmh, I will stay for a few days before returning to Phoenix City." Shen Huang answered.

"If there is something you have to tend to, you can go back first. Otherwise, I can escort you." Qing Shui had the Nine Continents Steps Effect, and would take him no time at all to reach Phoenix City.



Unexpectedly, Shen Huang nodded. "Let us head back to the Imperial Cuisine Hall first then. We can go back for a visit before returning to Phoenix Inn. I still owe you my gratitude after all, so let me treat you to a drink."

The two returned to the Imperial Cuisine Hall and Big Tiger was elated. Nothing had happened in the past few days and the Imperial Cuisine Hall had already opened its doors for business. Due to what had happened previously, the Imperial Cuisine Hall became the most renowned in the Azure Rainbow City. There was no one in Azure Rainbow City who would provoke either the Imperial Cuisine Hall or the Yu Clan.

Everyone knew that the Zhan Clan had no power in this territory while the relationship between the Ji Clan and the Imperial Cuisine Hall was good. It was the Ji Clan, one of the strongest clans in the Northern Blue Domain, that we were talking about. Furthermore, it was rumored that the Imperial Cuisine Hall had a good relationship with a few other powerful clans.

You couldn't stay in such a place for long. Qing Shui had only been in Azure Rainbow City for a short while, but as much as it was a good layover, it wasn't suitable for a long stay. Perhaps he would relocate the Qing Clan here in the future, or maybe it would never happen.

Qing Shui was not in favor of allowing members of the Qing Clan to be involved in this power struggle. It was fine for him to be caught up in it alone, but he didn't wish to implicate the other members of the Qing Clan. Even so, some things were unpredictable, just like how you couldn't always do as you wished.

Qing Shui had come to accept this unpleasant fact, just like his women. Some would keep up with him while others would not. This applied to his children as well. With time, it was inevitable that they would begin to drift and separate from him. This was a fact that couldn't be changed.

He could only work hard at the foundation of all that was possible, and spare himself from any regrets in the future. His descendants would one day have descendants of their own. They would have to train well and increase their skills as Qing Shui would not be able to protect them forever. They would have their own lives to lead in the future, with their own circle of alliance, and their own effort to boot.

Qing Shui understood. He would not plan for his children's lives; he could only give them some form of insurance and prevent others from bullying them. He would respect their decisions and give them his own set of conditions, such as training. He would give them the best possible foundation. As to how high they could build it up, it would have to depend on their own destinies.

#### **Chapter 2074 - A serving girl to warm the bed, Phoenix City**

Azure Rainbow City had been restored and Yu Xixuan was back. She was visibly surprised by the sight of Qing Shui and Shen Huang. Qing Shui had left her a letter previously, informing that he was going to take a trip and would be gone for a month or so. For that reason, she hadn't expected him to be back this soon.

Qing Shui didn't mention his destination at the time, neither did he tell her who he would be traveling with. Now the sight of Shen Huang left her stunned. She had seen Shen Huang once and was shocked by her beauty. While she was a beauty herself, she felt inferior when compared with Shen Huang. She felt jealous; there wasn't anyone who had made her feel inferior before.

"Back so soon? By the time I saw your letter, you were already gone. Did something happen?" Yu Xixuan asked Qing Shui with concern lacing her words.

"It's nothing. I went out to look for a medicinal herb and found it." Qing Shui took a glance at Shen Huang, knowing that she didn't want to explain her own situation, so he chose to spin another reason for his departure.

Yu Xixuan didn't probe any further. "Well, all's well as long as you're back."

"This lady is beautiful." Yu Xixuan shifted her gaze towards Shen Huang.

"You are Xixuan, right? You are very beautiful yourself." There wasn't much content between the two ladies' conversation. At least, to Qing Shui, there wasn't much about the compliments they exchanged. After all, there was never a doubt about either of their beauty, so was there really a need for their compliments...?

The friendship between women was wonderful and often incapable of being explained by reason. It was unexplainable to Qing Shui, the way these two ladies could interact as though they were long lost sisters after just a few words.

Qing Shui became insignificant. Shen Huang and Yu Xixuan were both graceful ladies. However, there was a distinction between them; Yu Xixuan possessed a type of inner beauty, sophisticated and mature in comparison. After all, she had to interact with all types of characters as an inn owner, while Shen Huang was the master of a sect, there were others who handled matters on her behalf, coupled with her personality; she was more passive in terms of communication with others.

That said, upon their return, Qing Shui noticed a change in Shen Huang. Qing Shui didn't think the woman would have warmed up to Yu Xixuan this quickly. It seemed as though her personality had changed too. This was a good thing; it was good for her to gain more friends. This way, she wouldn't feel lonely.

"Qing Shui, why don't you cook something and the three of us can have a drink together? The New Year's celebration hasn't ended yet." Yu Xixuan asked Qing Shui while busying herself with her conversation with Shen Huang.

There was nothing Qing Shui could do but prepare the dishes in the kitchen, and then came back out with some wine.

"This wine is still the best. Qing Shui, I'm afraid I'd die if you disappear in future. Why don't you let me follow you? At least I'll be well fed." Yu Xixuan spoke up as she was enjoying their meal with a sip of wine and another bite of the delicious meal.

Qing Shui chuckled. He said, "What a coincidence. I happen to be in need of a serving girl to warm the bed."

"Go to hell, like I'd be a serving girl to warm your bed." Yu Xixuan said with a snort and glared at Qing Shui.

"Then, I guess it can't be done. I have both wives and children, just lacking a serving girl," Qing Shui replied with a frown.

"Alright, Princess, we are in collaboration now. You promised that we would expand our inn across the continent." There was a shift in Yu Xixuan's expression.

Qing Shui smiled. "Of course, that will definitely become a reality."

"Oh, that's right. I got a manor in Northern Blue City. Oh—no, not yet. There was an influential person who wanted to consult with you regarding his illness but found me instead. He said that if you could treat him, the manor would be mine." Yu Xixuan spoke up after some thought. "What do you think? Should we expand this inn and your Imperial Cuisine Hall into Northern Blue City?"

"If there is a patient in need of treatment, then treating them goes without saying. Get his details and information for me. This way, I'll be able to determine how much to charge for his medical fees," Qing Shui responded with a smile.

"That's not a problem. They'll probably need some time to get here for their consultation."

"No problem!"

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The three of them stopped at the Imperial Cuisine Hall for a day before Qing Shui accompanied Shen Huang to Phoenix City. Qing Shui had no idea where Phoenix City was and was shocked when he took a look at the map. Phoenix City was actually the second biggest city in the Northern Blue Domain, situated next to Northern Blue City.

Yu Xixuan stayed behind to take care of the inn and the Imperial Cuisine Hall while she was at it.

