

Ancient ST 591

Chapter 591 - Difficult To Search For Treasure, The Gathering Of The Qing Clan

While Qing Shui was on his way here, he studied the Treasure Map again. He had a feeling that the Goddess Peak depicted on the map should be at an even deeper area. Needless to say, the Chieftain Level Demonic Beasts would also be even more powerful because he could feel the spiritual qi of the Flowerfruit Mountain getting even thicker the deeper he went. With a richer spiritual qi, the strength of demonic beasts would naturally increase.

Qing Shui had originally thought that the Purple-eyed Golden Spirit Monkey was the chieftain of the Flowerfruit Mountain before. But, after witnessing those two Raging Flame Cloud Leopards, he realized that perhaps the real Chieftain of the Flowerfruit were monkeys. Nevertheless, they were definitely not those Purple-eyed Golden Spirit Monkeys.

When he saw that there were no group of demonic beasts in the sky, he quickly got on the Fire Bird and made a beeline towards the inner section of the Flowerfruit Mountain. He gazed and searched around the ground below.

Qing Shui had stopped as soon as he discovered a mountain range, after which he began to discern whether it was the mountain indicated on the Treasure Map. Then, he tried to look for the Goddess Peak among the mountain range. There were many mountains in the Flowerfruit Mountain, so it was a very difficult task for Qing Shui.

After Qing Shui had a look at the mountain, he climbed onto a big rock and stood on top of it. On there, he took out his Treasure Map and carefully studied it once again.

There was a mountain range on the Treasure Map that followed a winding course and was very long. It was broken in a few different parts, therefore he speculated that there were rivers passing through and mountain valleys. Much of the place was covered in vegetation.

There was a very peculiar looking cliff. It looked like the statue a woman in its magnificence. Behind this statue of 'woman', there was a very fuzzy looking tree diagram.

Qing Shui's gaze locked onto the tree behind that Goddess statue on his Treasure Map. After observing its surroundings, he concluded that this Goddess Peak was very tall.

On top of that, it seemed like the Goddess Peak was situated on a very long mountain range, although it could not really be clearly seen on the Treasure Map. He could still tell that this mountain range was very long and the way it meandered looked very strange.

So he had planned to look for the mountain range first, then search for that Goddess Peak along that mountain range. He checked the sky before climbing onto Fire Bird once again and flew at a low altitude.

When he met a demonic beast group, he'd land. If he met the demonic beast group down there, he'd soar up to the sky. With this, he could avoid quite a number of demonic beast groups. But Qing Shui's happiness did not last long as he started laughing bitterly.

A group of Raging Flame Birds were coming in his direction from not far away. They were peak Martial King demonic beasts. Qing Shui immediately retreated when he saw that colony of beasts that seemed like they could hide the sky and cover the Earth.

As soon as he landed on the ground, he discovered that he was surrounded by a big group of 'Steelback Gigantic Bears'. The big fellas that had a towering height of nearly eight metres, looked like a hill and they would attack anything on sight. A group of 'Steelback Gigantic Bear' were never less than a thousand of them.

Mighty Elephant Stomp!

Qing Shui, who only had the strength of ten countries left in his body could also only deal a damage of fifty countries with the Mighty Elephant Stomp. However, it was still quite useful when used against Steelback Gigantic Bears who had the strength of only five or six countries. One Mighty Elephant Stomp was enough to instantly kill them all. His stamina would deplete very fast when battling in the air. Moreover, Fire Bird was still not a Martial Saint but even if it was, its strength would be restricted. He figured that it would be instantly devoured if it had to face the large group of Raging Flame Birds.

Qing Shui's figure shifted quickly among the group of Steelback Gigantic Bears. His every full-powered strike could heavily injure a Steelback Gigantic Bear, so he managed to escape them very quickly.

The demonic beasts he came across now were all at least a peak Martial King and on top of that, they came in groups. At the Flowerfruit Mountain, it was very hard to survive without a pack unless it was of a mutated species with high intelligence. For example, a fox with exceptional speed, or a ground digging armored beast.....

The demonic beasts he met became stronger as he went deeper. The most common ones had the strength of five or six countries, but a Chieftain level demonic beast with the strength of twenty countries would appear from time to time. The most absurd one that he had met was a Dark Kirin Beast with the strength of thirty countries that had almost the same size as the Diamond Gigantic Elephant. Although it didn't have wings, it could walk on fire.

It had the head of a lion on a horse body that was entirely covered with pitch black scales. There were four flame clouds beneath its feet. It was a pity that he had to flee in panic after two rounds of battles, dashing his hopes of capturing one as his mount into a thousand pieces.

His heart became more unsettled as he ventured deeper. He had already lost count of how many times he had studied the Treasure Map, but the mountain range depicted in the map never appeared. He had found a few which he thought was what he was looking for, but after trekking along for a while he realized that he had reached to the other end of it. This had happened consecutively a few times that Qing Shui had already become extremely numb in his heart.

Although he knew that it would be very tedious using this search method, he still had a great deal of hope. He was also determined to find it. As long as he could find that enormous mountain range, his chances of finding the Goddess Peak would be very high.

Although the Flowerfruit Mountain sounded like a mountain name, there were actually plains, forests, lakes, valleys, basins, swamps and of course, with mountain ranges being the most in the deeper parts.

Since there were many mountain ranges, it was extremely difficult for Qing Shui to search for the one he was looking for. It would have been easier to search if there weren't so many mountain ranges.

Time was wasted because the mountain ranges looked too similar to each other!

Time passed very quickly and Qing Shui had stayed on the Flowerfruit Mountain for more than a month. It had also been almost five months since the two elders at the Residence of the Sky Tyrant Lord left. Qing Shui had no idea if they had already return by now.

Nevertheless, he wasn't really worried with the Diamond Gigantic Elephant around. His strength should have increased a little over the past six months. Before Qing Shui left, he had already sent a letter to Nian Feng's grandfather through the World of the Nine Continent's specialized postal service. He had asked him to look after the Qing Clan for a while and had also told him what had happened.

But Qing Shui didn't know at all that when Ba Donghe came with his men, Nian Feng's grandfather had already came to the Greencloud Continent and was watching everything from afar. Qing Shui's performance had shocked him. Since Qing Shui could handle the opponents all by himself, he didn't show himself.

It was also from that moment onwards, the old man knew that this young man would soar high sooner or later. So he might as well extend a helping hand to assist him now. It wasn't easy for him to meet a young man that could fill him with anticipation, let alone forming a friendly bond with him.

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Many people came to the Qing Residence today. There were more than sixty people riding on three birds. Their arrival was led by the two elders from the Residence of Sky Tyrant Lord.

Lin Zhanhan and Qing Luo came out to warmly welcome them. Qing Shui had already gave them a heads up on this matter. As soon as they saw old and young people among them, the experienced Lin Zhanhan didn't allow Luan Luan and the Diamond Gigantic Elephant to come out.

Qing Shui had told them in advance that if the situation turned bad, they should send the Dimond Gigantic Elephant out on a sudden ambush. But then again, he had a feeling that this wouldn't happen, Furthermore, he had already asked for assistance from Nian Feng's grandfather.

Nian Feng's grandfather appeared once again, but he appeared like an ordinary old man. He was hanging around near to the Qing Residence as he kept a close watch on the situation in there.

"My two brothers, you have come! This way please, the place is already prepared,"

Lin Zhanhan led the way with a smile. The East side of the Qing Residence had been divided for two clans and the area was as big as for the Qing Clan. The Qing Residence was very spacious so even after it had been divided up, it was still very spacious.

"Oh, why is she here?" The Old Man Nian wondered after he suddenly noticed a gigantic Ice Crane from afar. He looked at the Qing Clan skeptically. He had a feeling that their destination was the Qing Residence.

The old man frowned as he stared at the approaching gigantic Ice Crane.

The Ice Crane had flown from the direction of the Heavenly Palace. By now the old man had more or less knew quite a lot about Qing Shui's situation. Qing Shui had already told him alot about his clan and in addition to those gossips he had heard on his way here over the past six months, he could say that he pretty much had a deeper and better understanding of the Qing Clan as well as Qing Shui.

The Ice Crane landed not far from the Qing Residence. Two women in azure blue dress climbed off. One of the was veiled, the other with an air of noble elegance was not veiled.

The two women with exceptional grace walked towards the Qing Residence. When they entered the residence, one of them gazed at the old man who was in a distance with interest.

"This woman from Duanmu Clan has recovered and became so strong. I wonder what business do they have with the Qing Clan?" The old man wondered, yet keeping up with his disguise of an ordinary person.

"Mother, what are you looking at?" The veiled girl asked the unmoving woman.

"I saw an acquaintance," the woman replied with a smile before pulling the girl's hand as they made their way towards the Qing Residence.

"Acquaintance? Why didn't you greet him?" The girl asked curiously.

"This man who had cured me isn't someone ordinary. He is really young and I am really curious what kind of family he grew up in and who are his parents and master that have brought up such a genius," the woman smiled as she evaded the question. They were already in front of the Qing Residence.

"Auntie, who are you looking for?"

Yuchang who just happened to come out saw the two beautiful ladies standing there, so she asked them curiously.

"We are here to see Mister Qing Shui, Little Lass. Who are you to him?" The woman crouched down to the delicate little girl and smiled at her.

"You're looking for daddy? He's out," Yuchang blinked her large eyes.

The woman was shocked and glanced at her daughter beside her, as if wondering how Qing Shui could have such a big daughter.....

"In that case, do you know when will he be back?" The woman asked her with a smile while she took out an exquisite jade hairpin and inserted it in Yuchang's braid.

"Who are you all? Why are you looking for daddy?" Yuchang asked the woman suspiciously.

"Yuchang, who are you talking to?" Mingyue Gelou asked when she came out and happened to see Yuchang speaking with the two mysterious ladies.

"Mother, they are here to see daddy."

Yuchang's words made Mingyue Gelou a little nervous. Nothing good usually happen when people were looking for Qing Shui. She hurriedly came over.

The woman looked at Mingyue Gelou who was walking towards them. She was a woman with exceptional beauty, unordinary strength and a good body figure. The marking in between her brows gave her an aura of special charm. A pure and sacred aura.

“Hello, what business do you have with Qing Shui?” Mingyue Gelou looked at the two ladies standing before her. She breathed a sigh of relief as soon as she saw the expression on their faces. It didn’t seem like they were here to find troubles.....

“We are from the Central Continent. This is my daughter, Ling Shuang. Qing Shui saved her before and have also saved me once. I am here today to express my gratitude.”

Just right then, Lin Zhahan, Qing Luo and the other two Martial Saint elders came over!

“Lady Duanmu!”

The two Martial Saint elders were surprised to see the woman. They quickly bowed respectfully and greeted her!

Chapter 592 - The Palace At The Bottom of The Lake, The Crystal Coffin

“Lady Duanmu!”

The two Martial Saint leveled elders were surprised to see her. They quickly bowed respectfully and greeted her!

The expression in their eyes exuded the profound respect they had for her. It was not just the typical respect out of fear towards the powerful, but more like a sincere respect.

“Oh, the Residence of Sky Tyrant Lord’s elders. Why are you all here?” The woman looked at the two old men in astonishment. Her eyes was a little moist as if she had remembered something.

“Well, this.....” The two old men hemmed and hawed!

“Oh, so the Qing Clan was the reason behind the Residence of Sky Tyrant Lord moving out in nearly full force about half a year ago?” The look on the woman’s face quickly cooled down within a matter of seconds. Since the Zhongyuan Country and the Seven Stars Country were not that far apart, any movements from the Residence of Sky Tyrant Lord naturally wouldn’t go unnoticed by the Duanmu Clan.

Lin Zhanhan, Qing Luo and the rest of the Qing Clan were a little bit confused. They didn’t really know what was going on between these people so there was nothing they could do aside from watching by the side.

At this time, Lin Zhanhan came forward with a smile. “May I ask for the names of these two ladies...? These elders are the friends of Qing Clan, so they will be staying at the Qing Residence from now on. What brings the two of you here?”

He had stepped in to save the two old men from embarrassment. When Lin Zhanhan saw the woman’s facial expression earlier, he could feel that she seemed to be on Qing Clan’s side.

“Oh, that’s not too bad. The Residence of the Sky Tyrant Lord is considered gone. These two made a good decision by choosing to stay here. They’re old, so it’s good to settle down a little. We are from the

Central Continent. Qing Shui saved my daughter's life and mine. We are here to express our gratitude. May I know how to address you, old gentleman?" The woman said with a smile.

"I am from the Lin Clan and I am Qing Shui's maternal grandfather. This is Qing Shui's mother....."

Lin Zhanhan made simple introductions to the woman. He knew that this woman was definitely not an ordinary person since the manners of those two Grade Four Martial Saint cultivators were not fake. If they had come to express their gratitude, then this might very well be considered a good fortune.

"It's a pleasure for Yu Ruyan to meet the old gentleman and madam!" The woman bowed respectfully towards Qing Luo and Qing Yi.

"No need to be so formal!" Qi Yi was also someone who had her fair share of experience in situations like this. She quickly placed her hand on Yu Ruyan's arm.

"If madam doesn't mind, may we call each other sister?" The woman smiled at Qing Yi.

The two old men dumbfoundedly watched the entire exchange. The woman's words and attitude had immediately made the two Martial Saints set on staying with the Qing Clan from now on without any second thoughts. Qing Shui was Lady Duanmu and her daughter's life savior. Judging from Yu Ruyan's personality, she would never allow anyone to harm the Qing Clan for as long as she lived.

But she was alive this time. The number of people who could kill her was very little, probably because those people were already eliminated by her. The Qing Clan would pretty much be well-fortified under her care.

"Why would I? I am alright with it as long as you don't mind," Qing Yi quickly replied.

"Big Sister, from now on we shall be sisters," Yu Ruyan said with a smile.

She then pulled her daughter who was standing beside her. "Lingshuang, from now on you should address her as Aunt Qing!"

"It's a pleasure for Lingshuang to meet Aunt Qing!"

Duanmu Lingshuang greeted her respectfully. She would never be able to repay Qing Shui's kindness towards her. Her feelings of gratitude towards him came from the bottom of her heart. As the saying goes, love the house and its crow*, so she also had the same amount of deep gratitude towards Qing Yi.

[Note: Love someone and also care for the people and things related to him.]

"No need to be formal. Here, take this. Aunt doesn't have anything valuable, so I hope you will not mind this," Qing Yi took out a pair of earrings that Qing Shui had forged for her. She had never worn them and she didn't know why she happened to carry them with her today.

"This....."

"You should just accept what Aunt Qing's good will~!" Yu Ruyan smiled.

"Thank you, Aunt Qing!" Duanmu Lingshuang thanked her with a smile before accepting the gift. Although her face was veiled, her smile could still be seen from those beautiful eyes.

“Come, let’s all go inside!”

The big group of people walked towards the big hall of the Qing Residence. Yu Ruyan turned her head around and looked outside as if she wanted to say something, but she ended up not speaking.

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Another long mountain range entered Qing Shui’s view. However, there wasn’t any trace of excitement on Qing Shui’s face. This was because this was already the 132nd mountain range he had come across that looked fairly similar to the one depicted in his Treasure Map.

