

Ancient ST 901

Chapter 901 - Changes to Events, Wait and See

The Mu Clan had rejected them. Although they had done so in a tactful way, it was inevitable that the Yin Clan would feel humiliated. Therefore, while there didn't seem to be any problems on the surface, if the chance were to arise, the Yin Clan wouldn't mind stepping down on the Mu Clan.

Young Master Yin had tried to rely on the fact that he was considered quite strong in the Yin Clan to make it clear that he wanted Mu Qing to marry him out of her own free will. By saying this, he was making it clear to others that he was going to regain the pride that the Yin Clan had lost from this. If anyone were to interfere, that person would be going against the Yin Clan.

Since Young Master Yin truly liked Mu Qing, no one found this statement strange. On the contrary, it allowed the Yin Clan to regain some of their pride. He didn't overstep his bounds and merely said that he must successfully court Mu Qing and his effort would definitely let him succeed. Therefore, even the Third Elder couldn't say anything either. Young Master Yin hadn't said anything too overbearing, so how could they possibly beat up the other party just because he liked their daughter?

Most importantly, Yin Yuanjiao was also tactful. Maybe it was because he knew that he could not win against Mu Qing in a fight and thus decided to not offend Mu Qing. Although he was impetuous, he still knew his limits. However, it seemed like he had hit a snag.

It wasn't a problem for him to crush someone's hand or even kill a nameless person in this city. However, this person was already the Mu Clan's guest and if anything were to happen to this person while he was in the Mu Residence, it would be a slap to their face.

Therefore, the people from the Mu Clan weren't very happy. Additionally, there some people from the Mu Clan who hated Young Master Yin.

The reason that Young Master Yin dared to act so bold was that he had investigated beforehand. He knew that Qing Shui was not a relative of the Mu Clan and had merely encountered Mu Qing by chance. They had then entered the Sky Penetrating Mountains together.

A kill was a kill. If the Mu Clan lost face, he could just admit his mistake. It was fine as long as he could eradicate this guy who was next to Mu Qing. He had carefully planned out everything, and even his fury was calculated.

He had underestimated Qing Shui because he didn't believe that this young 'giggolo' would be his match. After all, a demonic genius like Mu Qing might not even be found in ten million people. It wasn't that easy to encounter someone as talented as her.

But now he knew he found out that he was wrong, very wrong. One of his hands was crushed, while the other hand was badly fractured. This was just his opponent's casual attack, or rather, they hadn't even done anything.

What on earth was this fellow's cultivation realm?

Young Master Yin wasn't the only one who wanted to know this. All the others present were curious about this as well. Even though Mu Qing knew that Qing Shui was well-learned and even knew about

formations, she had always thought that Qing Shui's cultivation level wasn't too high. At least, she thought that his cultivation shouldn't be as high as her. But now, she felt that her way of thinking was very funny.

"Senior, I'm sorry to have caused you trouble. I wasn't able to control my strength well," Qing Shui smiled and said to Mu Qian, seemingly embarrassed.

This statement made Mu Qian feel a little awkward. He could tell what Qing Shui was hinting. Earlier, he had also wanted to test out Qing Shui's abilities and he was sure that Qing Shui was stronger than that Young Master Yin. However, this wasn't something he could say.

Additionally, Mu Qian had really wanted to make use of Qing Shui to teach Young Master Yin a lesson. After all, they couldn't do it themselves. Since his daughter seemed to like Qing Shui too, he thought of it as giving Qing Shui a trial.

"It's no trouble, no trouble. This is a spar. Injuries and deaths are inevitable." Mu Qian said calmly before walking over to Young Master Yin.

At this moment, Yin Yuanjiao's hands were basically crippled and he was dealt a great blow. He suddenly let out a loud cry and ran out.

There were no signs of chaos in the room, nor even a single drop of blood. However, Yin Yuanjiao's hands were crushed and they were crushed to the extent that they were basically crippled. Only some sort of miraculous medicine could save his hands.

Yin Yuanjiao's departure stunned everyone. On the other hand, Qing Shui was wondering if this Young Master Yin would go crazy.

He wasn't worried that people from the Yin Clan would come here for now since there was still the Mu Clan. Moreover, even without the Mu Clan, Qing Shui had the confidence that he would be able to attack and evade them as he wished. This was because his Nine Palace Steps had already reached the small success stage. As for formations, it would still require a very long time.

However, with his current cultivation level, paired up with the Nine Palace Steps, only people who were much stronger than him could do anything against him.

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"Eldest Brother, Young Master Yin was crippled by Qing Shui..."

Someone walked into another hall in the Mu Clan and reported. The people here were the strongest experts amongst the younger generation in the Mu Clan, except Mu Qing's siblings weren't here.

"Crippled? Haha, Fifth Brother was right. Qing Shui can now forget about having a good end unless he holes up in the Mu Clan and not head out," the staunch man addressed as the Eldest Brother laughed and said.

"The Yin Clan definitely won't let Qing Shui off, not even if the Mu Clan were to stand up for him. Sister Qing's refusal of the Yin Clan's marriage proposal had already caused them to feel humiliated. Now that Young Master Yin was crippled by the guy that she brought back, they definitely won't take this lying

down. After all, the Yin Clan isn't any weaker when compared to the Mu Clan." The skinny man dressed in embroidered clothes frowned and said.

"What's so bad about that?" asked the staunch guy puzzledly when he noticed his Fifth Brother's expression. Amongst all the siblings here and in terms of all their siblings, this Fifth Brother was the most intelligent one.

"I previously heard that Sister Qing and the others were learning formations?" the skinny man's expression suddenly became unnatural.

"Formations? Like the type that the Sky Prison Sect uses?" the staunch man frowned and looked at his Fifth Brother.

"I think so. Does Eldest Brother know who she's learning it from?" said the Fifth Brother as he gradually regained his calm.

"Qing Shui?"

"That's right. Another notable fact is that there wasn't even a corpse of the Sky Prison Sect's 'Flower Crusher' left behind. They had entered at about the same time as Sister Qing and the others. Most importantly, we've received news that their target was Sister Qing." The skinny man wearing embroidered clothes looked at his Eldest Brother and said slowly.

"The Flower Crusher's abilities is quite high. Most importantly, if their group were to form the saber formation, there's almost no one amongst the younger generation who would be able to do anything against them. Couldn't they've died because of some powerful demonic beasts they encountered?"

"They had died at the hands of Sister Qing's and that Qing Shui's. I just received this news too." A substitute member for their formations who had followed the Flower Crusher had spread this news. When the Flower Crusher was attacking Sister Qing and Qing Shui, this substitute member coincidentally needed to relieve himself and thus left for a short while. When he came back, everyone was dead. That were no demonic beasts, nor were there Sister Qing's and Qing Shui's corpses. Earlier, they were attacking Sister Qing and Qing Shui, so there can only be one answer. Sister Qing and Qing Shui had killed the Flower Crusher." The skinny man sighed and said.

"Sister Qing's abilities aren't sufficient to kill this opponent. This Qing Shui isn't simple," the staunch and handsome man looked at his 5th Brother and said with a smile.

"Earlier, he had even crippled Young Master Yin with great ease. A person who dares to attack someone from the Yin Clan is either a person who is very strong but acts weak or simply an idiot. This Qing Shui is clearly not an idiot. Maybe everyone was wrong about him." The skinny man tapped his left hand gently on the table, his expression was one that was full of caution.

"From now onwards, don't do anything. Don't talk about this matter either." The staunch man hesitated for a moment before saying.

The others nodded. They had attained their goal, but they were still uneasy. However, it was still nothing since the others wouldn't think that they had done any harm to others.

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“Father, the Yin Clan will definitely find trouble for Qing Shui this time around.” Mu Qing looked at Mu Qian worriedly and said.

“Haha, don’t worry. Our Mu Clan isn’t any weaker than their Yin Clan. Moreover, they only have their lack of abilities to blame for this incident. They can’t blame others.” Mu Qian didn’t seem to care at all, as he said this.

“This thing has nothing to do with the Mu Clan. If the people from the Yin Clan send their people here, don’t worry, I’ll talk to them myself.” Qing Shui smiled and said.

“That can’t do. You’re my friend. How can I let you deal with this alone...” Mu Qing said anxiously. Although she was anxious, her voice was still euphonious and refined.

“Qing Shui, no matter how sorry our Mu Clan is, we can’t do this. Moreover, you’re my daughter’s friend. As long as I, Mu Qian, am alive, I’ll make sure that you’re safe.” Mu Qian looked at Qing Shui and said calmly, his tone was so firm that no one would doubt his words. It also had a powerful confidence.

Qing Shui smiled and nodded. The atmosphere lightened up a lot too.

“I heard that you’re teaching my daughter about formations,” after everyone sat down again, Mu Qian smiled and said, as if he was asking casually.

Qing Shui was stunned for a moment before he smiled and replied, “It’s not really teaching. I only know a little about this. Miss Mu seems to be interested in this, so I’m just sharing with her what I know about them.”

“Qing Shui, you’re too humble. Formations are very profound and it’s hard for ordinary people to come into contact with them. In the Eastern Victory Divine Continent, the sects and clans who know about formations are also limited. These sects and clans are all very powerful.” Mu Qian looked at Qing Shui and said with a smile.

Qing Shui smiled in return. He knew that Mu Qian was actually suspicious of his identity since no one knew of his background. Additionally, he seemed to be very close with Mu Qing, and as a father, it was natural for Mu Qian to want to know about Qing Shui.

“I’m not from a clan or a sect that specializes in formations. I’ve only had a lucky encounter previously and got my hands on a book related to formations, thus managing to pick up a thing or two about it. If Miss Mu isn’t interested in this, then I wouldn’t have thought about bringing it up.” Qing Shui explained.

Qing Shui then asked about some things related to refining demons. This made Mu Qian very astonished. He hadn’t expected that Qing Shui would know about refining demon too. He didn’t ask about Qing Shui’s cultivation realm but he knew that this young man was very strong. He wasn’t sure if Qing Shui was stronger than him but he felt that Qing Shui shouldn’t. It was because it would be too unbelievable if he was.

The meal lasted for about two hours. Mu Qing brought Qing Shui to a room for him to rest in. She had her own independent manor in the Mu Clan and there were several buildings there.

Qing Shui didn’t see Dong Yan and Sun Yan. He guessed that they should be still drinking. As he followed Mu Qing to her manor, Qing Shui was actually pondering about some matters.

For example, when they had brought up the issue of formations, Mu Qian had suspected his background. He must have suspected that Qing Shui was someone from the Sky Prison Sect or was someone who specialized in formations.

What Qing Shui didn't know was that Mu Qian was aware that he wasn't from the Sky Prison Sect and that he was someone which the Sky Prison Sect wouldn't be able to forgive. It was because Mu Qian knew of the fact that Qing Shui had joined forces with Mu Qing to kill the Flower Crusher from the Sky Prison Sect. Mu Qian had known of this fact earlier than that 'Fifth Brother'. He wasn't afraid of the Yin Clan, but he was afraid of the Sky Prison Sect.

The Sky Prison Sect wasn't on amiable terms with many sects and factions in the city, but the other factions couldn't do anything about it. While some of the powerful sects from this area could go against the Sky Prison Sect, they wouldn't eradicate them just because they had the ability to do so. If they were to battle it out, regardless if the result was a victory or a loss, they would still suffer heavy losses.

Chapter 902 - Accidental Touch, Qing Shui's Experiment with Formations

Qing Shui and Mu Qing walked towards her manor. Although Mu Qing appeared to be absent-minded, she would occasionally steal glances at Qing Shui.

"Are you worried about the Yin Clan?" Qing Shui asked with a smile.

Mu Qing sighed and said, "Qing Shui, we have a problem."

Qing Shui smiled, he really didn't feel troubled at all. He gently asked, "What is the problem? Is the Yin Clan that strong?"

"It is not the Yin Clan that I am worried about. My concern is whether the Sky Prison Sect will be added to the mix." Mu Qing's heart was a mess. She could not say it out loud, but she was worried that Qing Shui might be killed the moment he left. Therefore, she wanted to tell him everything of importance to allow him time to better prepare.

Although Qing Shui also had the Sky Prison Sect on his mind, seeing the hesitation from Mu Qing was already enough to let him know what she was thinking. When she first learned formations he already knew that people were of flesh and blood. Qing Shui was internally grateful for the sympathy he received at that time.

If it wasn't because she was concerned for his safety, she would see to it that he left this dangerous place unharmed. Qing Shui thought of this while walking, a smile leaking from his face.

If you give me a foot worth of respect, I will return it to you ten times. He would never change his principles and would sincerely aid those that had helped him before.

"Qing Shui, I am not sure how you escaped from the beasts in Sky Penetrating Mountains, but do you have any confidence in escaping the Eastern Victory Divine Continent?" Mu Qing realized she had almost reached her manor and stopped to ask Qing Shui.

Everything about this incident was a mistake. It was merely a coincidence that Qing Shui, Mu Qing and the others had entered the Sky Penetrating Mountains together but it was due to this coincidence that Mu Qing had been rescued from the hands of the Flower Crusher.

However, this created resentment with the Sky Prison Sect. On top of that, the incident with the Yin Clan was another fuse that was lit. She was well aware that this fuse was a short one, and it was ready to explode anytime.

The Jun City and Continent's Capital area was home to many groups that carried a huge influence. These groups included the Sky Prison Sect, Tyrant Fist Sect, Godly Sword Sect, Mu Clan, Yin Clan and more... Although all these influential powers were huddled around Jun City and the Continent's Capital area, there weren't many conflicts or disputes, so their interactions were limited.

Although the Mu Clan was more famous in the area where the Mu Clan and Yin Clan resided, the Yin Clan wasn't weak by any means. Additionally, since both clans resided in the same area, it was sometimes inevitable that they had to cooperate with each other, which led to conflicts of interest when the distribution of goods appeared uneven on either side.