On the other hand, Qing Shui brought Shen Huang along with his Nine Continents Steps. They were still far from Phoenix City, but if they maximized the full distance of his Nine Continents Steps each time, they could still arrive at their destination quickly. After all, the Nine Continents Steps could cover more than a million miles with each step and could be used more than dozens of times a day. That was enough to cover the entire Northern Blue Domain.

The contour of Phoenix City looked like a soaring phoenix on the map. There was a huge mountain named Phoenix Mountain, and it was the largest within the Northern Blue Domain. Legend said that a phoenix did make an appearance there, and Phoenix City was also named after the Phoenix Mountain.

Losing count of the number of Nine Continents Steps they took, they appeared at the foot of Phoenix Mountain.

Qing Shui halted his steps. Here they were, at the Phoenix Mountain, and Shen Huang's force was established at the Phoenix Mountain Peak. The guild's name was Phoenix, and Shen Huang's name was likewise called Phoenix.

Phoenix Mountain was too big, and the location of the mountain peak where the Phoenix Guild was located was also a distance away. It was strange scenery on the Phoenix mountain, with sycamore littering a mass of the space. Many of them were at towering heights, giving an illusion that it could truly house a phoenix.

"This is the Phoenix Mountain. According to legends and myths, there used to be a large number of phoenixes here. Phoenix Paradise, as they called it, like raging fire. Even now, you could see a tint of red

on this mountain. See, these rocks are reddish. Only sycamores can survive here, and no other plants are able to live for long."

"Will your guild leave this area?" Qing Shui questioned as he pondered.

"No." Shen Huang flashed a smile at Qing Shui.

"Oh, I understand. Can you tell me if you'll be able to defeat me at your current stage?" Qing Shui asked.

"I don't know, but I suppose I may be able to." Shen Huang answered with uncertainty.

Qing Shui touched the tip of his nose. He had his set of undisclosed strengths but so did the woman and she was a lot stronger than him in terms of pure strength. How much stronger, he didn't know. Her aura was tremendous; it was an unfathomable feeling. In addition, there was the Divine Flower Inheritance to account for and the Divine Rainbow Dragon...

Qing Shui knew that it was truly a possibility that he might not be able to defeat her. In fact, his current strength was likely not a threat to her.

"Cough cough. Goddess, how pressuring." Qing Shui muttered under his breath.

"What are you muttering about?" Shen Huang asked. In reality, she already had an inkling about Qing Shui's thoughts. With her ability, she could feel other people's thoughts in less than a breath's time, but this amount of time was enough to kill off a number of opponents in combat.

This ability of hers was exactly for the needs of combat. Even if one knew about her ability, it couldn't be defended against because it was too difficult to keep one's mind as a completely blank canvas. Hence, even if her opponent knew of this ability, there was no way to counter it.

This ability could help to avoid the opponent's killing technique. At the same time, the opponents would be unable to dodge her attacks. It was terrifying and strong; it made her capable of finishing a battle with just one move.

"I was wondering if we are in a relationship now," Qing Shui snickered.

"What relationship?" Recalling their kiss, and even being kissed and fondled on other parts of her body; Shen Huang's face grew tinted red.

### **Chapter 2075 - Gimme Another Kiss**

"Hehe, it was my first time kissing someone else's butt..."

"Bastard, just die!" Shen Huang annoyingly replied. With a blushing face, she glared at Qing Shui, with no idea of her own allure. Her face exuded an indescribable charisma, one that could captivate crowds.

"Just give me another kiss..."

Shen Huang did not reply and continued walking. She knew that staying on this topic would only humiliate her even further. Saying 'This bastard' inwardly, but she did not actually hate him. She was just slightly flustered; even feeling something that she had never felt before.

Qing Shui smiled as he caught up, "Are you angry, my lady?"

“Who the hell is your lady!” Shen Huang ignored him and just continued walking.

“But I remember you saying that you’re my lady and mine alone.” Qing Shui said, smiling as he watched her exquisite figure. It was as if a fairy was sauntering leisurely amongst the mortal.

“I won’t be saying that anymore in the future, you bastard.” Shen Huang replied angrily.

Qing Shui’s words simply humiliated her. This rascal was too daring with his words.

“Okay okay, I am a bastard. Don’t be angry anymore alright? How about I let you kiss my butt?”

“I don’t want to, you’re so disgusting.” Shen Huang was about to explode with anger. This little rascal really knew no bounds.

“I thought that if I got bitten somewhere you would save me. It turns out that I thought too highly of myself.” Qing Shui said sheepishly.

Shen Huang froze. She turned back to look at Qing Shui, knowing that he was just playing around. After that, she lightly stamped her foot, “You really know how to bully me. I know you’re just kidding with me. If it really happened as you said, I wouldn’t leave you to die. Don’t say such things next time, you big baddie.”

Qing Shui let out a chuckle, imagining the scene of Shen Huang kissing his butt and it showed on his face. Shen Huang caught him and pulled Qing Shui’s ear, saying, “Get rid of those dirty thoughts.”

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“Right, you said that there are no treasures on the Phoenix Mountain?” Qing Shui rubbed his nose. He knew the boundaries; he could not continue lest he came off as repulsive. Even though life was more exciting and invigorating with such thoughts, there had to be some self-restraint. Otherwise, too much would just disgust others.

“Of course there are, the Phoenix Mountain entices countless people to Phoenix City. Just for the sake of the treasure,” replied Shen Huang without hesitation.

“Why don’t we also look for some treasures? We might be able to find some good ones,” said Qing Shui, then he proceeded to release the Dragon Slaying Beast.

“Treasures aren’t as easy to find as you may think. If they were that easy to find then they wouldn’t be treasures at all,” Shen Huang sighed.

“Yes, but I am not like the others. I have a treasure-seeking beast. This guy also seeks treasures,” said Qing Shui while pointing at the Dragon Slaying Beast.

No one knew that the Dragon Slaying Beast was once a treasure-seeking beast or a Spiritual Medicinal Beast.

“We could try looking for some since we don’t have anything to do anyway. Follow me somewhere, there might be larger treasures there,” Shen Huang suggested.

Qing Shui’s eyes lit up. Shen Huang’s troops were based in the Phoenix Mountain; it only made sense that she understood this place inside out. Furthermore, every force would have a team which was

specialized to find these treasures. They would be called 'the treasure-finding team'. Every sect and clan had people with such skills.

The team members, especially the leaders, were all extremely important. Their character was an important aspect; since a treasure could easily entice people to covetously pocket it, or even devolve the situation into team-killing.

Furthermore, to establish a proper carrot-and-stick system, one had to maintain a tight grip on them. Not only did you have to strike fear in them, but you also had to make them respect you, or else the result would be subpar.

The Royal Phoenix Organization naturally had such a group of people. They scouted countless areas and found many treasures. Though a lot of them were rather mediocre, some of those treasures were still decent, and most importantly, they found a very peculiar area.