Nearly two months had passed again and he had already seen more than a hundred enormous mountain ranges. Every one of them had a varying length. The longest one took the Fire Bird ten full days to reach its other end with its top speed.

Qing Shui wasn’t sure at this point if he could find the mountain range that he was looking for. His only hope was that the mountain range straddled horizontally across the Flowerfruit Mountain. That way, he wouldn’t miss it while he forged ahead.

He apathetically traveled along the long mountain range to look for that Goddess Peak. Standing in the midair, he had completed scanned over a short distance on the right side first.

He no longer even felt disappointed when he didn’t find the Goddess Peak that he had been searching for.

He immediately backtracked quickly to where he came from. On his way, he met three waves of beast groups. Qing Shui didn’t want to find trouble so he took a detour to avoid them. He then continued to search the left side of the mountain range that stretched on endlessly.

“Hmm, the height of the mountain range is gradually getting taller. Although the difference is very little, it can be clearly observed at a further distance,” Qing Shui looked at the far end of the mountain range that was covered by thick and dark green vegetations. It looked like a gigantic green meandering dragon from afar.

Three days went by in a flash. Other than visiting the Realm of Violet Jade Immortal in between and practicing his Taichi Fists in the morning, he spent his remaining time searching for the Goddess Peak.

Although he had already reached the deeper parts of the Flowerfruit Mountain, there were even deeper parts further up ahead. However, Qing Shui’s instinct told him that so-called rumor told him that the Goddess Peak shouldn’t be situated in the innermost part of the Flowerfruit Mountain.

He calmly sped up ahead on the Fire Bird with his fastest speed along the winding mountain range and realized that these past three months had tempered his patience. He was able to deal with many things in a calm manner now.

Qing Shui’s gaze was suddenly attracted by the mountain peak ahead. A precipice!

There was a statue that looked like a woman on the precipice. She seemed like she was gazing into the distance as if she was anticipating something. The outrageously lofty ancient tree beside her was unimaginably big and sturdy.

“Damn, I’ve been wanting to see this scenery so bad that I’m starting to hallucinate,” Qing Shui shook his head and laughed at himself. He was prepared to leave after looking around for a bit because he had already reached the other end.

Qing Shui was waiting for his hallucination of the goddess statue to vanish, but it remained there. It was only then that he finally started to get excited.

“Could it be here?”

He leaped off in excitement and landed in front of the goddess statue. He had only accepted that everything was real the moment he felt the solidness of the goddess statue with his hands.....

The stone statue was life-sized and had the appearance of a woman, although her facial features were vague. That didn’t really matter now.

Looking around the precipice, this was the end of a very long meandering mountain range. On the other side of the precipice, the escarpment was covered by lush vegetation and there was a wilderness beyond it.

The vegetations growing on the escarpment on the other side was thriving and brimmed with exceptionally strong vitality. Qing Shui started trying to locate the treasure on his Treasure Map. Although he had found the Goddess Peak, the location of the treasure didn’t seem like it would be easy to locate.

He placed his target on this goddess statue first, since this was the most conspicuous thing among all. At the same time, he expanded his spiritual sense. Every Gifted Earth Treasure would emit enormous waves of spiritual qi.

The stone statue didn’t seem like it was any ordinary statue. Otherwise, it would be impossible for it to not show any signs corrosion after being weathered over the ages. After carefully observing for awhile, Qing Shui looked away in disappointment.

It was carved out of White Star Stone. This type of stone was very hard and was said to have a very powerful restoration ability. It was very suited for carving but had very little use outside of that.

An ancient tree that reached high into the sky.....

Then there was the soil around him, vegetations across him and a three feet deep crater that were caused by the Mighty Elephant Stomp.....

Another three days passed. Qing Shui had once again returned to the precipice in disappointment. He had searched high and low within the radius of a few li, but he still couldn’t find the location of the treasure. He simply couldn’t wrap his head around this.

Plop!

Qing Shui randomly tossed a stone down the cliff. A clear and loud noise only echoed back after a quite a while. It was the sound of the stone dropping into water. If it wasn’t for Qing Shui’s sharp sense of hearing, he would have definitely missed that.

“Oh, it wouldn’t be down here right!?”

He suddenly got excited as he summoned Fire Bird to fly him under the cliff. He also retrieved his Violet Gold Divine Shield and Big Dipper Sword just in case the situation called for it.

The cliff was really steep. Although Qing Shui was already a Martial Saint who could fly, his abilities were unfortunately restricted on the Flowerfruit Mountain so he could only rely on the Fire Bird.

Fire Bird wasn't flying too fast but after fifteen minutes, Qing Shui saw an enormous lake below him. It was a dead valley surrounded by the mountains, a place that was difficult for flying birds to reach.

Qing Shui climbed off Fire Bird's back. However, he very quickly frowned when he felt the unusual atmosphere around here. It lacked vitality.

This place was like a manor that had been abandoned for over a few decades, centuries or even millennium. With no human or animals setting foot in the area, a type of yin qi, also known as death qi, would gradually be formed. A type of yang qi, also known as the qi of 'vitality', exists only in places where humans or animals lived and breathed.

His surroundings were bare and most importantly, there was no wind. When Qing Shui was halfway down the cliff, there were already no vegetations in sight. The surroundings were all bare except for this enormous lake that stood out like a sore thumb.

The water in the lake was a light blue. Qing Shui couldn't see any other living beings in the water, not even a single water plant. With the experiences he gained while treasure hunting at the Wolf King Hall, Qing Shui immediately took out the first Treasure Map.

The moment it was retrieved from the Realm of Violet Jade Immortal, every inch of the lake's surface and the Treasure Map in his hands glowed white. Then he could feel a wave of suction force coming from within the lake.

Qing Shui's facial expression changed. Although he had a hunch that the treasure was at the bottom of the lake, he was still anxious about the potential dangers that lurked in the area unbeknownst to him.

Splash!

Qing Shui wanted to resist the force, but his body wasn't able to muster up the strength to oppose it so he was immediately dragged into the lake.....

It was only an instant but it felt like it lasted for a hundred or even ten thousand years had passed before Qing Shui snapped open his eyes and observed his current surroundings in astonishment. The scenery around him looked like the Underwater Crystal Palace that he had seen through the television screen countless times in his previous world.....

The floor that was made of crystals and colored glass looked as if they had always been cleansed by water. A splendid and grand palace that exuded a majestic aura sat just a few hundred meters up ahead. The plants around him looked like they were out of a dreamland, but also more like pieces of fine artistic work.

He felt the surroundings were surreal as he slowly walked towards the palace while observing the area in awe. The scenery around him was something that should only exist in paintings.

Qing Shui felt like he took an eternity to walk down this path. But right at this moment, he jumped at the sight of a gigantic demonic beast that had appeared in front of the palace's entrance.

He wanted to immediately run away from it, but he knew very well that if the beast had intended to harm him, he wouldn't have been able to escape even if he tried. The only option he had now was to be prepared to enter the Realm of Violet Jade Immortal at any moment.

The demonic beast that had suddenly appeared had an enormous silver head of a beast that looked like a snake yet appeared more formidable. It had a pair of fish eyes and a gigantic body of a turtle that was about the size of a small mountain and there were some simple and odd-looking patterns on its large turtle shell. It was exuding an aura that Qing Shui had never felt before.

The gigantic turtle stared at him. A look of surprise reflected in those large fish eyes. Qing Shui didn't flee immediately because he saw its eyes that were filled with an indescribable look of vicissitude and humanity.

Other than the look of vicissitude in his eyes, there were also loneliness, disappointment, and worries.....

Qing Shui had never expected that a demonic beast was capable of displaying such a complicated expression. This made him felt more intimidated by its formidable strength.

"Do you need any help?" Qing Shui felt like he was an idiot for asking the demonic beast.

When Qing Shui was mocking himself, he didn't expect this old turtle to nod its enormous head. He was instantly shocked. Only a beast tamer or a beast that had a similar connection like the connection between the Diamond Gigantic Elephant and Qing Shui could easily communicate through telepathy like this. This was his first time meeting a demonic beast that could directly understand the human language.

Qing Shui stood there dumbly for a moment before lifting his head. He realized that the gigantic old turtle had already stepped aside from the palace door, as if it was allowing Qing Shui to enter!

To be honest, he was still a little worried. Who knew that awaited him within the palace? But when he remembered the Treasure Map in his hands, he clenched his teeth and moved forward. One can not expect to entrap a wolf if he is not willing to sacrifice the life of his child*.

*Note: One can hardly expect to accomplish a major task if he is not willing to take risks.

When he arrived in front of that enormous crystal door, he calmed his emotions then reached out to push open the crystal door slowly. In this brief time, all he had been thinking about was where the old turtle had come out from.

The crystal door was pushed opened soundlessly. A wave of rich spiritual qi immediately assailed his nostrils, jolting him. This was an empty great palace hall.

There was a crystal platform with a throne facing the palace entrance at the top part. Along the wall, there were many realistic engraving of sea beasts, enormous fishes, water snakes, turtles, and prawns.....

Each of them were so realistic that they looked as if they were alive. Most importantly, they were very gorgeous. Other than gorgeous, they also looked ferocious! Every single one of them looked like they

had flesh and blood and even their well-shaped skeleton frame could be felt to their tiniest details. Their eyes and expression seemed rather spiritual.

“These drawings have far exceeded the level of drawing bones. They should be at the level of drawing souls.....”

By the time Qing Shui snapped back to reality he had already lost track of time. He had indeed indulged himself quite a bit on these aesthetic works and even felt that his state of drawing had been raised immensely. After all, the [Hundred Forms of the Tiger] was only about the expression of a tiger. Looking at these drawings here could bring about great benefits to him.

His gaze suddenly stopped below the stone staircase up ahead of this great hall. An enormous crystal coffin unexpectedly laid there.....

Qing Shui didn't notice it until now. He felt odd about his sudden discovery. Who actually laid within this crystal coffin in such a splendid and majestic palace?

Chapter 593 The Fifth Portrait of Beauty, The Exceptionally Beautiful Face Within The Crystal Coffin

Qing Shui looked around and realized that there was nothing else in here. The Treasure Map in his hand had already vanished the moment he entered this palace. This was a clear indication that the location on the Treasure Map was here.

He then shifted his gaze towards the palace wall of the east side. It turned out that his view had been obstructed by the crystal pillars of this palace earlier. This wall was different than the wall on the west side. The drawings were directly painted on the west wall, but on the east wall, a painting drawn on Beast Parchment was suspended on the wall.

There was not only a beast in the painting but also a person. Qing Shui was surprised earlier to see a familiar painting on the wall, it was similar to the Portraits of Beauty that were suspended in his Realm of Violet Jade Immortal.

The fifth Portrait of Beauty!

Qing Shui looked at this painting. The lady in this painting had a beauty that could topple kingdoms. She had beautiful dark eyebrows, a pair of gorgeous deep eyes and an imposing beauty that could subdue someone. The lady in the painting also looked as if she was in midair.

Canghai Mingyue!

Qing Shui only came back to his senses after a long time. Although he had always suspected that Canghai Mingyue was one of the ladies from the Portraits of Beauty, he still got pretty excited and emotional when he confirmed it with his own eyes.

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Qing Shui shifted his gaze onto the other painting. It was an old man who looked like a sage. His white clothes were whiter than snow. On top of that, his hair was snow white and he had a long snowy white beard. His appearance was surprisingly tidy.

There was neither a description nor an introduction. The old man in the painting appeared to be in a deep thought. After gazing for awhile and not making any discoveries, Qing Shui shifted his gaze to the other painting beside it.

This time, it was a painting of a strong-looking middle aged man who was fully dressed in battle armor. He had a pair of thick eyebrows, large eyes, and a straight nose. His lips formed a tight straight line, showing his unyielding determination. His dark armor brought out his grim aura.

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Qing Shui gradually looked upwards. The more he looked, the more all this collection of paintings appeared to be like a family tree.....

The series of paintings clearly conveyed the family's dismal decline over the ages. The Portrait of Beauty that was suspended at the most bottom part stood out.

Qing Shui didn't take that Portrait of Beauty but he instead slowly made his way towards the crystal coffin. He felt that the gorgeous crystal coffin was a little strange in this extremely spacious and empty great hall.

He suddenly recalled the question he had asked the old turtle. He had asked it if it needed any help and the old turtle had actually nodded its head.

The crystal coffin was about three meters long, two meters wide and one meter high. Colors were reflected on it, but it wasn't transparent. Most importantly, the crystal coffin was not covered.

He approached the crystal coffin curiously. Qing Shui had killed quite a number of people so he wasn't afraid that there would be a dead person in the crystal coffin. Besides, a dead body lying in a coffin was nothing out of the ordinary. However, he had a lot of questions in his head. For example, what was this place? Who were the people in the paintings? What did the old turtle need help with.....?

Qing Shui was flabbergasted when he saw what was inside the crystal coffin. It wasn't the sinister-looking skeleton nor the horribly mangled dead body he imagined, although it was a person as expected.

It was a divine-looking woman!

Her eyes were shut, her hair was worn in a high bun. She had a pair of gentle looking and beautiful eyebrows. Although she didn't wear any cosmetics on her delicate face, she was still a beautiful woman that looked like a slumbering goddess.

Not even her snow white simple clothes could conceal the fine curves of her unusually beautiful body. Her shoulders were chiseled, the curves in front of her chest were extremely gorgeous, her soft waist was like flowing white silk. Her slender and exquisite figure was like a jade sculpture sculpted by God. Her delicate exposed bare feet glowed with radiance...

Even when she was laid there with her eyes shut, she still exuded an aura so holy to the point of causing one to feel blasphemous when staring at her. This was the most distant woman that Qing Shui had ever seen. It wasn't because of her coldness, but because of the pride and aloofness that came from her very soul.

Her expression was very tranquil, but Qing Shui didn't believe that she was a dead person. He reached out and put his hand on the wrist of this exceptionally beautiful woman. Her wrist was smooth and silky but also a little cold.

A wave of bone-chilling icy cold qi entered Qing Shui's body through his arm. But he quickly expelled it with and Nature Energy.

He then placed his gaze on the woman's chest. There was a silver chain around her slender and fair neck that reached in between those fine breasts, concealed underneath her clothes. Qing Shui was pretty sure that it was something precious because he could feel the strong soul-cleansing qi that it exuded.

He hesitated for a while before reaching out to touch her breasts that were soft and perky. Then he felt something about the size of a pigeon egg wedged in between those wonderful breasts. The numbing pleasure he could feel in his hands caused him to very quickly retract his arms as he realized that his heart was beating very fast.....

In the end, Qing Shui had confirmed that the woman was not dead. She had only been sealed with the help of this crystal coffin and the 'divine stone' around her neck. The woman had been poisoned by a type of strong yin poison, which was also a cold poison.

Qing Shui hesitated for a moment but didn't take any action because he knew that it was unlikely he could do anything about it right now. Any minor slip up could cost him his life. It wasn't a risk that he would take on.

Perhaps he would be able to save her when he had grown stronger. But then again, he also had second thoughts. Why should he save her? He took another look at the woman before he rose up and walked to the east side to take the Portrait of Beauty away.

