

## Ancient ST 841

### Chapter 841 - Qing Shui and Yun Duan's Wedding

He didn't feel it last time, even though he had walked past the bamboo forest a couple of times before. Back then, his Nature Energy hadn't reached the sixth level yet, so naturally the Nature Energy didn't manage to circulate automatically. He didn't notice any special attributes either.

Qing Shui had a sudden epiphany and quickly entered the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal towards the field of plum blossoms. He didn't notice it before but nurturing the Nature Energy in this area felt distinctly faster than in the real world. However, when he went out of the realm, he realized that the field of plum blossoms would prove to be insufficient. He still required the plum blossoms to brew the Plum Blossom Wine, so if he were to cultivate his Nature Energy there, the plum blossoms would exhaust their essence, turning into something less than an ordinary flower.

Because of his usual morning training, he was able to discover the absorption of the Nature Energy from his surroundings unexpectedly. Qing Shui felt like he should give the Nature Energy a shot!

This was a bamboo forest situated in a nearby decorated park. Each bamboo stalk ranged in thickness from that of a child's arm to that of an adult's arm, standing tall in an even-spaced distribution. Qing Shui felt great as he entered the bamboo forest calmly.

He decided to see if the bamboo was affected if he tried to cultivate his Taichi Fist while surrounding himself with the bamboo forest. However, he hesitated when he realized that he would soon leave this place in a few days. Doing so might not yield an instant result either.

A line of red light peeked from the horizon, indicating the rising sun from the east. Qing Shui faced the east and slowly circulated his Qi while performing a series of Taichi Fists casually amongst the bamboo forest. The flow of his movements was as smooth as a running river, yet his movements seemed exaggerated, as if he was milling flour at times.

In the midst of his training, Yun Duan was already up and observing from the second floor without any intention of disturbing Qing Shui. When she realized there wasn't any food in the room, she went to the nearby kitchen to prepare breakfast for the two of them.

Qing Shui finally stopped after an hour of continuous training. He found that the bamboo had little effect on him, almost insignificant, to be honest. Despite that, Qing Shui still felt that there was a shred of hope to this method of training.

This were merely ordinary bamboo. If he were to train amongst a forest of bamboo with extraordinary effects, like a bamboo forest of a few thousand years, would he be able to yield better results?

A bamboo forest of a few thousand years would be extremely rare. Because generally, bamboo would not live more than a thousand years. Moreover, if he had planted the bamboo of extraordinary effects in the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal, the bamboo forest would require only a few years to flourish.

Using his spiritual sense, he noticed there was no difference or changes occurring to the bamboo. He had an inkling that the bamboo would require three days - or less than that - to recover its effect. He could essentially train in the bamboo forest for a three to five days to cultivate his Nature Energy.

When he got back to the building, Yun Duan was already up. She had left the room and was nowhere to be seen. Just when he had decided to make breakfast for the both of them, Yun Duan came in while holding some freshly cooked dishes on a tray covered with an embroidered cloth. The delicious aroma of the food travelled through the room, causing Qing Shui to salivate with hunger.

“Qing Shui, come and eat breakfast!” Yun Duan called out to Qing Shui happily as she served the dishes on the table in the living room.

“Alright!”

Qing Shui gave a short reply and sat opposite Yun Duan while observing the dishes in front of him. Overall, it was a light and simple breakfast, with two bowls of plain porridge, two dishes of vegetables with a side of meat and two bowls of rice. Simple, yet delicate. This kind of breakfast was up his alley.

“You made this, right?” asked Qing Shui as he took over the chopsticks Yun Duan handed to him.

“Yeah, how did you know?” Yun Duan flashed a smile on her face.

“I can tell by your aroma in these dishes.” Qing Shui chuckled as he glanced over to Yun Duan.

“Eat!” Yun Duan picked up a piece of meat from the nearest dish and fed it into Qing Shui’s mouth.

“Qing Shui, I’ve never heard about the Sky Penetrating Grass of 5,000 years above. 5,000 Years medicinal herbs are extremely valuable but if you need them, you can try your luck in the capital of the Central Continent.” Yu Duan had already heard about Qing Shui’s intention of finding the Sky Penetrating Grass.

“No one will reveal such a valuable item easily. Most importantly, I don’t even know where I can find one in the wild. Even if the herb is below 5,000 years, I will still gladly take it.” Qing Shui frowned helplessly.

“You can forget about finding the medicinal herb in the Heavenly Beast City. You can try the larger medicinal stores or auction houses in the Central Continent’s capital. Perhaps you might find the herb there,” Yun Duan suggested after a brief moment of thought.

“Hmm, I can try that.” said Qing Shui. In any case, he would eventually pass the Central Continent, making it convenient for his journey. If the search in the capital was a bust, then he could try his luck in the Eastern Victory Divine Continent, where it was rumored that people with special powers would gather. Moreover, there was a rumor that the rare heavenly treasures and valuables were abundant in the Eastern Victory Divine Continent as well.

After having breakfast, Qing Shui finally made up his mind and said, “Let’s go out today, how about it?”

“Alright!” Yun Duan said gleefully.

The reconstruction of the hall in the Cloud Adventurer Guild was scheduled to commence today. This sort of issue would be handled by the Elders instead, as they were more than capable of doing so. Ever since the incident, they had gained a lot of trust in the public’s opinion, as well as countless new members to their guild. Even though most of the new members were defectors of the former Mighty Tiger Adventurer Guild, Yun Duan was more than happy to welcome them as they would contribute to

the future expansion of the guild. After all, humans were prone to make mistakes - some things were inevitable.

Moreover, the Cloud Adventurer Guild had also appointed some of the loyal members to fill in the crucial positions within the guild to avoid treacherous acts in the future.

Most importantly, the Cloud Adventurer Guild had gained a formidable support and protection. Qing Shui's appearance had become the key to the reporter's headline material due to the instant annihilation of the Grand Elder, Hu Yunlong, as well as Hu Langsha from Hu Clan. This young man had surpassed everyone's expectations in just a few days.

The first kill may be a lucky attempt from a hidden attack but the succession of kills after that would prove otherwise. Only a fool would dare to look down on Qing Shui without the consideration of his accumulated achievements.

Qing Shui wanted this kind of reaction - he wanted to stun not only the outsiders but also his wife. He took the opportunity to clarify their relationship to everyone - that Yun Duan was his woman - so that no one would dare to stir up trouble with Yun Duan or the Cloud Adventurer Guild in the future.

Despite Yun Duan being an intelligent woman, she only realized Qing Shui's love for her after he had told her everything - including things he had done for her. This made her extremely happy. All those years of suffering were worth this moment.

The two of them walked out of the building and mounted on the Fire Bird, rode towards the Tiger Gorge Mountain. While flying in the air, they also took the time to view the scenery below.

"How is the situation in the Heavenly Palace now?" asked Yun Duan while they had some spare time riding on the Fire Bird.

"It's still alright. The Heavenly Palace is under my jurisdiction now," said Qing Shui as he turned to look at Yun Duan.

"You are the Patriarch now?" Yun Duan exclaimed, shocked.

"Yes!"

Yun Duan revealed a smile. When she was still in the Greencloud Continent, the Old Ancestor of the Heavenly Palace was still an elderly man. Back then, Qing Shui was just a chief disciple. She didn't expect that he would eventually become the Patriarch of the Heavenly Palace.

"Qing Shui, tell me what has happened to you and the Heavenly Palace during those years." Yun Duan was curious. She wanted to know more about Qing Shui, negative or positive - anything was fine.

Qing Shui didn't hold back and told her most of the major events he had been through, as well as the fact that he had a number of wives and children.

"You are a lucky guy. All the nice ladies seem to like you very much," Yun Duan said with a smile.

"You are a nice lady too!" Qing Shui rubbed his nose and let out a snicker.

"If you come back next time, bring your children along. I want to see them. They must be beautiful," Yun Duan giggled.

"Our child will be beautiful too!" Qing Shui chuckled.

Yun Duan blushed instantly after hearing those words.

"Do you think one is enough or should we have two?" Qing Shui asked gently.

"Two. Wait, I didn't say I would make a child with you, dummy!" Yun Duan slipped up for a moment. Her face was flushed in red as she dodged Qing Shui's gaze.

"If Duan`er says she wants two children, then I will make sure to make that happen. We will have to work hard from now on. There's not much time left," Qing Shui laughed teasingly.

Yun Duan gave the stink eye to Qing Shui for a while but quickly flashed a mesmerizing smile onto her face.

"Duan`er. Tomorrow we will send out some wedding invitations to your friends and the important figures of the Heavenly Beast City. We will have a ceremony in three days." Qing Shui said with a determined tone after pondering for a while.

Yun Duan stared at him blankly, forgetting to speak for a brief moment.

"You don't want it?" said Qing Shui softly as he carefully interrupted her train of thought.

"I do." Yun Duan allowed herself a genuine smile. Her contented smile was as beautiful as the bright moon in the night sky.

"Duan`er, I am not a good man. I fell in love with a couple of women all at once but I still got you by my side in the end. You and the ladies at home are all my wives - not concubines. I may not be capable enough right now but soon I will. By then, we can all live together forever." Qing Shui said apologetically with a heavy heart.

"Don't say that. It is impossible for just one woman to tame you. If that was the case, you would have given up on that woman by now." Yun Duan tried to cheer up Qing Shui while showing him a pleasant smile.

Qing Shui was shocked. This was the exact thought in his mind, as if she had spoken his mind. Regardless of who it was, it would be impossible for one woman to separate him from the other women. He didn't expect that Yun Duan would be able to understand him on a deeper level.

"You understood my thoughts." Qing Shui was still bewildered at the fact that she seemed to understand him well.

"Because we are the same, only that I am a woman - a traditional woman."

The two had already dismounted from the Fire Bird and settled into their spot on a mountain peak. Qing Shui and Yun Duan strolled around while chatting idly. They knew that their time together would be cut short, probably after the wedding ceremony in three days time.

“Duan`er, take this Beauty Pellet. This can maintain your youth for another 30 years.” Qing Shui took out a Beauty Pellet and handed it to Yun Duan.

“Really?”

“When have I ever lied to you?”

Besides the Beauty Pellet, he had also saved other medicinal pills for her, like the Spirit Concentrating Pill, Aroma Concentration Pill, Great Revitalizing Pellet, Tiger Vitality Pill.....

Since she would soon become his wife, Qing Shui would naturally share everything with her. He gave her everything she needed to become stronger because he would be away for quite a while. If he didn't have a schedule, he would be able to increase her strength faster in a short amount of time.

In the afternoon, both of them returned to the Cloud Adventurer Guild and started sending out invitation cards to their wedding. In a short span of time, the news of Yun Duan and Qing Shui's wedding had spread to the whole city like wildfire.

In these past two days, almost everyone now knew Qing Shui's name by heart. The news of Mighty Tiger Adventurer Guild's annihilation was still the talk of the town but that was soon followed by the auspicious news of Yun Duan and Qing Shui's wedding.

Hosting a wedding ceremony in the World of the Nine Continents was considered rare. Most common folks would only organize a small banquet as that was the cheapest way to get married while publicizing their marriage. Those with substantial wealth or an influential position would choose to host a bigger banquet with family members and guests of authority, making their banquet as lively as they could.

“Brother-in-law, I should call you that from now on,” said Yun Tong as he flashed a grin at Qing Shui.

“We are a family now,” said Qing Shui.

“Brother-in-law, thank you so much. Not because you destroyed the Mighty Tiger Adventurer Guild for us but for making my elder sister smile again.”

“I've known your sister for many years, so we are meant to be with each other. Don't mention it. Come, let's go inside and have a drink. They've called us a few times already.” Yun Chi, Yun Yang and the others were waving at them enthusiastically.

Then in a flash, three days had passed.

The wedding invitations sent out by the Cloud Adventurer Guild were limited, yet there were more than anticipated that came to attend the ceremony. Essentially, almost all of the influential figures from the Heavenly Beast City had attended the wedding. However, there were some who had attended without an invitation. But that was fine as these attendees had brought valuable gifts for the couple. In any case, the more people who came to the banquet, the merrier the atmosphere would be.

At least these people would be able to spread a positive news to their neighbors for once!

**Chapter 842 - Requiem Grass, Arrival At The Central Continent's Capital**

The number of people arriving at the Cloud Adventurer Guild was endless, as were the extravagant beast carriages and horse carriages in front of the guild. Some of the members of the Yun Clan and Cloud Adventurer Guild were stationed near the entrance to greet the guests as they arrived for the banquet.

The banquet only began when the sun was high in the sky. The spoils of war granted by the defeat of the Mighty Tiger Adventurer Guild were exceptional, resulting in a luxurious banquet consisting of thousands of tables in the guild hall. As such, the banquet could cater to both the prestigious and the commoners, with a few hundred tables allocated to the middle classes and the lower classes. Those who had finished their meal would be required to leave to accommodate the next batch of guests.....

Even though this procedure had pretty much annoyed the people of status, those feelings would eventually pass. In spite of that, the Cloud Adventurer Guild had gained a good reputation for doing that due to the public's distaste for the rich and wealthy. Naturally, the distaste for the rich was part of the human's basic instinct, especially in the case of the poor and those from modest households. Regardless, the Cloud Adventurer Guild had a good reputation to begin with, at least in the Heavenly Beast City.

Qing Shui and Yun Duan walked around and briefly greeted everyone at the guest tables. He refused to do it at first but he needed to remind them of his presence in the Cloud Adventurer Guild, so no one would dare cause trouble.

Qing Shui had received a substantial amount of spiritual energy after consuming the Mysterious Fruit. Not only would the force of his Primordial Flames become stronger, he would also be able to gain more control of his attacks that required an infusion of spiritual energy. If his spiritual energy became stronger, the suppression force of his aura would be greater as well.