Phoenix Valley!

This was a very mysterious area. There seemed to be some intangible illusion preventing the people of the Phoenix city, even Shen Huang, from seeing anything out of the ordinary. However, judging by their intuition, this place definitely held treasures.

"Let's go to Phoenix Valley! Someone highly skilled previously set down an illusion formation, or at least I think so; I can't be absolutely sure. Are you interested in checking it out? Legend says that there was a Phoenix nest; there was an absolutely enormous Chinese Parasol Tree in there," suggested Shen Huang.

"Alright, let's go and take a look. Don't worry, I am a formation master. It doesn't matter what kind of formation it is, I will be able to break it." Qing Shui bragged.

At least from Shen Huang's perspective, he was bragging. However, she knew that Qing Shui understood about formations. The first time Qing Shui saved her, it was through the means of breaking a formation, and hence, Shen Huang thought of bringing him to the Phoenix Valley to take a look. There were many formation masters in the world, but those who could break ancient formations were quite a few in number. At least amongst the ones that Shen Huang had come across.

She felt that out of all of the formation masters she knew, Qing Shui was the strongest one.

The Phoenix Valley was not far since it was in one of Phoenix city's large mountains. Furthermore, they were out of the mountain. With their powerful and fast beasts, it did not take them long to reach the Phoenix Valley.

The rocks were dyed with bright and crimson-red color. Moreover, the surroundings seemed slightly warmer, but the air remained fresh. Though it was in the middle of the frigid winter, the Phoenix Valley was a fiery summer all year round.

They had deep cultivation bases. Otherwise, any normal person would sweat non-stop. It could be said that the weather here could steam buns. However, none of this had any effect on Qing Shui and Shen Huang since they did not sweat one drop. Instead of heat, they felt a light breeze blow past them with an indescribable comfort. The weather was good and since they could not feel the heat, with their body's strong ability to adapt, it felt like spring for them all the time.

“We are here. Are there any hidden formations here?” Shen Huang said while pointing to the valley’s entrance in front.

Qing Shui took a look and did not see any formations, “Let’s go in and take a look.”

After walking in, they did not realize anything different. It seemed like any other valley, filled with flora and fauna. There were many huge Chinese Parasol Trees, especially the one in the middle. Compared to the rest, it was at least twice as large. It was the largest Chinese Parasol Tree in Phoenix valley.

Legend said that there were once many Phoenixes here, but it could have been just one clan or one family of Phoenixes that had occupied this valley. It could also very well be just a single Phoenix.

The Divine Phoenix Dragon was still a fabled existence. Qing Shui’s Dark Phoenix was also a species of Phoenix, but its bloodline was lacking compared to a true Phoenix. The bloodline of a Phoenix could be split into 3 different levels. A demonic beast’s bloodline was strictly hierarchical. A weak bloodline would perpetuate weakness, just like the exponential difference when multiplying different numbers by the same amount. The difference in bloodline level was even more unforgiving.

Qing Shui’s gaze stopped upon these Chinese Parasol Trees. His expression became even more serious. There were a lot of such trees, nearly around ten thousand or so. At the first glance, he could not sense anything, yet there was this strange and lingering feeling that he vaguely felt. However, even after a close inspection, he could not tell what was wrong.

“Do you also feel that there's something wrong with the Chinese Parasol Trees?” asked Shen Huang while looking at Qing Shui.

### **Chapter 2076 - Breaking the Formation, Giving Her the Parry Heavenly Fate Treasure Pagoda and the Ancient Temple**

“Do you also feel that something’s wrong with these Chinese Parasol Trees?” asked Shen Huang while looking at Qing Shui.

Qing Shui shook his head and said, “It’s not just thoughts, there is indeed something wrong; this is a strange formation.”

“Will it help if we cut down the trees?” Shen Huang asked.

“I’d say, my lady. If we cut them down, this will become a mystery forever. Everything will be buried or even destroyed, though the latter is more likely to happen.” answered Qing Shui.

“Then, can you break the formation? Didn’t you say that there is no formation you cannot break?” Shen Huang said, smiling.

“Of course I can break it... Hehe, I just need some time,” Qing Shui replied with a smile. He began to walk towards the sky; he intended to see what kind of formation this was from the top. He was definitely one of the best in the Continents at understanding the intricate workings of formations.

His formations’ knowledge originated from the primordial era. Though the formations in the Nine Continents were from the ancient era, there were many similarities. Hence, Qing Shui felt confident that he would be able to break the formation, though he was still unsure.

After searching for a long time, Qing Shui still wasn't able to achieve any result. Actually, Shen Huang didn't have many expectations either, and thus, she didn't feel too disappointed with such a result... Qing Shui let her ride the Dragon Slaying Beast to check if there were any treasures in the surroundings.

Qing Shui sat on the ground and stared at the trees. The time was ticking slowly.

When Shen Huang came back and saw Qing Shui sitting on the ground motionless, she walked over, smiling. She said, "If you can't see anything, it's fine. After all, it's said that this formation was left behind by an ancient expert and it's waiting for the right person."

"I keep having this feeling that there's something wrong. It's just that the time isn't right or something. Let's keep waiting for a while." Qing Shui didn't look back.

Qing Shui was stubborn and didn't give up easily. It was afternoon, then mid-afternoon, and the sun had slowly moved into the west. The sun was setting and thousands of slanted golden rays shone into the valley, lighting up the patch of Chinese Parasol Trees.

When the woods were bathed in the glow of the setting sun, Qing Shui suddenly stood up. His eyes flashed with the Heavenly Vision Technique activating. He broke into a smile, as he exclaimed, "Haha, I've got it."

Qing Shui wove swiftly between the Chinese Parasol Trees, and every so often, a tree fell down. About an hour later, Qing Shui returned. With a careless strike of his palm, a tree not far away toppled down.

With the toppling of the Chinese Parasol Tree, the forest suddenly became a much clearer sight to behold. The tallest tree in the forest was actually a giant palace. It was grand and magnificent despite its simple architecture and desolation.

There wasn't such a palace previously. In a forest, this massive one to boot, a palace reminiscent of an ancient temple atop such a titanic tree, would be enough to scare away someone who lacked the guts.

However, Qing Shui naturally wasn't afraid. He and Shen Huang would enter the palace.

"You've really broken the formation?" Shen Huang looked at what was before her disbelievingly.

"Like I told you, there's no formation that I can't break. What do you think, ain't I impressive?" Qing Shui grinned while boasting.

"What does this have to do with impressiveness?" Shen Huang side-eyed Qing Shui.

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Qing Shui and Shen Huang walked towards the mysterious palace together with the Dragon Slaying Beast and the Dragon Spider in front of them. Qing Shui was on guard, as he couldn't foresee the danger that awaited them and didn't know if the palace had any trap mechanisms within.