When he left the palace, he saw that the gigantic old turtle was still outside. Qing Shui hesitated for a moment before telling it, "I am not powerful enough right now. I shall return here again to save her in the future!"

The old turtle was very calm when he heard Qing Shui's words. It spat out a silvery white pearl about the size of a walnut from its mouth. It slowly floated in front of Qing Shui.

Qing Shui was very skeptical, but he still reached out to accept it. He then glanced at the old turtle who was already retreating. Qing Shui didn't know where it was going, but it seemed to be going upwards. Then he saw a layer faint glow separating the water around him. He did some experiments and discovered that as long as he exerted enough force, he could exit from the waterless globe around him. As soon as he went out of the waterless space, he was back into the water. But very soon enough the water around him retreated again, forming a waterless globe of about two meters radius around him.

He looked at the pearl in his hands!

It was a Water Repelling Pearl!

Qing Shui didn't expect this thing to be something so magical; it could actually repel water. Why did the old turtle give him a Water Repelling Pearl? Was it for the convenience of his next visit in the future or did it just simply wanted to give it to him.....

He rushed out of the water and discovered that he was still in that lake. He had no idea if his treasure hunt this time was a mistake, but at least he found a Portrait of Beauty and most importantly, it was of Canghai Mingyue.

As for that woman in the crystal coffin, Qing Shui planned to only think about her when the time came. He felt that he was being influenced by the old turtle to save her, but he was not going to do something as idiotic as risking his life to save a stranger's life.

He climbed onto Fire Bird and soared towards the precipice above them!

Fire Bird soared into the air very quickly. Its speed was particularly fast when it ascended. They immediately took a shortcut home with their fastest speed as they flew at a low altitude. Qing Shui kept thinking about the crystal coffin and that old turtle.

That place was the location on the treasure map. Was the crystal coffin the treasure or that woman?

Could she be one of the women from the Portraits of Beauty?

Qing Shui didn't have a single doubt on that woman's quality. She wasn't in the least bit inferior to any woman, including Di Chen, Yiye Jiange, and Canghai Mingyue, even when she was just lying there with her eyes closed.

He also thought that the woman seemed to be a very, very powerful person. Even he himself wondered why he felt that way. But he knew that his feeling was very accurate because it was what he had felt with his spiritual sense.

The speed of his return journey was much shorter compared to when he came since he was familiar with the return route. When he came, he had to search every mountain range from north to south. That caused his journey to Flowerfruit Mountain to be a few times longer than his return journey.

It only took him about twenty days to exit the Flowerfruit Mountain at top speed. Qing Shui instantly felt a great relief in his heart after he exited the area. He then hurried towards the Qing Residence with full speed.

It had been nearly half a year since he left the Qing Clan. He had no idea if the two elders from the Residence of Sky Tyrant Lord had already returned. He hoped that they'd behave. Although he longed for their assistance, he wouldn't allow them to have even the slightest bit of ill intention.

At night, Qing Shui entered the Realm of Violet Jade Immortal with the Fire Bird!

Over the past six months, only two Crystal Lions produced two crystals. Then there were the Demon Binding Ropes and Defying Dragon Tendon. Qing Shui would free up some time anytime to refine them every day, just like he did with the Soulshake Bell.

He nurtured the Blackjade Poisonous Spiderweb with poison as usual. Only when he didn't have enough toxic materials would he use the crystals produced by the Crystal Lions.

Cultivation, refining, and refining demons..... The time in the Realm of Violet Jade Immortal ticked away. He had some food in between and took a look at the things around the realm.

Those little flame-like grasses that were only a little more than two inches had now grown a little taller. But he had no idea when they would mature. A flower bud was seen at their tip, making Qing Shui wonder if these little flame-like grasses were going to bloom flowers.

“They can actually bear flowers and fruits with their tiny size?”

He safely arrived at the Greencloud Continent’s capital in a month and a half without any accidents and quickly made a beeline to the Qing Clan.

When he saw those perfectly undamaged pavilions and buildings, he let out a breath of complete relief. He only stopped worrying after seeing the moving figures of the Qing Clan from midair.

Screech!

Qing Shui put the Fire Bird back into the realm after he slowly landed in the front yard of the Qing Residence. At that moment, he heard the heavy running footsteps coming towards him.

The Diamond Gigantic Elephant came running from a distance. It had been more than seven months since it last saw him. It circled around Qing Shui in happiness and kept rubbing its gigantic head against him.

Chapter 594 - Dew of the Raining Star Flower, No worries for the future

Qing Shui stretched his hands and patted the Diamond Gigantic Elephant, feeling very happy in his heart. Maybe because they heard some movements but there were people coming out after a short while.

“Brother Shui, you have returned!” Qing Bei, who came out first, saw Qing Shui and happily ran over.

“Xiao Bei, there were no problems at home right?” Qing Shui watched Qing Bei hug his arm without and restraint, just like when she was young. This caused Qing Shui to feel that he had stolen Qing Hu’s place.

“There were no problems, but there are many visitors. The two elders you mentioned the last time have brought their families here for more than a month already.”

“Oh, that’s good!”

“Father!”

.....

Qing Zun and Qing Yin were almost two years old and they seem bigger than when before he left. Qing Shui had not seen them for more than seven months, he had missed them.

He carried one in each of his hands and kissed both their rosy cheeks, causing the two young fellows to laugh without stop.

Canghai Mingyue, Huoyun Liu-Li, and the others came out as well. Canghai Mingyue had to watch over the two kids, although they did not end up in any trouble, she was worried that they might bump into things.....

Qing Yi was chatting with the two women as they walked out. At that moment, Qing Shui noticed the lady wearing a veil, he could recognize that she was the icy lady he met at Flowerfruit Mountain.

Then he shifted his gaze to the woman beside her, who was also dressed in a deep blue dress. She was mature, demure, elegant and poised. She had a astounding figure and she gave off an air that could cause men to go be crazy.

“You must be Qing Shui!” The woman’s voice was pleasing and had an attractive quality to it, it was a pleasure just to listen to her voice.

Qing Shui’s expression did not change a single bit, however, on the inside, he was incomparably shocked. Qing Shui had discovered that the strength of this woman felt exceptionally terrifying, even Qianyu Dingjun and Nian Feng’s grandfather seem to be inferior to her.

“You are?” Qing Shui did not reply to her but instead looked suspiciously at this woman who could definitely be classified as an absolute beauty. There were many individuals in the World of the Nine Continents, naturally, there would be no lack of beautiful women. However, women with her looks and temperament were hard to find.

“I am Yu Ruyan, of the Central Continent. Thank you for saving my daughter, as well as saving me. I am here today to thank you.” The woman maintained a faint and light smile on her face. With one look, she could tell that Qing Shui has many merits. After staying in the Qing Clan, she now knew that the young man known as Qing Shui was the soul of the Qing Clan and also knew quite a lot of things about him.

The woman’s words made Qing Shui feel astonished, although he had vaguely guessed it, but when he heard it with his own ears, it still seemed hard to believe. This woman was actually the mother of the icy lady, furthermore, she was still so young.....

“So it was elder, there was not much effort involved. If you did not mention it, I would have forgotten about it.” Qing Shui hurriedly smiled and said.

“Sister, you have such a good son.” Yu Ruyan smiled at Qing Yi.

Yu Ruyan’s address caused Qing Shui to be petrified for a while, then he looked that that icy lady wearing the veil. He realized that the eyes that were exposed were looking curiously at Qing Shui, it was a clear and chilly look.

“Mother, what is going on?” Qing Shui looked at Qing Yi bewilderedly.

“We feel that our two families hit it off quite well, thus we decided to address each other as sisters. This is just how we address each other, you can call me by my name or you can address me as Aunt Yun.” Yun Ruyan answered on Qing Yi’s behalf when she saw that Qing Yi seemed to be at a lost for words.

“Oh, Yu Ruyan right, I know that you are very strong. However, I do not like you, do you understand what I mean??” Qing Shui said after he frowned and hesitated for a while.

Qing Shui’s words caused many people to feel that it was inconceivable, even Duanmu Lingshuang and especially Yu Ruyan. It had been many years since someone had said something like that to her.

“Qing Shui.....” Qing Yi felt that she might have done something wrong and looked guiltily at Qing Shui. Her son already had a lot of worries to deal with already, yet she gave him some additional problems.

“Mother, it’s fine, I just do not want you to get cheated.” Qing Shui smiled at Qing Yi.

Qing Yi actually wanted to know why too. This woman, who could cause a Grade Four Martial Saint be fearful of and be deferential to her, said that she hit it off with her. Who would believe that? However, she knew that her son had saved them before, thus they said that they hit it off, they had made it clear that they were here because of her son.

“Sir Qing, can I say a few words.” Yu Ruyan’s expression did not have too great a change.

“We did not come with any bad intentions, the kindness that sire has shown to my Duanmu Clan is something that we can never repay. I can tell they Sir Qing is a person that will never forget the kindness shown to him. I, Yu Ruyan, am also the same. Take it as me coming here with a sincere heart. I have no other motive for addressing your mother as a sister. I have very little friends, or to rephrase this, I do not have many close friends, however, I will treat your mother as one of my best friends. However, the matter of you saving me cannot be overlooked. I would admit that without you as the middleman, I would not be here today. Everything that happens, happens for a reason. I wonder if Sir Qing would be able to forgive this little lady for this offense.....”

Qing Shui never thought that with her status, she would be able to say such words, he could not help but smile and said “Forgiveness does not matter, I have never expected any repayments from you. Even if the person I want to save was an ordinary person, I would still help them. Even if a person I did not want to save is extremely wealthy or someone that has a lot of prestige, I would not even save them no matter what.”

“I know, but you cannot just ignore the good will of the person you saved!”

Duanmu Lingshuang stood at a side and frowned at this unreasonable man. Why did her mother have to put up with such a person, although you saved her, you can’t behave like this.....

“Qing Shui, Lady Duanmu does not have any malicious intents.”

At this moment, an old man wearing silk clothes with white hair and a beard walked in, smiling at Qing Shui.

“Nian Lao? When did you get here?” Qing Shui quickly smiled and welcomed him.

“He came at the same time as Ba Donghe!” Yu Ruyan smiled as she told him. It was better that she spoke of this matter rather than Nian Feng’s grandfather himself.

“Many thanks, Nian Lao!” Qing Shui bowed respectfully to him. When he was fighting with Ba Donghe, he felt that there was something weird nearby. Now, he knew why.

Qing Shui was not stupid, this sentence from Yu Ruyan allowed Qing Shui to understand everything. Qing Shui was very grateful to Nian Lao in his heart.

“There is no need to be courteous since I promised you the last time. I would of course do it, unless I lacked the strength.” Nian Lao happily smiled and walked to Yu Ruyan’s side with Qing Shui.

“Qing Shui, Lady Duanmu has no malicious intents. I know her personality very well, many of the people in the Central Continent knows it as well. She is a person that will never forget any kindness shown to her. You saved her life once, you can put down all the worries you have.” Nian Lao smiled at Qing Shui.

"I know that she does not have any malicious intents, a small character like me and the Qing Clan would not even enter her eyes. Just that, I don't like this feeling." Qing Shui laughed at himself.

"Is Sir Qing still angry at me?" Yu Ruyan looked at this youth then looked at her daughter beside her.

"No, it is just me being small-minded, sorry." Qing Shui laughed. Actually, Qing Shui was not angry, he just did not like being pitied by these big clans. Qing Shui felt that Yu Ruyan was pitying the Qing Clan.

From her words, you could tell what kind of person Yu Ruyan was, she had not expected this man to be so sensitive, to the point when it seemed like he was petty!

Actually, there were no problems, with the appearance of Nian Lao, the matter got resolved in an even more peaceful manner. Qing Shui smiled at Qing Yi and said "Mother, sorry, I caused you to be trapped in the middle."

"You smelly brat, you scared me." Qing Yi smiled as she rubbed Qing Shui's head, then everyone headed towards the biggest living room in the Qing Clan.

"Thank you!"

While they were walking, Duanmu Lingshuang turned her head and said to Qing Shui, who was not far away.

"I never thought that you would return, do you still remember the promise you made?" Qing Shui teased her.

Duanmu Lingshuang was surprised. She then thought about the situation in Flowerfruit Mountain. Although the time they spent interacting with each other was short, but she would not forget that promise for as long as she lived.

"Weren't you just joking?" Duanmu Lingshuang said unnaturally.

"Lingshuang, what did you promised? The promises you made should be fulfilled." Yu Ruyan smiled, looking at Duanmu Lingshuang and Qing Shui.

"Nothing....." Duanmu Lingshuang eyes were flustered, then she gave Qing Shui a complex look.

"I was just joking with her, she said she would give me the big bird that she rode on." Qing Shui said playfully.

"That could be given to you." Yu Ruyan smiled as she walked.

"Oh, I was just joking, I have one already, I just did not expect the young miss to be so petty, and could not bear to give it up." Qing Shui said clearly as he carried Qing Yin, who had run over.

Duanmu Lingshuang was speechless and could only remain quiet, as long as Qing Shui did not speak of that matter, then it would be fine. Actually, she did not know that even if she wanted to say it, Qing Shui would not be willing to. He had decided not to get involved with any more women.

After they entered the great hall, Yu Ruyan took out a bottle the size of a baby's fist "This if for you, consider it a token of my appreciation."

Qing Shui felt that the other people of the Qing Clan had probably already accepted her gifts. He suspiciously looked at that bottle and asked "What does this do?"

"Take it, Qing Shui. This is the 'Dew of the Raining Star Flower', it can clear the spirit, cleanse the bones and marrows, and strengthen blood vessels.

Qing Shui smiled as he received it. Regardless of the situation, this was a token of their appreciation. Furthermore, this woman was very strong and she addressed his mother as a sister. When put this way, it would cause anyone who wanted to take actions against the Qing Clan to have misgivings.

"Thank you!"

Qing Shui could not bring himself to call her Aunt Yu, neither did he have the intentions to. She seemed so young, it would feel weird to call her that. In his past life, Qing Shui was not good at flattery or currying favor with someone, it was still the same now.

The two Martial Saints from the Residence of the Sky Tyrant Lord had also arrived. Qing Shui respectfully gave them a bow "In the future, the Qing Clan will have to rely on you two elders."

The two Martial Saints quickly returned his greetings "As long as we are alive, we will not let harm befall the Qing Clan."

Of the two old men, one was called Wu Chengyi, the other was called Hong Luansong. They were both Grade Four Martial Saints, but they were still a distance away from the Great Perfection Stage.

At the same time, Qing Shui also noticed that Wu Chengyi and Hong Luansong had a respectful expression when they saw Yu Ruyan, his felt relief in his heart.

Now that Qing Shui was back, the two Martial Saints had already brought their families here for a month, and explained everything to him. Qing Shui let loose a sigh of relief, now there were two more Martial Saints protecting the clan.

Three days later, Yu Ruyan and Duanmu Lingshuang left. In these three days, Qing Shui barely interacted with them. He would only interact with them when there was a meal together and everyone chatted.

However, they knew that Qing Shui would be heading towards the Central Continent very soon, they repeatedly reminded Qing Shui to visit the Duanmu Clan after he arrived in the Central Continent!