Even though he was showing a smile on his face, his overall aura was as intimidating as an unsheathed sword. The sharpness was akin to that of a divine weapon - invincible and forceful.

"Here's to you, City Lord, for attending our marriage ceremony. Because I have been busy dealing with my personal matters, I have let Yun Duan suffer for a long time. Luckily, she was treated kindly by the City Lord and everyone here. No one will dare to torment her in the future. As capable as I was, there were a few supreme aristocratic clans who had tormented me in the past. However, that is already over, as I have annihilated them completely. I admit that my temper was a flaw - I couldn't resist the thought of putting them down once they had triggered it." Qing Shui gulped down a cup of wine after he had finished. He was serious when he said that, yet with a smile to put everyone at ease.

These words didn't seem excessive or arrogant when they came out of Qing Shui's mouth. He was going to leave soon anyway, so he thought it was best that he explained his intentions as clearly as possible.

The City Lord was an old man, albeit not that old. He was from the well-known Guan Clan with a history as deep as the Heavenly Beast City itself. The members of the Mighty Tiger Adventurer Clan would never provoke them and vice versa.

The members of the Guan Clan were undoubtedly wise, so they immediately understood Qing Shui's meaning. Moreover, when Qing Shui mentioned the annihilation of several aristocratic clans by his own

hands, there were some who exclaimed in shock, further asserting that Qing Shui was a man to be feared and not to be provoked.

Some of them already knew about Qing Shui's accomplishments in the Greencloud Continent but had never seen him before until now. It was only through the occasional word of mouth that they were able to learn about the incidents in the Greencloud Continent. They were not particularly concerned with his matters since he wasn't from the Central Continent. After all, the chances of them meeting him in the rest of their lives were slim to none.

Yet, he was here. And they had finally realized how terrifying and powerful this young man was.

People with the same name were too common in the World of the Nine Continents. Furthermore, this was the Central Continent, one of the continents with the largest population in the entire world. They would have never thought that they would be able to meet the exact Qing Shui they had heard from the rumors. There were only a few who could truly become famous throughout the entire world, after all.

Of course, it was only when Qing Shui mentioned the annihilation of the supreme aristocrat clans that they realized he was the protagonist of the rumors in the Greencloud Continent. Luckily, the Central Continent had the advantage of being situated in the heart of the earth, so they were well-informed of the happenings around the world. This was also the reason why the Central Continent could flourish with various businesses and bustle with visitors, travellers and traders. Moreover, most powerful warriors would gather in the Central Continent to set up a stronghold, signifying their dominance in the world of martial arts.

That was all Qing Shui needed to instill fear on the troublemakers. Doing so would prove to be disadvantageous, as destruction would pursue those of the great. In order to deflect himself from such disaster, Qing Shui had planned to hasten his progress towards the achievement of greater power.

The only things that brought him comfort were the advancement of the Heart of Roc towards the large success stage, his poisonous beings, poison beasts, poisonous weapons and the perfect synchronization of his demonic beasts. Essentially, he had nothing - and no one- to fear.

However, whenever he thought about the woman in the crystal coffin, he would become helpless. In the face of absolute power, he was impotent - retaliation was futile.

Spiritual Confinement?

Then it hit him, perhaps that woman was able to use the Spiritual Confinement on him, restricting his efforts to counter her attack. Was she a Spiritualist? Or was that part of the ability of a Martial Emperor?

The Spiritual Confinement could be considered a powerful assault ability that could attack the mind of any living being. This attack wasn't as simple as a suppression force being released by a person of high power against a weak warrior but more like the sensation of being restrained by a pair of invisible, formless hands.

Now that he had greatly enhanced his spiritual energy, could he stand a chance against the Spiritual Confinement of hers?

Wild imaginings began to form in his head as he continued to conjure various speculations.

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The banquet lasted from the afternoon until late evening, when all the guests had left the hall in the Cloud Adventurer Guild. It was only then that Qing Shui and Yun Duan were allowed to leave and go back home. When they were back, Qing Shui realized the furniture inside their home had been swapped with new, giving the whole room a fresh atmosphere and outlook.

Nevertheless, this was an auspicious sign. Inside the newly furnished room, he glanced at Yun Duan beside him - she was wearing a long white dress that complimented her slender waist and her delicate body figure.

“Duan`er, let me hear you say ‘husband’.” Qing Shui quickly picked up Yun Duan when he saw the sky almost turning dark as the dusk set in.

“Ah, what are you doing? It’s still daylight outside.....”

“Who said we must do it at night?” said Qing Shui as he locked his eyes on the woman whose tears were almost rolling down her delicate face.

Yun Duan was shocked but quickly buried her face in his chest. Qing Shui had become increasingly insatiable as they made love with each other almost every night until a few hours before dawn. According to him, that was the only way to assure the success of her pregnancy.

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The next day was Qing Shui’s departure to the Central Continent’s capital. Yun Duan held him tightly as she sent him out to the entrance.

“Can’t bear to let me go? I will come back for you soon.” Qing Shui gently patted Yun Duan’s back and smiled.

“I will always wait for you. Be careful when you’re out there alone.” Yun Duan was teary-eyed as she forced herself to reveal a smile for him.

“Don’t worry about me. Take care and don’t forget to cultivate your strength. No one will come and cause trouble anymore. I hope the Cloud Adventurer Guild will progress to become a greater and better guild for everyone.”

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After they waved each other goodbye, Qing Shui mounted his Fire Bird and flew up into the air heading east at a fast pace. The view of Yun Duan and the members of the Cloud Adventurer Guild became distant, until they had disappeared completely from the horizon.

Nine Continents Steps!

According to Yun Duan, the Central Continent’s capital was located in the middle of the continent, slightly closer to the eastern region. Based on his calculations, he would be able to reach there within two months or so if he continued at the same speed and without rest.

The Central Continent was much larger in contrast to the other continents in the world. Despite the straight path towards his destination, there was still a long way before he could reach the capital. Even with a significant boost to the current speed and the Nine Continents Steps, he would still have a hard time calculating the exact time he required to travel through the entire Central Continent while mounted on his Fire Bird.

Donghua City!

A month later, Qing Shui had finally arrived at a place called the Donghua City, situated in the Eastern Park Country. This city could be considered the heart of the Central Continent as many people would gather here for various activities. Powerful warriors were rumored to be stationed in the heart of the Central Continent, not necessarily in the capital but usually somewhere nearby.

Throughout his journey, Qing Shui felt inner peace with himself - perhaps due to the surge in his power. He felt at ease travelling to unfamiliar places, unlike his past self, where he would constantly become insecure once he had stepped into the outside world.

This must be the courage that stemmed from being a highly skilled warrior.

Qing Shui's overall appearance was far from a standard martial warrior. From the public's perspective, he was nothing more than a handsome and attractive man wearing a set of embroidered clothes, garnering attention wherever he went, particularly from those of the opposite sex. In fact, Qing Shui seemed more like a scholar than a martial warrior from the way he dressed.

Even though martial arts was the primary focus in the World of the Nine Continents, scholars were still considered important figures amongst all practitioners. Some had successfully gained insights into the Dao solely with their knowledge of words - progressing from a scholar to a Dao cultivator. A scholar would be able to become a powerful warrior just by depending on their writing brushes, paper and ink stones. Speaking of which, Qing Shui was instantly reminded of the Realm of Drawing, which could be one of the ways a scholar was able to gain an insight to the Dao.

Donghua City was the capital city of the Eastern Park Country. Even though there was nothing significant in the that country, it was still part of the 81 countries in the Central Continent. Nevertheless, Donghua City was considered the superior city among others in the Eastern Park Country.

When he lifted up his head, he could see a large arena nearby. Qing Shui decided to stop by this city for a while before continuing his journey. There was still quite a distance from here to the Central Continent's capital anyway.

This wasn't the first time Qing Shui had seen an arena situated on a wide street. The arena in the Martial God Street in the Southern Viewing Continent was much larger than this one and it was significantly elevated as well.

Since he knew no one in this part of the city and no one would recognize him, Qing Shui decided to approach the arena to have a look. Just then, he noticed two middle-aged men sparring with each other using swords. They seemed to be engaged in a heated fight as they locked their swords without a hint of distraction.

However, these two were not as strong as Qing Shui was - they had just reached the early stage of the Martial King realm.

Not far from the arena was a restaurant, so Qing Shui went in and filled his stomach with some food. After that, he went to the neighbouring medicinal stores and auction houses with the goal of finding the Sky Penetrating Grass.

Throughout his journey, he would go into various cities to find the herb as long as the city was flourishing with businesses and commerce. He would go into the largest auction houses and medicinal stores to inquire about the medicinal herb. Although he could find some medicinal herbs he required for other alchemy recipes, Sky Penetrating Grass search was, however, to no avail.

This time was no different. However, he was able to retrieve a special herb for a remarkably low price.

The Requiem Grass!

Even though the supply of the Requiem Grass was scarce in the World of the Nine Continents, not many would use it for medicine refining. This was due to the rumors of it having a vicious effect on human beings. However, the Requiem Grass still had its uses, so most medicinal herb companies would usually keep a few in stock for a few years - or ten years even if none could be sold. Essentially, the smaller stores would not keep this kind of herb as it was not profitable in any way.

Requiem Grass was hard to come by, so Qing Shui bought them all straightaway.

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Before he knew it, one month had passed. After asking for directions a few times, the Central Continent's capital was finally visible to his sight. He knew he was almost there when he saw three golden calligraphy words labelling this "Central Continent's Capital" on a large wall surrounding the city.

Qing Shui would be awestruck each time he saw those grandiose words on the wall because they didn't seem to be the work of a mere scholar. However, for that same reason, scholars were considered important in the World of the Nine Continents, albeit not as important as martial warriors.

The wall of the Central Continent's capital was moderately sized - it wasn't quite as tall as he had imagined. However, the capital's wall gave off an ancient yet dignified aura much stronger than that of the other cities. Qing Shui followed the crowd of beast carriages and went straight into the capital.

Business operations would always be the most flourishing near the gates of every city due to the interaction between the merchants and the visitors. Because of that, Qing Shui chose to walk on the grounds with the other visitors and beast carriages, instead of flying above in the sky towards the inner capital.

After he had entered the gates, Qing Shui realized there was a formless suppression force surrounding the entire city. From the gates towards the inner city, there was a straight, wide street paving the path towards countless cross-sections of area. The streets were paved with green stones that were arranged in the pattern akin to the scales of a carp, which gave him a feeling of indescribable splendour and magnificence.

**Chapter 843 - Tang Manor Medicinal Hall, Tang Manor?**

The road stretched very far out, with buildings on both sides of the huge street. The beast carriages passing by on the road created “da da” sounds and there were also all sorts of people passing by. There were people who were alone and also people who were in groups. There was a family of three, a couple who was whispering sweet nothings to each other, a party of adventurers...

When he looked at this scene while standing there alone, Qing Shui could not help but think of his family and Yun Duan whom he had just left two months ago.

“Uncle, please head to the biggest trader in medicinal herbs in the area.”

“Alright!”

The coachman replied and proceeded forward at quick pace with Qing Shui on board. He turned into an extremely wide street. Through the windows in the carriage, Qing Shui could see the buildings on both sides of the streets.

“Sir, we’ve arrived!”

Qing Shui paid the money and said, “Uncle, please wait here for a while. Take this money. I may still need to head elsewhere in a while. If you don’t see me coming out after an hour, you can leave.”

The other party readily agreed.

Tang Manor Medicinal Hall!

Tang Manor?

Qing Shui suddenly thought of the few factions which were the most powerful in the Central Continent: Buddha Sect, Demon Gate, Tang Manor, Dragon Emperor Mountain, Sky City, Moon City...

While these factions could not all be of the same level, there were the top few in the Central Continent. This was especially so for the Buddha Sect, which was the symbol of Central Continent itself. This was a great clan with strong foundations and backings. It was said that even the branches of the Buddha Sect were all extremely powerful existences.

Huoyun Liu-Li’s parents were at Demon Gate. Qing Shui also knew of how powerful it was and thus he was still not able to bring her to the Demon Gate for now. Today, he came across this Tang Manor Medicinal Hall.

That Tang Manor was probably the only one in Central Continent who would dare to use the words ‘Tang Manor’!

Having been viewed on similar standings with Demon Gate, Tang Manor shouldn’t be that weak themselves. After a short moment in a daze, Qing Shui headed in. The medicinal hall had its own shop but it dealt largely with wholesaling of medicinal herbs.

However, medicinal halls of such a level usually engaged doing vast quantities of business in large market. The medicinal herbs here were of greater quality and were basically those of 500 Years or higher. There were those which were 1,000 Years, 2,000 Years and even quite a few which were 3,000 Years. This was the difference between a normal medicinal hall and those which belonged to major factions.

Qing Shui walked into the shop. It was a big shop with a length and width exceeding two hundred meters. It was like a department store from his previous life but it just appeared simpler.

There was a platform covered in golden colored cloth, with huge rows of luxurious and neat looking shelves behind it. On the shelves, there were boxes of various sizes and there were no less than ten cultivators who were on guard in the hall.

However, in one look, Qing Shui saw an old man sitting in the corner, reading a book. It was a plainly dress old man but Qing Shui knew that the level of this old man was definitely stronger than him.

Just as Qing Shui saw the old man, the latter lifted his head to look at Qing Shui, as if he had a lot of things on his mind. After his old eyes came into contact with Qing Shui, he seemed to be astonished but quickly regained his composure.

Qing Shui sensed that this old man should be the actual person who was guarding the place. The other guards were probably just there to maintain a front.

Very quickly, a middle-aged man welcomed him and said politely to Qing Shui, "Sir, is there anything I can help you with?"

"I need a medicinal herb. Do you have a complete collection of medicinal herbs here?" Qing Shui smiled and asked.