After hearing what Mu Qing had to say, Qing Shui hesitated "Do they know?"

What Qing Shui was referring to was the incident where they killed the Flower Crusher. If they were discovered then there would be no place to hide. No wall was ever airtight.

"At the time we had missed one, the news of this has only spread recently and the Sky Prison Sect is trying to condemn us now." Mu Qing looked at Qing Shui, this time everything with a calm countenance.

"If it has been discovered then so be it, it's not a huge deal. If they come, we'll cut them down. Let's see if they still want to condemn us. Do they think we are some small fry?" Qing Shui mumbled while shaking his head. However, the situation was very clear.

Mu Qing looked at Qing Shui with surprise. She knew that this man never lied, nor was he the type to show off. If the enemy hadn't forced his hand, he wouldn't expose his true strength.

"Qing Shui, I am being serious here. The Sky Prison Sect is very strong." Mu Qing gave Qing Shui a glance. She had dragged out her voice a little in displeasure.

Qing Shui rubbed his nose a little and smirked. "Alright, not to worry, there won't be any incidents. How's the practice with positioning and footwork coming along?"

"It has been a mess. I have no idea where to start, so the progress has not been good." Mu Qing felt a headache just thinking about it.

Qing Shui stopped, then suddenly closed the gap between them using One Origin Steps. Although his footwork looked tricky, it was executed elegantly as though he was drifting.

Qing Shui was using One Origin Steps on purpose. If the opposition also knew the One Origin Steps, then they would dodge away like a conditioned reflex.

Mu Qing was shocked by Qing Shui's sudden movement. Her mind was also confused for a bit, but she dodged instinctively. To her surprise, she was actually moving away with the strange movement technique that she learned recently.

From this single action, she understood what Qing Shui was trying to do and started to dodge seriously. The progression in a real battle was faster and Mu Qing was well aware of this fact.

Qing Shui tried to make his move from different angles, but his attacks were nothing but feints. The purpose of his moves wasn't to hit his target, but rather to apply pressure. Right now, Qing Shui could freely cast from a variety of angles to force Mu Qing to move.

Qing Shui approached with growing coercive pressure to develop Mu Qing's potential. His footwork speed, angles and precision were steadily increasing as he observed Mu Qing's growth in skill. Compared to before, she was utilizing the One Origin Steps with more fluidity. At this point, Qing Shui began to use the Duality Steps, which could also be called Yin Yang Steps.

Nine Palace Steps had nine realms like that of a staircase that rose a step at a time. The higher one reached in the steps, the stronger it became and the further one could see. Each realm was the basis for the next realm.

Mu Qing was barely proficient in Duality Steps. With Qing Shui's persistent pressure Mu Qing's footwork became a disorderly mess. Qing Shui's goal was to put Mu Qing in a difficult position without completely discouraging her. As such, Qing Shui would leave a bit of room for Mu Qing to maneuver each time. This was to help her to fully adapt to the situation.

This method of practice was forcing her to dodge while drilling her with attacks, the effect was immediate but this approach cannot be used persistently. Continuously using this method would slow down her realm level up. Nonetheless, this method would allow her to hone her skill more, to the point where she will become able to execute the steps as though it was second nature. Therefore, if it was required, they could ask the elders of her clan to drill her later.

Almost two hours had passed since they started the drills. This was the door to Mu Qing's manor. Just like that, their footwork interaction had brought them to Mu Qing's garden.

Her garden was anything but small, its length was several hundred meters long with three pavilions, one building, one arbor, a crescent corridor, a pond, a bridge...

Mu Qing could feel her usage of the Duality Steps improve as the practice went on. She also felt that her actual combat abilities had powered up a bit. However, as she was thinking this, she had accidentally lost her composure for a split second. That was when Qing Shui's strike hit its mark.

Had she already turned sideways, then Qing Shui's strike would have missed. Although Mu Qing had turned, she was one step too slow. Qing Shui wasn't aware that she had lost her focus. In addition, he wasn't using much force with each strike, so he knew he wouldn't cause any injuries even if he did hit her.

Thus, his hand moved towards the soft bosom of Mu Qing's slanted body. Although part of the blame could be placed on how voluminous that part of her body was...

At this instant, both of them froze. Mu Qing blushed red in embarrassment and instantly glared at Qing Shui with a hidden bitterness and took two quick steps back. At the same instant, Qing Shui could feel the exquisite softness and elasticity that represented the charming tenderness extenuating from Mu Qing's body.

"Sorry!" Qing Shui said after hesitating slightly.

"I lost my focus, it's not your fault, I'll lead you to your room." Mu Qing tried to calm herself down, almost saying it as though it was the least bit of concern to her.

The pink building was where Mu Qing resided, it was half the height of the other buildings.

The other buildings were pale gray with a color that reflected the natural atmosphere.

The interior of the building was spacious. Qing Shui chose a room directly on the first floor. The center of the first floor had a living room, with a few bedrooms and a kitchen surrounding it. The second and third floor should have a similar floor plan.

This was a norm on the Eastern Victory Divine Continent. Unlike buildings in the Central Continent and the Greencloud Continent, the first floor only comprised of the living room with a kitchen on the side. The second and third floor were mostly bedrooms. At most, there would be a very small public area that could be shared.

Mu Qing didn't enter the room with Qing Shui, but said while smiling, "There are beddings and blankets inside the closets in the room, all of which are brand new."

"Okay, thank you!" said Qing Shui.

"You must be tired, you should rest. See you tomorrow!" Mu Qing said with a smile.

Qing Shui walked Mu Qing to the door and watched her graceful figure disappear from view before returning to his bedroom. Qing Shui's mood was a mess, but what he wasn't aware of was that someone else's state of mind was even more disorderly.

Mu Qing!

Once she left the building that Qing Shui was staying in, she headed straight for her own building. From the time she was at the building where Qing Shui was until her first couple of steps into her own building, she had endured. Mu Qing let out a breath as her heartbeat began to accelerate and her face flushed to a beet red.

Her face felt hot. Mu Qing quickly walked into her room and closed the door behind her, as if she was afraid someone would see her. It was a shame that nobody could see her stunning charm in this moment.

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Qing Shui was inside the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal. He held a few pebbles that were about the size of cobblestones in his hands. He looked towards the area around eighty meters to the North-West and started throwing stones towards that direction. This time the ground had already collected a dozen of stones.

Qing Shui was experimenting with formations. This was his first experiment in setting the formations, especially when it was the Nine Palace Eight Trigrams Formation.

This formation was the most powerful one that Qing Shui could cast especially since only one person was needed to use this formation. Thus, Qing Shui set aside the Duality Minutest Formation for now. If

the Nine Palace Eight Trigrams Formation was unsuccessful, then he would move on to the Duality Minutest Formation.

In comparison, the Duality Minutest Formation was like a smaller and simplified version of the Nine Palace Eight Trigrams Formation. Therefore, Qing Shui opted to practice setting the Nine Palace Eight Trigrams Formation instead of the Duality Minutest Formation.

In addition, Qing Shui's Nine Palace Steps resonated perfectly with the Nine Palace Eight Trigrams Formation's effect. This was also the reason why Qing Shui wanted to practice the Nine Palace Eight Trigrams Formation.

Although Qing Shui wasn't practicing the Duality Minutest Formation right now, he knew that he must understand how to use it later. Even if he doesn't use it now, other people will want to learn it, like people from the Qing Clan or even someone like Mu Qing.

He had to at least teach her something. In the case of Nine Palace Steps, he wanted to see what realm she could reach. For the Duality Minutest Formation, it was a formation used to trap the enemy and aid the user in killing them. On top of that, he could also teach her the Five Elements Minor Formation. This should be enough for now. If she could practice the Nine Palace Steps and the two formations meticulously she should be able to get on without much trouble.

Qing Shui continued to throw pebbles while shaking his head. At least the fountain side wasn't short of pebbles. His pebble tossing speed was slow. Sometimes he would even go back and pick up some pebbles that he had thrown. Qing Shui also drew the Nine Palace Diagram and in the middle he drew the Eight Trigrams Diagram.

The Eight Trigrams Formation was based on the idea of the Eight Inner Gates: Healing, Life, Pain, Limit, View, Death, Wonder and Opening. The Eight Trigrams Formation was already a powerful technique by itself and it was now encompassed by the power of the Nine Palace, the difficulty to master this formation wasn't simply one plus one, so its strength wasn't simply additive either.

When Qing Shui held the last pebble in his hand, he was a bit hesitant, yet he was also excited. Placing this last pebble as the eye of the formation would let him know if his setup was a success or not.

Chapter 903 - Duality Minutest Formation, The Arrival of the Sky Prison Sect

Qing Shui held onto the last pebble and was reluctant to toss it. This last pebble was like the equivalent of a person's eyes, its positioning was paramount to the success of the formation. If Qing Shui missed even slightly, the power of the formation would be greatly reduced.

Qing Shui stared at the Nine Palace and Eight Trigrams formation combination and hesitatingly tossed the pebble in his hand into it.

"No reaction?" Qing Shui was waiting for something to happen with the formation, but there were no changes even though he was inside the formation.

"Failed?" Qing Shui was a bit disappointed. Although this was his first attempt, it was nevertheless a time-consuming process, especially when you took into account the time he had spent on researching. Qing Shui felt that his formation shouldn't have failed.

However, the way it looked, it was indeed a failure. Formations were mysterious. It was like borrowing the divine might of the Heavens and Earth. Qing Shui felt this was similar to one of the realms of the mastery of techniques—providence!

Pausing for a moment and studying the formation, Qing Shui confirmed that this first trial was a failure. However, he was not discouraged. Qing Shui picked up the pebbles from the ground and sat down. He studied the Nine Palace Eight Trigrams Formation, placing more attention on the crucial points of the formation. While doing so, he also practiced his Nine Palace Steps several times.

Then he started tossing the pebbles again. At least, Qing Shui felt he understood what led to the failure earlier. Every time he tossed the pebbles into position he had the feeling that it was correctly placed, but there was still no effect.

When it came to the Nine Palace Orientation and the Eight Trigrams Orientation, Qing Shui felt that he had a better grasp of it than before. However, he still couldn't pinpoint the exact reason why no reactions had occurred.

This went on for several days before Qing Shui finally accepted the reality that he could not utilize the Nine Palace Eight Trigrams Formation, nor could he understand the reason why.

After his mind calmed down, Qing Shui spent three days experimenting with the Duality Minutest Formation instead. Now that his earlier thoughts had become a reality, he had to practice the Duality Minutest Formation first before attempting the Nine Palace Eight Trigrams Formation again.

The Duality Minutest Formation was a much simpler formation compared to the Nine Palace Eight Trigrams Formation. Qing Shui spent very little time studying it before starting to set the formation. Once he began, Qing Shui could only smile. Compared to the procedure for the Nine Palace Eight Trigrams Formation, setting the Duality Minutest Formation was a walk in the park.

It seemed that it was true that all formations were tied in one way or another to the Nine Palace Eight Trigrams Formation. Even without mentioning the ones that were simpler than the Nine Palace Eight Trigrams Formation, all the more complex ones required the Nine Palace Eight Trigram as a basis. Although their orientation wouldn't be overly difficult, there were probably some special requirements to make the formation work.

A short while later, Qing Shui was holding onto the last remaining pebble. His continuous failure had made him a bit perturbed. If the Duality Minutest Formation failed again, then he couldn't excuse himself.

Placing the pebble at the eye of the formation that was half a meter from his feet, Qing Shui's heart started to beat rapidly almost instantaneously.

As the pebble fell into place, a gush of majestic Spiritual Qi rose from the ground. The Spiritual Qi then turned into a berserk storm. All the rocks and sand were blown away, including a boulder that was the size of a small pavilion building.

Not only were things hard to recognize through the naked eye, but the sensitivity of his spiritual sense had also been reduced. His abilities also suffered a debuff. The Duality Minutest Formation had opened the Six Gates of Life, Death, Dark, Light, Change and Destruction.

Duality Step!

Once Qing Shui began to cast the Duality Steps, given his familiarity with the Duality Minutest Formation, the atmosphere cooled immediately when he stepped out. Instantly, the immediate surroundings became tranquil, like a secluded ravine. However, just beyond the immediate vicinity, a dust storm was brewing like a raging battlefield but it was still silent.

Once they stepped into the formation, the victim would be immersed in danger and their strength would be greatly debuffed. Furthermore, some areas were rampant with venom and raging infernos which could cause tremendous damage. This was already incredibly deadly and if the victim couldn't escape from the formation, then they would be trapped till death. More importantly, Qing Shui could also ambush them at any time.

No wonder a formations specialist could fend off so many people by themselves.

The Duality Minutest Formation was already so strong, this made Qing Shui yearn for the power of the Nine Palace Eight Trigrams Formation.

Meanwhile, Qing Shui continued experimenting with the Nine Palace Eight Trigrams Formation but to no effect. Thus, Qing Shui decided to pour his remaining time onto focusing on the Duality Minutest Formation.

Just like that, two months passed. In between, Qing Shui spent some time practicing his Nine Palace Steps and the Ancient Strengthening Technique. In the last couple days, he had two Cycle breakthroughs. However, the increase in strength didn't feel especially invigorating. After all, the breakthrough difference wasn't much, especially when compared to every ninth Cycle breakthrough that increased his strength by several folds.

A normal day's length was equivalent to a hundred days in the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal. The time he had spent was the equivalent of seventy days in the realm, the time he had remaining was about one month. During this time, Qing Shui made preparations for refining materials used in formations.

Pebbles did not carry much power, and jewels were too precious and extravagant. Therefore, Qing Shui decided to use beast skins and beast bones as Formation Flags. The beast skins and the beast bones collected from the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal were of a high quality.