"Nian Lao, are you leaving as well? How about you leave after the end of the year? Then we can go together." After a few more days, Nian Lao wanted to return to the Central Continent but Qing Shui tried to get him to stay.

Qing Shui felt particularly grateful to this old man. Although he did not make a move but he did not reveal the things he did for Qing Shui. If Yu Ruyan did not see it, then he probably would not have known that he have been helping him from the dark.

"I left my clan for about half a year already, it is time to go back. When you come to the Central Continent, we can meet again." Nian Lao said in a straightforward manner.

Qing Shui saw that he was determined, thus he rode his Fire Bird to see him off. They flew a few thousand miles away before he stopped, then watched as the golden rosefinch disappeared into the horizon.

After he arrived back, half the morning had already passed. Qing Shui and the two Martial Saints, Elder Wu and Elder Hong, went to the secret chambers. Qing Shui was used to calling them elders.

He first gave each of them a Small Revitalizing Pellet. The strength of the two elders were about 700 countries, but that didn't include their techniques. At first, Qing Shui thought that the higher the cultivation, the stronger the pill. This thought was indeed correct, but there was a limit. A King Grade medicinal pill could only increase one's strength by a maximum of five countries.

Chapter 595 - Fifth stage of the Heavenly Dan, communication between Dantians, Explosive increase in strength

After the time it took for an incense to burn, the two elders opened their eyes and looked at Qing Shui with shock. They had not taken this kind of medicinal pills to increase their strength for a long time because they were resistant to medicinal pills. There were very few King Grade medicinal pills that could help them increase their strength. Furthermore, these pills would only increase their strength by one country, proving that this was only a Grade One King Grade Medicinal Pill.

Grade One and Two King Grade Medicinal Pills could increase a Martial Saint's strength by a maximum of one country. Grade Three and Four King Grade Medicinal Pills could increase a Martial Saint's strength by a maximum of two countries.....

Grade Nine and Ten King Grade Medicinal Pills could increase a Martial Saint's strength by a maximum of five countries!

Qing Shui directly gave them a portion of the other medicinal pills. Since they had already become one family, Qing Shui would not be stingy. Furthermore, them growing stronger was in the interest of Qing Shui, only when the Qing Clan had a solid strength could Qing Shui leave without any worries.

Inside the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal.

Qing Shui was cultivating the Ancient Strengthening Technique. Currently, his progress has slowed down but he had broken through to the 240th cycle. His body's strength has reached 125 countries and his body's defense had reached 155 countries.

Just when Qing Shui was about to stop, he suddenly felt the Heavenly Dan near his Zhongfu acupoint circulate rapidly. Furthermore, it was releasing an eye-catching golden light.

Qing Shui suddenly felt excited. However, he did not know where this excitement came from. The Heavenly Dan that had not broken through in a long time looked like it was about to break through now.

Just an increase in level would bring him an increase of 100 thousand jins of strength. Qing Shui did not know where this excitement came from, perhaps it could be because the Heavenly Dan had not broken through in a long time.

Pu!

In an instant, the Heavenly Dan near his Zhongfu acupoint grew larger by a third. Qing Shui could feel his strength increase by about 100 thousand jins. After his joy, there was some disappointment. After all, to the current Qing Shui, 100 thousand jins of strength was only a pitiful increase.

Qing Shui was just about to stop again. However, at this moment, he felt that the Heavenly Dan released another round of golden light. It seemed even more lustrous than before. Meanwhile, the golden liquid in his Dantian gave off a piercing glow.

The following events cause Qing Shui to open his eyes wide and gasped in shock. The upper Dantian and the lower Dantian gave off a round of golden light then they connected to each other. At that moment, Qing Shui felt an explosive strength fill his body. It seemed that his whole body was undergoing a great change.

Qing Shui was elated, at first he thought that it would be very difficult to raise his strength significantly in such a short time. Unexpectedly, he had gained a rapid increase in strength. There was nothing else that could make Qing Shui happier than this.

He felt a surging strength fill his body. Now, his bodily strength reached 185 countries and his defense reached 300 countries.....

Qing Shui was stunned. For a period of time, he was pleasantly surprised but he did not know what was going on. After thinking for a long time, he realized what had happened.

Heavenly Dan!

After the Heavenly Dan rose to the fifth level, not only did it add 100 thousand jins of strength, it even permanently increased the body's strength by 50% and the body's defense by 100%.

It was a ridiculously strong increase!

In the past, Qing Shui felt that this Heavenly Dan should have a great potential, just that after he got stronger it became something of little interest. If he did not have the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal, he would have considered abandoning the cultivation of the Heavenly Dan after a while.

With this, Heavenly Dan could be considered to have lived up to its name. Although his abilities did not increase by a fold, he still felt that the tenth level of the Heavenly Day might be able to raise his abilities by a fold. Furthermore, the Heavenly Dan now increased his defense by a fold, causing the strength of Qing Shui's body to be strengthened to a perverse level.

Because of the effects of Diamond Qi and Diamond Protection, Qing Shui did not have to circulate any other techniques to raise his body's strength to 370 countries and his defense to a terrifying 600 countries.....

Nature Energy! Increase in abilities by 30%.

State of Immovable as Mountains! Increase in abilities by 20%.

Frenzied Bull's Strength! Increase in abilities by 30%.

Heavenly Thunder Slash! Increase in strength by 30%.

Shield Attack! Increase in strength by 20%.

.....

With his bare hands and without any external aid, Qing Shui had the strength of 610 countries and the defense of 840 countries.....

If he accounted for the effects of the Violet Gold Divine Shield and the Big Dipper Sword, as well as the Heavenly Talismans, Qing Shui felt as though he was the mincemeat in a meat pie. An attack with the strength of 962 countries.....

This way, Qing Shui's abilities allowed him to reach the strength equivalent to a peak Grade Five Martial Saint. Although this was Qing Shui's peak strength, he still had many other trump cards. Not to mention Critical Damage, the heaven-defying Emperor's Qi would be a nightmare for every Martial Saint. Now, even if he met with another martial saint of the same grade as him, he could reduce the opponent's grade by one if he used the Emperor's Qi..... if he added on the Art of Pursuing, Binding Talisman, Armor Break Talisman, Blackjade Poisonous Spiderweb, and the Demon Binding Ropes.....

Qing Shui felt that his future path was broad and smooth, like he was in the seventh heaven. However, Qing Shui knew that this time, regardless of the method, he would not be able to rapidly increase his strength in such a short period of time again. He felt that his strength had reached a state of saturation, just like before he broke through to the Martial Saint Realm.

Grade 5 Martial Saint was a pitfall on the road of cultivation, this was what Qing Shui saw on 'Legends of martial cultivation in the Main Continent'. Although rising from Grade Five Martial Saint to Grade Six Martial Saint was not as difficult as breaking through to Martial Saint, it was still a big pitfall within the realm of Martial Saint. It was much more difficult than breaking through from Grade One Martial Saint to Grade Five Martial Saint combined.

Every increase of 1000 countries was a pitfall, each ability of the body would reach a bottleneck, achieving saturation. However, Qing Shui was filled with hope because of the existence of the Heavenly Dan, it allowed Qing Shui to see that his future path would be very smooth.

Time went by day by day. Very soon it would be the end of the year, the celebrations of Greencloud Continent City was more lively than the celebrations of the Qing Clan Villa. There were big red lanterns hung on every tree on both sides of the road, they were present on every major street.

As most people had been busy for the whole year, when it was time for the new year, they would prepare good food, new clothes and give the children some money.....

There would be a festive air everywhere, every family would be decorated with lanterns and colored banners. Regardless of whether they were rich or poor, every family would be decorated in a festive manner.

"Qing Shui, let's go out and take a look. I hear that there is a new street, they specialized in selling snacks, how about we go check it out?" Huoyun Liu-Li said to Qing Shui as she carried Qing Zun.

"Sure, let's get them to come with us." Qing Shui's mood was particularly good today.

Finally, Qing Shui, Huoyun Liu-Li, Canghai Mingyue, Mingyue Gelou, Wenren Wu-shuang, Qing Bei, Qing You, Qing Hu..... Qing Shui did not expect so many people would gather at such short notice, he felt that it was good.

“Brother Shui, Qing You has found a girlfriend but he would not show her to us. Will you get him to bring her home for everyone to see?” When they just passed the gate, Qing Bei suddenly remembered and said to Qing Shui.

“Qing Bei, do you think brother Qing Shui is nosy like you.” Qing You laughed.

Qing Shui looked at Qing You. He was tall and mighty, in the Qing Clan, he was one of the stronger ones. He may look very simple minded but he was actually very sharp.

Qing Shui now suddenly realized that the third generation of the Qing Clan were no longer young, even he was already 28 years old. He had met Luan Luan when she was about 3 years old, now she was about to undergo her coming of age ceremony.

“Qing You, if you really like her then bring her back for uncle and the rest to see.” Qing Shui laughed and said. After all, he was no longer young, bringing her back could be considered as confirming their relationship.

“Brother Qing Shui, actually, she agrees too, just that her family objects to it. Her family wants to marry her to a big clan and not to a nobody like me.” Qing You said helplessly.

“Are you silly, within the Greencloud Continent, is there any clan bigger than ours? When the crucial moment is here, the beauty would be taken away, you will cry yourself to death then.” Qing Shui smiled at Qing You.

“En, I will listen to brother Qing Shui, after the new years, I will bring her home.” Qing You laughed, looking especially silly.....

“Brother Qing You.....”

After they left for a short distance, a sixteen or seventeen-year-old girl came running over. The girl was dressed loosely in a warrior’s uniform. Her facial features were exquisite and her eyes were especially huge. A ponytail gave her an air of youthfulness, this was a small beauty that would not compromise.

When she saw Qing You, she anxiously shouted, her eyes were full of tears.

“Chao Yun, don’t panic, what happened?” Qing You felt very anxious in his heart, Chao Yun was the younger sister of his girlfriend. Qing You had told her his address and told her to find him if anything happened. Now that she was here today, then her sister must be in trouble.

“Elder sister was taken away by Ximen Langyuan.”

Qing You opened his eyes wide instantly then turned to look at Qing Shui “Brother Qing Shui, you guys go on first, I’ll go take a look.”

Qing You was very calm when he spoke but Qing Shui knew that he was just enduring it.

“What are you saying, I’ll go with you!” Qing Shui patted Qing You’s shoulders.

“Qing Shui, quickly go accompany Qing You, there is no need to bother about us.” Huoyun Liu-Li quickly said.

Qing Shui nodded his head and summoned the Fire Bird, Qing You and Chao Yun hurriedly climbed onto Qing Shui’s Fire Bird and flew towards the Ximen Clan. Qing Shui had some understanding about the Ximen Clan.

Although the Ximen Clan was a first rate clan within the Greencloud Continent, it was not able to be compared to a sect like the Heavenly Palace but they were of equal standing as the other big clans from the other countries of the Greencloud Continent.

All these happened because the Qing Clan was very low profiled, everyone knew about the existence of the Qing Clan but they did not know these were the people of the Qing Clan, that’s why Qing You’s situation occurred.

“Chao Yun, how long has Chao Yang had been taken away for?” Qing You asked anxiously.

“After elder sister was taken onto their carriage, I came over in a hurry. They probably have already arrived home.” Chao Yun frowned anxiously.

Qing Shui got the Fire Bird to increase its speed. At the same time, he got Qing You and the small girl to sit down. Qing Shui now did not know how he felt, he originally thought that within the Greencloud Continent, it would be very difficult to get him to take action personally. After all, no one would dare to antagonize the Qing Clan. However, he did not expect that such a thing would happen. If they knew about the relationship between Qing You and that girl and knew that Qing You was from the Qing Clan, the Ximen Clan would not dare to do such a thing.....

The Ximen Clan was located at the edge of Greencloud Continent City, right next to the Xiling Country. The Fire Bird, which was flying at its limits, quickly arrived. It was a good thing that it was not far and the Fire Bird had a very fast speed.

“Don’t worry Qing You, It will be fine.” Qing Shui consoled Qing You.

“En, with brother Qing Shui here, everything can be solved.” Qing You forced a smile.

Ming!

Ming!

When the Fire Bird neared to the Ximen Clan, it began to let out resounding bird cries. Qing Shui got the Fire Bird to directly stop in the airspace of the Ximen Clan.

The Ximen Clan was a very wealthy clan, the area that their villa occupied was huge, there was the sight of splendid and majestic mansions everywhere. The pavilion was very orderly, there were lots of people traveling around.....

“Ximen Langyuan, listen well, if the woman you captured is wronged in any way, then I will completely pull out and destroy the Ximen Clan from its roots.” Qing Shui’s voice was not loud but it clearly transmitted to everyone one’s ears within five kilometers.

There were plenty of people below, when they saw a huge red bird in the sky and heard the words the man on the Fire Bird said, they panicked.

“This person thinks he is so great just because he had a big bird, the Ximen Clan should not be provoked.”

“Young master Ximen has created trouble again, I have said long ago that the Ximen Clan will be destroyed at the hands of this young master.” A woman said to herself.

“Who are you people, how reckless, this is the Ximen Clan.....” A burly man roared at the sky.

The man was coarse and wild. His eyebrows were bushy and he had triangular eyes, his nose was pointed up and he had a big mouth. Altogether, he was ugly to the soul.

Ming!

The Fire Bird directly shot a big jet black fireball at that man!

Chapter 596 - Forced, Another New Year, The Brilliant Fireworks

Screech!

Fire Bird spat out a fireball as black as the night sky towards that man’s direction!

This man was trying to show his bravery and loyalty towards the Ximen Clan, but he was at the wrong place at the wrong time.

Boom!

A loud explosion rang out, but there was no screaming to be heard. The man had turned into ashes instantly after being hit by the fireball. After the explosion, the remains of the black flame from the fireball were scattered everywhere, which had set a house nearby on fire. Within a few seconds, the house was completely burnt down into dark sooty ashes.

The crowd, having witnessed the entire scene, was reduced to silence. More people were beginning to swamp the area to see what was going on in this part of the street. They also came to see Qing Shui because they heard his voice earlier before the explosion had happened.

There was a commotion of old and young people flocking around the front courtyard to get an idea who caused the explosion. These people were initially furious because of the damages the explosion had caused to the nearby area, but when they saw Qing Shui riding on his giant Fire Bird in mid-air, their faces immediately turned bitter.

“I am Ximen Jian, I was wondering why you, sir, are...”

“Escort Ximen Langyuan out from this building. Your Ximen Clan should know its place by now. If the woman you brought back today was hurt by even a strand of hair, I will be forced to handle this situation in a brutal way.” Qing Shui interrupted the old man’s questioning in a calm manner.

“Quickly go fetch your bastard son and bring him here. That good-for-nothing scumbag.” The old man shouted at a middle-aged man impatiently. He knew that Qing Shui stood at the pinnacle of the

Greencloud Continent and that his existence meant the potential deadly power he could unleash to his Ximen Clan.

“Yes, yes!” The middle-aged man replied nervously as he hurried his way to fetch his bastard son.