"Haha, I'm not bragging but if you can't find the medicinal herb in Tang Manor Medicinal herb, you won't be able to find it elsewhere either." The man said with great confidence.

He was truly not bragging. Qing Shui smiled and nodded, "Do you have the Sky Penetrating Grass? It's best if it's one that is at least 5,000 Years."

The man was still trying to recall if they had any Sky Penetrating Grass but when he heard the request was one that was 5,000 Years, he was stunned. He could remember clearly all the medicinal herbs in Tang Manor Medicinal Hall which were 5,000 Years or above but Sky Penetrating Grass wasn't one of them.

After thinking for a short while, the man looked at Qing Shui and said seriously, "We don't have the medicinal herb that you're looking for here. I consider myself to know quite a lot about medicinal herbs but I've never heard of the Sky Penetrating Grass which you have mentioned."

Qing Shui was mentally prepared and had also expected this answer. However, he still felt disappointed. However, thinking of how the Sky Penetrating Grass might not be called by the same name in the world of the nine continents, Qing Shui quickly took out paper and brush.

In the alchemy recipe, there was not only a description of the Sky Penetrating Grass but also a picture of it. It was a pity that Qing Shui was the only one who could see it. Now, his painting skills had already reached an extremely high level.

When Qing Shui quickly drew out the picture of the Sky Penetrating Grass, the people in the surroundings were extremely astonished. To think that this young man had this ability. The medicinal herb in the painting appeared to be old and strong and its sharp feature were clearly portrayed on the paper. However, it also gave the feeling of bleakness and loneliness.

“Lad, you have great painting skills!”

Just then, the old man who had been holding onto a book all this time walked over. When he saw Qing Shui’s painting, he could not help but give his compliments. When he saw this young man’s masterpiece, he could not help but walk over. He knew that he had underestimated this young lad.

“Sir, you flatter me! I don’t deserve this,” Qing Shui smiled and greeted him. He knew that this old man was much stronger than him.

“You deserve it. I’ve seen quite a number of artists and am also one who likes paintings. There’s no need for you to be so humble. You’re looking for the Sky Penetrating Grass?” The old man looked at Qing Shui and smiled saying.

Qing Shui was not overly humble since it would make people feel that he was being fake. He nodded and said, “That’s right. I wonder if you know where they can be found?”

Just as the old man was about to say something, a young man quickly ran in. Upon seeing the old man, he said, “Grandfather, elder brother has competed in martial arts with someone else and has been hit in a vital spot. He’s now on the verge of his death.”

“Lad, I’ll need to excuse myself for a moment.” After saying that, the old man was about to leave with the young man.

“Let me go with you. It just so happens that I have some medical skills.” Qing Shui followed behind.

“Then I’ll thank you.” The old man took the young man by the hand and moved on at great speed.

Qing Shui’s speed was still acceptable and thus he followed behind closely. As they went along the street at great speed, they came across a luxurious manor not long later.

When he saw the majestic looking words written on the sign, he was also astonished. It was because the words “Tang Manor” was no less impressive than the words he had seen in Central Continent previously.

The old man and young man stopped at the door and Qing Shui also stopped next to them. The reason he had followed them was because he felt that the old man might have Sky Penetrating Grass or at least, he should know about it.

The other good thing about it was that Tang Manor and Demon Gate belonged to the same circle. It might prove to be useful in the future. Therefore, since he had this chance today, he should strengthen the ties.

“Lad, let’s go in!”

The old man said to Qing Shui and quickly entered.

Qing Shui answered. At this moment, he still didn’t neglect him. This made Qing Shui full of admiration for the old man’s calm and his social skills. It was because Qing Shui could tell that he was anxious but yet he could still afford to deal with this person who was not related to him at all.

Qing Shui had not the time to take a close look at the luxurious manor. Doing so at such a time was showing disrespect to the master of the house.

Qing Shui continued to think as he walked, wondering what status this old man with a hint of celestial aura had in Tang Manor. Since he was usually at the Tang Manor Medicinal herb shop, he must know quite a bit about medicinal herbs. At least, he should be quite a good alchemist.

Otherwise, the young man would not be in such a hurry to look for him.

Passing by a few corridors, turning into a courtyard, they came across quite a number of people. When they saw the old man, all of them addressed him as Fifth Master. When they entered the courtyard, they saw many people entering and leaving the place.

“Make way, grandfather is here,” the young man said as he rushed forward.

Hearing the young man’s words, everyone immediately made way. Qing Shui followed the old man into the room. The room was filled with a faint stench of blood and medicinal herbs. In the center of the hall, there was a young man breathing weakly while lying down on a bed.

There were many people around him, of all ages. There were even some old men who were carrying medicinal boxes!

The young man seemed to be in his thirties or forties but his face was so pale that there was no hint of blood in it. His eyes were closed tightly, his clothes covered with traces of blood. The old man quickly went over.

“Fifth Master!”

“Fifth Master!”

“Grandfather!”

“Father!”

.....

“Father, you must save Chong`er!” a middle-aged beautiful married woman cried and said when she saw the old man.

A middle-aged man next to her quickly pulled her away, “Stop making trouble. Would father not save Chong`er?”

The old man sat down, frowning as he looked at the young man on the bed. He checked his pulse and touched the young man’s neck before saying, “Who did this?”

When the old man said this, a strong surge of aura burst out. It was only now that Qing Shui knew how terrifying the old man was.

“Someone from Dragon Emperor Mountain!” The young man from before sighed and said.

Qing Shui didn’t say anything, despite being very astonished to be coming across the name of another powerful faction. It was really lively in the Central Continent.

On hearing the name Dragon Emperor Mountain, the old man’s aura calmed down. “Chong`er’s organs have been seriously damaged and have moved. Even his vitality has been cut off. Even if you find the

best alchemist in Central Continent here, without a miraculous medicine which can bring one back to life, there's no way to save him."

The people from Tang Manor had already heard the same reply from not less than 20 alchemists. Now, hearing the same reply again from the old man, everyone fell silent. The beautiful married lady from earlier broke into tears once again.

Qing Shui also looked at the person who was on his deathbed. It was just like what the old man had said. Not only were serious injuries dealt to his organs, he had no more hint of vitality in him and there were even many parts in his meridian channels which were broken off.

The old man saw that Qing Shui was looking seriously at the bed. His brows twitched and he asked, "Lad, you have a way to save him?"

Qing Shui was also thinking about it. For an existence like the Tang Manor, with such a huge medicinal hall, by rights, they should also have something which could bring one back to life. However, after giving it more thought, since the old man was not the head of the family, with so many descendents in the clan, even if some of them were to die, they wouldn't have a chance to take it. After all, even for an existence like the Tang Manor, they wouldn't have much of such stuff.

"I might not be able to cure him."

Hearing Qing Shui's words, everyone was stunned. Earlier on, no one could be bothered to ask who this young man was but to think that this young man was saying that he might not be able to save the patient despite the old men who had been conducting alchemy and providing treatment for hundreds of years said that there was no cure. This meant that the chances were still high for him to be saved.

After being stunned for a short moment, the old man stood up and said, "I'd like to ask for your help. No matter whether you can save him or not, I'll reward you tremendously."

#### **Chapter 844 - Saving, Miraculous Physician, Making Friends**

"Sir, there's no need to stand on ceremony. I'll do my best."

Many people looked at Qing Shui doubtfully, not understanding why the old man would believe this young man's words and had even promised that he would be rewarded heavily regardless of whether he could save the young man or not. Qing Shui then said that he would do his best, making some people feel that he was some quack who was here to scam money.

"The young man doesn't know how big the world is!" An old man carrying a medicine box sighed and said.

"Old Liang is right. Fifth Master must have been too flustered. Can't he tell that this young man can't possibly be that skilled. Could it be that our few hundred years of experience with medicine and medicinal skills can not be compared with his ten plus years of experience?" A silver haired old man said, his tone sounding very dissatisfied.

"Let's just wait and see. Old Liang, Old Yin, this young man will definitely say that he has no way out. After all, other than miraculous medicine, how else could one cure these injuries? If he can really save

him, I, Huang Yang, will be willing to respect him as my teacher,” an arrogant old man also said, dissatisfied.

.....

“Enough! Are you guys so willing to let my grandson die?” The old man said softly. Although his tone was very calm, his powerful aura shut many people up.

Qing Shui naturally knew that he could do the job. As he walked over, he said softly, “If one has aspirations, age is not an issue; if one has no aspirations, living for a hundred or hundreds of years sometimes would just represent that the person could eat a few more years worth of food.”

Toward people who liked to throw their weight around because of their age, people who were very afraid of people infringing on their benefits and thus would exert pressure on others because of it, Qing Shui had no nice words to say.

“Alright, alright, you’re very arrogant. I’m going to see what means you have.” The few old men were infuriated by Qing Shui’s words. They were after all, the top notch alchemists and physicians in Tang Manor. In Tang Manor, they had received great respect and treatment, enjoying great statuses.

“If you can really cure him, I’ll respect you as my teacher,” the old man from earlier once again repeated this in order to prove himself. It was as if this was the greatest price he could pay. He, Huang Yang, was also a reputable physician and he felt that lowering his status was the greatest sacrifice he could make.

Qing Shui shook his head and smiled, not saying a word. He walked up close to the bed and said softly, “Take off his clothes.”

Now, Qing Shui’s words weighed the most and thus there were people who immediately helped the man on the bed to undress. There were black and purplish marks on the man’s chest.

There were also some external injuries at his shoulder and it was the source of the blood traces. However, those were merely external wounds and what was fatal were his internal wounds.

Saintly Hands!

The increase to his cultivation level and spirit energy also caused Qing Shui’s Saintly Hands to be much more powerful than before.

Glittering and translucent like jade, his hands which were almost transparent patted gently onto the man’s body.

Bit by bit, the spirit energy flowed into Tang Chong’s body. Qing Shui’s palms grew increasingly faster and the dense slapping sounds kept sounding out. However, there seemed to be no changes to Tang Chong’s body at all.

When the few old men who were alchemists and physicians saw Qing Shui’s hands, they were slightly astonished. However, seeing that there were no changes after so long, their astonishment once again turned into that of disdain.

Fifth Master Tang looked at Qing Shui in astonishment. He could sense the flow of the spirit energy from Qing Shui’s hand. At this moment, it could be said that this pair of hands were valuable treasures.

Furthermore, he had the feeling that this young man would definitely be able to cure his grandson. Who on earth was he? To think that he was equipped with such a miraculous technique at such a young age.

Another thing was his cultivation level. Although Fifth Master Tang could sense his abilities, he could also sense the dangerous aura concealed deep within Qing Shui's body.

Although Tang Manor might not be the most powerful in Central Continent, it could be considered one of the most powerful. However, within Tang Manor, amongst those who were close to his age, only Ye'er from his eldest brother's family would be able to be on par with him. As for the others, in a fight, they would probably not be a match for this young man.

Who is he?

What kind of person was able to nurture such an outstanding descendent?

15 minutes later, Qing Shui stopped. A shimmering Gold Needle that was thin as a cow's hair appeared in his right hand. If not for its color, one might not be able to notice it.

Acupuncture!

There was acupuncture in the world of the nine continents but majority of them would only be able to show a slight effect. Therefore, acupuncture existed only within rumors and not many people had been able to witness powerful acupuncture techniques.

When they saw that nine inch long Gold Needle in Qing Shui's hand, everyone was stunned. In acupuncture, a nine inch needle was the longest one. These people had experienced a lot of things in this world and could also tell that it was a Gold Needle.

Right now, even they were starting to feel that this young man might really be quite capable.

Shanzhong Acupoint!

With a flash of his hand, half of the nine inch long Gold Needle was pierced in. That high proficiency caused everyone present to be astonished and even all the physicians and alchemists felt that this needle was extremely profound.

The energy from the Ancient Book of "Rebirth"!

Right now, the mysterious energy in Qing Shui's body from the Ancient Book of "Rebirth" started to circulate slowly and channeled into Tang Chong's body through the Gold Needle.

Five Element Acupuncture!

Using the inter promoting relation of the five elements between the organs to stimulate the patient's inner potential, Qing Shui then tried to recover the injured areas of the patient's organs through Saintly Hands and the energy from the Ancient Book of "Rebirth".

The process was gradual but effective. However, it was impossible to cure him with just one treatment. Qing Shui would only treat him for this one. As for the subsequent treatment, they could rely on medicinal pills and time.

He didn't wish to overly reveal his medicinal skills as it would be too astonishing. It was astonishing enough as it was and he wasn't sure if it was worth it for him to stay for a few more days since he didn't know if Tang Manor had a Sky Penetrating Grass which was at least 5,000 Years or more.

Four hours passed and no one spoke a word during this time, nor did anyone leave. It was because they saw that Tang Chong's life had really been brought back by Qing Shui and his Gold Needle.

When Qing Shui removed the last Gold Needle, everyone seemed to exhale with relief.

"Old Master, I'm thankful to have not failed your expectations," Qing Shui smiled and said.

"Miraculous physician. This is really an eye-opener. It's really as you said, if one has aspirations, age is of no concern," Fifth Master Tang smiled and said, his eyes bright.

"To think that he could really cure him," an old man who had been carrying a medicine box and standing there for four hours mumbled to himself, as if in a daze.

"I wouldn't dare to call myself a miraculous doctor. Your grandson was really fortunate as well. If his injuries were slightly heavier, there would be nothing I can do either," Qing Shui said politely.

"Miraculous physician, I've said that if you're able to cure Young Master Tang, I'll respect you as my teacher. I'll definitely work hard to learn the acupuncture you teach me and save the lives of the people in the world," the old man from earlier smiled and bowed, saying seriously.