Qing Shui studied a bit on how to make Formation Flags. Surprisingly, beast skins and beast bones required individual quenching, which was similar to the method of quenching used in talisman crafting.

This time, it was relatively easy to craft the Formation Flags. According to the method of crafting, Qing Shui discovered that the Spiritual Qi within them was adequate, and thus he was very satisfied. With a small amount of Spiritual Qi, the little triangular flags crafted would be one foot in height. Crafting was not taxing in terms of material, but it required ten or more days to craft approximate ten thousand little flags.

Looking at the little flags, Qing Shui thought of the eye of the formation. That formation node still required a formation flag, but the main flag should be crafted from a material of an even higher quality.

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The next day, Qing Shui rose from bed on time. The sky was barely lit and since it was winter, there was still some time before dawn. Qing Shui walked outside the pavilion building to conduct his morning training. Unless there was an emergency, nothing could disrupt his morning training routine.

Breakfast with exquisite looking items was delivered by a servant from the Mu Clan. Qing Shui had just finished eating when Mu Qing arrived at his door. After seeing that Qing Shui had noticed her, she walked into the room.

“Full?” Mu Qing looked at what remained on the table and said.

“Yes, how about you?” Qing Shui said with a smile. When their gaze met, Mu Qing felt a bit of discomfort and avoided looking at Qing Shui directly.

“Me too.”

When Mu Qing replied, something made a loud and noisy ruckus in the front yard. The two of them exchanged gazes. Qing Shui appeared to be calm, but Mu Qing had an unnatural expression.

“Let’s go see what’s going on.” Qing Shui said while smiling.

Seeing Qing Shui’s calmness, Mu Qing seemed to calm down as well. Thinking back a bit, Qing Shui had never appeared frightened. This gave her a reassurance because it seemed that Qing Shui had dealt with a lot of things before...

The two of them traveled side by side towards the front yard. Qing Shui dispersed his spiritual sense to observe the surroundings. He was ready for what was coming. The sooner he took care of it, the sooner he could leave.

“Hand over Mu Qing and that boy, or else!”

Qing Shui and Mu Qing hadn’t even reached the front yard yet before they clearly heard an overbearing voice.

“Sky Prison Old Fifth, this is our Mu Clan’s territory, your arrogance will not be tolerated. We haven’t gone to argue with you and yet you come to trouble us, does the Sky Prison Sect have no morality and proper conduct?” Mu Qian said angrily but with restraint.

“People from Sky Prison Sect are here.” Qing Shui said softly.

Mu Qing’s body shook, had they not left any tracks behind, this wouldn’t have happened. However, now that the information had leaked out, the Sky Prison Sect was trying to retain face in this matter. The Mu Clan, the Yin Clan and the Dongfang Aristocrat Clan were much weaker when compared to the Sky Prison Sect, the Godly Sword Clan and the Silken Web Ridge.

The strength of the Sky Prison Sect could only be matched by the Godly Sword Clan. The Sky Prison Sect was arrogant and didn’t obey any rules or comply with ethics, but nobody dared to speak their mind on the matter.

By now, Qing Shui and Mu Qing had arrived at the front yard.

Formations. Again with formations.

After he trained meticulously day and night with formations in the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal, he wasn't excited from seeing formations again. However, the Mu Clan reacted as if an overbearing enemy had just arrived.

Mu Qian's body was shaking uncontrollably. He wasn't alone, even the people around him were shaking. This was the Sky Prison Sect's infamous Formation Destroyer. Now, several elderly people were walking over from a distance.

"Do you actually believe you could move the Mu Clan, Sky Prison Old Fifth?" an angry roaring voice reached them before the owner of the voice arrived.

Immediately after that, four elders in plain clothing arrived. Their hair and brows were white as snow. As if they were just going for a stroll in the park, they exuded a natural authority.

"Grandfather!"

"Third Granduncle, father and Fourth Uncle!" Mu Qian bowed towards the Elders and the others follow suit.

"Mu Old Fart, I am not here to make matters worse. Just hand over Mu Qing and that boy and we will pretend that nothing ever happened. This is the only chance the Sky Prison Sect will give you as a way out, we won't make things difficult for you guys." Sky Prison Old Fifth hollered at the elder standing in the middle.

"Haha, you come to my Mu Clan's domain to take a member of the Mu Clan? Even if you are the Sky Prison Sect, why should I give in? If I am alive and standing, we don't even fear a life and death struggle. You can dream on about taking someone from our Mu Clan." The old man spoke with an energy that carried an unwavering authority.

Sky Prison Old Fifth was a refined, harmonious and thin looking old man. His eyes looked ruthless. Although he wasn't too big, his voice could carry a great volume. He looked at the Mu Clan's Elder and spoke, "Mu Old Fart, Mu Qing is a member of your clan so I will make an exception. Hand over that boy and we will call things even."

Qing Shui and Mu Qing had just arrived at the front yard. Qing Shui was about to speak up when he heard those words and remained silent. He simply walked beside Mu Qing towards the direction of the rest of the Mu Clan.

"That boy has appeared. Mu Qing has as well!"

One of the older members beside Sky Prison Old Fifth hollered, while the others looked towards Qing Shui.

The Mu Clan's Elders also looked towards Qing Shui and Mu Qing.

"Sky Prison Old Fifth, you belittle us with your provocations and now you dare plan to lay your filthy hands on members of the Mu Clan? You've trespassed into our Mu Clan's territory based on a one-sided statement. Do you take us for some small fry?" The Elder said while sharply glaring at Sky Prison Old Fifth.

“Mu Old Fart, your Mu Clan may be a large clan around here but all of us here are aware that our Sky Prison Sect could demolish your clan with ease. We aren’t here to escalate things, just hand over that boy.” Sky Prison Old Fifth pointed at Qing Shui while gritting his teeth.

Chapter 904 - Qing Shui’s Power, Using Formation to Curb Enemies

Qing Shui didn’t feel anything as he looked at the Sky Prison’s Old Fifth, who was pointing at him. He didn’t show any indication as he waited for the Mu Clan’s decision.

Mu Qing was intelligent, but at this moment, she probably couldn’t guess Qing Shui’s intentions. She didn’t believe that Qing Shui was someone who could go against the Sky Prison Sect and thus naturally wouldn’t have guessed his thoughts.

Mu Fengyang had controlled this branch of the Mu Clan for 300 years, and his descendants had worked hard to prove themselves. Presently, his branch had become the mainstay of the Mu Clan. However, they were facing the Sky Prison Sect, a great sect whose legacy was much longer and whose abilities were more powerful than that of the Mu Clan.

Now, the Sky Prison Sect had come to their door. However, he knew that if he were to hand up that young man, everything would be over. Although the Mu Clan was in no way comparable to the Sky Prison Sect, the Sky Prison Sect would still not dare to do anything to the Mu Clan, at least for a few more decades.

Mu Fengyang’s grandfather was still around, but he was in his final years. At most, he would live only 50 more years. Although the old man no longer involved himself with what was happening in the outside world, if his descendants were threatened with extinction, he would definitely start a war.

Of course, there were people in the Sky Prison Sect who could fight against this old man. Rather, if a strong expert like him were to go on a crazed rampage, even the Sky Prison Sect would suffer great damages.

Moreover, they had never thought of actually eradicating the Mu Clan. However, with the rumors spreading like wildfire, they were fighting to get back their reputation.

Mu Fengyang really felt at a loss. After all, the other party had already taken a step back and decided not to pursue the issue further against the Mu Clan. However, there was no way for them to let that young man off.

Mu Fengyang was very clear that the reason the Sky Prison Sect was here today was just to deal with Qing Shui. Their reputation could be salvaged if they dealt with him. However if they handed him over, the Mu Clan’s reputation would be lost...

“Sky Prison’s Old Fifth, he’s a friend of our Mu Clan. You can forget about taking him away today.”

They were very clear that Qing Shui had saved Mu Qing and the others. Moreover, news had already been spread out. If they were to let Sky Prison Sect take Qing Shui, the Mu Clan’s reputation would be completely ruined.

Therefore, Mu Fengyang had no other choice. Even so, in such a life and death situation for their clan, he had considered handing Qing Shui over. It was because compared to the very survival of their clan, everything else wasn't important.

Furthermore, what had been spread out were just rumors. Rumors would gradually disappear as time passed.

"Today, even if we fight to the bitter death, you guys can forget about bringing him away." Mu Qian looked at Qing Shui and Mu Qing. Seeing his daughter's worried gaze, he was even more sure about his decision.

Moreover, he saw that Qing Shui didn't seem to be scared and that puzzled him. He felt that he had not been able to see through this young man at all. Now, he realized that Qing Shui was becoming even more inscrutable.

"Since that's the case, we can only forcefully bring him away," the Sky Prison's Old Fifth said, unconcerned.

Right now, Qing Shui had become the center of attention. This was something which he had not expected.

"Senior!" Qing Shui called out for Mu Qian, who was just about to speak.

Mu Qian looked at Qing Shui, puzzled.

"Thank you. Since this is something I had done and caused them to look for me, let me be the one to take care of it." Qing Shui said calmly, his tone as if he had just said something insignificant.

"Qing Shui, don't!" When Mu Qing heard Qing Shui's words, she anxiously grabbed his sleeves.

Many people looked at this scene in disbelief. To think that the city's first beauty, Miss Mu, had this side to her as well. Now, almost everyone had already felt that Miss Mu liked this young man, but the extent of her infatuation still clearly surprised them.

"Trust me!" Qing Shui gently pulled off Mu Qing's hand.

"Qing Shui, I'll protect you with my name on the line until I'm dead." Mu Qian said, after throwing a glance at his daughter.

"Uncle, I'm well aware of your kind intentions. Let me handle this. If I can't handle it, then you guys can step in. Will this do?" Qing Shui smiled and said. Since this was the Mu Clan's decision, Qing Shui couldn't just hide behind them.

Dong Yan and Sun Yan were standing next to Qing Shui. It was clear that they were going to stand alongside Qing Shui.

Qing Shui knew that these two were really people he could consider his brothers.

"Old Master, thank you!" Qing Shui looked at Mu Fengyang and said, bowing, before heading up to the front amidst Mu Fengyang's astonished gaze. He stood right before the people from the Sky Prison Sect.

“If I meet that idiot, that fool who thinks that forming a lousy thing like that makes him formidable, I’ll still kill him,” Qing Shui looked at that Sky Prison’s Old Fifth and said.

Lousy thing... Their formation being described as some lousy thing, the Flower Crusher called a fool, and that he would still kill him if they met again...

Many people choked when they heard Qing Shui’s words. No matter what, they had not expected Qing Shui to say this. They couldn’t tell if he was arrogant or simply ignorant.

“You don’t know how big the world is! You’re really courting death!”

The Sky Prison’s Old Fifth was infuriated by Qing Shui’s words as he pounced toward Qing Shui, slapping down his palm toward him. He clearly didn’t give a hoot about Qing Shui.

He had initially only wanted to bring him away. Killing a junior like him wouldn’t reflect very well on his standing. Moreover, killing him here would only infuriate the Mu Clan. However, this young man who didn’t know any better had really infuriated him.

One needed to have backing to be arrogant. Without any resources, an arrogant person could only be said to be ignorant. The attack by the Sky Prison’s Old Fifth was one launched out of anger.

Even if Qing Shui could defeat the “Flower Crusher”, there was no way he could compare to Old Fifth.

Old Fifth was considered a strong expert in the Sky Prison. Even he himself didn’t know why he felt so infuriated to be looked down upon by this young lad.

This casual attack and the black fog on his palm, caused everyone to be on their toes, especially Mu Qing, Dong Yan, and Sun Yan. Mu Qing even closed her eyes, not daring to look at this situation.

Mu Qian didn’t blink, but his body swayed slightly. Mu Fengyang looked at Qing Shui. Although he didn’t move, his expression was especially solemn.

Qing Shui looked at the palm that was striking out towards him. To others, this palm strike appeared powerful and fatal, but to Qing Shui, it appeared to be very, very slow. He casually took a step forward.

Nine Palace Steps!

This step was very profound and mysterious, and few people present could tell that it was amazing. It made them feel astonished and speechless, as if they could only feel great admiration.

After taking one step forward, Qing Shui instantly raised his cultivation to its peak, lashing out with his right palm and striking the arm of the Sky Prison’s Old Fifth.

Kacha...

The arm was completely mutilated and disappeared!

With a stifled grunt, the Sky Prison’s Old Fifth spurted out fresh blood and fell into the crowd behind him before being caught by a few other old men.

Everyone was astonished and the majority of people had their mouths agape in great surprise. In that instant, their minds were completely blank. They had never expected this to happen.

It was as if time had completely come to a standstill, and it was so quiet that one could hear the sound of a needle dropping. Qing Shui was the only one who stood there, not feeling anything. He only felt that against someone like this, with a strength of about 150 stars, he could almost kill him instantly.

Moreover, he knew how powerful the Nine Palace Steps was. The Nine Palace Steps was pulled off almost perfectly in the attack earlier. When he performed the Nine Palace Steps, everything in his surroundings would be within his Nine Palace. He even could tap into the powers of Heaven and Earth to increase his speed and agility. Even a person who was of the same cultivation realm as Qing Shui wouldn't be able to hold a candle against him. This was how powerful the Nine Palace Steps was.

After a very long silence, it was as if there was an explosion.

"How is this possible?"

"How did this happen?"

...

People could tell from everyone's astonished gazes that what they were seeing was real. They then looked towards that young man and the people from the Sky Prison Sect. The sudden turn of events caused them to be dumbfounded.

With her eyes closed, when Mu Qing heard the sound of contact, she was so nervous that she started trembling. However, what had followed after was silence. It was that silence that caused her to make up her mind to open her eyes, worried about what she would see.