“Chaoyang, look at this first. I will pleasure you well later.” Inside a double-storey brothel adorned with various majestic decorations, a moderately handsome young man was passionately fondling a woman’s supple breasts with his hands. Meanwhile, a beautiful young woman was tied up in a purple wooden chair at the other side.

The bodylicious woman allowed the young man to fondle her breasts however he pleased while she moaned loudly in exaggeration. But when a loud voice rang out from the outside, she squinted her eyes at the young man and said: “Young master Ximen, someone is looking for their debt payments from you.”

“This place belongs to the Ximen Clan. Whoever comes here to look for trouble, they will soon become a dead person with no corpse.” The young man had a shrewd smile plastered on his face. He continued fondling the woman’s breasts intensely, seemingly showing no concern towards the commotion outside the room.

“Did you hear that? Someone is demanding the Ximen Clan to drag you out.” The woman wanted the young man to stop fondling her, but she couldn’t resist.

“There are many who want to drag me out, but here I am, still inside this room.” The young man gave a perverted laugh as he removed the woman’s clothes one piece at a time.

The young woman tied to the chair closed her eyes as her face turned pale. The young man shot a few glances towards her and then proceeded to remove the bodylicious woman’s clothes completely. Her stark naked figure in contrast with her supple bouncy breasts was captivating and mesmerizing.

Bang!

Suddenly, the door was slammed open in a violent motion by a middle-aged man as he stormed into the room looking enraged. When he saw what had transpired, he grew increasingly furious and shouted: “You bastard, all you ever know is how to play with women all day and night. Even when your life’s in danger, you still have no intention of repentance.”

As soon as the middle-aged man barged into the room, he immediately hurled all kinds of curses and slurs towards the young man. Then he went over to the naked woman and slapped her across the face. The woman tumbled to the ground as she gasped in shock. She laid motionlessly on the ground, seemingly to have fainted from the impact of the slap. After the naked woman had stopped moving, the middle-aged man then turned his focus to the young woman who was tied up in the chair.

“My apologies. This stupid kid must have been blind to try and mess with you. I offer you my apologies because I did not teach my son the manners and respect of a gentleman. I hope you will help say a few good words about him on behalf of the Ximen Clan. You will have my deepest gratitude for that, and I will personally go to the Shen Clan to express my sincere apology and appreciation.”

“Father, what has gotten into you? I was just playing with a woman.....”

“Slap!”

“Shut your mouth if you don’t wish to die!” The middle-aged man interrupted and slapped the young man aggressively on the face. The slap was so strong that blood was streaming down from the corner of the young man’s mouth.

“Miss, I will get rid of him from your life. He will not bother you anymore. However, I beg of you to please spare his life. The middle-aged man lowered his voice as he begged Shen Chaoyang.

Shen Chaoyang was at a loss for words. She was mentally prepared to commit suicide as soon as the young man intended to touch her. But with such a turn of events like this, she felt as if she had woken up from a weary nightmare.

Her initial guess was that someone had come to save her, and that ‘someone’ might have been a person of high authority or at least stronger than Ximen Clan. Otherwise, the Ximen Clan would not be as frightful for their lives and treat their son like that. However, the Ximen Clan was not a family that one could provoke and expect no repercussions. If one were to help her family escape from the Ximen Clan, Ximen Clan would most certainly take vengeance on that person...

She nodded her head silently at the middle-aged man. Shen Chaoyang could not do anything in any case. Nevertheless, she was happy that it had turned out this way!

She walked out from the building with the middle-aged man dragging Ximen Langyuan behind him. When she looked up at the sky, Shen Chaoyang could see Qing You, Chaoyun, and a pleasant-looking young man hovering in the air on a flying beast.

“Big sis.....!” Chaoyun shouted happily when she finally saw Chaoyang walk out without harm.

Qing Shui swiftly ordered Fire Bird to fly lower near the ground, and as soon as they landed, Shen Chaoyun quickly leapt from Fire Bird’s back and hugged Shen Chaoyang in tears.

“Foolish kid, go and comfort her quickly.” Qing Shui nudged Qing You while smiling in relief.

Qing You turned to look at Qing Shui while chuckling, then he went towards the sisters and hugged them both. While on his way to hug the sisters, he shot an angry glance towards Ximen Langyuan’s direction.

“Sir, as you can see, Miss Shen was unharmed. We apologize for the trouble and will give you compensation as well. What do you think?” The old man gave a stink eye at Ximen Langyuan before he turned to look at Qing Shui with a smile.

Ximen Langyuan finally realized how much trouble he was in. He began to panic, and he was so afraid of saying the wrong words, he kept quiet and lowered his head!

“Your Ximen Clan’s precious grandson, he had the balls to kidnap our Qing family’s soon-to-be daughter-in-law. What do you think I should do?” said Qing Shui while giving an emotionless smile to the old man.

This time, Qing Shui decided to take advantage of this incident to once again show the might of the Qing Clan in the Greencloud Continent. He wanted to let everyone know that Qing Clan would not be one to be provoked easily.

Cold sweat was dripping down from the old man's face while he remained speechless. He knew that Qing Shui would use this incident to mark the end of the Ximen Clan once and for all, so he quickly thought of a way to appease the Qing Clan while trying to preserve the Ximen Clan's existence.

"Useless fool. You will be better off dead for causing such a humiliating and burdensome trouble for Ximen Clan."

The old man abruptly turned to face Ximen Langyuan and growled vehemently. With a forceful palm, he hit Ximen Langyuan right on the chest!

Clack.....

Instant death!

"Sir, the Ximen Clan had failed to teach our child in a proper way, and because of that, he had rubbed you the wrong way. We should be punished for this. This was all my fault, of course." said the old man calmly. By admitting his wrongdoings first, he might be able to prevent Qing Shui from giving out a harsh punishment towards his clan.

The middle-aged man, who was also Ximen Langyuan's father, was named Ximen Qiang. Although his son had died, the Ximen Clan would be able to be persevered and continue to exist. The decision to eliminate the young man had saved his entire clan.

Ximen Qiang turned his eyes towards Shen Chaoyang and pleaded her mercy with his expression. He hoped that she would be able to help relay a few good words about the Ximen Clan to Qing Shui, which might further secure the safety of his clan's existence.

Shen Chaoyang took note of Ximen Qiang's pleading gaze, and then turned to look at Ximen Langyuan's corpse on the ground. After a while, she turned to Qing You who stood beside her and said: "So you are a member of the Qing Clan. Why didn't you tell me this earlier?"

"I wanted to depend on my own strength to win you over....." Qing You scratched his head while being honest with Shen Chaoyang.

"You really are a fool....."

"It's fine now. I just want to avenge you for what they have done to you." Qing You was furious again when he was reminded of her kidnapping.

"Qing You, he is already dead. Plus, I am unharmed. Please ask elder brother to let them go." Shen Chaoyang said in a soft tone while looking at Qing You with a happy expression.

"This....." Qing You didn't think she would ask for mercy on behalf of the Ximen Clan. When he saw the sympathy in her eyes, he let out a helpless sigh and nodded his head.

"Brother Qing Shui, I think we should forget about it this time. Ximen Langyuan is dead already." said Qing You in an unnatural manner as he walked towards Qing Shui together with Chaoyang and Chaoyun.

Qing Shui took a glance at Shen Chaoyang, and then he turned to look at the old man who was still smiling. He wasn't willing to leave this old man alive because of his resolute cold-heartedness when he killed his own grandson without hesitation.

“Since you admit that you are the one to blame for not teaching your descendants in a proper way and that you are willing to take full responsibility, then you shall be the one to bear the consequence.” Qing Shui returned a smile to the old man as well.

“Sir, please tell me what to do. I will do my best to do it.” The old man braced himself for the worse.

“Then choose either one: You will die by your own hands, or I will do it for you!”

Qing Shui said in an assertive yet calm manner. His words shook the old man for a moment, but he recovered his composure and slowly replied: “I will do it myself!”

They knew someone important from the Ximen Clan must bear all the consequences of stirring trouble with a top clan. Ximen Langyuan was not worthy of bearing the blame despite being the culprit of the problem. However, his death was a necessary one.

.....

After the death of Ximen Jian, the rest of the members of the Ximen Clan would be busy squandering for the position of the Clan Master, or break up their family and live apart from each other. In conclusion, the Ximen Clan was destined to fall no matter what. They might even end up being devoured by larger clans. This was the reality of the ruthlessness in the World of the Nine Continents.

“Thank you elder brother!” Shen Chaoyang bowed in respect at Qing Shui.

“Thank you Brother Qing Shui!” said Shen Chaoyun delightfully as she quickly followed her sister and bowed in the same manner.

“You are welcome. We are family now. If you need to thank someone, thank your little sister. She was the one who came and told us the situation.” Qing Shui smiled at them and signaled them to get on Fire Bird.

Shen Chaoyun might seem like a small delicate girl, but she was, in fact, a bit older than Qing You. Her strength may be inferior to Qing You’s, but like him, she was also a Xiantian warrior.

Qing You had always confessed that he would like to find a ‘mature lady’ to be his wife. He was willing to be the weaker partner in the relationship, even to the point of being bullied by his potential wife. Qing Shui noticed that even though Shen Chaoyang did not have the appearance of a ‘mature lady’ that Qing You had mentioned, he felt that Qing You had actually meant that he wanted a woman who was mentally mature rather than physically mature.

“Qing You, let me send you all to the Shen Residence, how about that?” Qing Shui looked at Qing You, hinting him to settle the matter of marriage once and for all.

Qing You had an idiotic smile on his face when he realized what Qing Shui meant. He then looked at Shen Chaoyang and realized her cheeks were flushed in red. She tried to hide her face by lowering her head!

“Then Brother Qing Shui, please send us to the Shen Residence!” Qing You laughed awkwardly.

The Shen Residence was situated in between the Qing Residence and the Ximen Residence. However, the distance between the Shen Residence and the Qing Residence was a bit further apart from each

other. In a few moments, Qing You and Shen Chaoyun were pointing out the location of the Shen Residence to let Qing Shui know that they would be approaching the residence soon.

The Shen Clan was not one of the top clans in the Greencloud Continent. They could only be considered as a third-grade family clan with no ranks. Because of that, the Shen Clan had wished their eldest daughter to be married to one of the top clans in the Greencloud Continent. Not only could their eldest daughter enjoy an easy life, the Shen Clan would be able to rise in ranks as well.

The Shen Clan's manor was distinctly muted compared to the Ximen Clan's manor. Only those with martial arts background would be able to afford a grand and dignified construction work for their buildings, as well as a spacious ground space in inside and outside of the manor. Even if a wealthy merchant or a wealthy family with no martial warriors were to station around the area, they would not dare to show arrogance towards the big clans or cause any trouble because they knew how powerful these clans were based on the structure of their manors.

Everything was naturally negotiable if Qing Shui personally came forward to talk with the members of the Shen Clan. The Shen Clan had initially planned to marry off their eldest daughter to one of the big family clans in the Greencloud Continent. Luckily for Qing Clan, they have taken it upon themselves to become the number one clan in the Greencloud Continent. Moreover, Qing You was willing to marry the Shen Clan's daughter. If it weren't for Shen Chaoyang's sake, Qing You would not even consider about showing respect to the Shen Clan based on her parent's characteristics and behavior.

After everything had been settled, Qing Shui left for home while Qing You stayed at the Shen Residence for dinner. Everybody has the ambition to rise higher in society. But Qing Shui felt that parents should never use their children's happiness in exchange for anything regardless of the circumstances. It was lucky for the Shen Clan that their daughter was blessed with good fortune. And because of that, the Shen Clan was able to rise in rank due to their daughter's connection with Qing Clan.

When he got back to the residence, the ladies had already come back from the food street!

The others knew everything was fine when they saw the expression on Qing Shui's face. However, Qing Bei still insisted on asking Qing Shui about the situation, in which he gave a simple answer that comforted their minds.

"Brother Shui, does Qing You's girlfriend have a chest size as big as his?" Qing Bei giggled naughtily.

"Little Bei, careful! Qing You might kill you if he hears that!"

"Then tell me, Brother Shui, how does Qing You's girlfriend look like?" asked Qing Bei as she kept giggling over her own question.

"I can't say!"

"Then is she pretty or what?"

"She is definitely prettier than our Qing Bei, that's for sure."

Qing Bei: "....."

.....

New Years was already here in a blink of an eye. The most common scenery during New Years in the World of the Nine Continents was the colorful fireworks shimmering brightly in the night sky. It was the most beautiful scenery, especially during the first night of the New Year. Some people would spend the entire night sleepless, watching the fireworks exploding gracefully in the air.

The members of Qing Clan had also bought a lot of fireworks. Qing Shui cradled Qing Yin in his arms while Qing Yi held Qing Jun on her arms. The members of Qing Clan had also become familiar with the families of the two Martial Saints in a short amount of time.

Qing Hui, Qing Shan, Qing Shi, Qing You, Qing Hu..... All of them were responsible to light up the fireworks. At that moment when the fireworks hit the sky above the Qing Residence, the sky was dazzled with bright sparkly lights, illuminating the surrounding area.

After the fireworks had set off from the Qing Residence, the other residences around the area began to set off their fireworks continuously in succession. At that moment, the sky was gleaming with sparkles of bright-lit colors.

Luan Luan and Yuchang were laughing happily with each other while viewing the fireworks. They had a distinct childlike chuckle in their laughter as well. Qing Shui observed the happy faces of their mothers and relatives around him, especially the happiness painted on the face of his beloved woman. She was even more alluring with the lights from the fireworks cast on her face. This beautiful image was imprinted deep inside his mind forever.

Chapter 597 - Fiery Golden Eyes, Heading to the Central Continent with Di Chen

In the blink of an eye, it was the seventh day of the new year. Today was also the day of Luan Luan's coming of age ceremony. In the World of the Nine Continents, the coming of age ceremony was a formal ceremony. After a bath, her hair needed to be cut and she had to change into adults clothes and put on makeup, this represented that she had turned into an adult.

Only after they became an adult then they could marry someone, travel the world, make choices about their future, if they wanted to cultivate, be a farmer, carpenter, chef, merchant.....

"Daddy, I am an adult now!"

After Luan Luan had her coming of age ceremony, she happily hugged Qing Shui's neck, her feet leaving the ground!

"You are so big already and yet you are still acting like a child, are you not afraid of people laughing at you?" Qing Shui pinched Luan Luan's nose and wriggled it left and right.

"In front of daddy, I will always be a small kid."

Yiye Jiange looked at Luan Luan from the side, her eyes full of happiness and there was also a feeling that could not be described, however, it was mostly happiness.

Three days later, the Qing Clan returned to their previous lives, those who ran businesses ran businesses and those that opened shops opened shops. However, now there were the family members of the two Martial Saints, there were plenty of talented cultivators among them, they even had four peak Martial Kings.

Now that the Qing Clan can be considered to be on the right track, Qing Shui planned to leave in a few days. His strength now was no longer suitable for the Greencloud Continent. He should travel the Nine Continents and experience more, see the world with his own eyes to let his strength rise faster. So that when the time comes, he would be able to help Di Chen, Yiye Jiange, the Old Ancestor, and Lin Zhanhan to achieve their dreams.