He had seen people who were thick-skinned but not one to this extent. Looking at this old man, Qing Shui said, "Sir, you're too old and there's not much future for you in the path of medicine. Even if you were to attain a breakthrough, it would be a waste."

Qing Shui smiled and said to the old man. He could not understand people like them but there were plenty of such people around everywhere.

"I've said it earlier that if you were to cure Young Master Tang, I'll respect you as my teacher. Don't worry, I'll definitely not bring shame to you..."

"Did I say that I'd take you in as a disciple?" Qing Shui really found this kind of person revolting.

"But I've said that..."

"Huang Yang, that's enough. You can take your leave!" Fifth Master Tang frowned and said softly.

It was only then that the few old men took their leave but it seemed as if they still had a lot of things they wanted to say. However, they also knew that Qing Shui was not interested in talking to them and thus could only leave, sighing.

"He'll wake up in an hour. I won't need to meddle with the follow-ups," Qing Shui smiled and said.

"Miraculous physician, thank you for saving my son," the beautiful married lady from earlier walked up to Qing Shui and said agitatedly.

"Madam, it's fate for our meeting. Your son is also one with great luck." Qing Shui remained polite.

"Lad, come, we'll go take a walk in the backyard. It's too messy here." Fifth Master Tang smiled and said.

“Alright!”

Qing Shui and Fifth Master Tang walked out of the place and headed for the backyard. Only then did Qing Shui take a look at the surroundings, looking at this huge and luxurious manor.

“Lad, how can I address you? I’m Tang Wude from Tang Manor. As I’m ranked number five, all of them call me Fifth Master,” the old man smiled and said, looking at Qing Shui as he walked.

“My name is Qing Shui!” After giving it some thought, Qing Shui felt that there was no need for him to hide it.

“From Greencloud Continent.” Tang Wude didn’t try to hide his astonishment when he looked at Qing Shui.

Qing Shui nodded. He didn’t find this strange. After all, he was the most well-known person in Greencloud Continent now and it was normal for some great factions from other continents to keep an eye on him.

“A genius blessed by heavens is already not enough to describe you,” after taking a look at Qing Shui, Tang Wude said softly.

“Sir, you’ve overestimate me,” Qing Shui’s heart skipped a beat and said.

This rating was too high. While it was good to be receiving compliments, dangers would always lurk behind compliments. The greater the compliments, the greater the danger.

There should be many people who wish to get rid of him as soon as possible!

“You’re very cautious. Haha, actually, I also want to tell you not to easily trust other people, especially in Central Continent. The mix of people here has some that are very messed up,” Tang Wude said before he moved onward.

“Thank you!”

Qing Shui had initially felt that he was strong and had the ability to protect himself. However, recalling the lady in the crystal coffin, he knew that he was too careless.

“Haha, you’ve saved Chong`er. To be honest, I’m really full of admiration for your medicinal skills. It’s not just me, I’m sure it’s the same for everyone else. Tang Manor is still considered to be quite powerful but I won’t ask you to serve Tang Manor since you’re not someone who would do so. It’s fate that we have met. How about we be friends?” Tang Wude stopped walking, looked at Qing Shui seriously and said smiling.

“I can’t ask for anything better!” Qing Shui smiled and replied.

“Alright, in the future, we’ll address each others as brothers. It’ll be a friendship between an old man and a young one,” Tang Wude smiled and said.

“I’ll address you as Old Master and you can call me Qing Shui or lad,” After giving it some thought, Qing Shui said.

“No, I’ll call you Qing Shui, you can call me brother. Let’s not be too aloof with each other. You’ll understand why in the future,” the old man insisted.

Qing Shui nodded and said smiling, “Qing Shui greets brother!”

“Alright, alright!”

Tang Wude was good at judging people. This young man was like a dragon that was deep underwater and would soar up into the sky very soon, sending his name across the nine continents. This act would make their relationship more lasting and reliable, although it was just an address.

Once they’d gotten closer, it was easier to talk. Tang Wude smiled and said, continuing walking, “You must stay for a few more days so that I can be a good host. I still need to thank you for saving Chong`er as well.”

“Our relationship is built on the bonding of our hearts, the other stuff is not as important. I’ll probably not be able to stay for long and will leave tomorrow or at most the day after,” Qing Shui smiled and said.

“Are you in a hurry to look for the Sky Penetrating Grass?” Tang Wude frowned and said.

#### **Chapter 845 - Locating the Sky Penetrating Grass, Golden Bloodline, the powerful Thunderous Beast**

“Are you looking for the Sky Penetrating Grass urgently?”

Qing Shui nodded as he smiled at Tang Wude, “That’s right. I was hoping that you would give me some directions.”

“From what I know, it is basically impossible to get your hands on one, here in Central Continent City.” Yang Wude replied Qing Shui, after thinking for a moment.

“Do you mean that it can’t be found here?” Qing Shui was rather disappointed even though he did expect that. He looked at Tang Wude, waiting for him to explain.

“No. It definitely exists and we have it here in Central Continent. You can even find those that are more than ten thousand years. But, no one is willing to sell any, no matter what price you’d offer.”

“Because it is too valuable?” Qing Shui got the gist of the matter.

“It is more than valuable. Sky Penetrating Grass lives up to its name. Many cultivators long to obtain such a saint-level herb. If one consumes a Sky Penetrating Grass that is more than 5000 years old, it will change the constitution of the person and they will get a gifted physique. If a cultivator consumes it, his level of cultivation will also increase immensely as his constitution changes. At the minimum, he will definitely be more powerful than the average cultivator. However, how effective it will be is based on the user’s original strength and potential. Besides that, it has great regenerative properties which can boost one’s lifespan by 200 years.” Tang Wude explained leisurely.

Qing Shui now understood why he could not find any Sky Penetrating Grass anywhere. Even if someone possessed one, they would never let anyone else know. In his mind, he had summarized it succinctly. It was a special herb with miraculous properties.

In the world of the Nine Continents, everything was expensive. Techniques, rare medicinal pills and herbs, divine weapons...

The only things that could tempt powerful cultivators were things which share the rarity category of divine weapons, Sky Penetrating Grass that is more than 5000 years, Yang Revitalising Grass, Spirit Summoning Grass, Golden Buddha Aura Lotus...

This was also the reason why Qing Shui bought all the Requiem Grass he could. Mixed with a type of demon beast blood, it could create a medicinal pill that could rival the effects of a Spirit Summoning Grass. He had discovered this in the Poison Scriptures. So regardless of the cost, he would buy any Requiem Grass he saw as it was actually considerable rare.

"How can I boost my chances of obtaining it?" Qing Shui asked. He definitely must obtain this Sky Penetrating Grass unless it does not exist in the World of the Nine Continents.

"It is impossible to get something like that from another person. Only extraordinary people can obtain such an item and these people don't lack money. They might not be willing to even exchange it for a divine weapon," Tang Wude said softly.

Despite the allure of divine weapons, everyone unconsciously hopes that they themselves can become stronger. This required a lot more time, so it was important to increase one's cultivation level and lifespan. As the Sky Penetrating Grass has the properties to do both, it was obvious why no one would even reveal that they have it. There are many people out there who would kill to obtain such an item.

Actually, the thing that bothered Qing Shui most was whether it was worth using the Sky Penetrating Grass to create Ren Meridian Strengthening Pellet and Du Meridian Strengthening Pellet since its effects were almost at the level of Yang Revitalising Grass or Golden Buddha Aura Lotus.

He suddenly found it laughable. The alchemy recipes he obtained from his practice of Alchemy would never be wrong. The effects of the Ren Meridian Strengthening Pellet and Du Meridian Strengthening Pellet would also definitely be impressive.

But the description of their effects were not convincing? It might not even match the effects of consuming the Sky Penetrating Grass itself. However, the description of each medicine might be incomplete. It doesn't actually state the miraculous effects of consuming both Ren Meridian Strengthening Pellet and Du Meridian Strengthening Pellet at the same time.

But the greatest problem right now was getting the herb!

"Where would this herb appear?" Qing Shui guessed from Tang Wude's reply that he should have an idea of the location of the herb.

"Sky Penetrating Grass usually grows in places with little human activity but I know a place where it is frequently seen." Tang Wude mulled over it and frowned.

"Where? Brother, please tell me."

"Qing Shui, I have no problem telling you the location but that place is too dangerous. You..." Tang Wude looked at Qing Shui, and was hesitant.

"Don't worry. I won't be rash." Qing Shui smiled, feeling overjoyed.

“Alright, I’ll tell you but you must promise me that you won’t rush in rashly. With your capabilities, you would definitely have chance some time later. “ Tang Wude knew that Qing Shui would definitely go searching so he could only advise him thus.

“Brother, I promise. I don’t want to die so early,” Qing Shui smiled and said.

“You can find it at the Sky Penetrating Mountains of the Eastern Victory Divine Continent,” Tang Wude said calmly looking at Qing Shui.

“Sky Penetrating Grass comes from Sky Penetrating Mountains? That does make sense. Do you know where these mountains are?” Eastern Victory Divine Continent was huge, even though it was possible to find a location with its name, it would still take time.

“Just like how Giant Beasts Mountains lies to the east of Greencloud Continent. Similarly, Sky Penetrating Mountains is at the eastern edge of Eastern Victory Divine Continent. The mountains also contain the highest concentration of Spiritual Qi in that continent so it is incomparably dangerous. No one knows how vast the mountains are. Likewise, no one can estimate the number of possible treasures and opportunities within it. Qing Shui, you must think about it carefully. Don’t be rash,” Tang Wude reminded him once again.

“Thank you, brother. Don’t worry!” Qing Shui could feel Tang Wude’s sincerity.

“I don’t know what to give you but here!” Tang Wude took out a jade pendant and handed it to Qing Shui.

Qing Shui immediately spotted the Black Treasured Stone on the jade pendant. Based on the aura that the Black Treasured Stone emitted, he immediately knew that it was more powerful than the one that he wore.

The one he wore was actually given to him by the Old Ancestor. It was a level 5 Black Treasured Stone but it was of inferior quality since it only had a 50% speed boost.

“I know that you will definitely go to the Eastern Victory Divine Continent. I won’t stop you. This is a Level 6 Black Treasure Stone of superior quality. It can boost your speed by 100%. It’s slightly better than the one you have right now.” Tang Wude smiled and stuffed the jade pendant into Qing Shui’s hand.

Qing Shui smiled gratefully and thanked him, without rejecting the gift.

“Brother, Is Dragon Emperor Mountain very powerful?” Qing Shui asked casually with a smile.

“Not only are they very powerful, they are extremely powerful. You will be interested to know the other identities of the people there,” Tang Wude laughed.

“Huh? How special must they be for you to revere them?” Qing Shui was curious.

Some of the people from Dragon Emperor Mountain have Golden Bloodlines.”

“Golden Bloodline!”

Qing Shui had heard of Golden Bloodline and Violet Bloodlines but he never actually knew who had them. He was surprised to actually find out today the very people who possessed the Golden bloodline. The bloodlines held an almost mythical existence to him since the people with it seemed so powerful.

“Don’t overreact over such thing. Whether it is the Golden Bloodline or Violet Bloodline, there is a limited number of these people. In their families, only a few of them actually inherit such bloodlines.”

Each of these people are blessed with incredible talents and intelligence. They are valued highly as they are the future pillars of their clans.

.....

As they chatted, it was time for dinner. The banquet in the Tang residence had already been prepared. Qing Shui was only close the Tang Wufu’s branch but he did not know how powerful that branch was in the Tang Clan.

But Tang Wude was the person he thought highly of. Tang Wude held the same attitude as him. They both had a lot of potential though Qing Shui was definitely more talented. They were, of course, taking a chance on such matters.

During the banquet, Qing Shui was well-received by Tang Wude’s branch since he had saved Tang Chong, more importantly he was an incredibly young master physician.

When night fell, Qing Shui entered his Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal from the room that was prepared for him.

His boring training begun!

He would head where the plum blossoms bloomed so he could calm his mind and practice his Taichi Fist. The effects were great and the plum blossoms were never damaged.

Qing Shui discovered that he still had one Mysterious Fruit Tree, two Ice Snow Sacred Fruit and some Vermillion Fruit. These fruits require a long time so it was difficult for Qing Shui to accumulate much even within his Realm of the Violet Immortal.

This time, Qing Shui called for his Thunderous Beast. His Thunderous Beast made a low growl, which sounded like rolling thunder, when it saw the Ice Snow Sacred Fruit. He decided to feed it one of the fruit.

An Ice Snow Sacred Fruit could increase a demonic beast’s power by 200 countries or advance a cultivation technique to another realm - if lucky. Moreover, the advancement wasn’t by one level but by an entire realm, which could skip several levels in one go. Realms were divided by sizes but even the smallest realm could advance a Grade Two Martial Saint to a Grade Three Martial Saint in an instant. Likewise, it was possible to advance up to Grade Five, Six or even Seven. This was why the Ice Snow Sacred Fruit was so incredible. However, only Grade Two Martial Saint up to Peak Martial Saint demonic beasts would be affected. The effects weren’t limited until the Grand Perfection Stage of Peak Martial Saint.

Very quickly, beautiful purple glowing light flashed across his Thunderous Beast with a crackling sound. Qing Shui could sense the changes within his Thunderous Beast using his spiritual sense. Since he was

going to Eastern Victory Divine Continent soon, raising his Thunderous Beast's prowess was his best option. As long as his Thunderous Beast could withstand its enemies' attacks, its Thunderbolt was a terrifyingly powerful skill and its Violet Lightning Strike was even more so.

Who could withstand the effects of Thunderbolt which could continuously lower one's speed, perception and reaction time? The Violet Lightning Strike was simply lethal.

Grade Nine Martial Saint!

This time round, his Thunderous Beast had immediately gone from Grade Six to Grade Nine Martial Saint. Qing Shui was fairly satisfied with the results. These two were the rewards from his Seventh Level Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal.