When she opened her eyes and saw the scene before her, she thought her eyes were playing tricks on her. After verifying that it was real, she felt regretful that she had closed her eyes and missed out on seeing how Qing Shui had dealt the Sky Prison's Old Fifth such a heavy blow.

Dong Yan and Sun Yan were also in a daze. They had not expected this outcome either. Right now, they were feeling surprised, great joy, and indescribable agitation.

The Sky Prison's Old Fifth got on his feet, looking at Qing Shui in great disbelief and horror, his earlier arrogance gone. He was unable to say anything.

As the few old men around him helped him apply medicine, they would occasionally glance at that young man in horror.

After crippling the Sky Prison's Old Fifth in one move, even if he had been too careless and had not shown off his full prowess earlier, to be able to destroy his arm completely required a substantial amount of power.

"Use formations to kill him! Kill him!"

Suddenly, the Sky Prison's Old Fifth shouted out. His face was pale as he looked at Qing Shui in horror.

"Formation? You mean that formation behind you? Can that rubbish be called a formation?" Qing Shui looked at them in disdain before taking out a small flag.

"Let me show you what a real formation is."

Qing Shui spoke as he casually threw out the flag. The opponents started moving and surrounding Qing Shui. However, Qing Shui threw out the small flags in his hands slowly as he easily dodged their attacks.

Having practiced creating the Duality Minutest Formation in the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal multiple times, he was able to recreate it very quickly. When the last small flag landed, the formation was activated.

This was the Mu Clan's front courtyard and the space was very wide. Moreover, the Duality Minutest Formation which Qing Clan had set up was very small. After all, there were not many opponents and they were all gathered together. Therefore, he could quickly make use of formations to bind his opponents.

Qing Shui just so happened to be standing outside the formation, causing everyone else to be stunned. It was only now that they were able to see the formation, since from the outside they couldn't really understand the formation earlier.

Now, they could see that the people from the Sky Prison Sect were in huge chaos, feeling horrified as they were constantly being injured. Although the severity of the injuries varied, some were so heavy that three had even died.

From outside the formation, all this appeared to look very funny, but now, none of them felt humored. They only felt horrified. In this moment, Qing Shui appeared to be very strange to everyone present, including Dong Yan, Sun Yan, and Mu Qing.

He really had the right to say that the formation the Flower Crusher had formed was some lousy thing...

With a flash, Qing Shui entered the formation, moving with great ease like a fish in water as he used the Duality Steps. When Mu Qing saw this, she was extremely stunned. It was also then that she noticed that Qing Shui was using the Duality Minutest Formation that he had taught her before.

Chapter 905 - Ability of a Grade One Martial Emperor, Preparation

Mu Qing was stunned. She had also been studying this Duality Step recently, as well as the Duality Minutest Formation. However, she had never expected that the formation would have such a great killing prowess.

And those flags... He seemed to have told her about them before. Mu Qing seriously looked at Qing Shui's each and every action and took note of the positions that Qing Shui had placed the flags.

She might be the only one who could understand this formation. Now that she had witnessed it for herself, she had the feeling as if it was 'deeply engraved' into her. In just this short moment, she had learned too many things.

Her heart was in an even greater mess now. She recalled the time when they had parted in the Sky Penetrating Mountains. Granny had said that he might soar and reach great success very soon.

He had really soared to great success. She felt very happy from the bottom of her heart. His earlier calmness must have been because he had great confidence. He probably chose not to speak up about it because he feared that she would be worried...

...

After entering the formation, Qing Shui darted about, injuring the people from the Sky Prison Sect. Everywhere he passed, people would collapse in a flash. Qing Shui took this opportunity to retrieve his flags.

The formation was scattered!

Qing Shui didn't kill all those people but they were practically crippled and could only live as an ordinary person in the future. However, whether they would be able to accept living a life like this was another matter.

Everything returned to how it was previously. To the people outside the formation, there weren't any changes, and the only thing different was the absence of those small flags. However, to the people from the Sky Prison Sect, there had been tremendous changes.

Formation... To think that this young man also knew about formations. Moreover, it seemed that the formation he knew was even more powerful than the Sky Prison Sect's formation...

"The reason I didn't kill you guys is so that you can bring back a message to the Sky Prison Sect. Formations are not invincible. Once the opponent can find the trick behind the formation, it would become like a piece of paper, broken with just one stab. I don't know if the Sky Prison Sect can still be so arrogant without your formation." Qing Shui said as he now looked at that shrunken Sky Prison's Old Fifth.

The people from the Sky Prison Sect left. No one else said anything.

These people were all crippled and they were of no threat to them. Moreover, they would still have to deal with the other experts from the Sky Prison Sect. Qing Shui hadn't planned on wiping them out. There was no need to do so.

The people from the Sky Prison Sect left and even the corpses of those who died were brought away. The people who remained were all extremely happy and some of them even saw hope.

They saw hope for the Mu Clan, with Mu Qing being the linchpin.

The Sky Prison Sect's formidability stemmed from the Sky Prison Sabre Technique, their formations, and the like. Without these advantages, the Sky Prison Sect's prowess would be weakened by many folds. Right now, this young man had the ability to rid the Sky Prison Sect of one of their advantages. If he was willing to help the Mu Clan, then the Mu Clan wouldn't have to be scared of anyone in the future.

Everyone was also curious what Qing Shui's cultivation realm. To be able to cripple Sky Prison's Old Fifth in a single move... How many people in the Mu Clan could actually pull this feat off?

Qing Shui turned back. Mu Fengyang and the few old men, Mu Qian and the others, Dong Yan, Sun Yan, Mu Qing and her siblings. They were all looking at him from a short distance away.

There was a gratified smile on Mu Fengyang's face. Although they were astonished, they were all very happy, especially when they're looking at Mu Qing. They all had their own set of thoughts. They had seen clearly the actions between Mu Qing and Qing Shui earlier.

It could be said that a large part of the reason that Mu Qian had tried to protect Qing Shui was because he was the man that his daughter had taken a liking to. Now, he realized that it was only a young man like this who could be a match for his daughter and could make his daughter fall for him.

“Old Master, Uncle, I was the cause of this problem. I’ll get this settled before I leave.” Qing Shui smiled and said to the people of the Mu Clan.

“Qing Shui, what are you saying? Although our Mu Clan might not be that strong, as long as we are around, we can’t let our friends suffer from any injustice,” said Mu Fengyang seriously as he looked at Qing Shui.

Qing Shui looked at this old man. He should be the main pillar for this branch of the Mu Clan, he was Mu Qing’s grandfather. He had a strength that was slightly over 300 stars. In a clan like this, a person of his abilities was already considered to be at his max—Early Martial Emperor.

“Qing Shui!” Mu Qing called to Qing Shui.

Qing Shui looked toward her and noticed that there was joy in that pair of worried, beautiful eyes. However, she didn’t say anything more.

“Alright, let’s go in, let’s go in. Today was a good day!” Mu Fengyang said happily.

The group headed for the hall but many of them left automatically. A lot of them weren’t that important enough to be present on an occasion like this. Moreover, this was the branch Mu Qian led.

Or rather, it was the primary branch!

This was Mu Fengyang’s branch, but Mu Fengyang had quite a number of children. Mu Qian’s father had died early, but Mu Qian had proven himself well. Although there weren’t many people here now, their abilities weren’t to be underestimated. His siblings were all quite strong too and thus this was considered the primary branch. It was a pity that Mu Qing was a woman, otherwise, it would be even more lively.

There were only slightly more than ten people in the group. The four old men, Mu Qian, Mu Qing, Qing Shui, Dong Yan, Sun Yan, and Mu Qing’s elder brother—Mu Ying.

Mu Qian’s strength was close to 100 stars and that was the reason why Qing Shui had paid attention to him. After knowing how strong Mu Fengyang and the few old men next to him were, he knew that Mu Ying, with his strength of around 100 stars, was also considerably powerful in the Mu Clan.

The reason they had gathered together was primarily to discuss the issue of the Sky Prison Sect. Of course, they would also talk about Qing Shui. These old men were all very shrewd and wouldn’t ask Qing Shui any questions that he would find hard to answer.

They knew that if Qing Shui wanted to say certain things, they wouldn’t have to ask. By the same token, if he didn’t wish to share, he wouldn’t say anything even if he was asked. Maybe it was because everyone was in a good mood that they ended up having an enjoyable chat.

Mu Qing had sat right next to Qing Shui. When they all took their seats, everyone had a mutual understanding to let Qing Shui and Mu Qing sit next to each other. Qing Shui didn’t know what to feel.

To be able to sit next to a beauty and a lady of unparalleled beauty at that... Qing Shui felt that it was very strange. When he was very weak, it was so hard to woo even a single lady. It was just like how he had faced great obstacles back with Shi Qingzhuang in the past. The Situ Clan alone was a great obstacle to him back then. Without power, it would be but a wild wish for him to be able to stay together with her until they were to grow old.

Power was good. A strong cultivation wouldn't just strengthen the body, it could also strengthen one's soul and confidence. Even one's charms would increase as well.

Now, Qing Shui didn't know what to feel. When he looked at Mu Qing, his feelings toward her were still the same. However, he felt that their relationship was more cordial now, a stark contrast to how unattainable she felt when they had first met. Back then, she was just like the stars in the sky.

Since there were no outsiders here, Qing Shui gave it some thought before asking Mu Fengyang, "Old Master, what determines if you're a Grade One Martial Emperor?"

Mu Fengyang was stunned for a short while before he smiled and said, "As long as you're able to reach a strength of 100 stars with just your physical strength and your martial techniques, you can be considered a Grade One Martial Emperor. Every time you rise up one grade, you'll gain a strength of 1,000 stars. I only know that this is the case for the first five grades. A Grade Five Martial Emperor has a strength of 5,000 stars. I don't know about the grades after that." Mu Fengyang smiled and said.

For the first five grades in the Martial Emperor realm, each additional grade provided a difference of 1,000 stars. When one's strength reached a certain level, grades no longer meant anything, strength was more determined by one's abilities. Grades were just an empty title, strength in terms of stars was a more reliable method of judging one's strength.

Qing Shui's physical strength was at 40 stars and with the enhancements from Diamond Qi and Diamond Protection, it would be at 80 stars. If he were to add on his other martial techniques he would have long exceeded 100 stars. This was before he even relied on any external items.

After hearing this, Qing Shui sort of had an idea. He and his Five-Headed Demonic Spider were both Grade One Martial Emperors, while that Long-armed Vicious Monkey King might be a Peak Grade One Martial Emperor that had a strength of around 1,000 stars.

Right now, he would have no problems defeating it by weakening it and with his Nine Palace Steps. Although his understanding of the Martial Emperor realm was only up to about 5,000 stars, he felt that many things were much clearer—at least for now.

"Old Master, how strong is the strongest person in the Sky Prison Sect? Do you have any idea?" Qing Shui asked Mu Fengyang. He was especially concerned about this. Right now, he wasn't sure how strong the experts in the sects and clans in this city were. However, after seeing Mu Fengyang's cultivation, he heaved a sigh of relief. He thought that they shouldn't be too much stronger, especially since the Sky Prison Sect mainly relied on formations to become powerful.

"The Sovereign of the Sky Prison Sect relies primarily on formations. However, the experts in the Sky Prison Sect are still quite powerful. Two of them have a strength of about 1,000 stars. As for whether there are any other hidden experts, I'm not very sure. However, I think there shouldn't be any.

Otherwise, they wouldn't be giving in to our Mu Clan." Mu Fengyang gave it some thought before replying.

The strength of about 1,000 stars... This was a level which Qing Shui could accept. The formations they relied on shouldn't be of much use against him. Although he has yet to succeed in the Nine Palace Eight Trigrams Formation, it was sufficient for him to rely on the Nine Palace Eight Trigrams Formation and the Duality Minutest Formation.

Despite this, Qing Shui was still a bit worried about the opponent's formations. Although all the formations in the world were based off the Nine Palace and the Eight Trigrams, there were also many mysteries across different formations. There were even formations which were extremely vicious and made use of some devilish items. With the Sky Prison Sect having such a long legacy, Qing Shui didn't believe that they had no hidden tricks up their sleeves. The crux was whether their hidden tricks were strong enough.

This was also what Qing Shui was worried about. Before the Sky Prison Sect came again, Qing Shui needed to study formations and the Nine Palace Steps well. With that, he should be able to protect himself. As long as he could protect himself, Qing Shui had the confidence of breaking their formations.

If they dared to use some powerful and vicious formations to try and kill him, Qing Shui wouldn't mind killing those old fogeys. Qing Shui felt that he should still be able to kill those who were about the strength of 1,000 stars.

What kind of person was Mu Fengyang? Of course, he could tell what Qing Shui was thinking and thus he smiled and said, "The people from the Sky Prison Sect who are coming might be stronger than we expect. Therefore, we must be fully prepared. This time around, we'll listen to what you say."

These words weighed a lot. Everyone was surprised that Mu Fengyang would say this. How powerful was this young man? However, after recalling that he had a good command of that strange formation, they no longer felt as astonished.

Qing Shui knew that this old man must have sensed that he was stronger. The old man wasn't able to clearly sense Qing Shui's cultivation but he probably had a vague idea. It was because Qing Shui could easily cripple Sky Prison's Old Fifth with just one move. Moreover, Qing Shui still had his formations.

"Thank you, Old Master!" Qing Shui expressed his thanks. He didn't wish to involve the Mu Clan in this since he could attack and retreat as he wished. As long as he was fine and didn't get the Mu Clan involved, they probably wouldn't dare to do anything to Mu Clan either.