Lion King's Ridge, Di Clan, Eastern Palace Clan, one was in the Central Continent, one in the Northern Sacred Lu Continent, and one in the Southern Viewing Ministry Continent. The situation with the Di Clan was a little special, but the Lion King's Ridge and the Eastern Palace Clan had to be settled with blood.

The Lion King's Ridge was the number one sect in the Northern Sacred Lu Continent, it was not something that the sects in the Greencloud Continent could compare with. As for the Eastern Palace Clan, the Old Ancestor had said before to not to go there until he had the strength of a Grade Five Martial Saint.

Back then, due to his only grandson, he was forced to kill his own son with his hands. It had been many years already, but that torment was worse than death. He was the leader of a sect, the pillar of support, the expert protecting the sect, yet he could not protect his own son. He could only be forced by some silk pants disciple of a strong clan to kill his son just for his pleasure.....

Now, Qing Shui already had the strength of a peak Grade Five Martial Saint but Qing Shui felt that things were not as simple as he thought. The Southern Viewing Ministry Continent was a relatively fertile continent with lots of resources and treasures, there were many strong sects and clan, some were even strong pirates, it was even said that there were some super strong Demonic Beasts of the seas dying in the Southern Viewing Ministry Continent.

He had already waited all these years, he did not mind waiting for a little longer. Qing Shui intended to head towards the Southern Viewing Ministry Continent with Fei Wuji after some time, to repay that blood debt from back then.

Now that it was time to enter the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal, Qing Shui returned to his own room.

He had once again broken through to another cycle, after he practiced all his techniques once, Qing Shui prepared to refined medicinal pills. Suddenly, he remembered that when he broke through to the 6th Layer of the this time, he did not check to see if any new techniques or skills appeared.

He had broken through when he was carrying his two children and had forgotten about this whole matter. Now that he remembered, Qing Shui hurriedly entered his sea of consciousness, then rapidly look towards the place with techniques or skills.

Fiery Golden Eyes.....

Qing Shui look at the name of this technique and was shocked, he thought of the Fiery Golden Eyes he knew of from his past life. In his past life, the Fiery Golden Eyes in the myths could see through all forms of deceptions, it could see the true form of demons and ghosts.

The part that Qing Shui was familiar with was that it could break transformations. Actually being able to see through transformations was the same thing, by seeing the true body of the opponent, they would have stripped away one of the opponent's abilities.

However, Qing Shui did not know what was the effects of the Fiery Golden Eyes in the World of the Nine Continents, there were Demonic Beasts here but not demons.

Holding onto his hope and anticipation, Qing Shui looked at the abilities of the Fiery Golden Eyes!

After he read it, Qing Shui knew what was the deal with the Fiery Golden Eyes was. It was a Qi force technique, it could break some temporary effects on the opponent's body, such as Jewels, Demonic Beast essences, talismans, temporary effects of medicinal pills.....

Qing Shui currently did not know if the Fiery Golden Eyes were considered strong, but it should have some special usages during certain times. The experts of the World of the Nine Continents are very likely to be carrying jewels on them.

The cultivation of the Fiery Golden Eyes could be divided into the stages of small success stage, large success stage, and then the Great Perfection Stage. The small success stage can break 10% of the temporary abilities on the opponent's body, the large success stage can break 20%, and the Great Perfection Stage can break 50%.

Qing Shui did not try to figure out whether it was strong or not since it was a reward of the 6th Layer of the Ancient Strengthening Technique, Qing Shui felt that it should not be trash.

Qing Shui was still quite worried when cultivating it because he was somewhat afraid that he would cultivate till eyes would shine with a golden light. However, in the end, he had to try and cultivate it.

Following the cultivation methods of the Fiery Golden Eyes, Qing Shui's cultivation of it was very smooth. However, to cultivate it to the small success stage would still require a few days. When he cultivated the Fiery Golden Eyes, it was executed through his eyes, but he did not have any special feeling, his eyes were the same as usual, the only difference was that Qing Shui felt that his vision improved a little.

Half a month later, Qing Shui prepared to head towards the Central Continent. This time, Qing Shui wanted to leave with Di Chen, maybe he could bring her to the Di Clan to have a look very soon.

After another two days, Qing Shui informed his family members of his plans. Then he went to the Heavenly Palace. First, he went to Elder Ge since the Heavenly Palace was managed by him these days.

"Qing Shui, are you leaving again?"

This was not the first time and Qing Shui tended to come and go. When there were no problems in the middle, he would rarely come to the Heavenly Palace.

"I do have this intention." Qing Shui smiled as he sat across Elder Ge and poured himself a cup of tea, then filled Elder Ge's cup up to 70%.

"To the Central Continent?"

"Yes!"

“Qing Shui, tell this old man what Grade of Martial Saints you can defeat now?” Elder Ge seemed to be curious about Qing Shui’s strength.

“Probably Grade Five!” Qing Shui said after thinking for a little, it was now possible for him to defeat a peak Grade Five Martial Saint.

“En, I see, then it is possible for you to go to the Central Continent but you must remember, do not provoke the Buddhist Sect, Duanmu Clan, Demon Gate, Tang Manor, Dragon Emperor Mountain, or the Sky City, these are the ones that I know of. When you see these people, do your best to tolerate and avoid them, you are currently not able to compare with them.” Elder Ge said to Qing Shui after thinking for awhile.

This time, Qing Shui heard a familiar clan, the Duanmu Clan, those listed earlier should be amongst the strongest powers of the Central Continent. He did not expect the Duanmu Clan to be among them, he still did not know the extent of the Duanmu Clan’s power.

“Elder Ge, do you understand these matters well? Can you tell me more? I am quite curious.” Qing Shui felt that it was good to hear about the powers of the Central Continent and their situations before heading there.

“Haha, I only know what a few elders told me in the past, I can only tell you about them.” Elder Ge laughed as he drank some tea.

“Why did Elder Ge not tell me about this the last time but is instead telling me now?” Qing Shui looked at Elder Ge, although he actually guessed the answer already.

“The last time you went, your strength was not something that people will take notice of, plus you would avoid some of these experts. Now, it is different. Your strength is currently at a crucial position, thus, I am afraid that you would do something that you might regret.” Elder Ge said calmly.

“I’ve cause Elder Ge to worry!”

.....

Arriving at the Misty Hall, he met a female disciple that was standing guard. When she saw Qing Shui she smiled and greeted him. She then verified that he was looking for Di Chen before leaving quickly.

In a short moment, Di Chen rode her Blue Luan out, Qing Shui just directly floated up then skywalked to Di Chen, landing on her Blue Luan. The Blue Luan gave a loud bird’s cry then left the Heavenly Palace mountain.

“Sister Chen!”

“What’s wrong, is there something you want to say?” Di Chen looked at Qing Shui and asked, she was not wearing her veil today. Although this was not the first time he saw her extraordinary complexion but he still felt moved by it.

“I’m going to the Central Continent!” Qing Shui looked at the woman with a pure heart beside him, feeling at a loss in his heart.

“Oh, you are here to say goodbye, do you want me to send you off?” Di Chen thought that Qing Shui would not want to go, that he would miss his family.

“Of course, you have to send me all the way to the Central Continent. Come with me to the Central Continent, I should be able to bring you to see the Di Clan very soon.” Qing Shui smiled.

Di Chen stared blankly at Qing Shui, there were many times in the past where she wanted to go back and take a look. Sometimes she wished that she was an orphan. When she secretly left the Residence of the Sky Tyrant Lord, she had just turned into an adult. She ran into danger when she was in the five million kilometers of wilderness, it was fortunate that she was saved by the previous Misty Hall Palace Mistress. Up until now, there were only some unpleasant exchanges with the Residence of the Sky Tyrant Lord.

[Author’s note: the background of Di Chen is a little complicated. There were some mistakes with the way I wrote about her background thus I shall clarify it here. She is from the Di Clan and was adopted by the Residence of the Sky Tyrant Lord. She later left the Residence of the Sky Tyrant Lord and came to the Heavenly Palace, she stayed there until the previous Misty Hall Palace Mistress handed the position to her.]

“Qing Shui, the Di Clan is much stronger than the Residence of the Sky Tyrant Lord.” Di Chen looked at Qing Shui and smiled.

“I know, I do not intend on taking action against the Di Clan. Furthermore, it’s not like we are immediately going to the Di Clan after arriving in the Central Continent, but we should still go soon.

“Sure, but you must promise me that you will act according to your strength, do not be reckless.” Di Chen slowly said after she thought for a while.

“Sure, I will listen to you.”

Qing Shui’s words caused Di Chen to turn slightly red because she felt that she seemed like a wife managing her husband.....

“When are we leaving?” Di Chen quickly changed the subject.

“Start packing up, we leave in three days!”

.....

Three days went by quickly.

Ming!

The Blue Luan cried out, Di Chen wore a snow white dress with a snow-white scarf. She seemed like a pure and unstained fairy. Qing Shui and his family already came out.

Qing Shui looked at Di Chen then looked at Yiye Jiange, they were wearing a similar snow white clothing and the air they gave off were similar as well.

Naturally, there were people that wanted to follow Qing Shui to the Central Continent, however, this was not the time. Qing Shui carried Qing Zun and Qing Yin. The two fellows did not know that Qing Shui

was going to be leaving for a period of time and at this moment, they were happily laughing with Qing Shui.

Qing Shui felt reluctant to leave but he had no other choice. Di Chen took Qing Zun from Qing Shui's hands, that young fellow actually stretched his hands out to grab onto her snow-white scarf.

After they were delayed by an hour, Qing Shui and Di Chen mounted the Blue Luan and waved goodbye to the Qing Clan. The Blue Luan slowly flew further away and the Qing Clan slowly turned blurred before eventually disappearing from sight.

"Sister Chen, do you intend to return to the Di Clan?" Qing Shui asked in a careless manner.

As the Blue Luan flew rapidly, there were no winds at all because the speed of the Blue Luan seemed to be able to cut through the winds.

"No, parents should not abandon their own child, regardless of the situation because that is the biggest sin they can commit." Di Chen shook her head.

"You don't miss them?"

"I miss my mother, it is a pity that she is no longer around." Di Chen reminisced, her expression seemingly a little dull.

Chapter 598 - The Legend of the Red-Lined Snake of Marriage Affinity, Singing Scriptures

"I miss my mother, but unfortunately, she's no longer around." Di Chen had a distant expression, as if she were immersed in her memories.

"Let bygones be bygones. We still need to continue moving forward. They wouldn't want us living in pain, misery and self-blame." Qing Shui consoled as he noticed Di Chen's dimmed expression.

"I'm alright. It's just that when I'm lonely, I reminisce the times when I was young and being accompanied by my parents. I really miss those days, but it pains me to think about those memories sometimes." Di Chen said softly.

"I understand. Qing Qing was like this in the past as well, she was very lonely. It was as if the world had abandoned her, but she had a strong conviction. That conviction was able to support her until my mother and I went to look for her. Sister Chen, can you tell me what your motivation is?" Qing Shui asked sincerely as he glanced at Di Chen sideways.

"Trying to dig up about my past again? Qing Shui, do you really want to know?" Di Chen stilled her emotions, and started to smile faintly at Qing Shui. There was really nothing more that one could demand from her perfectly refined face.

"I just want to see if I can be of any help. As I've told you before, I am absolutely willing if you have any request." This was the first time Qing Shui had laid his eyes on Di Chen's lovely face for such a length of time.

"I feel lost. Actually, I've been directionless for quite a period of time now. Especially when it comes to relationships...I don't have any familial love, and I am afraid of romantic relationships. Yet, I know that I

need to love someone, but I don't know who to love." Di Chen looked to the distance, her eyes misted over.

Perhaps it was because she could feel his sincerity, or because Qing Shui was the first person who she didn't dislike in many years. It might even be due to that pleasant experience they had at the dream among the sea of flowers. Now, they were even going to Di Clan together. This was why she could tell Qing Shui the things which others would never hear from her.

"You will definitely find your true love. Sister Chen, Qing Clan is your family. The members of Qing Clan are all your relatives. If you could just try to open up your heart and accept others, you may be able to find so much joy." Qing Shui was able to understand her loneliness, but he didn't know how he could help. It's really only up to her if she wants to walk out of such pain.

"Thank you. Actually, I already do consider the Qing Clan my family, and I do feel some happiness." A gentle smile appeared on her face as she looked toward Qing Shui.

To reach the Central Continent, Qing Shui had to travel west for another ten thousand miles. After twenty days, they finally arrived at a vast, and seemingly boundless savanna. The skies were turning dark at that point.

The dense foliage of green, two feet tall grasses were scarce here. Instead, the landscape was filled with tongue ferns that grew as tall as humans, as well as goat weeds, rose roots, agrimonies and so on...

Off in the distance, there were herds of wild goats, onagers, bison, wild boars and red Lions...

Most of the creatures that lived here were Wild beasts, with only a few Ferocious beasts and Demonic beasts, which appeared occasionally. Wild beasts appeared in staggering numbers ranging from thousands, ten thousands, hundred thousands and even millions. Even Xiantian Demonic beasts had to give way to such huge herds.

This was the first time that Qing Shui felt so close to nature ever since he found himself in the World of the Nine Continents. As he scanned the vast savanna and admired the herds of wild beasts, he had the feeling that everything was extremely beautiful. He even fancied the idea of living here with his family in the future. He would hunt every day and ride horses with his children and beloved women. This could be a desirable lifestyle.

Qing Shui quickly shook away that thought. It may be fun to come here for a few days, but living here for an extended time would be so lonely. It wouldn't be long before they start missing the variety and complexity of the outside world.

Qing Shui only started to pitch his tent when he noticed that it was late. He released his Diamond Gigantic Elephant and Fire Bird so that they could roam about freely on the savanna.

As the two powerful demonic beasts suddenly appeared, the herds of beasts started to flee. The mass exodus of ten thousand beasts was a breathtaking scene, the ground also started to rumble with noise.

Qing Shui read history books in his previous life. He knew that in ancient times, a battle scene consisting of a charging cavalry of ten thousand would be a massive sight to behold, and capable of making emotions flare. Even though Qing Shui was already so powerful, such a scene still stirred his emotions and made him feel hot-blooded. He almost felt an impulse to charge forth riding a horse

For a change, Qing Shui and Di Chen rode on the Fire Bird to fly above the vast savanna on the second day!

“Oh, there are actually people living here.” Qing Shui said as he looked down at the multiple tents below them. The entire area with the tents was fenced up by a metal railing, and there were traps laid outside.

Qing Shui observed as the groups of people that were holding weapons, scourge the lands for beasts which got separated from their herd. The men were all tall, muscular and violent. It was a pity that they were not skilled in martial arts, but only naturally strong and valiant.

The group spot a bison that was traversing alone. They took their spears, metal clubs and bows, and slowly surrounded the creature. The bison was about two metres tall and four meters in length. Its body was covered in sinewy muscles and looked quite strong.

Qing Shui watched the hunt with interest. This group was from a small community that had to struggle and survive in the massive savanna.

Xiu!

An arrow pierced the bison’s eye. It was fast and accurate!

Pu!

Moo!

The bison let out a mad howl and started charging toward the one who had shot the arrow. At that point, two people who had been hiding at a side struck the bison’s feet with their metal clubs.