The palace was surrounded by gardens and the tallest Chinese Parasol Tree was in the garden in front of the palace.

The palace had a pitch-black entrance that towered impressively over them. Qing Shui reached out his hand slowly; he gently pushed the front doors open.



Creak!

A low sound rang out, and the doors opened. A cold wind blew out, causing Qing Shui to feel uneasy. Shen Huang's expression was also unnatural. Qing Shui snickered and asked, "Are you afraid?"

"I don't know what's happening, but I feel a little bit anxious," said Shen Huang. She was frowning.

"There's definitely something dangerous here. My gut is always right. We need to be careful," Shen Huang continued to say.

"Wait, I need to give you something." Qing Shui thought for a moment before taking out the Parry Heavenly Fate Treasure Pagoda and passing it to Shen Huang.

Looking at the exquisite Pagoda, Shen Huang was puzzled. She then asked, "What is this?"

"Listen to me and just bind the treasure, you'll know in a moment. This is good stuff," said Qing Shui. He was smiling.

Of course it was good stuff, as the effect would be more heaven-defying with the growth of the user's strength. It could deflect an attack with equivalent power from its user's. Moreover, Shen Huang's abilities were absolutely monstrous, especially her attacks. In this case, being able to deflect the damage caused, with her as the standard; it was disgustingly heaven-defying.

At the moment, Qing Shui only had a little more than 100 million Dao Force worth of attack power and could only parry that amount of damage.

Shen Huang's attacking ability wasn't known to Qing Shui, but it was definitely stronger, a lot stronger than a unicorn's. In her hands, the Parry Heavenly Fate Treasure Pagoda could display terrific might.

Sheng Huang followed Qing Shui's advice. She truly believed that Qing Shui wouldn't harm her. After all, she had been saved by Qing Shui multiple times. If Qing Shui wanted her life, she would willingly give it. Even if Qing Shui wanted to sabotage her, she wouldn't resent him.

When the binding process was completed, Shen Huang was stunned by the existence of such an incredible object and its ability to defy the heavens. Shen Huang's attacks had always far surpassed her defense, though this was made up by the Divine Flower Inheritance. After all, there was the Flower Storm Strangling Formation, but this technique couldn't be maintained forever despite being a passive ability with zero energy consumption. However, this Pagoda was different; it had already imperceptibly formed a strong protective aura near her skin. It also had a formidable counteractive ability.

"Qing Shui, this is a treasure. Moreover, it's extremely precious. It's utterly unsuitable to give it to me," said Shen Huang to Qing Shui.

"Why is it unsuitable?" Qing Shui smiled.

"It's too valuable. If you give it to me, you'll incur a great loss."

"I haven't lost anything, giving it to you makes me happy. Such joy can't be bought even with a thousand pieces of gold," said Qing Shui carelessly.

In reality, Shen Huang had accepted it in her heart. She had already begun to develop her own ideas a long time ago. Her and Qing Shui's relationship was complicated, but since she had already made her own personal decision, she could accept the reasoning behind Qing Shui's gift without guilt.

Qing Shui used the 9th Lotus Manifestation Stage and Shen Huang used the Petal Rain Under The Skies.

The Flower Storm Strangling Formation used by Shen Huang was much stronger than the one from the Flower Demon. The petals were vivid gold and the power they held was many times more destructive than the Flower Demon.

The moment they walked into the garden, what they encountered was an impossibly strong hurricane. Some mysterious objects were coming at them like a Petal Rain. Qing Shui's expression changed and the Nine Continents Mountain appeared before their eyes in an instant. Even the Dragon Slaying Beast and the Dragon Spider were hiding behind the Mountain.

Ding ding... pu pu... chi chi...

Being bombarded by the attack, suddenly, Qing Shui felt as if he couldn't move at all. It was a strange feeling, but fortunately, there was the Nine Continents Mountain acting as his shield or he wouldn't know if he could escape unscathed... They were attacked with the hypertoxic Flower Swords and extremely fine poisonous needles. They looked impossibly sharp, with the needles made of demonic iron. Even Qing Shui didn't dare to face the cold shimmering needles head-on.

### **Chapter 2077 - The Demon Palace? The Darknight Demon King and the Giant Demon King**

With a piercing crash, the Nine Continents Mountain flew back and slammed against their bodies, letting out a low sound upon collision. Fortunately, Qing Shui's defense was strong enough, and Shen Huang had the Parry Heavenly Fate Treasure Pagoda. Hence, their defense was quite formidable, and they defended the attack without suffering harm.

A line of sweat dripped down Qing Shui's face. If it wasn't for the Nine Continents Mountain and if he hadn't given Shen Huang the Pagoda, he wouldn't know what would happen to them. It was highly possible that they would perish right away.

Shen Huang was also afraid after being assaulted by the trap. She looked at Qing Shui and said, "You do have quite a number of good items."

"I don't have any cards left. If there are any more unexpected situations, I don't know what we'll do," Qing Shui smiled bitterly as he said that.

"I can feel that the strange danger has already dissipated. There shouldn't be any more surprises. Come on, let's go!" Shen Huang led the way in.

Naturally, Qing Shui followed behind her, though the two kept a small distance between them. This was because they were both using their own protective arts. Qing Shui was using the 9th Lotus Manifestation Stage, while Shen Huang was using the Flower Storm Strangling Formation, which was much stronger and more terrifying than Qing Shui's 9th Lotus Manifestation Stage.

The palace doors were still closed. This time, Shen Huang pushed them open.

Creak!

There was this loud, heavy sound coming from the doors, as if the doors were as heavy as ten thousand tons. The two doors were each about 33 meters tall, with a width of 10 meters, and a height of almost a 100 meters. The doors, which were as black as ink, gave off a frightening feeling.

When the doors opened, an uncomfortably pungent odor surged forth. If they hadn't been cultivators, they would have passed out in that instant, or even died. To a certain degree, this odor was actually slightly toxic.

The palace was very large, with innumerable pillars inside. There was a thick layer of dust on the ground. It was eerily quiet. As Shen Huang was about to enter, Qing Shui stopped her. "Wait, these supporting pillars are probably part of another formation. If you enter, you might dissolve into powder."

Trembling, Shen Huang brought back the foot that was about to step forth. She wasn't particularly afraid of death, but she was afraid of being ground to dust.

Scanning the area, they couldn't see anything other than the pillars. There was nothing else left. Qing Shui kept looking for a while and detected the formation. It was an upgraded version of the Twelve Heavenly Demon Cities Formation, but Qing Shui wasn't sure of the exact name of the formation.

The Twelve Heavenly Demon Cities Formation was a terrifying formation from the primordial era. This formation was an upgraded version of it, but it was only an upgraded version. In terms of power, Qing Shui felt that it was far from being comparable to the formation from the ancient era.