Moreover, Qing Shui wanted to strengthen Mu Qing's cultivation of formations. Even if he were to eradicate all the strong experts from the Sky Prison Sect, inevitably there might be people who manage to slip away. Moreover, he had never thought of wiping them out all of them. However, even if he were to let some of them go, Qing Shui wanted to make sure that they had no means of retaliating. Only Mu Qing's mastery of formations and the Nine Palace Steps was crucial, everything else was unimportant.

Chapter 906 - Eve, Jade Spirit Fruit ripened

By the time Qing Shui and Mu Qing had left the great hall, it was late in the morning. Dong Yan and Sun Yan had already disappeared somewhere long ago as they didn't wish to interrupt Qing Shui and Mu Qing.

Unfortunately, they didn't know that Qing Shui's relationship with Mu Qing hadn't reached that point yet. They could only be considered good friends.

"Qing Shui, I suddenly feel that you are growing more and more unfamiliar," as Mu Qing walked, she looked at Qing Shui and smiled. Her bright eyes gave off a bewitching air.

"How could that be? I am still the same person and forever will be," Qing Shui replied with a smile and looked at Mu Qing.

When she saw Qing Shui's smile, Mu Qing felt a little flustered, especially when she thought of what happened on that day. At that moment, she felt extremely flustered. She wasn't sure about her feelings towards Qing Shui.

Originally, she was already very curious about Qing Shui. However, he now seemed like an unsolvable puzzle. This made her urge to try and understand him grow stronger.

"Let me teach you about formations," Qing Shui said after thinking for awhile. He felt that it was time to tell her a little about formations and for her to come into contact with them. This was because she was capable of learning formations now.

Mu Qing stared blankly for a while before she smiled, "Fine, I am actually getting more and more curious about formations."

Mu Qing actually had her own reasons for saying this. After she saw the might of formations, she actually stopped asking Qing Shui to teach her. In the past, she wanted to learn formations from Qing Shui to deal with the Sky Prison Sect. She had assumed that Qing Shui's formation skills were very superficial and weren't important to him.

She didn't expect that Qing Shui's formation skills would be much more formidable than the Sky Prison Sect's. Thus, she felt that she was too rude in the past. However, since he now took the initiative to teach her formations she actually felt very happy. It wasn't because she could learn more about formations, but it was because Qing Shui was willing to teach her.

Even an intelligent woman would have a simple side to them. Qing Shui had never expected this. Seeing that Mu Qing was happy, they headed towards her manor.

"Qing Shui, do you think that the people of the Sky Prison Sect will come soon?" Mu Qing asked as she walked. She was very calm when she asked this. Her calmness should be due to a change in her mentality

"They should be coming soon. If it was someone else, they would definitely try to rush over as soon as possible," Qing Shui said after he thought for awhile.

Mu Qing felt a little worried. When the two of them walked into the manor, Qing Shui stopped and called out to Mu Qing, "It is still early, we will do it here."

Qing Shui first got Mu Qing to draw a simple Nine Palace Eight Trigrams. Then he got her to draw the Duality Minutest Formation's position and its supporting position in sequence.

Mu Qing had built up a solid foundation during these days. She was quite fast and persistent. She would continually correct her own mistakes and identify the key points.

Qing Shui felt that Mu Qing had a treasure but he didn't know what it was. However, he estimated that it was even more precious than the Spirit Concentrating Pill. He felt that her treasure could even be used together with the Spirit Concentrating Pill.

Almost everyone who could reach such a level at such an age had treasures on them. Even if they didn't own treasures, their items wouldn't be too bad either.

Although formations looked simple on the surface, its internal workings were full of variables. This kind of thing required a long time to research. Qing Shui had only grasped a single path in the art of formations. It would require a shocking amount of time to completely research formations. This was similar to the principle that it was possible to understand and apply some principles but not know where it came from.

Without realizing it, it was already noon. A lot of people from the Dong Clan came. This time, they planned to stand together with the Mu Clan and resist the Sky Prison Sect.

The one leading the Dong Clan was Dong Yan's grandfather. Qing Shui knew about the abilities of this old man. He was at the level of 80 stars. It seems that the Dong Clan was somewhat inferior to the Mu Clan. Despite this, Qing Shui felt happy.

With such level of abilities, it would be difficult for them make such a decision. It wasn't important if they took action because Dong Yan rallied them or they volunteered. The most important person was Dong Yan. It was enough just having him.

Even though the Dong Clan came, they wouldn't be of much help in this case. However, there was strength in numbers. At the very least, having more people would strengthen their courage and the atmosphere wouldn't be as worrying as it was before.

In the afternoon, Qing Shui still continued to practice formations with Mu Qing. When he had spare time, Qing Shui started to use those small formation flags to lay down formations in the Mu Clan's yard. He had basically surrounded the entire Mu Clan with formations. Additionally, he accumulated many flags in the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal.

Qing Shui used the Duality Minutest Formation to intersect the interior and the exterior of the Mu Clan. He had also taken out the Five Elements Minor Formation for the few old men to research. During this period of time, Dong Yan and Sun Yan had learned a lot. They were able to assemble and coordinate the formation.

The individuals who accompanied Mu Qing when she headed into the Sky Penetrating Mountains were now at a crucial moment with their practice of the Five Elements Minor Formation. The formation master of the Five Elements Minor Formation had cooperated with the 20 old men that had been together for many years and had a tacit understanding of each other. Thus, they were able to easily

reach their current achievements. At the same time, they practiced walking around in the Duality Minutest Formation. Qing Shui had them practice this as a precaution.

Time slowly went by. Qing Shui noticed that the Duality Minutest Formation had already been laid everywhere. He also saw the key figures of the Mu Clan learning how to cooperate while using the Duality Steps and the Five Elements Minor Formation.

If everyone was able to cooperate together when the time came, their might would be increased very significantly.

To connect these people together, every group of them would have two to three experts in charge. Furthermore, when everyone was together, they would be able to look after each other. Since they found out about Qing Shui's strength, the people who were learning the formation put in their best efforts.

Even those people who had tried to bully Qing Shui forgot about their motives. Back then, they thought that Qing Shui was an idiot. Thus, they had hoped that Young Master Yin would kill him.

However, now they knew that Qing Shui was a heaven defying genius. Within the whole World of the Nine Continents, there were only a few of these demon-level characters. If they knew about his talent earlier, they wouldn't have to blindly mull over this. In retrospect, it was silly of them to plot against Qing Shui.

When humans were desperate, their potential would become limitless. The Mu Clan's current situation could be considered extremely dangerous. If they weren't careful, their roots might get torn out.

No one would want their clan to fall. At this time, the Mu Clan was very easily unified. Thus, their speed of improvement was much faster than before by many folds.

Mu Qing was no exception. Originally, her talent was pretty great. Now, with a good foundation and her efforts, she was the one who learned the fastest.

The sky slowly turned dark but the people from the Sky Prison Sect hadn't appeared yet. This was normal. Old Wu and his group probably hadn't even reached the Sky Prison Sect yet.

Thus, it was more likely that they would arrive two days later. They could still enjoy two more days of peace.

.....

In a splendid and majestic mansion within the country's capital, there was a youth whose hand was wrapped in bandages. There was also a really sturdy man in his prime, he was about two meters tall.

"Stop thinking of revenge, regardless of whether the Mu Clan can survive this ordeal, stop thinking about revenge," the man sighed and said to the youth on the bed.

"I hope that the Sky Prison Sect will obliterate them all, especially that fellow....."

The man sighed and left the room. Originally, he had wanted to go to the Mu Clan and argue with them because of his son's injuries. After all, his son was crippled, how could he take it lying down as his father? He had even planned on making a big scene at the Mu Clan.

However, his influence was no longer needed. If the Mu Clan was destroyed by the Sky Prison Sect, they naturally didn't have to do anything. At best, they would just cause some trouble while they were down. On the other hand, if the Mu Clan succeeded, then there would be no need to send themselves to die.

However, seeing his son in this state, he felt very upset as his father. The Yin Clan was a privileged clan around these parts but they were now forced to just tolerate this.

.....

It was night when Qing Shui entered the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal and headed towards the Jade Spirit Fruit Tree. It was about time for it to ripen.

It was ripe!

The fragrance of the snow white Jade Spirit fruit was filled with spirituality that could be smelt from afar. There was a total of 100 fruits. Qing Shui still wasn't very sure about the effects of the Jade Spirit Fruit.

He then picked all of the Jade Spirit Fruit. After hesitating for a while, Qing Shui chose one and ate it. It was very fragrant and slightly sweet. The most important part was that it had a refreshing taste.

After he ate it, his whole body felt cleansed and it felt very good. However, after awhile, Qing Shui realized that there were no effects. His abilities hadn't changed. However, he could sense that his marrows had transformed slightly.

Transformation of marrows?

Qing Shui didn't give up and ate another one. This time, Qing Shui was stunned. He gained half a star of abilities. The transformation of one's marrows could actually increase one's abilities?

Thinking of the Snow Lion King that protected the Jade Spirit Fruit, Qing Shui summoned his demonic beasts. He wanted to see what effects this Jade Spirit Fruit had on them.

Every demonic beast ate two of the fruits.

After that, he quietly waited and watched the surrounding demonic beasts. At this point of time, he only knew that the Jade Spirit Fruit could improve the marrows.

After they ate it, Qing Shui was taken aback. There were some changes but they were all minute. The Gold-Silver Colored Butterfly and the Ten Thousand Poisonous Violet Sable's abilities seemed to increase significantly.

Qing Shui still hadn't given up and fed each of his demonic beast five Jade Spirit Fruit. If there still weren't any obvious effects, then Qing Shui was prepared to eat all of the fruits himself. At least, his abilities would have some increase.

This time, there were some obvious effects. There was an obvious change in their marrows. The level of abilities gained was also very visible and their abilities were increased by nearly 10%.

The Five-Headed Demonic Spider had the abilities of 400 stars. This time, its abilities actually increased by 40 stars...

This Jade Spirit Fruit was actually able to increase the abilities of a Martial Emperor by this much? There didn't seem to be any cultivation limit. It was a pity that it only increased the consumer's abilities by 10%. However, why was the Snow Lion King defending it to the bitter end if it was just so simple?

It definitely shouldn't be just for this 10% increase in abilities. This 10% increase was definitely just a supplementary effect.

After the Five-Headed Demonic Spider quietened down, it didn't experience any more changes. The Gold-Silver Colored Butterfly and the Ten Thousand Poisonous Violet Sable also gained a 10% increase in abilities before stopping. Finally, Qing Shui cast his gaze on the Diamond Gigantic Elephant and the Fire Bird.

Chapter 907 - Yet another twenty stars Increase, Dragon Elephant Force, Dark Phoenix of Nine Heavens

At the moment, Qing Shui was at a loss. Forget about the other demonic beasts that didn't undergo any changes, the Five-Headed Demonic Spider was a very formidable beast, even though its increase in strength was quite significant, it still felt like it had barely achieved that.

Suddenly, Qing Shui remembered the Snow Lion King, a demonic beast which already had the strength of a Peak Martial Saint. Could it be that it wanted to break through to Martial Emperor using the Jade Spirit Fruit?

Qing Shui was puzzled. He himself has already eaten a few of them. He felt that even though it was quite decent in terms of boosting strength, its effect would gradually fall dependant on the amount that he consumed. He estimated it would lose effect once he ate ten of them. However, it could help change body physique and bones, it was just that its effect would also decrease progressively. A 10% increase in strength was already quite decent. The strength stated here was talking about the strength which didn't rely on any external factors. It included the raw strength and techniques. In one go, Qing Shui's raw strength actually increased by twenty stars and achieved a total of sixty stars.

To Qing Shui, twenty stars was still really heaven-defying, it was already worth it!

Could it be that this was a Spirit Fruit for awakening innate skills and blood vessels? To think that such good stuff would be seized by a Peak Martial Saint Demonic Beast.

Qing Shui remembered his Beast Pill. Could the effect of Jade Spirit Fruit be similar to that of a Beast Pill? Just that it's more suitable for powerful demonic beasts and warriors but then, why would it not have any effect on the Five-Headed Demonic Spider? And it seemed to be useless with the other demonic beasts as well.

Did it have to do with their species?

The Diamond Gigantic Elephant was evolved from the Diamond Demonic Boar. It had already awakened its innate skills and blood veins. Could it be that it could still awaken it for a second and third time?

Suddenly, the Fire Bird let out an ear-splitting chirp.

Jet-black flame flourished all over its body.

Qing Shui stared at the Fire Bird that was growing more mighty in the air. He felt excited in his heart, it seemed that its bloodline had been awakened by a significant amount. Even if the Fire Bird had the bloodline of the legendary phoenix, there was still a long way to go before completely awakening it.

He remembered the Roc Form. The ability of the Golden Winged Roc was really powerful. Merely from the earliest “Heart of Roc” and “Roc Spreading Wings”, he could already tell that it was more powerful than the Five-Headed Demonic Spider while the Dragon and Phoenix Forms were above that of the Roc Form.

Since ancient times, both the phoenix and dragons represented peace. Dragons were the king of all beasts whereas the phoenix was the king of flying beasts. The legendary roc was actually also the descendant of the phoenix. Their bodies would contain a huge amount of phoenix blood veins.

At the moment when jet-black flame flourished all across the Fire Bird’s body, golden light also shone on the Diamond Gigantic Elephant’s body. This caused Qing Shui to feel a bit surprised as he originally thought that there would no longer be any changes to the Diamond Gigantic Elephant.

The Diamond Gigantic Elephant was evolved from the Diamond Demonic Boar as a result of it completing its Innate Skills and Blood Veins Awakening, could it be that it was going to go through yet another awakening? Just to what extent could it evolve?

But Qing Shui was really happy. It was fine as long as it could awaken. It also didn’t matter what it awakened. In any case, once it went through an awakening, it would experience a significant strength boost. This was more powerful than ordinary breakthroughs. He was looking forward to seeing to what extent its strength would reach in a while.