He looked at the remaining Ice Snow Sacred Fruit. He thought about it for a moment and decided to give it to his Thunderous Beast as he could collect another two ripe fruits in a few days.

This time round, the effects were significantly poorer. His Thunderous Beast increased by one Grade to Grade Ten Martial Saint. But Qing Shui was already satisfied. Both succeeded, besides Grade Ten was pretty good already, since he had allowed it to consume two fruits consecutively. Qing Shui was slightly aware that he might have been too anxious. A demonic beast's strength was different from that of a human, even at Grade Ten Martial Saint, his Thunderous Beast's strength had already slightly exceed the strength of one star.

In the end, his Thunderous Beast's overall stats were better than his Diamond Gigantic Elephant and Firebird. Sadly, its attack was more of a support type. It did not possess an ultimate killer move like his Diamond Gigantic Elephant and his Firebird.

The strength of one star plus the gift from Thunder God— Violet Thunder Protection!

Violet Thunder Protection: The Thunderous Beast's unique ability that activates automatically to double its strength with zero energy consumption. When the Thunderous Beast is under physical attack, it has a chance to paralyze the enemy.

With its Thunderbolt, Violet Lightning Strike and heaven-defying Lightning Recovery, his Thunderous Beast was considerable strong. Qing Shui's aim now was for his Thunderous Beast to sync with him so that he could use his killer moves any time and eliminate his opponents in a split second.

#### **Chapter 846 - The Leveled Up Image of Yin-Yang, Expert Level Focused-Concentration**

Looking at the Thunderous Beast now, Qing Shui was still quite satisfied. Although its actual attacking powers were not comparable to those of the Diamond Gigantic Elephant or the Fire Bird, when it teamed up with him, they were unrivalled. Therefore, he let the Thunderous Beast take the two Ice Snow Sacred Fruits as Qing Shui felt that this time around, he would definitely be able to use the Thunderous Beast but the Diamond Gigantic Elephant and Fire Bird might not be of much use this time around.

Most important, with the Thunderous Beast's constitution, the enemies would not dare to hit it with ordinary physical attacks since they might be paralyzed. The Thunderous Beast's speed was also quite monstrous and although the side effects of the Thunderbolt and the Violet Lightning Strike brought to the enemies were strong, their attack prowess was also very strong.

The other two Ice Snow Sacred Fruits were also going to ripen soon. Qing Shui didn't know if he should give them to the Thunderous Beast against. After all, he would definitely be heading to the Sky Penetrating Mountains.

Looking at the last remaining Mysterious Fruit, after over two months had passed, it was ready for use. He had initially wanted to refine it into Fate Pills and to give them to the people around him. However, thinking of how the time ratio in the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal had increased by a lot and there were now two Mysterious Fruit Trees, there were plenty of chances to do so in the future. Now, it was more crucial to keep it for his own use.

After making the decision, Qing Shui didn't hesitate and swallowed the last Mysterious Fruit. Although this was the third time he was taking it, he was still filled with anticipation and full of expectation toward the results.

The possible effects the Mysterious Fruit could bring were too many. It could randomly allow the breakthrough of one martial technique, random increase in an attribute such as strength, speed and defence to be two times as strong or even having the chances of comprehending the essence of a martial technique or allowing him to gain an alchemy recipe...

Of course, the success rate was still extraordinarily low but Qing Shui had succeeded on his two attempts. Therefore, he felt that there must be other reasons why he had the Mysterious Fruits. Despite this, the chance for him to gain things which were of little value was still very high.

He quietly digest the powers of the Mysterious Fruit and everything progressed steadily. Qing Shui's brows relaxed and he was so calm that it was hard for others to tell that he was absorbing heavenly and earthly treasures.

Boom!

Qing Shui suddenly felt a tremble in his head as he appeared in his consciousness. This scenario just like what had happened when he had battled against the Marrow Nibbling Worms previously. Just as he was struck by confusion, he suddenly realized that the image of Yin-Yang was circulating much faster than before.

The image of Yin-Yang didn't seem to have any change in its size compared to before but it appeared to be even stronger, with a rustic feel to it. It exuded the most basic mysterious powers in the world. At this moment, Qing Shui's mind was very clear.

The colors of the image of Yin-Yang became even more rustic and mysterious looking and the image of the Yin-Yang fish was increasingly clear, being the most basic grey color, just like the color of the primordial flames.

Could it be that his image of Yin-Yang had leveled up?

From the very start when the image of Yin-Yang seemed to be very weak, it had continued to level up and had now become a powerful existence, constantly exuding mysterious powers to temper his organs and replenish his physical strength and spirit energy.

The image of Yin-Yang was much stronger than before, allowing Qing Shui to be able to better resist pressures and attacks through spirit energy. Although the leveling up of the image of Yin-Yang didn't

allow his abilities to be increased directly, the benefits were even better than having his actual cultivation level increased.

The other thing was, he felt that he could better focus his spirit energy compared to before. Under extreme focus, the powers he could display were more powerful and he felt that everything seemed to be slower.

Expert level Focused Concentration!

Tremendous increase in speed and strength!

The Focused Concentration he had comprehended when he was at the Southern Sea had actually leveled up here. With his Focused Concentration, both his attack prowess and his defence could increase by about 20%.

Now, Qing Shui looked at the expert level Focused Concentration!

With the expert level Focused Concentration, not only would his attack prowess and defence be increased by 20%, it could also increase the resistance against spirit energy, allowing the powers of his spirit energy to be better unleashed.

Qing Shui smiled happily and retreated from his consciousness very quickly. This was considered good and he was very satisfied. After all, the chances of him being able to attain a breakthrough to the seventh heavenly layer through the Mysterious Fruit was close to zero. Although everything was possible with the Mysterious Fruit, the chances were too low and even if there was a possibility, it was merely a possibility.

After all this, it was about time for him to leave the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal. Ever since coming out from the crystal palace, his luck seemed to be quick good.

After cleaning up and changing into a fresh set of clothes, he left the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal.

He had nothing planned in the morning and planned to have a walk around the city. Tang Wude accompanied Qing Shui and the two of them chatted as they walked.

“Brother, how powerful do you think a Martial Emperor is?” Qing Shui asked casually.

Qing Shui’s had been at the Peak of the sixth heavenly layer for quite a long time but he had not been able to attain a breakthrough. Based on estimation, the at the seventh heavenly layer would increase his abilities by at least ten times. Would he be able to attain the Martial Emperor level then?

“Martial Emperor, haha, that’s a far off existence. Qing Shui, you’re already very strong now and your talent is the best that I’ve seen so far. When the opportunity comes, maybe you’ll be able to breakthrough to the Martial Emperor level,” Tang Wude smiled and said.

“Brother, do you know if there are any Martial Emperors in Central Continent?” Qing Shui already had the answer but he still asked. It was because he felt that that lady in the crystal coffin should be at least an elementary Martial Emperor .

“Yes, there are still Martial Emperors but they seldom show up.” A hint of enthusiasm flashed in Tang Wude’s eyes.

“How powerful is a Martial Emperor?” Qing Shui sighed and said.

“Peak Martial Saints would be weak in front of them as ants in front of a Martial Saint. A Martial Emperor would not even need to move a finger to kill a Peak Martial Saint,” Tang Wude shook his head and said.

Qing Shui only smiled bitterly. Wasn't he like that before that lady? It would be extremely easy for her to kill him. However, seeing that he was still alive despite having been attacked twice, it could only mean that she did not go all out to try to kill him. Otherwise, it would merely take a thought for her to kill him. He did not understand why she did not. Before her, he was so inferior that he could not find an answer he felt was right.

Emperor City Auction Hall

What a domineering name! This was what Qing Shui felt. The Central Continent could be considered the Emperor City but Qing Shui could not help but think of Dragon Emperor Mountain. He felt that the Emperor City Auction Hall was a property of Dragon Emperor Mountain, just because of the word 'Emperor'.

“In this area, Tang Manor is considered to have the best medicinal hall, while for auction halls, it'll be this Emperor City Auction Hall. This belongs to Dragon Emperor Mountain,” Tang Wude smiled and said.

Qing Shui smiled and nodded. As expected, it belonged to the Dragon Emperor Mountain. The two of them headed for the entrance.

“Fifth Master, you're here! Please come in!” When the guard saw Tang Wude, he smiled and quickly came up to welcome him, leaving the other guests aside.

“No need to attend to me. I'll head up myself,” Tang Wude smiled and said.

“Alright, alright. Fifth Master, please feel free!”

Tang Wude and Qing Shui went up to the second storey from the side door. The auction hall was very big but there were only two storeys. The first storey was the hall while the second storey had private rooms separated off by partition boards. Although the rooms were small, the decor was luxurious but yet did not block the view.

Qing Shui came here to try his luck, to see if he could come across anything which would be useful to him. Usually, there would be two rounds of auctions in a day, with one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Each round would take two hours.

Qing Shui and Tang Wude only left Tang Manor in the late morning. Although the auction had not yet started, it would be starting soon.

In the private room, they could see most of the places on the first storey. This auction hall would not lose out to Cloud Adventurer Guild's hall and there were definitely more than several tens of thousands of people seated there.

The auctioneers for large-scale auctions would all be martial arts practitioners who were at least Xiantian. Otherwise, it would be hard for them to be heard by everyone present.

The people on top could clearly see those below but the reverse was not true. Moreover, those on the second floor were people with status and reputation. There was food and drink provided in the private rooms and if required, there would even be two beautiful maids who would help to provide massages.

However, Qing Shui and Tang Wude did not request for the maids to stay.

“Brother, how are the things in this auction hall?” Qing Shui smiled, sat down and asked.

“How should I say it? This is the biggest auction hall in the area. It has everything, from medicinal pills, medicinal herbs, weapons, demonic beast’s core, bones and hide, as well as defensive equipment.”

“But for miraculous medicines and divine artifacts, you can basically forget about it. Only idiots would sell them. More people come to try to dig for treasures.”

“Dig for treasures? What do you mean?” Qing Shui asked directly.

“There might be new and interesting things being put up for sale. There could be the case where you recognize the value of something even though others don’t or it could also be no one recognizes the value but you find out that it’s a treasure after purchasing it. It’s just that the chances of the latter occurring is very low,” Tang Wude smiled and said.

Qing Shui knew about these. He was only here to try his luck today. After all, he’d just attend one auction and leave in the afternoon.

Very soon, it was time for the auction to start.

There were three auctioneers wearing black colored professional clothes. One of them was an old man while the other two were middle-aged men. The moment they came out, they greeted everyone present. It was clear from their professional smiles and presentable actions that they were very experienced auctioneers. The old man’s tone was very pleasant and amiable.

“Let’s cut a long story short, I’m sure many of you present knows me. I have also introduced myself earlier. Now let me announce that the auction for today has officially started. We’ll start off with the first item.” Hearing the old man announcing the start of the auction, the noisy auction hall immediately fell silent.

“Ten 500 Year Snow Lotus Seeds. The starting bid is 1,000 silver taels and each increasing bid must not be lower than 20 silver taels. The auction starts now.” The old man said softly but his voice could be clearly heard by everyone.

Qing Shui was not interested in this but this did not mean that other people were not interested. No matter how big the auction hall, it was impossible for everything on auction to be miraculous medicine or divine weapons. It would be considered good if there were a few good pieces at the end of each auction.

In this world, no matter how good the stuff you bring out, as long as you can name a price, someone would be able to afford it.

Competition was not very tough and someone got it very quickly at 1,300 silver taels. The Snow Lotus Seeds relieve heatiness and toxins. To ordinary rich merchants, they were considered quite good.

After all, there were many medicinal pills which ordinary people could not take.

### **Chapter 847 - Passive Treasure, Spirit Gathering Lamp**

A few more items were quickly auctioned out. There was not much competition and thus they were sold off very quickly.

“Ladies and gentlemen, the next item on the list is a mysterious item. Even our client is not aware what the item is but he nonetheless entrusted it to our Emperor City Auction Hall to put it up for auction. Our professional appraisers have appraised it to be an ancient item. We’ll reveal a little bit more information. The client comes from a major clan and we trust that he would probably not bring rubbish here to put up for auction. Alright, we’ll start accepting bids. The lowest bid will be one gold tael, nothing lower.” The auctioneer took off the cloth on the table and said.

When Qing Shui saw that item on the table, he was stunned. It was a dark green ancient lamp-shaped object that appeared very old and tattered. However, at this moment, Qing Shui wanted to call out its name.

Spirit Gathering Lamp!

Qing Shui could clearly remember the effect of the Spirit Gathering Lamp. If one were to equip it in battle, it could randomly increase the spiritual energy of all the holder’s summoned demonic beasts until the battle ended.

Qing Shui could even sense the rippling spiritual energy on it. Although it was not very strong, he could sense it clearly. Yet, he was confused why no one had been able to use it.

He did not know its actual effect either.

He suddenly thought of Magic Treasures. Such treasures were categorized into active and passive types. The active types were those like Qing Shui’s Demon Binding Ropes and Soulshake Bell. To be useful, Qing Shui had to hold them in his hands and directly use it against the target.

The other type of magic treasure was the passive type, like this Spirit Gathering Lamp. Passive treasures were only effective when placed in a specific location. For example, small-scale items like gemstones could be hung at the waist, around the neck, or embedded into weapons or clothes. There was no need to specially control them and their effect would take place automatically, like passive battle techniques.

Looking at the one meter long Spirit Gathering Lamp on the auction table, Qing Shui knew this was a good item for beast tamers. However, ordinary people would never carry such an item in battle, as they did not know its value or purpose.

Since they were not aware of its use, the lamp would be useless. Moreover, Qing Shui could sense that this Spirit Gathering Lamp’s grade was definitely not high. Therefore, even if someone were to really hold and use it, he would not sense any obvious effects.