It was as if the Twelve Heavenly Demon Cities Formation from ancient times was a young man, and the formation in the palace was a toddler. It was like playing house; even if this formation was an upgraded version, it was still just an exceptionally strong toddler, far from a real adult.

If one entered the formation accidentally, you would be drawn into an endless compressed space. Formations were an extremely mystical concept in the Continents. A strong Formation Master could easily devastate a city by setting up a Killing Formation that would destroy everything in the surroundings upon its activation.

Actually, in Qing Shui's opinion, this formation was simply a Twelve Heavenly Demon Cities Formation.

Qing Shui began to break the formation by destroying the formation's core. However, by doing so, he was required to enter it first. Although formations were dangerous, they still had their weak points and someone who had a good command of formations could still enter and exit as he pleased. It was impossible for a formation to have no weak points, otherwise, the Formation Master would be unable to activate it.

There had to be a person inside the formation to activate it!

As Qing Shui was about to enter, Shen Huang grabbed onto him and exclaimed, "It's dangerous!"

"Are you worried about me? So you do care for me," Qing Shui grinned, looking at the woman who resembled a Goddess.

"You're so shameless, be careful!" Shen Huang let go of him.

Qing Shui clasped her hand gently before entering the formation.

In an instant, the entire palace appeared to be disturbed by ripples. This continued for a while as the palace began to reveal its true appearance. The four walls were revealing what they contained within. Qing Shui stood by a distant pillar which was snapped. It revealed that one out of the countless pillars inside was indeed the eye of the formation.

Unless the eye of the formation was broken, the formation would strangle everything. Even those who entered the formation would have to look for another way out. Moreover, every step forward entailed thousands of choices that had to be made. Everywhere, there was a massive chance of being strangled. It was, after all, an immensely powerful formation, and those who were within would be in a predicament.

Shen Huang walked to Qing Shui's side and pointed at a distant wall, saying, "This is a Demon Lord's Palace, probably one from an archaic past."

Qing Shui nodded, looking at the portraits on the walls. For every fixed distance, there would be a portrait with a name written on top.

The Darknight Demon King Tu Lang, upon activating his Art, it would cause everything within a 50-kilometer radius to be covered in darkness. It was an absolute darkness; within the dark fog, even night vision was useless. In this darkness, an opponent would lose half of his combat strength while the Darknight Demon King's abilities would be twice as effective.

Looking at the portrait, Qing Shui was inwardly shocked. The Darknight Demon Lord was extremely powerful! On top of that, Qing Shui read that the so-called dark fog was actually poisonous. Although it wasn't extremely toxic, it was still a terrifying slow-acting poison. Over time, it would lower one's reflexes and cause hallucinations.

The Giant Demon King Biao Yong-someone who could transform into a Demon King bigger than a mountain, with a body like diamond and seemingly infinite strength. Even if an ordinary attack made it through his defense, the mitigated damage would be so weak as if he were being gently pricked by embroidery needles. This was because he had a massive figure and was extremely tough. Even swords couldn't pierce his diamond-like skin and due to his size, even if a sword could cut through him he wouldn't feel a thing.

Thinking of the giant, Qing Shui thought about how hard it would be to deal with him. Though different from the marine tentacle monsters, they were equally mystical and their strength was equally terrifying.

Following that, Qing Shui saw many more frightening Demon Kings from an ancient era. All of them had their hands stained with fresh blood, resembling evil spirits.

It was precisely these opponents that the Battle Gods in the Battle God Palace fought against; their mission was to exterminate these Demon Kings.

Demon Kings were undeniably the darlings of heaven and earth. They perfected their arts swiftly and were many times faster than other fighters. For a long time, the Battle Gods were suppressed. Qing Shui didn't know if these Demon Kings had descendants in the Nine Continents. Even if they did, they would be unable to reach the same level of power as the Demon Kings in the portraits.

Qing Shui felt a little bit anxious as he was also one of the descendants of the Battle Gods. After all, he was nowhere near the Golden Battle God's level. If the real Golden Battle God, the leader of the Battle Gods from the ancient era, used the Golden Battle Halberd, he would be able to cause an extreme damage. Even monsters like the Giant Demon King would have exploded in one hit, unless the Giant Demon King had reached the pinnacle of all demons.

This was a Demon Palace indeed, the gathering ground for the Demon Kings. They were dead, but the portraits were a way of remembering them, who were probably the founders of the Palace. However, the Palace didn't exist for long as its inheritance was severed. As to what happened exactly at that time, Qing Shui had no idea.

### **Chapter 2078 - Ice Crystal Phoenix's Nirvana Pill**

Qing Shui remembered the Darknight Demon King Tu Lang from before. The word 'Tu Lang' should be a name. Similarly, in the term 'Giant Demon King Biao Yong', 'Biao Yong' was also a name. These showed that more than one demon lord existed. In fact, there could be even more Darknights and Giant Demon Kings in the outside world.

Too absorbed on observing the portraits, He didn't notice that Shen Huang had been standing quietly beside him all the time. Qing Shui shook his head to get his mind off this thing for the time being. Looking around the room, he noticed the inner hall.

"Let's go and take a look at the inner hall. This is only an ancestral hall of the demon lords. And it shows that at one point, there used to be multiple demon lords gathering here. As for whether or not they left behind any treasures, the chances of it happening would be quite small." Qing Shui didn't have high hopes on this.

"Alright, since we are already here, it won't hurt taking a look at it. If we are lucky, maybe we will find one or two treasures," Shen Huang said with a smile.

Shen Huang felt that her trip this time had been worthwhile. Even though she was aware that Qing Shui was a formidable Formation Master; she never expected his power to exceed her expectations by so much. The fact that he managed to destroy a formation from ancient times still shocked her until now. This was how terrifying a powerful Formation Master could be!

In ancient times, no one would have dared to provoke formidable Formation Masters as they had been capable of destroying an entire sect in one night. The price for eliminating an ancient city had been very high. A large number of materials would have been needed for the Formation. For a city to be destroyed, all of them would have had to be at Divine Grade. Even if it were only a sect, the more powerful the enemies who were trapped inside the Formations, the more energy the Formations would need to consume. If the materials weren't good enough, and the Formation failed to kill the people trapped in it, it would collapse. By then, the only thing which awaited the Formation Master would be death.

Thus, even a powerful Formation Master would need the protections of a formidable force. Meanwhile, Formation Masters were also very popular. Given that they were strong enough, they would be in high demand by a lot of people. However, cases where the Formation Masters had betrayed and destroyed

an entire clan, had also happened in the World of the Nine Continents before. Hence, while Formation Masters were loved by many; the people also couldn't help but fear them.