Kong-kong!

Minggg!

Qing Shui could tell that there seemed to be a kind of firm tone which resembled that of a dragon moaning noise within the Diamond Gigantic Elephant’s howl. The noise itself sounded really beautiful to the point that it could shake one to their core.

The chirping noise of the Fire Bird on the other hand, became clearer and clearer. The noise sounded so sharp that it felt like it was going to penetrate through the blue dome of heaven. Despite never hearing the actual chirping noise of a phoenix before, Qing Shui felt that it already resembled it. He thought that it resembled a bit of what was referred and described as a phoenix chirping noise based on his previous incarnation. Nevertheless, it was still quite different compared to what he was hearing now. This kind of phoenix chirping noise sounded really pleasant, it was a pleasurable experience.

It kept going on for roughly the time of an incense stick. During this period of time, both the Diamond Gigantic Elephant and Fire Bird recovered back to their original states almost at the same time. There weren’t many changes to the appearance of either of the demonic beasts, but if one was to observe closely they would notice that the neck of the Diamond Gigantic Elephant had become longer and its body resembled metal even more than before. It also appeared to look slightly swollen.

The color of the Fire Bird got even darker, this time, there was no longer anyone who said that the Fire Bird was colored red. In the past, it was scarlet red but now, it had turned to scarlet black. Judging from the trend, it might eventually turn out to be a jet-black colored Black Phoenix.

Qing Shui released his Spiritual Sense to analyze the strength of both the Diamond Gigantic Elephant and Fire Bird. Originally, the strength of the Diamond Gigantic Elephant was really close to reaching a star but now it jumped straight to achieving a total of three stars. Looking at the slightly extended neck, Qing Shui was quite confused as to what innate skills and blood veins the Diamond Gigantic Elephant possessed. Could it be dragon? He shook his head, in any case, Qing Shui found it really hard to believe as it didn't resemble one even a bit.

Three stars worth of raw strength, when under the effect of Diamond Sword Qi, Diamond Protection and other passive battle techniques, it would immediately achieve six stars worth of strength. What made Qing Shui upset was that both the offensive and defensive strength of the Diamond Gigantic Elephant had synchronized. They both had three stars worth of raw strength. He was unable to comprehend it, could it be that it would achieve a balanced state of strength once it reached a certain level?

Qing Shui looked towards the Diamond Gigantic Elephant's battle technique only to be dumbfounded. Diamond Qi, Diamond Protection and Diamond Crossing Rivers were all gone. In exchange, it got a new battle technique instead, a passive battle technique.

Dragon Elephant Force, passive battle technique, permanently increase raw strength threefold. In this case, the Diamond Gigantic Elephant would achieve a total strength of ten stars. Furthermore, it was when it hadn't used any battle techniques.

Dragon Elephant Force, Qing Shui was confused for a long time. He once again looked at the current Diamond Gigantic Elephant and found that it truly has become different from before. Its neck had become a bit longer. If one was to observe it from further away, it would be much more obvious.

Dragon Elephant Force. Was this ability trying to reveal something? It's just like when the Fire Bird's battle technique mentioned the word "Black Phoenix" but could the "Dragon Elephant" be a type of species?

After that, Qing Shui continued looking downwards. The ability Instantaneous Diamond Evasion got upgraded. It could instantly rush in and kill enemies within five hundred meters. However, Qing Shui felt that this ability wasn't anything significant when used against a Martial Emperor since five hundred meters was already a range which Qing Shui could travel instantly. Now that he had perfected his Nine Palace Steps, this was even more worthless. But when used against warriors below that of Martial Emperors, it was still quite insane.

The Diamond Sword Qi was still the same as before, it could lock onto the target and was unavoidable. But the opponent could try to block or resist against it. Under the state of Diamond Sword Qi, the attack of Diamond Ferocious Attack would multiply.

Diamond Ferocious Attack could originally already increase the offensive strength by one fold. Under the situation when the target also got marked by the Diamond Sword Qi, it could immediately be raised to four times the original offensive strength.

Mighty Elephant's Recklessness, twofold of the same offensive attack. It could target at most ten opponents.

"Yeah, it became a group attack, so it's more like a technique used to open up paths."

Mighty Elephant Stomp, Great Perfection Stage, ten times the raw offensive strength.

Qing Shui smiled as he finished reading through all the battle techniques of the Diamond Gigantic Elephant. If he didn't break through himself, the current Diamond Gigantic Elephant would most likely be his strongest powerhouse. After all, the Mighty Elephant Stomp could achieve an offensive strength of thirty stars.

But now, because the Diamond Gigantic Elephant's raw strength wasn't powerful enough, its current most powerful single kill has become stacking the Diamond Ferocious Attack on top of Diamond Sword Qi. It could achieve a total of thirty six stars of offensive strength while the opponent could only try to block and resist against it. It couldn't be avoided and was strong enough. Unfortunately, it couldn't be of much use under the current circumstances.

But Qing Shui was already satisfied with what he had. This was a good beginning. The Diamond Gigantic Elephant awakened its Dragon Elephant Force. Even though in his mind, Qing Shui found that the ability of the Diamond Gigantic Elephant was really heaven-defying how long would this last? Some people were born to be ordinary whereas some could just cover up the entire sky with one hand, the same thing should also apply for the Diamond Gigantic Elephant, some should be incomparably strong whereas some should only be normal.

Qing Shui had a feeling that the Diamond Gigantic Elephant might really attain the ability to battle the heaven and earth.

He turned around and looked towards the Fire Bird which was still flying in the sky. He leaped onto the Fire Bird's back. The Fire Bird's raw strength, which was originally one and a half stars had now achieved four stars.

All along, Qing Shui had always felt that the Fire Bird's ability wasn't that strong. Only now did he feel that the Fire Bird should have become slightly more powerful. He eagerly read through the Fire Bird's Battle Techniques.

Dark Phoenix of Nine Heavens: Passive battle technique, zero consumption, permanently increase raw strength fourfold. All of the battle techniques' consumptions would be cut in half.

"Changed, it also changed. Is the Jade Spirited Fruit really that strong? Then the Snow Lion King was very likely to break through to the Martial Emperor Grade using the Jade Spirited Fruit. It's such a waste." Qing Shui let out a sigh.

Superior Flight: The unique flying ability only known by the Fire Bird. Both its endurance and speed were incomparable. It was one of the top techniques among all the flying type demonic beasts. Capable of flying at high speed for a long period of time.

Hell's Inferno: The Fire Bird executed a formidable flame attack. The dark flame could burn away everything. It contained terrifying destructive ability. Legend has it that it was one of the powerful battle techniques of Black Phoenix.

Phoenix Dance of Nine Heavens: When the Fire Bird used the Phoenix Dance of Nine Heavens, its flame attack's damage would multiply. This would last for thirty minutes. It could be used four times a day. During this time, the damage it received would be cut in half.

The number of times allowed to use it in a day doubled. Other than that, nothing really changed. These weren't actually that important.

Qing Shui moved his gaze to the last battle technique, the Phoenix Paradise.

Phoenix Paradise, at the time when the Fire Bird received critical damage, there was a 30% chance it would go through Firebath Rebirth. Once it succeeded in rebirthing, it would be as if it went through a metamorphosis and its strength would double.

Under the state of Dark Phoenix of Nine Heavens, the Fire Bird would achieve a strength of sixteen stars whereas under the state of Phoenix Dance of the Nine Heavens, it would be thirty-two stars. Most importantly, at present, Qing Shui still had a really powerful item, the Spirit Gathering Lamp.

The Spirit Gathering Lamp could now double the damage dealt by the Fire Bird's flame attacks, that being sixty four stars.

The mighty Spirit Gathering Lamp, Qing Shui was now really happy. Unfortunately, the progression made by it as of now was really slow. However, it shouldn't be too far away from ascending a grade. It had been a long time since it leveled up.

Qing Shui jumped off the Fire Bird's back, feeling really satisfied. At such a crucial point, the power boost of the Demonic Beast was really important. Even though the effect wasn't that significant against formidable foes, the majority of warriors in Sky Prison Sect should most likely be ordinary warriors. How many Martial Emperors could there possibly be? Hence, the Diamond Gigantic Elephant, Fire Bird and the other demonic beasts of his were still really powerful.

This time, nothing happened to the Thunderous Beast. Qing Shui was determined to continue and fed it two more Jade Spirit Fruit. He noticed that things were still the same except he could sense that the Spiritual Qi within the Thunderous Beast felt really strong.

Seeing that there were not many Jade Spirit Fruits left, Qing Shui immediately put it away. The fruit seemed to have a really strong effect on people with unique blood veins. The blood vein of the Thunderous Beast was just Thunderous Beast. It might be that ordinary blood veins didn't contain any powerful species' blood veins, that was why it couldn't be awakened.

As Qing Shui exited the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal, he immediately laid down on his bed and slept. In the morning, he woke up on time and after going through a simple and quick shower, he walked out of his room. As he stepped out of the house, he could already see Mu Qing arranging a few stones in the courtyard.

Laying formations!

This woman was truly hard working. As Mu Qing saw Qing Shui coming out, she happily greeted him.

There would most likely be no one to bother them today. So they could enjoy a day of peace.

"How did it go?" Qing Shui walked up to her side with a smile and looked at the stones on the ground.

“It’s done but nothing is happening with the formation.” Mu Qing looked at Qing Shui with a bitter look.

“Move the Gan Position horizontally by three meters, the Gen Position up by half a meter, the eye of the formation in the southeast direction by a meter. At the time when you put down the stone of the supporting position, you need to use the hand motion that I told you about. It’s best if you could find stones with Spiritual Qi.” Qing Shui smiled as he passed the colored stone to Mu Qing.

Mu Qing happily nodded. After that, she rearranged things once more. Then, she placed the stone in her hand into the eye of the formation. Instantly, the Spiritual Qi surged and the formation activated.

Mu Qing stood within the formation excitedly. The surprised look on her face was indescribable, yet it still looked really beautiful as usual. The expression given out from her bright and beautiful pupils resembled that of the stars in the sky.

“Duality Steps, remember the usual practice.” Qing Shui charged towards Mu Qing within the formation.

Qing Shui seemed to have forgotten about the awkward feelings he had in the past, it might have been because he couldn’t care much about it now. Mu Qing on the other hand, blushed. It seemed like she was also reminded of that time. She bit her lip and quickly avoided him. The technique she executed was a skilled Duality Steps.

Qing Shui spotted Mu Qing’s expression, especially her action from before when she bit her lip and revealed her snow white teeth, it was breathtakingly beautiful.

Qing Shui shook his head and once again charged towards Mu Qing. During the entire process, he didn’t stop pointing out to her the things which needed particular attention about formations and explained to her once more about the Sixth Gate and other details.....

Chapter 908 - Beauties everywhere, Improvement, Worry

The two of them traveled back and forth inside the formation. Qing Shui continually used his Duality Steps to chase after Mu Qing, with his speed increasing and his movements turning craftier. Mu Qing kept avoiding, however, there was danger everywhere. If she made a wrong move, she would step onto the ‘Gate of Death’ and would encounter a lot of danger. It would be like a natural disaster with an unceasing attack.

Mu Qing was very serious at this moment, but she was very happy as well. With just a short period of time, her formation techniques had improved vastly. From learning how to place a formation, she was now able to move freely within it. Although it had only been slightly more than two hours, without any knack of it, this improvement might require tens of years.

This was an improvement, and also the source of Mu Qing’s joy!

After this round, she was incredibly familiar with the formation already. Qing Shui hesitated for a bit, then increased his strength and pushed her into the dangerous areas of the formation. Since he was around, he did not have to worry about Mu Qing getting injured.

However, once she was pushed in, a certain situation caught Qing Shui unprepared. Mu Qing suddenly cried out in surprise. That charming and graceful voice was clearly surprised but it was still extremely pleasing, it had a languid and attractive quality to it.

After that, Qing Shui felt Mu Qing tightly hugging him, followed by her horrified voice, "So many frogs....."

Qing Shui took a look, the formation he entered was a poison formation. This was one of the Gate of Illusion of the Duality Minutest Formation. There were poisonous creatures everywhere - poisonous worms, poisonous snake and lot of colorful poisonous frogs. They look extremely disgusting that even a man would be frightened.

He held the woman in his embrace and with a flash, he appeared outside the formation, "Big Miss, its fine already, you can let me go now."

Qing Shui had to tell her this first. After all, the people trapped in the formation would be scared silly, it was not a good time to explain things. Thus, he could only exit the formation first before letting her know that it was already a small success for her to be able to protect herself and attack the enemies.

Within the formation, there were areas that aimed to trap or kill the enemies. The first usage of the formation is to kill the enemy directly, the other was for the user of the formation to kill those who are trapped. Comparing the dangerous areas and the safe areas, it was easier for the user to take action in the dangerous areas. An example of a dangerous area would be one that had many poisonous creatures.

These poisonous creatures were only illusions but they would feel like the real thing when they made direct contact. However, the victim would not be poisoned, this kind of attack mainly targeted the mind.

If they were surrounded and touched by these poisonous creatures, it would be a simple matter for these creatures to kill them. This was especially true to those poisonous creatures with cohesive nature.

Thus, they had to grasp the right way to avoid such areas or to not come into contact with these poisonous creatures.

"I won't let go!"

An indolent female voice said. Mu Qing raised her head slightly and looked at Qing Shui. Her elegant eyes had a faint smiling expression and her white, jade-like face had a trace of a blush on it.

Qing Shui could tell that she was a little shy but her voice also had a trace of playfulness. However, he knew she was forcing herself, this was not her usual character. She was doing this to send him a message.

This probably took a great deal of courage and determination for her.