Qing Shui could sense that there were too many restrictions to this item. Firstly, one would need to temper this Spirit Gathering Lamp to a higher grade. Next, one must have demonic beasts at the level of his Fire Bird and Thunderous Beast for the lamp to be useful.

Another thing Qing Shui was concerned about whether the item had the same effect as the Spirit Gathering Lamp he recalled. Who would come in possession of such a Magic Treasure?

If it really was a Magic Treasure, it should also have some effect when held. However, who would hold such an unwieldy item during battle? Many cultivators would carry weapons in both hands or a weapon in one and a shield in another...

Since the Spirit Gathering Lamp was so big, it was impossible to carry it easily. Therefore, even if it was put up for auction today, no one knew what use it had. Therefore, the greatest value of this item was as an antique collectible.

However, Qing Shui thought of his Fire Bird, Thunderous Beast and other beasts. He didn't know if the Diamond Gigantic Elephant's skills like the Diamond Sword Qi and the Mighty Elephant Stomp would be affected by the Spirit Gathering Lamp.

However, the attacks of the Thunderous Beast and Fire Bird would definitely be affected by the Spirit Gathering Lamp. Of course, this assumed that this "Spirit Gathering Lamp" was the Spirit Gathering Lamp he knew of. Therefore, Qing Shui was hell-bent on getting his hands on this Spirit Gathering Lamp.

"Two gold taels!"

"Three gold taels!"

...

As Qing Shui was in deep thought, people had started calling out their bids. Most were from rich merchants who merely wanted to have it as a collectible.

"Five thousand gold taels!" Suddenly, a cold voice not far from Qing Shui rang out.

The bids were increasing by one or two or at most by ten taels on the first storey, but the total had not even increased to four hundred gold taels. The person on the second storey may not have been able to hold it in anymore and just shouted out a massive bid to shut everyone up.

There was an unspoken rule in the place. If someone from the second storey called out a bid, those on the first storey would not continue. It was the same this time. No one from the second storey called out any bids either.

"Number 378 from upstairs has called a bid of 5,000 gold taels. Are there any higher bids?" The auctioneer waited for a while before calling out.

"Brother, do you know who that number 378 is?" Qing Shui asked Tang Wude.

"Those who come to the second storey are those who do not wish to have their identities revealed, so no one knows. Of course, you will be able to find out if you pay attention when they leave, unless they try to conceal themselves. Why, Qing Shui, you're also interested on getting your hands on that weird item?" Tang Wude smiled and said.

"That's right. I hope to win that item." Qing Shui cut to the chase and said directly.

"Alright, I'll help you!" Tang Wude smiled and said.

“Brother, I’ll do it myself. I’m afraid that I’ll only bring you trouble.” Qing Shui smiled and said.

“Haha, Qing Shui, you’ve underestimated your brother and the Tang Manor. Although the Tang Manor isn’t overly powerful, most people would show some respect to the Tang Manor in this Continent’s Capital. You can bid for it, but the money must be paid by me.” Tang Wude smiled and said.

“With brother’s words, I’m relieved. I won’t stand on ceremony then.”

It was then that the auctioneer spoke up once again, “Calling 5,000 gold taels thrice! If there’s no higher bidder, then the bid will be closed!”

“10,000 taels!”

Qing Shui’s voice rang out. Although it was not loud, it was heard clearly.

“10,000 taels,10,000 taels! Room 215 has bid 10,000 taels!” The auctioneer’s voice was very encouraging.

The auctioneer continued to repeat a few times, as if fearing that other people were not aware of the current bid. He then asked if there was anyone who was going to call a higher bid. He even repeated that the person who had put up the item for auction was from a great clan.

“20,000 taels!”

A cold snort rang out.

Hearing the voice, Qing Shui thought that it would be someone who was more senior, likely an old man. However, the person who called out the bid sounded younger.

“Acting blindly without a care for death!” Hearing that cold snort, Tang Wude casually replied. Although his voice was very soft, the other party would definitely be able to hear it.

“50,000 taels!” Qing Shui had plenty of money in the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal. Even if he needed to spend even more money, he was confident in beating the other party. However, he had not expected that after Tang Wude had spoke, the other party had fallen silent.

The other party probably recognized Tang Wude’s identity. Although it was slightly overbearing to pressure others with his status, the other party had tried to do the same earlier. Some auctioneers would even make use of the competitions between such aristocrat clans to earn a pile of money.

50,000 taels calling once!

50,000 taels calling twice!

50,000 taels calling thrice!

Sold!

Qing Shui eventually spent 50,000 gold taels to get his hands on this item, but the one who paid was Tang Wude. To many people, this was a prodigal act. To the auctioneer, it was an achievement he was proud of, to be able to auction out an item at 50,000 gold taels from a starting bid of one gold tael. This

was the most unexpected event in his auctioning life, but as an auctioneer, this was a glorious achievement.

Qing Shui was not interested in the remaining items. A relatively powerful weapon, the Rainbow Sword, was sold off at a whopping price. To the people here, money was nothing. It was the item that had the least worth.

There were also some medicinal pills and other miscellaneous items that needed to be exchanged for items of similar value or there were specific requirements for the item to be traded for. For example, this could mean using ten medicinal pills to exchange for eight medicinal pills of the same grade. For such an auction, the auctioneer hall would request a certain amount of administrative fees.

Until the auction was over, Qing Shui didn't speak another word and went to collect the Spirit Gathering Lamp with Tang Wude. The items bid on during the auction would be sent to the private rooms after the auction was over.

Qing Shui picked up the Spirit Gathering Lamp. It was quite heavy, but it gave the feeling of being a lamp and bell at the same time.

"Qing Shui, do you recognize this item?" Tang Wude watched as Qing Shui fiddled with this item. To him, this was something that was useless and worth one gold tael.

"I don't. But for some reason, I quite like it and wanted to have it." Qing Shui smiled and said. There was no need to say the truth in some cases. Sometimes, saying white lies were for the better good.

He kept it in the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal!

The moment he tossed it in, Qing Shui sensed a strange feeling, as if his connection with the few demonic beasts in the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal had gotten stronger. His heart could not help but skip a beat as he thought of one possibility.

When the Spirit Gathering Lamp had been placed in the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal, it had been the equivalent of putting in a Magic Treasure.

Heading out with Tang Wude, Qing Shui planned to study this Spirit Gathering Lamp closely later. Compared to active Magic Treasures, Qing Shui felt that passive Magic Treasures were also exceptionally powerful. They were like passive battle techniques and Qing Shui liked them just as much.

...

"Brother, I'm heading off!" Qing Shui didn't stay for lunch.

"I won't stop you then. Be careful on your way. You'll be able to arrive at the Eastern Victory Divine Continent if you continue to head east. Remember what I told you, don't be rash. The Sky Penetrating Mountains are extremely dangerous and with your current cultivation level, you'll only be able to stay around the borders. Before you enter, you must be extremely careful." Tang Wude reminded Qing Shui.

"I will" Qing Shui waved and went up the Fire Bird. Tang Wude's silhouette grew increasingly smaller as he flew away.

...

“Young Master, that young man has flown to the east alone.” A young man from the Wan Clan ran into the courtyard, reporting to a man who was drinking wine together with a coquettish lady.

“Alone?”

The man was in his thirties or slightly older. He appeared very sharp and capable. His bright eyes lit up, and with his slightly bent hawklike nose, he gave off a vicious feeling. However, he could still be considered handsome.

“That’s right. By the looks of it, he seems to be heading for the Eastern Victory Divine Continent.”

“Lad, since you’ve made me, Wan Liankun, lose my pride just for a broken antique, I’ll make you pay with your life. Call 4th Elder, 6th Elder, 7th Elder, 9th Elder and the others over. Keep an eye on that young man, don’t lose sight of him,” the young man said quickly.

...

Qing Shui slowly flew toward the east. At the start, he flew at a very stable speed as he checked out the scenery below. He had no plan to descend since Tang Wude had said that there wouldn’t be any Sky Penetrating Grass here. It was something that he would not be able to get his hands on through purchasing or trading with items. Therefore, what he had to do now was rush to the Eastern Victory Divine Continent and try his luck in the Sky Penetrating Mountains.

Even though he had arrived in the Central Continent City, Qing Shui didn’t head to Cold Ice City to visit Hai Dongqing. He didn’t know if she was fine or whether she would really be waiting for him as she said she would.

In the end, Qing Shui shook his head and stopped thinking about it. He could think about it in the future. As he was just about to leave using the Nine Continents Steps, he sensed that, not far away, there were a few flying demonic beasts tailing him.

#### **Chapter 848 - The Person Who Humiliates, Often Receives Humiliation**

After sensing that there were a few flying beasts tailing behind him, Qing Shui had wanted to throw them off his track with a Nine Continents Steps. However, thinking of how he had not offended anyone in Central Continent, with the exception of causing that one person to have lost his pride earlier at the Emperor City Auction Hall. Or rather, he had borrowed Tang Wude’s status to cause the other party to lose his pride.

Since the other party was afraid of Tang Manor, it meant that they were not as powerful as Tang Manor. However, they still dared to follow him. They must have investigated his identity and they must also be considered quite a strong clan in the area.

He gradually flew out of the Central Continent City, where there was a spacious wilderness. This was how the terrain in the world of the nine continents was like. There would basically be a piece of wilderness between any two cities, even if it was near a Continent’s Capital.

Qing Shui slowed down upon reaching this wilderness. He knew that the people behind him would catch up very quickly. Qing Shui shook his head. There was no fairness in this world, not even in bidding for an auctioned item.

The prerequisite to having fairness was that both parties must be standing at the same level. If they were not on ground of the same height, there would be no such thing as fairness. It was like now, the person who was following them had pressured the people on the first level of the auction hall and how Tang Wude had pressured him. And now, they were now coming to deal with this outsider.

“Since you guys are here, just come out!”

Qing Shui came to a stop and said softly. Although his voice was not loud, it could be heard several thousand meters away. Moreover, he had already sensed that those people had followed him here. The only thing was that they were not that strong.

The sound of a flying beast’s flapping wings rang out and three Black Feather Cranes appeared around Qing Shui.

There were a total of five people on the three Black Feather Cranes, four of which were old men, while the last one seemed to be a young man who should be slightly older than Qing Shui.

“Your spiritual sense is not bad. To think that you can discover us from such a distance away,” One of the old man who was wearing clothes made of sackcloth said slowly.

The old man was of a mediocre figure but his face was horrendous. There was almost no gap between his two brows, making them appear like a thick black worm. His eyes were small like the size of beans, flashing hints of cold light. His nose, which was considerably large, took up a huge part of his face. It was hard to forget such a person even after just a single glance.

The other three old men could be considered normal but these people had a hint of viciousness exuding from them. Qing Shui’s spiritual sense was much more powerful now and thus he was positive that the aura they were exuding was related to the martial techniques they cultivated.

“Why are you following me?” Although Qing Shui guessed that the reason was because of what happened at the auction hall, he was not sure and thus decided to ask.

“Why did we follow you? We’ll tell you when you’ve died. You’re just an outsider but yet you don’t know how to keep a low profile. You think that you’re a member of Tang Manor?” That young man looked at Qing Shui furiously and said.

Qing Shui smiled. They were really the other party from the auction hall. Putting aside that they had already suggested it through their words, there was one more thing which made him sure. It was the other party’s voice. This voice was from the person who was competing with him at the auction hall.

“Aren’t you guys afraid that Tang Manor will deal with you? I’m a friend of Tang Manor,” Qing Shui smiled and said to the young man.

“Friend? Haha, stop blowing your own trumpet. I have no idea what means you used to save Tang Manor’s Tang Chong but you’re just a travelling physician. Earlier, at the Emperor City Auction Hall, Tang Manor was the one who paid, right? To think that a poor bloke like you would dare to think of being friends with Tang Manor,” The young man laughed. Even when he laughed, he was still exuding a hint of coldness.

“That’s right. What’s wrong with that? I’m friends with Tang Manor! Friendship is not measured by wealth.” Qing Shui deliberately made it sound as if he was puzzled.

“Don’t you understand that their action just meant that all the debts between you and Tang Manor have been cleared? Friends? You think Tang Manor’s friends are so cheap?” The young man said with disdain.

Qing Shui thought about it and could not help but agree. If it was not because of his potential it would really be hard for him to become friends with Tang Manor. It was the same in every society. If you don’t have the ability, why would people want to become friends with you?

“You’re killing me just because of this?” Qing Shui smiled and looked at the young man, asking.

“Handover that antique, kneel down before me and I will forget about everything,” the young man looked at Qing Shui and said with a domineering tone.

Qing Shui looked at the young man and shook his head, “Why are there so many idiots in this world?”

As Qing Shui’s words ended, the young man who was standing on the back of one of the Black Feather Crane dropped to his knees in Qing Shui’s direction. Before Qing Shui had spoken, he had sent two silver needles flying, hitting the young man in his knees.

Do unto people what people do unto you. There was no need to be courteous toward people like this. They needed to be stomped down to their deaths.

Initially, the silver needles had not fully pierced into his knees but he already felt tremendous pain and could not help but let out a painful cry. However, when he dropped to his knees, his kneecaps came into contact with the Black Feather Crane’s hardy back and they dug deeper into his knees, causing him to cry out in agony once again.

The kneecap is one of a person’s most fragile and sensitive spots and there were many acupuncture points there. Now that his kneecaps were pierced by needles and especially when it was done by Qing Shui intentionally, the pain was simply unbearable. Moreover, after he had knelt down, they stabbed into his bones and bent inside his body, causing the pain to reach all the way to his marrow.

“Kill him! Kill him!”

The young man rolled on the Black Feather Crane’s crying out in agony.