The bison may have been quite sturdy and strong, but its four legs were actually quite weak. Such a blow managed to break both its front legs. Despite its strength, it fell to the ground as it could only wait to be slaughtered.

The others flocked forward and killed the bison with a hit in an instant. After that those people walked back to their “village” with their kill!

The Fire Bird soon flew past them, and the people disappeared from Qing Shui’s view. The natural world was cruel; wild beasts against wild beasts; human against wild beasts; humans against humans. It was all the same, only the strong can survive, and only the strong will not get bullied.

The law of the jungle in the natural world applied to humans too!

The savanna was extremely vast. As they headed toward its center, the vegetation grew denser and the plants got taller. Occasionally, there were swaths of forests and rivers, and some of the forests even had natural lakes.

When they reached deep into the savanna, they could only basically see demonic beasts. Even Martial King Demonic beasts could be commonly spotted.

“It seems like we will have to camp here overnight.” Di Chen said after looking at the sky.

“What’s the matter? Are you afraid?” Qing Shui asked. It was dark now, there were barely any sign of other humans because they were so deep in the savanna, which made the place seem quite eerie.

There were constant howls from beasts, which mixed with the howls of the wind and gave off an uneasy feeling. Normal folks would have been scared to death.

“I am not afraid since you’re right here with me.” Di Chen said with a slight smile.

It was only after she finished her sentence that she realized her words hinted at their ambiguous relationship. She was not shocked by this, but she was shocked at the fact that she actually said something like that to a man. This could only mean that she was gradually getting used to a person, and getting familiar with that person...

“Then, let’s land and set up camp here!” Qing Shui wasn’t able to notice the change in Di Chen’s expression.

They landed on a small, stone hill. They had intentionally scouted such a location, since the field of view was wide and there was some distance between them and the forest.

The moon was high in the sky, and moonlight poured down over the savanna like water. They could see various nocturnal demonic beasts appearing occasionally to hunt and scavenge for food.

Qing Shui caught a musk deer nearby after he’d set up the tent. He butched the deer skillfully, cleared its guts and cleaned it. Di Chen looked at him silently from the side as he barbecued the meat.

Due to this man that was beside her, she felt grounded. She’d already found herself seeing him as a tall and powerful man. She smiled as she recalled the memories she shared with him and realized that that felt a faint joy.

“Sister Chen, this is for you!” Qing Shui handed her the back leg of the cooked deer.

“Okay, it smells good. The things you cook are the best tasting food I’ve had.” Di Chen did not thank him. They’d agreed not to thank each other since it seemed to push them apart.

Qing Shui was very happy when he heard Di Chen’s words. It was quite rare to get a compliment from her!

“If you’d like, I can cook for you anytime you want.” Qing Shui laughed as he tore a piece of meat with his teeth, talking while he ate.

Qing Shui replied in this manner without much thought, he didn’t even consider the ambiguous implications behind it. If he’d thought about it, he wouldn’t have said that to Di Chen.

Even though he might’ve not had any hidden agendas, it didn’t mean that others wouldn’t misinterpret the meaning. Di Chen lowered her head, she felt a warmth in her heart. With what Qing Shui said, she realized the person who currently treated her the best was him. Most importantly, they understood each other and had travelled such a long distance together.

Suddenly, Qing Shui stood still as he looked at the area not far from them.

Perhaps it was because Qing Shui maintained that posture a little too long, Di Chen also raised her head to take a look. A complex expression suddenly appeared on her face, she then blushed a little as she snuck a peek at Qing Shui.

It turned out that there was a snake a few meters in front of them. It was a meter in length and its girth was approximately that of a little finger. Its full body was translucent green, except for a blood-red line on its back which stretched its entire length. The line was fine, but was intensely dark red, like blood.

Red-lined snake!

Everyone in the central continent knows about the Red-lined snake. It was not a demonic beast, nor was it a wild beast. It won't attack people, and it is a creature of legend. In legend, it's said that it's an incarnation of the Child of Affinity that serves beside Yue Lao*. If it sees a couple that will eventually get married, it will specifically choose to appear. It has been said that even enemies marry each other if it made an appearance.

There were written accounts of such events in history books. Other than just enemies turning to married couples, there were also stories of marriages between master and disciple. Of all these accounts, the most famous story was about a man and his aunt. They saw the Red-lined snake, but such an incestuous relationship was taboo. Both of them suffered to a point where they wanted to commit suicide, since their relationship would never be acknowledged. In the end, the clan revealed that his aunt was not the biological child of his grandfather, but an adopted daughter. After this event, the legend about the Red-lined snake spread through World of the Nine Continents. It's said that such a creature would never appear in front of couples whose marriage will not be acknowledged. If such an event were to occur, it would represent a marriage affinity made in heaven.

A Red-lined snake would rarely show itself for long. It would usually disappear in a span of a few breaths. Even though there were rumors that some people tried to catch one, there was never any news of anyone being successful.

The Red-lined snake left very quickly and disappeared almost instantaneously. If Qing Shui were alone, he would've assumed that it was just his imagination, but now both of them had seen the snake.

Now the Red-lined snake was no longer just a legend to them. It represented the longing between a man and a woman. Most loving couples would wish to meet a Red-lined snake, to prove that they were a match made in heaven.

Honestly, Qing Shui had never entertained any thoughts of a romantic relationship with Di Chen. He'd always thought of it as blasphemy. It was only when he saw the Red-lined snake that he realized the existence of that perspective, but he was terrified.

Di Chen seemed dumbfounded as she lowered her head slightly and didn't say a word. Qing Shui felt his heart at pounding with trepidation.

"Sister Chen, it is only a legend. Don't take it seriously..." Qing Shui said while being rather stiff and slightly anxious, almost as if were mumbling.

"Do you believe in the legend of Red-lined snake?" Di Chen lifted her head to face Qing Shui as she smiled gently.

Seeing Di Chen's smile, Qing Shui felt his heart calming down.

“Of course not!” Qing Shui replied bluntly. After saying that however, he sensed that he had said something wrong. Such a reply would hurt the other person, who had also seen the snake. This made it clear that he had no intentions of having that sort of a relationship with the other person...

“I didn't meant it that way...” In that moment, Qing Shui felt like he couldn't even control his mouth. A layer of cold sweat appeared on his forehead.

“I know!” Di Chen said softly.

Qing Shui knew that his words had hurt her. It was almost as if the very thing that he didn't want to happen, had occurred. Qing Shui felt uncomfortable.

“Sister Chen, you are as beautiful as a goddess. No ordinary folk is fit to be with you.” Qing Shui said as he looked at Di Chen. This was what Qing Shui truly meant and what he hoped to clarify.

“Then, do you think I should just stay single all my life?” Di Chen laughed as she heard Qing Shui's words.

“Of course not!”

“Are you an ordinary folk?” Di Chen laughed.

“Of course, I am an ordinary man.”

Once he answered, Qing Shui realized that he'd fallen for Di Chen's trap. Before he could think of something to say, he heard his exact thoughts.

“If someone like you is considered an ordinary man, who else can I find?” Di Chen smiled at Qing Shui.

“Well...a man befitting you will definitely appear.” Even Qing Shui found his words rather half-hearted, not that he was proud of himself.

“Alright then. Since you compliment an elder sister like me in such a manner, I will look for you if I can't find a match, okay?” Di Chen seemed to say this light-heartedly.

“The men who are in queue for a chance to marry Sister Chen can fill an entire continent. I am sure Sister Chen will be satisfied.” Qing Shui said quickly, smiling.

“Then, do you wish to marry me?”

Di Chen did not know what it was about today, but she felt like teasing this man who was younger than her. She had never even imagined doing such a thing in the past.

“Yes.”

“Can I marry you in the future?”

“Yes.” Qing Shui wasn't aware of how else to react. He could see that Di Chen was teasing him, so he just forced himself to say it in bravado.

“In your dreams! Hey, I am going off to sleep. You should sleep early as well, good night.” Di Chen laughed and left after finishing her sentence.

Qing Shui looked at her beautiful back in a daze. This was the first time Qing Shui had heard Di Chen laugh in that light manner. Her voice was like a heavenly choral, with that slight magnetism, and a kind of power which seemingly manages to drive away any rationality.

*Yue Lao - a god of marriage and love in chinese mythology

Chapter 599 - Golden Buddha Aura Lotus, Thunderous Beast

Her laughter did not carry a seductive or enticing tone, it didn't even evoke any kind of licentious thoughts. Yet, it was the most beautiful sound on earth. It could almost cleanse your soul, letting one feel a sense of peace. A feeling that your entire being is being elevated, it was miraculous.

Qing Shui let his Diamond Gigantic Elephant stand guard outside, while he allowed his Fire Bird to go back into the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal to rest. Qing Shui laid on a bed inside his tent and entered into the realm in a split second.

He only realized how tedious it was to practice Fiery Golden Eyes after he'd already started. It was so challenging that he felt even reaching the small success stage will take a long time. At the same time, Qing Shui was even more certain now that Emperor's Qi was some god-level battle technique.

Even if his Fiery Golden Eyes reached its Great Perfection Stage, Qing Shui knew that it wouldn't compare to the prowess of his Emperor's Qi. Despite all that, Qing Shui still looked forward to the outcome. He knew that it would be incredibly powerful if he utilized it with Emperor's Qi.

His progress on Heavenly Dan had also depleted. Such a change was normal after the connection formed within his Dantian. After all, he took quite a hefty amount of time to breakthrough to the fifth level.

As for his Blue Lotus Art, just as it was previously, there hadn't been much changes. The only thing was that Qing Shui could now control the three petals of the golden lotus flower as he wished.

Unfortunately, it could only be used to boost his base defence by thirty percent, and had no impact on his attack. Qing Shui found it too bothersome to use in any normal circumstances.

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When he came exit the Realm of Violet Jade Immortal, it was only the early hours of morning. Qing Shui laid on the bed inside his tent while thinking about the incident with Di Chen during dinnertime. Qing Shui was perplexed.

Towards a woman like Di Chen, Qing Shui prevented himself from pondering too deeply about her. He only treated her like family, but unfortunately the appearance of the Red-lined snake had punched a hole in his self-imposed barrier.

When they began their journey, he allowed Di Chen to bring along the things that she couldn't bear to part with. She even brought along that expensive Immortal Bed, that was the first time Qing Shui saw it.

That bed was an item of legend. It was made from a kind of "divine wood", and was created by the legendary Art of Carpentry. Qing Shui didn't ask Di Chen how she obtained an Immortal Bed, but it seemed as if it involved Di Qing. After all, that furniture store was opened by Di Qing.

Some time past midnight, Qing Shui could hear his Diamond Gigantic Elephant skywalking, and the sounds of wild beasts running away. Qing Shui knew that his Diamond Gigantic Elephant was chasing the beast herds away so he didn't take any action.

Qing Shui woke up early the next morning. He faced towards the east on this vast spacious grassland, channelled his Nature Energy and started practicing his Taichi Fist. Qing Shui enjoyed the freshness brought by the clean air. One could only learn to enjoy such clean and fresh air after experiencing polluted air for so long.

After a while, Di Chen came out of her tent as well. She greeted Qing Shui with a smile before walking towards a nearby river, probably for her morning cleansing routine.

Since Qing Shui had his Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal, he could complete his morning routine very conveniently!

As Qing Shui looked at the view of Di Chen's back, he sensed that she had changed a little. He couldn't really tell what exactly had changed, so he decided to not think much about it. No matter what, things will work out in the end.

"Qing Shui!"

Qing Shui quickly rushed over after suddenly having heard Di Chen's voice. He was worried that she may have got into trouble, but he noticed that Di Chen was alright when he reached her.

Qing Shui was puzzled, "Sister Chen, what happened?" he asked.

"Look over there." Di Chen pointed to the middle of the river.

The river was about two hundred meters wide. In the World of the Nine Continents, it could be considered a small river. After all, they were in the savanna. The river was clear, but the riverbed wasn't visible, so Qing Shui estimated that the river probably had a depth of a hundred meters.

The river flow was rapid. Qing Shui looked toward the direction that Di Chen was pointing. Some distance from them at the river's center, there was a golden lotus flower which was about the size of a human. It shone brightly and was extremely eye catching.

Golden Buddha Aura Lotus!

Qing Shui was able to recognize that huge golden lotus flower with just a glance. It was the legendary Golden Buddha Aura Lotus. It's said that the locations where you can find Golden Buddha Aura Lotus are those which contain Buddhist relics, Sarira. A Golden Buddha Aura Lotus could only develop after having absorbed the essence of Sarira.

Golden Buddha Aura Lotus was a sacred object capable of reviving a person, it was definitely a treasured item. Of course, it could only revive a person that hadn't been dead for more than fifteen minutes. If a person had died long ago, no amount of revival medicine would be of any use.

It could also be added to medicine. Another valuable part of it was the lotus seeds; it could cleanse the body, strengthen the bones and muscles, and even extend one's lifespan and cultivation. However, it also took a long time for the lotus seeds to develop, hence it was known by another name, the Ten-thousand-year Golden Lotus.

This knowledge all came from rumors and books. Qing Shui did not know if it differed in reality. Being able to find such a legendary plant, Qing Shui observed it with much curiosity.

The Golden Buddha Aura Lotus had nine petals. Each petal was about the size of a human head. When the petals closed, it was capable of wrapping around an adult man.

“Sister Chen, I want to go over and have a look, just stay here for a while.” Qing Shui wanted to touch it, he didn’t want to miss this opportunity. Discovering such a plant was up to fate, not something that could be willed.

“Qing Shui, It’s rumored that such a Golden Buddha Aura Lotus would be guarded by a Thunderous Beast. “ Di Chen said worriedly.

Qing Shui could not help but feel slightly apprehensive when he heard that a Thunderous Beast may be around. These things were all of legends, but since the golden lotus had appeared, it wouldn’t be surprising if a Thunderous Beast also made an appearance.

In history books, it is recorded that Thunderous Beasts are demonic beasts which are at least of the Martial Saint stage or above. They have strong survival skills and they were the strongest within all creatures of water, land and sky. The rumored creatures were purple and resembled cows. They have three sharp horns, and a fully mature Thunderous Beast can reach up to one hundred meters in height and capable of generating a large electrical attack.

This was all the information that Qing Shui had obtained regarding the Thunderous Beast. They were all high level Martial Saints. High level Martial Saints are those that are at Grade seven or above. If a Peak Grade Martial Saint beast showed up, it could definitely kill Qing Shui in a second.

Even if a demonic beast is of the same grade as a human, the human couldn’t compare to them. It requires about three to five martial artists of the same grade to have a chance at winning against the demonic beast.

“Look, there are no Thunderous Beasts around. It is such a huge demonic beast, there aren’t any places for it to hide around this area. It is just a legend, they don’t exist.” Qing Shui said feeling quite lucky.

Di Chen looked around, she especially paid attention to the water. A Thunderous Beast could travel in the water, on land or in the skies. If they could not spot it on land or in the sky, the higher the likeliness that it was hiding in the water.

“Qing Shui, let’s wait for a bit. Let’s see if there really is no Thunderous Beast safeguarding that flower. “ Di Chen still felt that it was a slightly inappropriate.