Nowadays, there were very few Formation Masters across the world, not to mention the ridiculously powerful ones. And in most of the cases, Divine Grade materials were even rarer than formidable Formation Masters themselves. That was why a lot of people couldn't help but let out a sigh of relief as the Formation Masters wouldn't be that feared anymore without the formation.

Shen Huang knew that Qing Shui wouldn't do anything bad to her. Plus, it was naturally a good thing to have a strong Formidable Master as a friend, let alone they weren't just ordinary friends. Thinking up to this point, Shen Huang got a bit embarrassed and blushed.

All this time, Qing Shui had had his eyes fixed on Shen Huang. He couldn't figure out what the goddess in front of him was thinking. She had been so distracted a while ago, but now, her face even started to turn red. This caused him to be really confused.

As she lifted her head only to see Qing Shui's confused look, she felt a bit shy. But at this moment, Qing Shui asked, "Are you thinking about how you can have your way with me?"

"What?" Shen Huang was confused.

"You harassed me in your thoughts," Qing Shui said seriously.

"Can you be even more absurd than that?" Shen Huang was speechless hearing Qing Shui's accusation, but she wasn't angry. She felt that she was a bit too helpless to be angry.

"Actually, I would really love to," Qing Shui quickly led her into the inner hall the moment he finished speaking.

Seeing Qing Shui's nervous look, Shen Huang unconsciously grinned. She felt that this has been the happiest moment of her life.

The inner hall was a lot narrower than outside. Other than a few poles, nothing much could be found in it. There was no formation, but there was a stone platform. It was unknown whether it served the purpose as a bed or a place for the demon kings to practice their techniques. Its surface was smooth like jade. Even though it was made of decent materials and was quite good for cultivating, it wasn't enough to catch Qing Shui's attention.

"Hmph? That part seems to be sticking out. Could it lead to some sort of secret path?" Suddenly, Shen Huang noticed a mark about the size of a fist on a not so obvious spot. It was slightly bulging compared to the other tiles. Unless one looked at it carefully, they wouldn't be able to tell the difference. Even if they did, it wouldn't be enough to cause them to ponder over it.

Shen Huang approached the bulging plate as she spoke and pressed on it with both of her arms. The plate immediately sunk down. Seeing that, Qing Shui said hurriedly, "Rotate it clockwise by 540 degrees. Good. And now, do it anti-clockwise by two rounds and a half. After that, turn it back clockwise again for three rounds and a half."

Even though Shen Huang didn't understand why Qing Shui would ask her to do that, she still followed his instructions and rotated it. After that, a roaring noise was heard.

The entire inner hall was vibrating. Shen Huang looked at Qing Shui with a confused expression and said, "Don't tell me it's going to collapse!"

"This is hard to say." Qing Shui was keeping his eyes on the stone bits that were constantly dropping down from the top.

Luckily, it didn't take too long for the tremor to stop, and a stone door could be seen slowly emerging on a wall not so far away. When they had been looking at that wall previously, nothing could be found from it, not even a small gap in between. The door was quite narrow; it could only allow two people to go into it side-by-side. It was about ten feet tall.

"As I thought, there is really a secret path. It seems I may be able to get myself a few treasured possessions." Shen Huang smiled and winked a few times at Qing Shui.

Qing Shui was shocked by her. He then rubbed his nose and said, "Eldest Mistress, if you dare to seduce me again, believe it or not, I will..."

Qing Shui clicked on his own tongue. Even though he did not say it out, he knew that Shen Huang would naturally know what he was thinking.

"Can you please die already? Who would want to seduce you? Please stop being so disgusting from now on." Shen Huang shot a glare at Qing Shui. Regardless of whether she was angry or flirting with him, she would still look stunningly beautiful. Qing Shui could never be satisfied by looking at her, but at least being beside her, he could get to feast his eyes.

"It's not disgusting, not disgusting at all. It smells good and feels very soft." Qing Shui said seriously.

While he was saying that, Qing Shui's mind was blank. Even though Shen Huang didn't manage to read Qing Shui's mind, she was more or less able to figure out what he wanted to say. After so many days of being together with him, she had begun to get a grasp on the vulgar thoughts this man could come up with.

"Nonsense," Shen Huang said and stomped on the ground, taking the lead to head towards the stone door.

Qing Shui looked at the cute face of hers and could tell that she was happy. This was her first time being so adorable. He didn't know if this would also be the last time he ever saw it.

As soon as they entered the secret room, they were welcomed by a cold aura. It was an unusual kind of cold, causing both Qing Shui and Shen Huang to look at each other. An aura that could even make people at their level feel cold; from here, it could be seen just how cold it was.

The two followed along the stone stairs and made their way down for about ten meters. By the time they reached the bottom, there was a path leading them ahead and what lies ahead of them was the hidden room. The room was precisely where the cold aura originated from. Everything became clear to Qing Shui as soon as he entered it. There was a snow-white bed in here, its surface emitting the freezing aura.

Frigid Jade Stone Bed!

Furthermore, it was a Frigid Jade Stone Bed that had aged up to a million years. The cold Qi around here couldn't be compared to the ones emitting from the Frigid Jade Stone Bed at all. The cold Qis around the bed was very thick and concentrated. But because the secret room was quite small, that was why it would feel cold being around here.

After that, Qing Shui saw a frozen pill on the bed. The pill was about the size of a human's head. It was crystal blue in color and looked shiny. Qing Shui looked at it with his Heavenly Vision Technique and was shocked when he found out what it was.

The Nirvana Holy Pill!

It was the Origin Essence Pill left behind by the Crystal Phoenix Paradise in ancient times, brimming with formidable energy. Once a being with a phoenix's bloodline consumed the Nirvana Holy Pill, its entire body would go through a complete Nirvana Rebirth. It would soon gain access to the abilities of the Ice Crystal Phoenix and be blessed with some of its power. The Nirvana Holy Pill could only raise the power of the beast to the limit of five billion Dao. If the strength of the being which consumed the Nirvana Holy Pill exceeded the said value, it would only be able to comprehend some of the innate talents and battle techniques of the Ice Crystal Phoenix.

#### **Chapter 2079 - The Frigid Jade Stone Bed and The Vice-Head of the Phoenix Pavilion**

Upon seeing the Nirvanic Pill, Qing Shui was stunned. Wasn't this made especially for him? His Dark Phoenix was most suited for this Nirvanic Pill whereas Shen Huang's Rainbow Divine Dragon wasn't compatible with it. Hence, it wasn't surprising that the Pill was being used by the Dark Phoenix.

Qing Shui held up the Pill and said, "I need this."

"Everything here is yours. My belongings are yours too." Shen Huang smiled.

"Can you take away the 'belongings' part?" asked Qing Shui seriously.

"I'm also yours?"