Three of the old men dashed out toward Qing Shui on the Black Feather Cranes. They were not weak but they were far from a match for the current Qing Shui. Qing Shui calmly took out the Soulshake Bell.

Ring.....

That piercing sound rang out, causing one to feel as if it could penetrate through the roots of one’s teeth as well as one’s eardrums. Two of the three Peak Martial King Black Feather Cranes died immediately. The last remaining one went crazy. It was the one the young man was riding on.

Caught off guard, the one of the young man’s leg was bitten off by the Black Feather Crane. The remaining old man, who had stayed behind, quickly saved the young man from the crane’s mouth, killing it in fury.

The old man who was an elementary Martial Saint was able to easily deal with a Peak Martial King demonic beast.

Primordial Flame Ball!

Qing Shui wanted to try the prowess of his Primordial Flame Ball. Although the people before him were a bit weak, he could still give it a try. The Primordial Flame Ball quickly formed in his hands. Sensing the terrifying prowess of the Primordial Flame Ball, the few old men were stunned.

With this pause, they ended up being devoured by Qing Shui's Primordial Flame Ball.

This caused the two remaining old man and the young man who had lost one of his legs to panic. Their faces turned pale. This was too scary. The flame ball in Qing Shui's hand had burned two elementary Martial Saints, leaving not even ashes.

"Which clan are you guys from?" Qing Shui smiled, stepping into the air as he walked over.

Although Qing Shui had not thought of challenging the backing these people had for now, it would be good for him to know in case they came into contact in the future. He might be able to avoid some trouble.

The other party did not say a word, nor did they try to fight back.

Qing Shui once again garnered up a Primordial Flame Ball. Qing Shui was very satisfied with the prowess of this flame ball. It could even instantly kill people who were of the same level as him. Moreover, he also had the Twin Dragon Explosion, which could create a dark black hole with its explosion. Even those who were stronger than Qing Shui could be torn apart by the black hole and thus disappear.

The countenance of the three of them turned pale. They knew that they would definitely die today but they still held onto a hint of hope. "If I were to say it, would you let me go?" The young man bit his lips and said trembling. "You can't say it. We will die even if we do and we'll end up bringing down the entire clan," one of the old men said firmly.

Pfft!

The old man who had spoke disappeared immediately, leaving behind an old man holding onto the young man. Otherwise, the young man would have fallen down to the ground.

Pfft!

The young man's head was smashed by the last remaining old man and Qing Shui also sent out another Primordial Flame Ball without any hesitation.

Nine Continents Steps!

He disappeared from this barren land!

Not long after Qing Clan left, the people from Wan Clan rushed over. When they saw the three dead Black Feather Cranes, they knew that the group must have been killed. A middle-aged man in the lead stood there, frowning.

“Two of the Black Feather Cranes died from their hearts exploding. There are no traces of them engaging in battle. It seems like they’ve been suppressed by the Qi of an expert and killed,” after taking a look, an old man said softly.

“Even an ordinary Peak Martial Saint would find it hard to use Qi to kill Peak Martial King demonic beasts.” The middle-aged man frowned, shaking his head.

“Go back and check who Young Master has offended. Let’s go!” The middle-aged man frowned but there was no sign of grief on his face.

...

By this time, Qing Shui had already arrived in another city. However, he had no intention of staying. He wanted to get to Eastern Victory Divine Continent as soon as possible. The journey was not short and even with the current Fire Bird and Nine Continents Steps, it would still take a very long time, at least half a year or more. Moreover, even if he had reached the Eastern Victory Divine Continent, he still needed to head to the eastmost point of the Eastern Victory Divine Continent.

When it was dark, Qing Shui found that he had once again arrived in the wilderness between two cities. Looking at the time, he directly entered the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal. Qing Shui could not even be bothered to set up his tent. After he had stayed long enough in the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal, he would continue on his way straightaway, even if it was at night.

The moment he entered, Qing Shui picked up the Spirit Gathering Lamp.

It felt very heavy and gave off a strong aura. This gave him a comfortable feeling. The only thing was that Qing Shui felt that this Spirit Gathering Lamp was very tattered and old.

Temper!

Qing Shui started to temper it but before he did, he instinctively looked at it with his Heavenly Vision Technique.

Spirit Gathering Lamp!

It was an ancient piece and the user could increase the spiritual energy of all tamed beasts which were engaged in battle, causing the attack prowess of the beast tamer’s skills to increase. The increase was related to its grade. Passive treasure, zero energy expenditure!

It was currently at grade zero!

Qing Shui had not expected this to be the same as the Spirit Gathering Lamp he knew of. The only thing which he found regretful was that its grade was too low. But thinking about it, if its grade was high, just the powerful spiritual energy it exuded would let people feel that it was no ordinary item. Therefore, he should be happy that it was at grade zero.

Usually, the time required for him to temper something, to bring it from grade zero to grade one, was very short, therefore Qing Shui did not wish to waste any time. He quickly went through one round. With the time ratio in the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal increased greatly, he hoped that by the time he had reached the Eastern Victory Divine Continent, the Spirit Gathering Lamp would reach a good grade.

He did not know if it was because his abilities had increased or if there were other reasons. Now, Qing Shui could temper each of these treasures for twenty times daily!

During the process of tempering, a faint dark green glow was emitted by the Spirit Gathering Lamp. However, as it was still blocked by the impurities on the surface, only hints of green light could be seen. Just by looks alone, it was hard to relate this to a treasure.

#### **Chapter 849 - Level One Spirit Gathering Lamp, Sky City, Octagon Inn**

After tempering it twenty times in a row, Qing Shui then tempered the Soulshake Bell, Demon Binding Ropes and even the Blackjade Poisonous Spiderweb. Qing Shui didn't know about the Blackjade Poisonous Spiderweb and he knew that it was impossible for him to know of all such treasures. Therefore, the Blackjade Poisonous Spiderweb should be a treasure of a similar type to the Demon Binding Ropes and Soulshake Bell. However, the Blackjade Poisonous Spiderweb not only needed to be leveled up, it would also need to be tempered with some powerful poison.

After tempering these items, he went to where the plum blossoms were to practice Taichi for an hour. After the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal had leveled up to the seventh heavenly layer, there were twice as many plum blossoms as before.

The area of the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal was quite wide. This was an area which belonged to him alone. It could not be said to be very big but its length and width of 10,000 meters was considered quite good. Moreover, this place was a rich wonderland.

Very quickly, a month passed in the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal!

This day, Qing Shui was tempering the Spirit Gathering Lamp as usual. On the eighth attempt, a glow which was many times brighter than before lit up. This flow was very familiar to him.

When the Soulshake Bell and Demon Binding Ropes leveling up to a higher grade, they had also released such a brilliant light.

Qing Shui held back his curiosity and finished up with the remaining twelve rounds of tempering. He then looked at the Spirit Gathering Lamp which looked like a layer of impurities had been removed. Although it still did not appear to be spotlessly clean of impurities, compared to before it was a tremendous change. It now appeared very dignified and pure.

He looked toward it with his Heavenly Vision Technique once again.

Spirit Gathering Lamp!

It was an ancient piece and the user could increase the spiritual energy of all tamed beasts which were engaged in battle, causing the attack prowess of the beast tamer's skills to increase. The increase was related to its grade. Passive treasure, zero energy expenditure!

At grade one, there were slight changes!

It took him a month to bring it to grade one, which meant that it would take at least three months to reach grade two and one year to reach grade three. Qing Shui could make this estimation just by looking at the Soulshake Bell and Demon Binding Ropes. It was all good now. The Realm of the Violet Jade

Immortal had leveled up to the seventh heavenly layer and compared to before, he would be able to save half the time required.

If not for the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal, with such a high expenditure for time, even a Martial Saint with 1,000 years of lifespan would not have enough time!

Qing Shui brought the Fire Bird and Thunderous Beast to a spacious area in the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal. Given that the realm now had a length and width of twenty li, this space he had was still considerably big. In the future, he would not have to worry about having no space to store any of the good things he may come across.

He then let the Fire Bird and Thunderous Beast perform the Nether Fireball and Thunderbolt. When that pitch-black fireball and purplish Thunderbolt appeared, Qing Shui was stunned. He looked at the Spirit Gathering Lamp in his hand in a daze.

Earlier, in order to know clearly the prowess of the Spirit Gathering Lamp, Qing Shui had sensed the prowess of both the Fire Bird and Thunderous Beast before he had started tempering. Therefore, after it had reached grade one, he could not wait to try it out to see if there has been any changes to their attacks.

He had not expected that the results would be so powerful!

About 10% of the prowess of magic was increased...

Thinking about it, Qing Shui smiled. The Spirit Gathering Lamp he knew of was a bit useless. If it wasn't at the highest grade, there was basically not much effect. However, to think that for this Spirit Gathering Lamp, the prowess was already so great when it was just at grade one.

This was the power that a treasure should have. It was now all good. By the time he arrived at the Eastern Victory Divine Continent, the prowess of the Spirit Gathering Lamp would definitely be very great. More importantly, his Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal could be treated as a magic treasure box while others could only hold it in their hands if they were to use it.

Having seen the prowess of the Spirit Gathering Lamp, Qing Shui was beyond happy. His trip to the Central Continent was not wasted. Not only could the Spirit Gathering Lamp increase the attacking prowess of the Thunderous Beast's Thunderbolt and Violet Lightning Strike, it could also strengthen the additional effects the attacks brought, such as being able to reduce the target's speed, reaction and sensing abilities faster than before. It could also increase the duration of the paralyzing effect. When the Spirit Gathering Lamp's grade increased, its prowess would be even more powerful.

Qing Shui then tested the attacks of the Diamond Gigantic Elephant and Ten Thousand Poisonous Violet Sable. However, there was no difference from before its grade had increased. He also did not notice much change to the Gold-Silver Colored Butterflies or Jade Emperor Queen Bee. It seemed like it was only effective toward magic.

This time around, the slight increase in the grade of the Spirit Gathering Lamp gave Qing Shui great hope. He thought about how he could crush his opponents just by relying on the Thunderous Beast alone.

...

Two months later, Qing Shui stood on the streets of the last city in the east of the Central Continent. He was planning to stay here for a day before going through that barren land which stretched for who knows how far and then head for the Eastern Victory Divine Continent.

There was another reason Qing Shui decided to stop by. It was because this city was known as the Sky City!

Sky City!

This was an existence that was in the same circle as the Demon Gate, Dragon Emperor Mountain and Tang Manor. However, he did not know why the city was called the Sky City. Could it be that faction was also called the Sky City?

Or was it because the faction was located in the Sky City?

Or was it a coincidence that both names were the same?

Qing Shui was regretting that he had not asked Tang Wude the reason behind this.

The location of the Sky City was very high. This could be said to be a city located in the high plains. This huge city was also very mysterious. It was taller than the surrounding area by 10,000 meters. In Qing Shui's mind, this was a city located on a plateau.

The Sky City was extraordinarily prosperous. It was not affected by the fact that it was on a plateau. There was no feeling of being oxygen deprived but rather, it felt as if the spiritual energy was stronger than other places. This was the city where there were the most interactions between the Eastern Victory Divine Continent and Central Continent. Unless people flew past it, they would all need to pass by this Sky City.

Qing Shui stopped a beast carriage and headed for the biggest restaurant in the area. He had many questions and thus a restaurant was a good place for him to head to.

Octagon Inn!

Looking at this name, Qing Shui smiled. He had come across many restaurants and inns but there were not many whose names were able to interest him. The Earthly Paradise which Canghai Mingyue and Huoyun Liu-Li had run in the past was one whose name had interested him. He had also come across a few of them later on, one of which was Hundred Flowers Inn but it was a pity that it was a brothel.

Looking at the Octagon Inn, Qing Shui could not help but think of the Four Seas Inn. Places which dared to put up a signboard similar to this tended to be managed by a powerful faction, just like the Emperor City Auction Hall in the Central Continent, as well as those places which dared to use the names of the city directly.

"I wonder if this Octagon Inn has any relation to the Sky City?" Qing Shui smiled and walked in.

The Octagon Inn took up a very large piece of land and it was also very tall. It was a nine storey building, with each storey being over ten meters. It was looked as luxurious as a palace, with the entire building a jade blue color. There were eight corners to the building, facing eight directions, giving the Octagon Inn an air of nobility and dominance.

The Octagon Inn had a long dark red colored carpet which stretched out very far. All the people who passed through the building were all dressed in silk and satin as the aura exuded by the Octagon Inn which would keep poor people away.

Of course, there were also exceptions, for example, people who had strong powers. The Octagon Inn would not stop anyone from entering but upon entering, one must be able to pay. It would be a joke if the person were to dine and dash. There were not many people who would be able to stay safe after an attempt to dine and dash.

Qing Shui had a dignified appearance, wearing a pure white Lunar Silk Garment which made him look even taller. As he walked, there was an indescribable rhythm and he entered the Octagon Inn with an expression that was that of great ease.

“Sir, is there anything I can help you with?” A pleasant young female voice rang out.

Qing Shui turned to see a lady wearing a uniform, smiling.

“I want a room and food!”

“Which level do you plan to stay at?” The lady smiled and asked.

“Oh? Is there a difference?”

“It costs a hundred gold taels daily to stay in the first storey. With each increasing storey, the price doubles. Of course, the higher the storey you stay in, the better the quality provided and the service is better as well,” the lady smiled and explained it simply.

Even Qing Shui, who was never concerned about money, could not help but lament at how the place was a money depleting den, although he could smell the intoxicating fragrance of food and see the comfortable environment on the first storey. The customer service was also very good, giving one the feeling that one was above all other people. Moreover, coming here was representative of one’s identity.

Qing Shui did not know if it was because of the faction behind the Octagon Inn. And what services did they provide?