Qing Shui looked at the girl hugging his neck, her pretty face was just about 33 centimeters away with her body stuck closely onto his. Although it was cold, cultivators usually wore thin clothes. He could faintly feel her body temperature through her phoenix skirt.

"Alright, don't let the others see the apple of their eye behaving like this." Qing Shui's heart was beating quite fast, as he said this.

An absolute beauty that had a multifarious bearing was acting spoiled in his embrace. It would be a lie if he said he didn't feel anything. However, he was not a playboy that would not let go a beauty when he saw one.

Still, Qing Shui had no idea what to do with this woman that delivered herself to him. It was easy to move a man's heart, sometimes all it need was an instant.

Men and women were very similar at times but women tend to be more faithful to one person.

"Qing Shui!" Mu Qing's heart was beating very fast, as she shouted out gently. This was the first time she daringly hugged a man. She was very nervous, she had never expected that such a day would come.

Qing Shui could naturally feel her heart beating fast. There was a shy expression on her pretty face, he could only use the word 'breathtaking' to describe it. Even when he had seen many pretty girls, he still lost his wits twice.

Mu Qing seemed very happy. She currently did not understand exactly how she felt, she only felt an unreal feeling.

"Miss Mu, have you truly fallen for me? How are you planning to fight for me, are you going to build a magnificent house for your lover?" Qing Shui shook his head and smiled at Mu Qing.

"What are you saying? Magnificent house..." The blush on Mu Qing's face did not fade away after all this time.

"I have a very poor self-control. If you still don't release me, I would no longer be able to control myself." Qing Shui said seriously. However, he had a faint smile on his face. Despite that, his words were true. He hadn't had any contact with the opposite gender for a while, Qing Shui was starting to feel a reaction in his body.

"Just hug me for awhile?" Mu Qing said with a gentle voice.

Qing Shui was stunned. Now that things had gotten to this stage, there was no need to shy away from this. He used some strength and carried her into his embrace until there was no longer a gap between their bodies. He could even feel the bounciness of her chest. However, he did not make any other moves.

Mu Qing moaned and raised her blushing face to look at Qing Shui. She looked extremely pretty.

"Girl, I already have wives. Furthermore, I would be leaving after this matter is over." Qing Shui sighed.

"I know, for someone like you at your age, it wouldn't be normal if you didn't have any women. You told me before that you have wives already, and not just one." Mu Qing smiled.

Qing Shui was stunned, he now remembered that he did tell her that before.

"You already know about it, then why are you still doing this?" He looked at Mu Qing in confusion, as he asked.

"Since young, this is the first time that I have any feelings for a man. Furthermore, I slowly found out that I have a strange feeling for you. I always want to see you, I feel that I like you. I wish to not lose this opportunity." Mu Qing was still blushing, but she still said that to Qing Shui.

This could be considered a confession. She could be considered to have said it in person.

When a woman confesses, the man would feel proud. Furthermore, this was an absolute beauty. Qing Shui felt like doing it, but he did not want to do it. He felt very conflicted.

He did not love Mu Qing but he likes pretty girls. However, he did not have the intention of collecting pretty girls. The girls in his heart were more important than his own life. If his girls were in danger, he would go and save them regardless of the danger. Even if he could die, he would still go. All of the women he had, he would love and treasure them with all of his heart

After interacting with her for awhile, he had only felt that Miss Mu was a good girl. She could be considered as his good friend but they hadn't interacted for that long. However, he had enjoyed some benefits from her, regardless of how he felt, that feeling was priceless.

"I do not love you!" He sighed again.

Qing Shui felt that he had let her down by saying these words. He felt a bit guilty.

"If you said that you love me, you would not be Qing Shui. What I love about you is that you are willing to shoulder the responsibility of your actions..." she smiled before she gently released Qing Shui.

"It's time to let me go." Mu Qing touched his face and smiled.

"Casting me away after you are done with me?" Qing Shui smiled, as he let go.

"Go and die, who says things like this?" Although she did not have much interaction with men, that didn't mean that she understood nothing. There were still books about this after all, she could still understand Qing Shui's obscene words.

"The matter now is the most important, we can talk about the other stuff later. If you think about me until you can no longer restrain yourself, you can come and hug me. I will not charge you any money." Qing Shui was half lying. Looking at Miss Mu's expression, he unconsciously teased her. This was because her expressions were extremely attractive.

"You scoundrel, don't be so frivolous with me." Mu Qing hammered on him and was slightly annoyed. She did not expect that this steady and earnest man could be so frivolous with her. She irritatedly glared at Qing Shui.

"I'm sorry, I did not have that kind of intentions." Qing Shui apologized as he saw Mu Qing's shy expression.

"Alright, just messing with you." Mu Qing quickly smiled and said when she saw that Qing Shui felt guilty.

"Then let us continue. Very soon, you will be able to use this formation alone."

Following that, he explained the positions of the formation to her once again, as well as how to deal with those poisonous creatures. He also explained the other situations of the formation to her before letting her go back into the formation to give it a try.

.....

At the same time, the other people in the Mu Clan were training continuously in the Duality Minutest Formation. There were Duality Minutest Formations placed everywhere. Only by training within this formation could they make use of it to protect themselves and survive.

There was no need for them to place the formation, they only need to be familiar with moving around it or place the Five Elements Minor Formations. Right now, all of them were working on this, they temporarily cast everything else aside. Furthermore, learning these would ensure their survival in the future and would also improve their strength.

If they could get past this without any major damage, not only the Mu Clan, even the Dong Clan and the Sun Clan would become stronger as well. Furthermore, the relationship between the Mu Clan and the Dong Clan would be closer.

.....

Greencloud Continent!

A manor within the Heavenly Palace.

“Young lass, come here and give me a hug!”

Huiyun Liu-Li knelt down and stretched her hands out to a young girl. This was the daughter between her and Qing Shui. Now, she had already started walking but Qing Shui hadn't come back yet.

The young lass slowly took a step, when she saw that Huoyun Liu-Li was near, she leaped into her embrace. Her baby voice was very pleasing to the ear.

The smile on Huoyun Liu-Li's face was like a blossoming flower. She carried her daughter and looked into her large eyes and tender face. She stretched out her meaty hands to grab at her face.

“Lass, come and let aunt-mother carry you.” Canghai Mingyue said as she walked over and smiled before she received the young lass from Huoyun Liu-Li.

“Where are Zun`er and Yin`er?” Huoyun Liu-Li asked while smiling.

“I'm not sure where the two rascals have ran to. Are we really waiting for him to come back before we give her a name?” Canghai Mingyue smiled and asked.

“It wouldn't be too late for a name, I just don't know whether he is doing well or not. I just want to know how is he doing.” Huoyun Liu-Li was smiling, but her face still was full of worry.

“It has been such a long time, he should be coming back soon. With his abilities, he will be fine. Stop worrying.” Canghai Mingyue smiled as she said. Although she was consoling Liu-Li, she too had the same worries in her heart.

Chapter 909 - The Mu Clan's Old Ancestor at his late days, conversation

Huoyun Liu-Li and Canghai Mingyue were playing with the kids while talking in the front yard and most of their topics were centered around Qing Shui.

Maybe because the two women had given birth or maybe also because they were aging, the two now appeared to look even more graceful than before. They exuded a kind of noble and pure aura similar to that of Mingyue Gelou's. This should have something to do with them being mothers.

After all, the two were already older than Qing Shui in terms of age to begin with. Now, Qing Shui was already someone who was more than thirty years old. Luckily, because the World of the Nine Continents was abundant with spiritual energy, people around thirty to forty years of age were considered to be young, especially in the case of warriors. When they truly became an adult at the age of sixteen, it was the stage in their lives when they would experience the fastest improvement in their cultivation, very few people would actually get married.

Some people chose to abstain due to fear of losing their vital essence, in other words, they chose to suppress their sexual desire. From Qing Shui's perspective however, it was only necessary to have control over your sexual desire. Completely suppressing it wouldn't benefit people with ordinary needs in any way.

The world was divided into Yin and Yang, so were humans. It was a law of nature that Yin and Yang would combine with each other. Hence, Qing Shui wouldn't do something like that. To Qing Shui, he would prefer doing things by going with the flow and keeping a calm mind. When conditions were right, success would follow naturally, this was the right mindset for a cultivator to have.

Far away in the Eastern Victory Continent, Qing Shui was unaware that he just got himself yet another daughter.

"We haven't heard anything from Sister Chen since the last time she was gone." After talking for a moment, Huoyun Liu-Li and Canghai Mingyue switched the topic to Di Chen.

"That's right. If Qing Shui was home, both Jiange and Luan Luan would most likely have left as well. They have said before that they wanted to leave. It's just that with Qing Shui not around, they were a bit concerned about what would happen to the family if they left," Canghai Mingyue responded after hesitating a while.

"Sister Jiange seemed to be hiding a lot of secrets. I wonder if Qing Shui was aware of any of them," Huoyun Liu-Li casually asked Canghai Mingyue.

"Alright, let's stop talking about these unpleasant things. Even if she leaves, she is still one of us. Hehe, one thing that's for sure is that she's Qing Shui's woman." What Canghai Mingyue said previously was really profound. Huoyun Liu-Li puzzled over what she had said.

"Auntie!"

A slender and elegant woman with a high ponytail hairstyle shouted happily approaching Canghai Mingyue and Huoyun Liu-Li. Her footsteps were like flashing flames. Each movement performed by her feet was very relaxed and pleasant to look at. It was an indescribable feeling.

She was a lovely young woman with a joyful expression on her exquisite face. While shouting, she walked to the side of the two women. She extended her hands and twisted the little one's cheek.

"Luan Luan, don't you have anything to do today?" Canghai Mingyue smiled looking at Luan Luan.

This lady, who was now all grown up, was none other than Luan Luan. Her facial appearance had very little resemblance to Yiye Jiange's. Though very vaguely, the two shared a little similarity in terms of their charm. Overall, the auras that the two exuded were totally different.

Yiye Jiange was like a bottomless pond of water, whereas Luan Luan resembled more of a splashing river, with the former being outstandingly extraordinary and the latter being cheerful.

"I just finished two months of seclusion training but daddy doesn't seem to be back yet." Luan Luan pouted while teasing the little one. She seemed to be really unsatisfied with the fact that Qing Shui wasn't back home.

"Your daddy couldn't have been tempted by the witch, could he? If not, why hasn't he updated us with any news for so long?" Huoyun Liu-Li said smiling.

"Auntie, I feel that even witches will have to step down gracefully when they're in front of you. Daddy would definitely not be willing to part with you." Luan Luan revealed a sly smile.

"You damned rude brat, you actually tried to tease me," Huoyun Liu-Li blushed and responded.

Canghai Mingyue sat by the side. She didn't say anything, but only expressed a graceful and attractive smile.

After a while, Yuchang also joined in. The young lady who was slightly younger than Luan Luan now also looked graceful and subdued. She was like a lotus that had just blossomed. Different from Luan Luan and Yiye Jiange, her facial appearance had some resemblance to that of Mingyue Gelou. But when it came down to her talent, she could only be considered above average, almost the same as Qing You's and Qing Bei's.

Both Yu Chang and Luan Luan had grown up. Those who were aware of their origins didn't speak a word about it in front of them. Simultaneously, no one truly knew if they themselves were aware that they weren't blood-related to Qing Shui. Nonetheless, this was not of any importance. From the way things were now, it didn't really matter whether they were blood-related or not.

Perhaps, Yu Chang might still have very vague memories of the past. In the past, she was once taken away along with Mingyue Gelou. She should have a few memories of the things that happened back then despite not being able to fully recall it.

As for Luan Luan, those who knew about her origin had the feeling that she should be aware of the fact that she wasn't blood-related to Qing Shui. After all, she had been wandering around the world alone. In addition to that, she knew she was sent out by her daddy.

Nevertheless, she still insisted that Qing Shui was her daddy. Yiye Jiange didn't understand the reason for it, as her brother looked totally different from Qing Shui.

Unless the real parents of the children were still alive and they managed to find them, no one would bring up these topics, this included Yiye Jiange and Mingyue Gelou. They didn't want to burden their children, nor did they want to shatter the love the children shared with their dad.

Mingyue Gelou in particular, whatever she had now was all bestowed by heaven. It was the very own man of hers. Back then when she was carrying her dying child and had nowhere to go, the person she

ran into was Qing Shui. It was this fateful meeting that gave her a turning point in life and gave her everything she had up to this day.

It was especially after she gave Qing Shui his own son that she was considered to have truly blended into Qing Clan. Everything was connected by that son of hers. Deep inside her, she was considered one of the most traditional woman.

Yu Chang was dressed really gracefully. Compared to Luan Luan, she was a bit less wild. In terms of cultivation, hers was also quite far behind Luan Luan's. At present, she was working really hard to cultivate except she wasn't really fond of pursuing cultivation in martial arts. Luan Luan on the other hand, was a bit more ambitious. Or rather, she had a strong desire to ascend in the cultivation of martial arts. This might have had a huge part to do with the fact that she possessed the Heart of Seven Orifices.

Wenren Wushuang secluded herself for cultivation. She had already been doing so for four months. As for the others, they still followed the usual routine. Their strength was also increasing constantly. In comparison, the Qing Clan was growing at quite a fast rate.

Because of Qing Shui, the Qing Clan was finally loaded up with everything. The only thing was that they would still need a bit more time.

They still needed time to train!

The second and third generation of the Qing Clan, as well as Luan Luan and Yu Chang, who were the only adults of the fourth generation, would form teams to go and hunt for Demonic Beasts as a form of training to strengthen themselves.

However, Canghai Mingyue and Mingyue Gelou would secretly follow them and only provide aid when it was absolutely necessary. As long as their lives weren't put in danger, they would never show up. Even if they were heavily injured, the girls wouldn't give them any help. If not, they would end up building up a habit of thinking that there would be external help in risky situations.