"Doesn't taking advantage of me make you uncomfortable?" said Shen Huang without thinking upon seeing Qing Shui's solemn expression. However, the moment the words left her mouth, she knew it was just the other man fooling around.

"You can have this Frigid Jade Stone Bed, it's good. When you're free you can take it out to nap for a while, it'll be beneficial for your training." Qing Shui pointed at the Frigid Jade Stone Bed.

"I don't want it, this has been slept on by others. I don't want to use it." Shen Huang shook her head.

"My dear lady, this is the cleanest bed possible. Regardless of who's slept on it, there has never been any trace left behind. This Frigid Jade Stone Bed has the strongest purifying ability," said Qing Shui. He was dumbfounded by her answer.

"Anyway, I just don't want it. I don't like it, even if I take it I won't lie on it," said Shen Huang firmly.

She had received too many advantages and all of them were from Qing Shui. Take the Pagoda for instance, it was definitely a priceless item. It was also because of Qing Shui that she received the Divine



Flower Inheritance and the Rainbow Divine Dragon. She knew subconsciously that in all seriousness, she might genuinely be his. Her life, after all, was saved by him multiple times.

As such, no matter what, she wouldn't accept the Frigid Jade Stone Bed. She knew that it was incredibly valuable, and was well aware that it was a treasure. It was as Qing Shui said the bed was extremely pure. She only said what she said in the hopes that Qing Shui wouldn't consider giving it to her again.

"I'm taking this Nirvanic Pill because I need to use it, but I really won't use this Frigid Jade Stone Bed. Listen to me, it will really be useful to you." Qing Shui smiled.

"I don't want it!" said Shen Huang frankly.

Qing Shui thought for a moment, before saying, "How about this, you use it for three years, and if three years later you don't want it you can give it to me. What do you think?"

Shen Huang looked at Qing Shui's anticipatory expression and sighed. She nodded. "If you're not going to use it you can give it to someone close to you. Why must you give it to me?"

"We're friends after all. Plus, this Frigid Jade Stone Bed is best used by you. Others can't handle the frigid Qi, so it won't work as well. It's best suited to you right now," Qing Shui said with a laugh.

Shen Huang knew that the Frigid Jade Stone Bed didn't require much skill to use. It worked well as long as you could grit your teeth and bear it. It also was very advantageous, although the user could only lie on top of it for a very short period of time and had to wait for a long time before using it again... It wasn't wrong to say that she was the most suited user for it now.

"Okay, then it's agreed. At most three years, if I feel that I've pretty much exhausted its potential before three years are up, I'll return it to you." Shen Huang directly stowed away the Frigid Jade Stone Bed.

"Okay!"

While keeping the Bed, the area suddenly began to quake. Upon seeing this, Qing Shui pulled Shen Huang along and charged outside. The moment they escaped, the palace collapsed into rubble.

Qing Shui was baffled. It was fine all along, how could it just collapse like that? The Frigid Jade Stone Bed and the mechanism. It looked like it was because they moved the Frigid Jade Stone Bed.

Phoenix Organization!

Qing Shui followed Shen Huang to her sect. Her sect was called Phoenix, and it was more like an organization. It wasn't the kind of sect with masters and disciples, though it was relatively strict and the rules were stringent. Shen Huang was called Phoenix here and held the highest influence.

Phoenix had three palaces and three temples. There were heads of each palace and each temple. Apart from them, there was also a Phoenix Pavilion, the head of the said Pavilion was Phoenix herself. In it were several hundred members and every single one was powerful. Moreover, the Phoenix Pavilion's power was much stronger than the palaces and temples.

The three palaces were occupied solely by women, though the temples had a mixture of genders, with males taking up the majority.

Phoenix's ability was the strongest in the whole Phoenix City; she was the ruler of the city. Several trading companies in Phoenix City were under the control of Phoenix, and a portion of their revenue was given to her. This was the rule of the land, and identical to taxation in his previous world.

'This woman really was super rich', Qing Shui thought to himself while smiling.

Shen Huang was not secretive either and told Qing Shui a lot of things regarding the Phoenix Organization. She smiled and said, "I want you to be my Vice-Head of the Phoenix Pavilion."

Qing Shui was stupefied for a moment. In the Dancing Phoenix Continent, he had been the Custodian of her Phoenix God Organization, and now he was to be her Vice-Head. He looked at Shen Huang, feeling a bit puzzled, "I remember I was already the Custodian of your Phoenix God Organization previously."

"That was that and this is this. Promise me, or I'll return the Frigid Jade Stone Bed to you," said Shen Huang stately.

This woman really doesn't know how to act coquettishly to coax men; she can only threaten. She knew that other threats wouldn't work, so she used this!

"Fine. Even if you wanted me to marry into your family and live with them, I would agree. To say nothing of being your Vice-Head." said Qing Shui frankly.

"Oh, I'll hold you to these words! Men have to honor their words," Shen Huang looked at Qing Shui. Flustered by what she said, Qing Shui rubbed his nose and smiled awkwardly.

On their way, they met quite a few people. The strength of the people in Phoenix City was really quite good, and although there weren't many people, everyone was reasonably skilled. They were probably amongst the top in the Northern Blue Domain, Phoenix City was the Northern Blue Domain's second biggest city due to Shen Huang's ability. Northern Blue City was the biggest city, though there were at least five powers in the Northern Blue City.

It was easy for Qing Shui to become the Phoenix Pavilion's Vice-Head. He just had to take the plaque of the Vice-Head. In the Phoenix Organization, plaques were recognized, and not faces. Whoever had the plaque was the owner of the plaque. It was like this throughout the continents. After all, their influence was too great. Everything was dependent on tokens, although there were still a lot of forces on record.

Moreover, the plaque of the Vice-Head from the Phoenix Pavilion was given by Shen Huang. Naturally, there weren't any issues.

"Come on, meeting the other people isn't important, but there is someone I want you to meet. He has helped me a lot these few years, and if I were to say I still had family on this earth, it would be him." Shen Huang smiled.

Qing Shui didn't ask and walked with Shen Huang to the garden behind the summit. He saw a very old man. He was old and doddering, without immense strength. Yet, he appeared impossibly warm and kind. This was an old man who, upon first glance, made one feel welcome and on intimate terms with.

"Grandpa Qi!" called Shen Huang gently.

Upon seeing Shen Huang, the old man cried out happily, "Hey, has this girl come to see me? Oh, I know. Last time you said that you would bring some boy back. Not bad, this young man is not bad."

“Grandpa Qi...” Shen Huang was at a loss for words.

“Stupid girl, you’ve grown up. No matter how strong you are you’re still a lady. Rascal, I’m old, but I’m not blind. Take good care of my girl, she’s a good girl. You’re very lucky.” said the old man warmly.

Qing Shui smiled and said, “Grandpa Qi, don’t worry. I’ll take good care of this stupid girl for eternity. No one will be able to bully her. I’ll make her the happiest, most fortunate person in the world.”