Women’s charms should not be the reason these people come here. Those who could afford to come here could be said to not be lacking in women. Of course, there was the exception of top notch beauties since there were too few of them around. Therefore, this was not a possibility.

Staying one day on the ninth storey cost 25,600 gold taels!

“I’d like to stay on the ninth storey for a day. Are there any unique features on the ninth storey?” Qing Shui smiled and asked.

“There would be an elementary Martial Saint beauty who would accompany you for a drink. However, this is on the condition that she is agreeable. Moreover, it would not exceed 15 minutes.” The lady smiled and said.

Martial Saint beauty’s accompanying him for a drink?

This innovation...

Qing Shui was stunned. Even though the person would only accompany for a short while and it was on the condition that she was agreeable to it, this was the first time he had heard of such a thing. After all, a Martial Saint would be a brilliant existence no matter where one was. Moreover, it was one who was young and beautiful.

“Sir, if you were to decide on the ninth floor, Miss Feng Wu would definitely join you for a drink.” The waitress smiled and said.

“Are there many people who stay on the ninth floor?” Qing Shui looked up and asked.

“There are!” The waitress smiled and said.

“How many Martial Saint young ladies there are in Octagon Inn who join guests for a drink?” Qing Shui smiled and asked. How could a beautiful a beautiful Martial Saint be here to accompany men who stank of money for a drink? Although there would be no skin contact, this was something that was almost impossible. Moreover, she would be treated as an esteemed guest no matter where she went with her status as a Martial Saint. Unless there were other reasons, those men who were powerful would probably not leave her alone.

These doubts made Qing Shui really want to meet this lady called Feng Wu.

“Only Miss Feng Wu is a Martial Saint.” The lady smiled and answered.

“Then is she able to cope?” Qing Shui continued to ask.

“That’s why she makes the decision if she wants to join the guest for a drink and only 15 minutes for each guest at most.” The lady seemed to be reminding Qing Shui that he could not blame anyone even if there was no one to accompany him even if he had spent the money. The person can only blame himself for not being handsome.

Qing Shui headed up with the waitress after everything was decided. Even he would not be able to spend over 20,000 gold taels a day. Although he had quite a lot of silver notes and other jewels, he would not be able to handle spending money like this.

It seemed like he was still considered poor. Looking at the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal, he decided to throw in money whenever he gets his hand on some in the future...

### **Chapter 850 - Marionette Sect, Nine Yang Marionette King**

Qing Shui followed the waitress and slowly ascended to the upper floors. Along the way, he realized that the business model of the Octagon Inn was significantly different than the other inns he had visited. The lowest cultivation base of the waitresses was Xiantian and yet all of them were young and beautiful. Nevertheless, the waitresses were sufficient to satisfy the vanity and psychological needs of most martial warriors and wealthy merchants.

The architectural style and the atmosphere of the Octagon Inn was more or less similar to the other inns. However, Octagon Inn was a bit unique, in the sense that the waitresses assigned on each floor were different. The higher the floor level, the stronger the waitress would become and they would be progressively prettier than the previous floors.

As he climbed the floors slowly, he also noticed that each level was almost 70% occupied by patrons. Based on that alone, the profit of the Octagon Inn for one day would be immeasurable. Fortunately, the expenses on the food and utilities of the inn were considered modest. If they didn't contribute part of the profits to the improvement of their service quality, it would be difficult to maintain their business in the long term.

The area of each floor had also become progressively smaller. The higher the floor level, the fewer the number the patrons would be. The number of patrons decreased considerably starting from the sixth floor. The seventh floor had fewer than hundred patrons and the eighth floor had less than twenty. On the ninth floor, there were only three people.....

"Perhaps some of them are inside the private rooms." Qing Shui thought.

Qing Shui chose a room close to the corner where he could overlook the scenery outside from the windows. Moreover, he chose the room because it was significantly brighter than the other rooms.

"Please wait for a moment, sir. We will serve the dishes shortly. I will inform Miss Huang Wu and check on her schedule." The waitress showed a smile before she left the room for her duties.

Feeling bored, Qing Shui decided to check around the room. The area of the living room was about a hundred square meters, where it had access to the bathroom, kitchen and two bedrooms. The entire room was filled with a refreshing air and there was no dust to be seen. The floors and the walls were all white, giving the room an impression of purity and holiness.

Knock knock knock!

"Come in!" Qing Shui commanded.

As the door opened, eight waitresses wearing neat uniforms entered in succession, each carrying eight smaller dishes on their trays. The dishes looked appetizing, with the delicious aroma filling the room within seconds.

Eight waitresses each with eight dishes, totalling to about 64 dishes altogether.....

Would he be able to finish everything? The staggering amount of dishes wasn't strange at all when Qing Shui realized the amount of money he had paid for this room. After the waitresses had left, Qing Shui sat down in front of a long end table without touching the dishes. There were two pairs of chopsticks in front of the dishes as well.

After the time to burn a stick of incense had passed, Qing Shui finally picked up his chopsticks to begin his feast. Just when he was about to eat the food...

Knock knock knock!

Someone knocked on the door.

"Come in!" said Qing Shui as he put down his chopsticks.

The door opened and a beautiful woman came in. Qing Shui could tell that she was Huang Wu simply by her aura. She seemed quite young despite her tall, seductive figure, which could not be overlooked even with a black stylish dress draping her body.

Her brows were curved like the sickle of a new moon and her lashes curled and elongated, which complemented her pretty eyes, as if she was smiling, albeit subtly. The straight bridge of her nose was the centerpiece of her delicate face and there was a hint of individuality on her pouty red lips, in contrast to her smooth skin which was as white as snow.

However, there was something else emitting from her body - a strange aura that felt quite forceful to him!

Her cultivation techniques were of the metal element!

“Are you not going to invite me to sit down?” The woman noticed Qing Shui staring at her but without a shred of excitement or eroticism. From the beginning, his expression was as calm as the serene waters, which ironically caused her heart to skip a beat.

She had a pleasant voice that could sooth the hearts of those who heard it. Realizing his manners, Qing Shui stood up and gave a warm smile as he said, “Please, sit down!”

Huang Wu was startled after she found herself developing an interest in this young man. She knew he was different from the first moment she saw him. Even though she couldn’t feel his true strength, she could still tell how strong he was based on her intuition.

Qing Shui was actually shocked as well. She was a Grade Five Martial Saint..... Which was the same as Di Chen. He also found it odd that a woman of such strength would work here as a hostess to entertain male guests.

“Miss, why do you choose to work here despite possessing such ability?” Qing Shui was curious. If she needed money, she could easily acquire it from the countless admirers in the city. Moreover, she might be someone with an influential status, otherwise she would not be able to stay here without any problems.

Maybe she had the support of a powerful force behind the Octagon Inn?

“Do you think I am shameless for doing so?” The woman asked softly as she smiled at him. However, Qing Shui was still unmoved by her charm.

“No, I don’t. There’s no difference between nobility nor humility in life. We are, however, all born in different classes,” Qing Shui replied as he shook his head gently.

“Then you are saying that I’m shameless.”

“I only said there’s no nobleness and lowliness in life. Perhaps you are looking down on everything you’ve done?” Qing Shui looked at the beautiful woman, yet he could never bring himself to be swayed by her appearance nor her behavior.

“Alright, let’s not talk about that anymore. Let’s talk about something more cheerful.” The woman beamed.

“Sure. Do you know the origins of the name ‘Sky City’?” asked Qing Shui without hesitation. He didn’t have much time, so naturally, he decided to retrieve as much relevant information as he could from her.

“Actually, there’s no clear explanation on that. Some say that the city occupies an extremely high ground, almost to the point of touching the sky. Thus, the ‘Sky City’ was adapted. Others say that there’s a small inner city located at the highest peak of the city, which is ironically known as the ‘Sky City’ as well. In the end, the entire city was renamed as the ‘Sky City’,” the woman said without rushing her words.

“This Sky City should be the same powerful city I was told about!” Qing Shui murmured, as if he was talking to himself.

Half an hour had passed. The woman didn’t intend to leave yet, so Qing Shui picked up the wine and poured a cup for her. Then he poured himself some as well.

“I see that you’re quite powerful. Have you ever thought about looking for a powerful advocate?” The pretty woman swivelled her cup for a while before pursing her lips to drink the wine.

Qing Shui picked up his cup and drank the wine as well. Then he lowered his head and squinted his eyes for a brief second. The woman couldn’t see his face clearly when he had lowered his head but if she did, she would have seen the coldness in his eyes. Qing Shui, however, maintained his smile and replied in a soft tone.

“You mean an advocate like you? You seem alright but not strong enough,” replied Qing Shui. His eyes seemed a little bit colder than earlier.

“Of course I’m not strong enough. But I can introduce you to a powerful force. If you are willing, you will get all the money, skills, medicinal pills and women of your choosing. How about it?”

“I might be inexperienced but I still have some knowledge about the powerful forces in the Central Continent. May I know what kind of ‘powerful force’ you meant earlier? At least you can tell me that, right?” said Qing Shui as he looked at the beautiful woman with slight anticipation.

“We are from the Marionette Sect,” the woman said in a calm tone while flashing a smile to Qing Shui.

“So the drug you slipped in was to nurture me as a marionette for your sect.” Qing Shui turned to the woman and locked his terrifying aura to suppress her movement.

“You are actually unaffected?” Her face turned pale as she stared at Qing Shui with a surprised expression.

Qing Shui knew exactly why she had approached him - she was not simply a woman who was employed to entertain guests but a woman to select marionettes for the Marionette Sect. Her goal was to find those with decent cultivation through a reliable network before marking her targets. Regardless how much those wealthy traders or merchants paid to see her, she would not entertain them, as they were unsuitable to become a marionette for her sect.

Qing Shui was no stranger to the term ‘marionette’. Marionettes were divided into various categories or realms. The lowest realm would be those of a walking corpse with high defenses refined from drugs and potions, unsusceptible to the sharp edge of a blade. However, this type of marionette would lack the basic intelligence of a human being, replaced with a basic instinct to attack until the brain or the heart had been struck or crushed. Marionettes of this type were immune to the sensation of pain from broken arms or legs. The power they could unleash was limited to 30% of their overall strength.

The next level of marionettes would maintain their basic yet elementary intelligence, as they would possess the basic instinct to evade deadly attacks. The power they could unleash would be limited to half of their overall strength.

As the level of the marionettes progressed, the limitation to their strength would decrease and they would be able to restore a progressive amount of intelligence. The highest level of marionettes were rumored to be different, as they could unleash power a few times stronger than their overall ability. Not only would they become increasingly stronger than a mighty demonic beast, they would behave like an ordinary human with a functioning intelligence capable of processing complex thoughts.

In any case, the acts of the Marionette Sect were still unbelievably terrifying. They could be considered an elite sect, much more formidable than those skilled in utilizing poison. The Marionette Sect was more or less similar to those sects that specialized in beast taming - a beast tamer's goal was to tame demonic beasts, while the goal of the Marionette Sect was to control a human being. Demonic beasts were no exception to the Marionette Sect, albeit rare, as these beasts could become marionette beasts after a successful nurturing of their mind and body.

Moreover, marionettes have a time limit to function as they were intended. After a certain amount of time, marionettes must consume a special medicinal pill that allows the continuous control of their state of mind. In spite of that, a marionette of a higher level would be able to retaliate as they possessed a stronger state of mind but would not be able to dispel the control of a marionette master completely.

"Why did you target me?" Qing Shui observed the woman. She was as beautiful as a blooming flower but her heart was as venomous as a poisonous scorpion. Qing Shui would have never expected her to be such a woman from the first glance. Truly, one could never judge someone solely by their appearance!

"No matter. If I knew this would happen, I would have slipped a greater amount of drugs into your wine. I didn't think you would possess such terrifying power. Why did we choose you? Because your body is very suitable to become the 'Nine Yang Marionette King'. I have already contacted the Grand Elder. Soon the Old Ancestor will nurture you to become the strongest marionette king the world will ever know." The woman spoke at a casual pace, undisturbed by Qing Shui's demeanor.

"I can kill you easily right now, do you believe that?" Qing Shui looked at her with a perplexed expression, confused as to why the woman was still confident despite his threat.

"It's too late now!" She shook her head and fled.

The door suddenly burst open, followed by an old man entering the room.

Qing Shui felt goosebumps as soon as he saw the abrupt appearance of the old man. All he could think of was to escape from this room as soon as possible. But before he could, the room suddenly felt like a torrid purgatory as he became increasingly uncomfortable. However, it was still bearable as the suffocating sensation was considerably weaker than that of the woman in the crystal coffin.

In addition, his spiritual energy had become remarkably stronger after the incident with the woman in the crystal coffin, which was why he was able to endure the suffocating force of his opponent despite his current strength.

And that begged the question: What was the highest power a Peak Martial Saint could possess?

The strength of ten stars was essentially an enlightenment towards the Martial Emperor but that was just it, an enlightenment. He couldn't sense the power of this Grand Elder of the Marionette Sect but he could tell that he wasn't a Martial Emperor. However, this old man was undoubtedly far stronger than Qing Shui currently was.

The Grand Elder of the Marionette Sect... Seemed like in every supreme sect exists at least one extraordinary martial warrior. Only when Qing Shui had reached a higher platform did he realize there were other stronger existences in this world.

When he was a Xiantian warrior back then, all he could see was other significantly stronger Xiantian martial warriors. If he didn't manage to reach a certain realm of cultivation, he would never cross his path with any powerful martial warriors at all. As he gained his power progressively, the stronger ones would begin to emerge, much to his chagrin. If he were to come here with the strength of a Xiantian, he would have never realized the existence of a stronger force, nor he would cross his path with them. Just like this Octagon Inn, he would never be able to ascend to the ninth floor, as that privilege would be stripped from him immediately.