“Sister Chen, I feel that there is no Thunderous Beast around to guard that flower. If there really was such a guardian beast, there wouldn’t be any other demonic beast within a hundred mile radius. We camped overnight so close to this area and didn’t meet with any mishap...”

Qing Shui words caused Di Chen to think deeply. After thinking for some time, she said to Qing Shui, “If there was no demonic beast guarding it, then this Golden Buddha Aura Lotus wouldn’t have been able to grow so safely here.”

Qing Shui agreed, but with a quick thought, he said to Di Chen, "There could be a demonic beast guarding it, one that is capable enough to protect the lotus, but it still may not be strong. Besides, there are only a few demonic beasts within one kilometer of either side of the river, but it's unable to intimidate any creatures that are slightly further. I don't think that it can defeat us. Otherwise, it would've already appeared."

Qing Shui's eyes flashed for a moment. Suddenly, he had his sight on the lotus, and a trace of doubt and shock appeared in his eyes.

"It's within that Golden Buddha Aura Lotus." Qing Shui smiled and told Di Chen.

"Let's force it out?" Di Chen said after thinking for a bit.

"How?"

"What do you think it cares most about?" Di Chen laughed as she looked at Qing Shui.

"The Golden Buddha Aura Lotus!"

"Yes. Let your red bird use a fire attack on the Golden Buddha Aura Lotus. We should be able to force it out using this method." Di Chen looked up at Qing Shui Fire Bird, which was in the sky.

"What if the Golden Buddha Aura Lotus accidentally gets damaged by the fire?"

"Golden Buddha Aura Lotus can't get damaged that easily. I think it's difficult to even phase the plant without the strength of a Martial Saint." Di Chen replied with a smile.

Caw!

His Fire Bird shot out a large big fireball at the Golden Buddha Aura Lotus. Qing Shui commanded the Fire Bird to aim a little off target on purpose.

Boom!

Chi Chi...

The Golden Buddha Aura Lotus didn't receive any damage at all, but they weren't able to manage forcing the demonic beast out either!

Qing Shui and Di Chen looked at each other. Qing Shui sky-walked over, Qing Shui could see what was inside the Golden Buddha Aura Lotus through a small crack between the petals while standing in mid air. He was shocked!

Within the Golden Buddha Aura Lotus, there was a small purple creature that was one meter long. The three sharp horns on its head still seemed soft, and its body was a lustrous purple. Its eyes were tightly shut, it was a small calf just sound asleep.

It was a baby Thunderous Beast.

For that second, Qing Shui was elated. This was a priceless treasure. A baby Thunderous Beast that hasn't even opened its eyes. Such a thing was of little value to others, a Thunderous Beast required one thousand years to grow up, who had such luxury of time?

Thunderous Beasts appeared with Golden Buddha Aura Lotuses and couldn't leave it. It had to stay near the flower most of the time. They would only leave the flower for a maximum of three days.

Qing Shui figured out what had happened. Shortly after the baby Thunderous Beast was born, the old Thunderous Beast disappeared, perhaps due to some accident. Otherwise, this little thing wouldn't be able to stay inside the Golden Buddha Aura Lotus without being swallowed or killed by other demonic beasts.

After a thousand years, this small creature will become a powerful demonic beast. But how many people could wait for a thousand years? Qing Shui only needed five years...

Chapter 600 - Obtaining a treasure, Arriving at the Central Continent again

Qing Shui was not worried that the Thunderous Beast would not be able to survive in his Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal. The Thunderous Beast's ability to adapt was very strong. Furthermore, Qing Shui had decided to bring the entire Golden Buddha Aura Lotus into the Realm.

Qing Shui knew that he had to be quick. In the event that the Old Thunderous Beast had not met any accident and suddenly returned, they will be in deep trouble!

Qing Shui took out his Water Repelling Pearl and directly thrust it into the water. He wanted to transport the entire Golden Buddha Aura Lotus as well as the little Thunderous Beast within it into the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal.

Qing Shui was quite surprised to find that the Golden Buddha Aura Lotus actually had roots above the riverbed. The roots extend about a hundred meters into the water. Under the water, the Golden Buddha Aura Lotus had rhizomes which were as thick as a human's body. They were like a huge python, the fibrous roots intertwined a large, complicated and extended mess.

Keep!

Qing Shui pushed his spirit energy to its peak. He brought the entire Golden Buddha Aura Lotus into his Realm and placed it into the pond. Luckily for him, his Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal had become much larger after he raised it to the sixth layer. The pond had expanded a few times in size. The depth of the pond barely contained the plant but the plant had to extend outward.

It was said that once the Thunderous Beast opened its eyes, it will protect the first person it saw for its entire life. Most of the time, however, the first thing that it saw was the Old Thunderous Beast.

After he had placed them properly, Qing Shui left the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal and flew out of the water. Qing Shui inferred that the Old Thunderous Beast must not have left more than a year, otherwise the baby Thunderous Beast would have already opened its eyes.

From what he observed, the baby Thunderous Beast would open its eyes soon. Before that, the Old Thunderous Beast will definitely rush back if it was still alive. With that in mind, Qing Shui knew that they have to leave this place quickly.

At this moment, Di Chen was puzzled because the Golden Buddha Aura Lotus suddenly disappeared. Additionally, she wondered why Qing Shui dived into the water. Just when she suspected that something was going on, Qing Shui suddenly came out of the water.

“Sister Chen, let’s go. Quick.”

Qing Shui pulled Di Chen’s sleeve and ran back to their camp quickly. Qing Shui did not want to explain the situation with the Golden Buddha Aura Lotus right now, as he sensed imminent danger. He had the intuition that he was correct.

Di Chen felt weird when Qing Shui ran and pulled her along by her sleeve. She could not say what this feeling was and neither did she know what this man was thinking. She only knew that he was very good to her.

Qing Shui quickly packed up the tents and other things. Without even eating breakfast, they sat on the Fire Bird and flew towards the Central Continent speedily. Mid-journey, they also flew to the west for about ten thousand miles.

Even though they had escaped, Qing Shui felt that the Old Thunderous Beast might have met its demise. After all, the beast would not leave the Golden Buddha Aura Lotus for more than three days. It will accompany the Golden Buddha Aura Lotus till its death but it will also die if the plant dies.

Another rumor said that a Thunderous Beast would only give birth to its young when it was about to die. However, Qing Shui was afraid that something might happen to them, which was why he left hurriedly.

“Qing Shui, why are we leaving so quickly. What did you see?” perplexed, Di Chen asked Qing Shui as they flew on his Fire Bird.

“I’m afraid that the Old Thunderous Beast will appear.” Qing Shui was still worried as he looked behind them.

“Old Thunderous Beast?”

“Yes, there was a baby Thunderous Beast within the Golden Buddha Aura Lotus. It had not opened its eyes. I got it out.” Qing Shui replied thoughtfully.

“A Thunderous Beast cannot leave its Golden Buddha Aura Lotus. It takes one thousand years to mature. Unless you use those sort of legendary pills which can boost its growth rate. Unfortunately, that sort of medicine or items were rare treasures. You won’t be able to buy them even with money nor exchange for them.” replied Di Chen, who did not look happy at all. She seemed to be trying to tell Qing Shui that the baby Thunderous Beast had little worth. Even though they had the Golden Buddha Aura Lotus, the baby Thunderous Beast was still too pitiful.

“I wanted to give it to you because of this, since I have a way to expedite its growth.” Qing Shui touched his nose, feeling a little awkward. He just directly kept it without even offering it to her just now.

I don’t want it! The better the demonic beast is, the longer it takes to mature. By that time, I would already be an old woman.” Di Chen replied casually.

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After two months, the Central Continent was finally within sight.

“Sister Chen, which country should we go to first?” Qing Shui asked with a smile.

“You can decide. I prefer to not think about anything right now and not make any decision. It is relaxing this way.” Di Chen laughed lightly as she looked at Qing Shui.

She had worn her snow white veil again but Qing Shui felt he could still see her beautiful smile!

Qing Shui touched his nose as he heard those words. This woman was a woman with her own strong views. Over these years, she had always been a quick and decisive person. She made all her decisions on her own and was very opinionated. Despite that, she actually said something like that to Qing Shui, he found it rather unfamiliar.

“Well then, let’s go to Xing Hai Country first!”

Since they were already at the Xing Hai Country, it would be impolite to not pay the Qianyu Clan a visit since he had some connections with them.

“Qing Shui, if we plan to go to the Di residence in the future, you must act as my husband...” Di Chen seemed to have thought of something as she whispered to Qing Shui.

Her veil covered her face, but it could not cover her heart. Qing Shui was amazed that he could feel her anxiousness. It was just like when they were at the dream among the sea of flowers.

Di Chen seemed to have felt it too. Her elegant eyes held a peculiar expression as she looked at Qing Shui. At this moment, there was a sort of ambiguous romantic attraction.

Red-Lined Snake!

Qing Shui could not help but remember the Red-Lined Snake. Trying to remain calm, he broke the gaze and laughed, “Since Sister Chen is not afraid, what am I afraid of. I’ll just do what you want.”

“Then, we should start acting now... otherwise, it will be easy for others to see through our act...” This was the first time her unique and calming voice faltered. She actually showed some hesitation.

Qing Shui felt a little bewildered. Di Chen was not like this in the past. Even though they had known each other for some time and had often met up. Even spending time every day together on this three month journey and meeting a Red-Lined Snake along the way...

Qing Shui believed that familiarity breeds fondness. Besides, when they first met, it was in such a dramatic way. The scene of Qing Shui touching Di Chen’s silky bosom within the dream among the sea of flowers had replayed in his head countless times...

This had already been carved into their soul.

Qing Shui could feel that Di Chen was actually very nervous so he just laughed and said, “Well, what should we call each other?”

After asking, Qing Shui realized that he really did not know what to call her. He usually called the women around him by their names, occasionally using the term ‘lass’ for endearment.

“Let’s just use each other’s name. How about that?” Di Chen hesitated for a while before she finally gave such an answer.

“Sister Chen has always been calling me by my name.”

“You should call me by my name too.”

“Di Chen seems so distant...” Qing Shui replied laughingly.

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“We’re here. We will stay here for a day before going to Jade Sea Country.” Qing Shui said while pointing to the Qianyu Clan’s manor.

After that, his Fire Bird landed some distance away from the manor. Qing Shui then walked toward the manor with Di Chen by his side. The feeling he had coming to the Central Continent this time round was vastly different from the previous visit.

Previously, when he had not even reached Martial Saint level, he could already defeat a Grade One Martial Saint with his full strength. This time around, he could not be compared to what he was before. Perhaps, the only people who could defeat him were within that group.

When they reach the gate, they coincidentally met Qianyu Feifei who was coming out. When she saw Qing Shui, her face instantly showed her surprise, she happily ran over called, “Big brother!”

“Feifei, where are you going?” Qing Shui smiled and asked as the little lass hugged his arm.

“This must be sister-in-law?” Qianyu Feifei glance at Di Chen with her large eyes. Once again, she had asked a question that made Qing Shui feel awkward. Previously, when he came her with Di Qing, she had asked the same question.

“You must be Feifei. Your big brother has mentioned about you before.” Di Chen saw that Qing Shui’s was feeling awkward and that he seemed to be considering something, so she stood forward to reply with a smile.

“Oh! You are really sister-in-law. You are so beautiful. Big brother is so fortunate!”

“That is some way to praise a person...” Qing Shui muttered.

The three of them headed toward the manor. Di Chen was now conversing with Qianyu Feifei, whereas Qing Shui followed at the side unable to join in, so he decided to look around.

They had not walked for long when they met Qianyu He and Qianyu Dingjun coming out with smiling faces. Qing Shui knew that it must be because Qianyu Feifei had informed someone to announce their arrival.

“Qing Shui, you’re here.”

“Uncle Jun, brother He!” Qing Shui greeted with a smile.

“Brother Qing Shui!”

“Let’s talk inside.” Qianyu Dingjun pulled Qing Shui wrist as he said amiably.

Before Qing Shui could introduce Di Chen, Qianyu Feifei had already blurted out that she was Qing Shui’s wife. Qing Shui knew that he could not oppose that.

A short time later, Qianyu Qingqing returned. She greeted him happily when she saw him. After knowing that the beautiful veiled lady was his wife, she also said that Qing Shui was a fortunate man just like Qianyu Feifei had complimented him...

“Uncle Jun, are you familiar with the Duanmu Clan from Zhongyuan Country?” Qing Shui could not help but ask when he thought about the Duanmu Clan. Even Elder Ge from Greencloud Continent was unfamiliar with them.

“Duanmu Clan? Qing Shui did you provoke them?” Qianyu Dingjun said in a manner as if he had lost his voice, his face grim.

“No I did not provoke them, I just wanted to know what was their influence like in Zhongyuan Country?” Qing Shui replied quickly. From Qianyu Dingjun’s expression, he could tell that Duanmu Clan was an extremely large and powerful clan.

“Duanmu Clan is very famous throughout the Central Continent. They can’t be considered the very top, but they are within that circle. The head of the Duanmu clan is a woman. She is also Duanmu Ling’s wife. Duanmu Ling died at a young age, leaving his young child and his wife. Nobody would have thought that such an enigmatic woman would actually be so powerful. She managed to support the entire Duanmu Clan by herself.” Qianyu Dingjun voice was filled with admiration even as he explained.

“How is Madame Duanmu’s character?” Qing Shui asked with great interest.

“She is an amazing woman. She is kind and charitable. She is someone that is very benevolent and sympathetic. She is honest and upright and values loyalty. On the other hand, she can be very cruel to her foes and she never shows mercy to her enemies. All in all, she has a good relationship with people and has a good reputation.”

“Some time back, she was poisoned. Uncle Jun do you know anything about that?” Qing Shui wondered why nobody stepped forward to help her during such a situation. Her daughter had to run to Greencloud Continent, bearing that sort of pain... If she had not met him, she probably would have been met with a tragic fate.

“I know. There were a lot of controversies because of it. That situation between the Duanmu Clan and Dongguo Clan where both families were enemies of each other. The Dongguo Clan poisoned Madame Duanmu using some unscrupulous method. They planned to annihilate the entire Duanmu Clan. Unfortunately for them, they were stopped by Madame Duanmu’s friends. Actually, Duanmu Clan could defend themselves but after Madame Duanmu was poisoned she lost the abilities to use her hands, which led to a split in the clan. Someone wanted to take this chance to control the clan so they colluded with the Dongguo Clan. The poison that Madame Duanmu was poisoned with is called Poison Marsh Kirin. The poison is from Dongguo Silang’s demonic beast. In such a situation where there was trouble outside as well as internal conflicts in the clan, Madame Duanmu could only depend on her friends. But for some reasons, after a bit over a year, she was actually cured. There were alchemists within her group of friends but it was rumored that the person who cured her was actually from another continent. “

“So, what it is like internally at the Dongguo Clan and Duanmu Clan now? Qing Shui knew that Madame Duanmu was fine now and that it was he himself who cured her.

“They got the punishment they deserved. It only took three days.” Qianyu Dingjun seemed somewhat sad and even a little bit emotional.