#### **Chapter 2080 - Can’t I Even Think About It?**

Qing Shui laughed as he said, “Grandpa Qi, don’t worry. I will take care of her for the rest of my life; no one will be able to bully her. I will make her feel like the most blissful girl.”

“Hahaha, good. You rascal want to take responsibility. I also trust her judgment. The guy that she fancies is definitely not an ordinary man. I am old already, you are also grown up as well. You have achieved a lot, but you must remember to ground yourself from time to time,” said Grandpa Qi smilingly.

Shen Huang’s emotions were mixed, but she still wore a smile. “Grandpa Qi, you’re my closest and most beloved family. I couldn’t have lived through these years without you.”

“You would still be able to live well without me. In the future, this boy will be your closest family. Give him and yourself a chance. I wish you happiness, it is my greatest wish for you. Seeing him with you, I am relieved. Even though there’s nothing to worry about now, I trust my judgment. You will be with him for the rest of your life.”

Grandpa Qi joyously remarked, as though he had seen the happiness Qing Shui and Shen Huang would experience.

While looking completely blushed, Shen Huang asked, “Grandpa Qi, do you really think that we are a good fit for each other?”

“Haha, whether you are a good fit or not, I think you already know the answer. Alright, I need to leave. I don’t have much time left and I still have some unfinished business,” Grandpa Qi stood up and walked out after saying that.

“Grandpa Qi, Qing Shui is a great physician, let him take a look at you!” said Shen Huang hastily.

“My natural lifespan is coming to an end. Even a deity can’t save me. Furthermore, It’s time for me to go. You’ve already become independent. Everyone dies eventually, so there’s no meaning in trying to live any longer. It’s time for me to rest.”

Grandpa Qi then disappeared into the distance.

Shen Huang was slightly depressed. Looking at the yard, her feelings could not be expressed. Grandpa Qi was an eccentric man. She knew that he had been silently helping her out, getting rid of many people who threatened Shen Huang’s safety. Though there was no evidence, Shen Huang knew that it was Grandpa Qi who was helping her.

Grandpa Qi treated Shen Huang as his own daughter. His abilities were unfathomable, but he usually never revealed them.

The people of Phoenix City knew of an old man, Phoenix's kin, but they could never know of his strength and wisdom.

Shen Huang realized that Grandpa Qi was never coming back. However, she was also open-minded, so despite her sadness, she remained strong. She turned back to look at Qing Shui, "let's go to the Phoenix City's largest restaurant to drink."

Phoenix City's largest restaurant was known worldwide.

Its name was 'Enthralling Fragrance'

Its popularity was definitely exaggerated in its title, but the fragrance of its alcohol was undeniably strong. In Phoenix city, it was definitely a busy restaurant. Qing Shui and Shen Huang were sitting near the window.

The people there seemed to not recognize this lady. Actually, Qing Shui was one of the few people who could easily understand Shen Huang. Outsiders who glanced upon Shen Huang would only feel confused, unable to clearly see what Shen Huang looks like, just her luscious bearing.

"Let me tell you guys a story that will shock you."

An intelligent young man said from a nearby table.

The table had 8 people seating. Based on their clothing and mannerism, they were the middle class from Phoenix city. Life wasn't bad, but they traversed the boundaries between life and death. They had the aura of bloodshed and death.

"What story? What other stories could shock us," remarked a sloppy fellow. This person struck others as a loafer. As the legends typically go, those with messy hair, but were not ugly, had a different type of charisma.

"Lang San, who do you keep taking notice of?" said the previous man while laughing.

"Is that even a question? The one he respects the most in Phoenix City is Ms. Phoenix. That is the goddess in his heart. Though he has not personally seen her, it only took one drawing for him to be enchanted. If you mention to him that she might be in danger, he will go there unquestioningly to save her," a spiritless voice rang out.

"Haha, the wastrel is right, but Le Sha, don't ruin your appetite," said Lang San while drinking wine.

"Rumours say that our Phoenix City's Goddess is taken already," said the intelligent man, Le Sha, softly.

Shen Huang's hand trembled. Qing Shui looked at Shen Huang, mildly shocked. He said, "The news travels so fast, I'm not even yours yet."

"Die!"

Shen Huang found that her emotions were odd these few days. She would not have ever considered talking to a man like this in the past, yet she was now angry yet humored. Unconsciously like a normal wife and husband bickering.

It was not only her, Qing Shui did not expect it as well. Even if he had such a good woman, many people including Qing Shui would feel the need to be proper and respectful towards her, to be gentlemanly, not swear or say anything dirty. They felt the need to present their most perfect selves to her...

But Qing Shui had some understanding of psychology; he felt that this lady's aloof character was exquisite and elegant. Such a lady meant that even if you came directly at her, you would be only one of many other men she would not take notice of.

Furthermore, since Qing Shui felt inferior in her presence, there was no need to act refined. He was free to do whatever he wanted since being able to let loose in front of such a lady was relaxing.

"This lady is very charismatic. Turns out it's not only me who would sacrifice anything for her. I am lucky that I approached her first," Qing Shui said, then lifted up his wine cup and took a drink.

"Can't you speak normally?"

"The stress of speaking with you is unbearable. It makes me feel vulnerable," Qing Shui smiled and said as he looked at Shen Huang.

Shen Huang realized that it was her who was vulnerable, not him. She remained silent and angry. Talking to him meant that she would never have the advantage, only being laughed at by him.

"There has been the arrival of someone mysterious in Phoenix city. Seems like he intends to do something with the Phoenix Mountain. Don't you think we should go and inform Ms. Phoenix?" said Le Sha softly once again.

"Mysterious person? He has ulterior motives towards Phoenix Mountain?" asked Lang San, confused.

"I only heard that that person was interested in the Phoenix valley, and about the valley having treasures. Its treasures are well known but no one can go in. No one knows where they come from and their intentions, and if they would harm Ms. Phoenix."

Qing Shui looked at Shen Huang, expressing his shock. Qing Shui had already broken the formation in the Phoenix Valley. The palace halls had also crumbled, but Qing Shui's shock was at whether they knew of the Demon Palace or whether they were just looking for treasures.

Could they be the Demon Palace's people? Or could they be the Demon King inheritors?

If they came from the Demon Palace, then they should know about the Cold Jade Stone Bed and they would be looking for it.

Both of them did not say much; they just drank a little and looked for a room.

It was Qing Shui's first time renting a room with a woman; the thought of it excited him, and it was an extreme beauty as well...

"Can you stop letting your imagination run wild? At least not when you're so close to me," said Shen Huang. She was dumbfounded.

"My lady, I can't control it. I can't even do anything. At least let me fantasize a little," Qing Shui said, looking pitifully at Shen Huang.