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Qing Shui walked out of the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal. He took a peek at the still dark night sky. It was only midnight. Since he was done resting, he walked out of his room. Today might have been considered an unpleasant day.

"What's meant to happen will happen. I should quickly solve the problems here and leave. I have been out here for quite a long time, it's time for me to go back and have a look at how things are going. Furthermore, it's going to be new year soon." Qing Shui let out a sigh standing in the middle of the yard.

Qing Shui randomly ran around the seal at the corner of Mu Clan. He wanted to check if the seal was alright and if there were any parts that needed improvement. In the battle against the Sky Prison Sect, both sides would focus mostly on the seals.

Unknowingly, the sky was already slowly turning bright. Qing Shui simply looked for an open space and started practicing his Taichi Fist. He did everything very naturally. On top of that, he was able to get himself focused right away.

The sun was up. It sprinkled millions of golden light beams upon the land. Qing Shui's body resembled that of a golden body under the sun. Qing Shui who had both his eyes closed at the moment seemed to be at peace. It felt as if he had cut off every presence from the mortal world, at the same time, it also felt like a type of peace he gained after going through numerous dangers.

Suddenly, Qing Shui opened up both his eyes and abruptly turned around. At a spot a hundred meters away from him, a doddering old man was staring at him. He looked really calm. At first sight, he gave people the impression that he was an elderly man past his prime. If not mistaken, it shouldn't be long until he permanently left the world, as he gave people the impression that he was really, really old.

"There is actually someone so strong in the Mu Clan?" Qing Shui was surprised because he realized that he was actually unable to see through this old man. He felt that the old man was as strong as the Long-armed Vicious Monkey King.

The only unfortunate thing was that the old man seemed to have reached the end of his natural life span. Bluntly speaking, he might leave the world at any moment. As Qing Shui thought deeper into it, he felt that he should be a member of Mu Clan.

"Young man, good, good!"

An old voice came through. That was a kind of indescribable feeling. It sounded really wise and on top of that, the things that the old man said could clearly let people feel his loneliness. Unfortunately, Qing Shui wasn't aware that he was the first man who was able to get the old man to say good twice.

"Senior, you are?" Qing Shui asked politely. The old man had been living far too long. His eyes seemed like he was able to see through everything. On top of that, he was also an incomparably powerful warrior.

"Haha, even I myself am no longer aware of who I really am. But the people from Mu Clan often call me the Old Ancestor, while the people outside usually address me as the old demon." The old man seemed to be unusually happy.

Upon getting a response, Qing Shui was still in shock. To think that there would be such a powerful man guarding a clan like the Mu Clan. This person was actually a person at the level of being an Old Ancestor. It seemed like clans that had reached this kind of level would often have their own tricks up their sleeves. Only in extremely urgent situations would they show themselves.

"Old man, you must be joking, with you around, there's nothing to be afraid of. It's because of you that the Mu Clan is this firm." Qing Shui smiled and tried to flatter the old man. Everything would break, except for compliments.

"Haha, young man, stop boasting about it. I have lived a long life and seen many things. The Mu Clan is struggling between life and death. It's already considered to be half dead. From the perspective of the ordinary people, they might seem to be really impressive but deep down, they're also struggling and are only barely able to defend themselves. Hell, even that could be an exaggeration. In what way are they firm? But when one joins into this circle, coming out on top within it is as hard as ascending to the heavens. Nor would they not feel resigned to withdraw from it. Besides, there will also be people who wouldn't let you go even if you wished to leave." The old man shook his head. He sounded a bit helpless while he was saying it.

Qing Shui was well aware of what the old man meant. Once the Mu Clan fell, people would just treat it as a stepping stone for their own benefits.

“Here, young man, can you spend some of your time sitting with me?” The old man pointed forward and asked calmly.

“That’s exactly what I’m hoping for,” Qing Shui smiled and said politely.

The old man was pointing at a bronze colored pavilion. Only now did Qing Shui realize that he had unintentionally walked all the way to the furthest backyard in the Mu Clan. Everything here seemed really old-fashioned.

To think that there would actually be an old man staying here. Qing Shui remembered back when the Fifth Elder from Sky Prison Sect advanced their way here, the old man didn’t even show himself. It might have been that he found it unnecessary for him to show up for small matters like that.

“Young man, this time, the Mu Clan is going to walk on the edge of the blades. Are you going to be up there as well?” The old man asked casually. There was not even the slightest change of tone in his gentle voice.

As Qing Shui heard the old man’s words, he slightly straightened up his back, only then he responded seriously, “Of course I will walk on that, in fact, I’ll be the one to take the lead.”

“Haha, actually, you don’t really have to do that.” The old man shook his head and smiled.

“Why is that so?” Qing Shui was confused.

Chapter 910 - The Strength of the Sky Prison Sect, Balancing Act on a Tightrope

“Why is that?” Qing Shui was puzzled.

“Within my Mu Clan, the one you have the deepest relationship with is that girl who calls herself Mu Qing. The smartest choice for you would be to take her away. Given your abilities, it shouldn’t be too hard,” the Elder laughed.

Without external circumstances, leaving with Mu Qing would be easy for Qing Shui. He could take her away with two consecutive Nine Continents Steps, and then escape with her on the Fire Bird. There would be no opportunity for the Sky Prison Sect to chase.

However, he could not comprehend why the Elder would say such a thing.

“I could easily take Mu Qing and leave, but would she willingly come with me?” Qing Shui smiled towards the Elder.

“Hah, you aren’t ruthless enough and too indecisive. Hesitating when a snap decision is required will invariably lead to trouble. If you cannot change this habit of yours, even with your formidable strength, this could still end disastrously,” the Elder sighed while looking at Qing Shui.

Qing Shui could not understand why the Elder sighed. Why would the Elder say these things? As a member of the Mu Clan, did he really wish for Qing Shui to leave?

“Elder, do you not wish for the Mu Clan to become stronger?” Qing Shui turned around and asked.

“Of course I do, but getting stronger isn’t child’s play. You are one of the most talented people I have seen in my life. The truth is, I do not want to see you die. I want to see your growth and achievements in the next ten, fifty, and hundred years. Unfortunately, there is no hope now.” The Elder stopped, as if he felt pity towards the situation.

This feeling was understandable. An elder who loved martial arts saw an exceptionally talented prodigy at the tail end of his life. It was normal and understandable that he would be fond of this talent. It was just like seeing a beautiful flower bud; most people would want to see it in full bloom. If just a flower bud was already so beautiful, it would be even more alluring when it was in full bloom.

If not for having some psychological abnormality or some compelling reason, nobody would ruthlessly destroy the blossom. One reason would be if the flower was a beauty but the heart was as malicious as a snake or a scorpion...

“Alright, we seem to have talked too much about the distant future. Let’s talk about the matter with the Sky Prison Sect today.” The Elder looked at Qing Shui and laughed.

“Sure, I had the same thought. Please, if you can provide me with some pointers on what to do.” Qing Shui was not overly confident either. He relied on the fact that he had formations, the Nine Palace Steps and tamed beasts.

Right now, the members of Mu Clan with the Duality Minutest Formation should be at least stronger than the Sky Prison Sect in their formation. Other than this, there’s really no other advantage.

With the addition of the Elder, Qing Shui seemed to have gained a pillar of support.

“You critically injured the Sky Prison’s Old Fifth, so there will be no peaceful settlement in this case. This will be a battle to the death. Their goal is our complete annihilation. This is the usual style of the Sky Prison Sect. With their strength, I can only say that we are walking on a tightrope between two deep cliffs.”

“Elder, how many martial artists with similar strength to you are in the Sky Prison Sect?” Qing Shui asked out of curiosity.

“The Sky Prison Sect has eight Masters. The Sky Prison’s Old Fifth was the weakest one. There are several whose strength is only slightly more than his. However, the Sky Prison Sect has three Heads: the First, Second, and Third of the eight Masters. They are the martial artists with the same strength as me,” the Elder said while looking at Qing Shui.

Qing Shui was not surprised. Having three formidable martial artists like that was not strange. Qing Shui felt that they were not the only ones he had to pay attention to, so he remained silent and continued to listen to the Elder. To know thyself was to know thy enemy. That was the way to emerge victorious in every battle. The more intel he had before the battle with the Sky Prison Sect, the more he would know about his opponent.

“The eight Masters of Sky Prison Sect are as close as brothers; furthermore, they have two Elders above them. Their strengths are at least fifteen hundred stars. Their abilities in terms of formations and the Sky Prison Sabre are frightening.” The Elder said, helplessly.

Listening to this, Qing Shui felt shocked. The Sky Prison Sect was undoubtedly a Super Sect, the top of a hundred thousand elites. Hearing about their strength, made Qing Shui's scalp tingled.

"I'm not sure if those two old farts will come or not." Qing Shui thought in his mind. If those two did not come, then the situation would be manageable. If they did come, it would be devastating to the Mu Clan if their formation broke.

The Elder seemed to have seen through Qing Shui's thoughts. He smiled and said, "The Sky Prison Sect's two old beasts will not come unless you annihilate the entire Sky Prison Sect. Otherwise, they won't interfere in such a small matter."

"Elder, you know the things I placed in the Mu Clan. With your strength, how long would the formation hold you back?" Qing Shui asked after much thought.

"If there were no obstacles, I'd be able to break through it in fifteen minutes. In any shorter timeframe, it would be too difficult," the Elder said after thinking for a bit.

This was bad news for Qing Shui, since the Mu Clan's Elder did not have any previous knowledge of formations. However, the Sky Prison Sect was different. They were well versed in several formations. Unfortunately, Qing Shui had not been successful with the Nine Palace Eight Trigrams Formation, otherwise he would be confident enough to fend off all of them.

"I can help you hold off one without too much difficulty, but that's only one of them. For the rest, you must think of some other method. Other than the Masters of Sky Prison Sect, the rest are not a problem to worry about. If they retreat to their formation to save themselves, then you should be careful. Rumor has it that it is a formation within a formation." The Elder said after a bit of hesitation.

"Formation within a formation?"

"Yes!"

Qing Shui was familiar with the concept of a formation within a formation. It was just placing a formation within another one, but the requirements to do so were high. Formations within formations were strong and could provide temporary salvation. For example, if Qing Shui was trapped within a formation while being attacked from all four sides, he could place a formation within the formation to give himself time to find a way to break through.

However, formations within a formation were not easy to place. This was because formations could counteract each other, which could render the formation within useless.

There was a special type of formation within a formation that was especially potent. It could forcibly steal the other formation's Spirit Qi. Qing Shui knew this was the type of formation within a formation that the Elder was mentioning.

Another type of formation within a formation was a trap formation inside another trap formation. One example would be a bigger Duality Minutest Formation with a smaller Duality Minutest Formation inside. However, the Duality Minutest Formation used in conjunction with the Five Elements Minor Formation was not considered a formation within a formation.

The Five Elements Minor Formation was a Death Formation. It required the cooperation of several martial artists.

When it came to large-scale close quarter killing, people would have to cooperate in order to annihilate the enemy. This could not be considered a formation, but rather the foundation of a formation.

Usually, there would be no conflict. Using the Duality Minutest Formation with the Five Elements Minor Formation had originally been Qing Shui's idea anyway. It was a method of self-preservation for the Mu Clan.

He had even taught them the Duality Steps, so that they could use it with the Duality Minutest Formation.

They continued to discuss many things, but the Elder did not make any decisions. These decisions were left to Qing Shui and the head of the Mu Clan to decide. He was just an observer who was willing to help them hold off the opposition for a bit. Mainly, he just wanted to do what he could, so that when he departed the world, he could go in peace.

This was because the Mu Clan would undergo a huge change because of the youngster in front of his eyes.

By the time Qing Shui got up to leave, it was already morning. He spotted Mu Qing's silhouette in the distance.

"Elder!" Mu Qing paid her respects to the Elder.

"Haha. Good, good. The talent of our Mu Clan is the best. Missy, remember to cherish what is in front of you," the Elder said with a smile. He then left after waving goodbye.

Qing Shui bowed with a smile. Mu Qing blushed while bowing. She then left together with Qing Shui.

She had understood the Elder's true meaning from his words. Before, she had a guilty conscience but hearing the Elder's words made her happy, since she had gained the support of the Elder. Now she could really do what she wanted.

"Qing Shui, why were you at the Elder's manor? He doesn't pay attention to the affairs of the world anymore, but how come he invited you over?" Mu Qing said while walking with Qing Shui a bit further.

"I went to see if the surrounding formation had any issues, but accidentally ended up at the Elder's manor. How did you know I was here?" Qing Shui said, looking at Mu Qing.

Mu Qing said as her cheeks turned red, "I tried to find you in many places, but thought you had left. However, the Elder sent word and told me you were here." Mu Qing said all this while looking downwards, trying to avoid eye contact with Qing Shui.

Qing Shui smiled and stretched his hand out to hold hers. He softly grasped her hand once and let go.

He sighed in his mind. The Elder had said he was indecisive. He had enough self-awareness to know this was true. Even now, he realized if he did not want to chase her, he should not be giving her hope. However, Qing Shui felt that he had to do this, because this simple action could awaken her desire to live.

Mu Qing did not say a word. She was happy at this moment, and smiled towards Qing Shui. As she walked forward, her dress accompanied her seductive figure marvelously.

Sometime after noon, Qing Shui decided to wait in his room for a bit. However, an uproar could be heard outside. As he stepped out the door, he spotted Mu Qing heading over as well. Both of them rushed towards the direction that the sound was coming from.

“Incoming!”

“The members of the Sky Prison Sect are here, everyone get ready!”

“Kill those brutes! I have long been unable to stand their belittling behavior.”

“That’s right, kill them! They rely on formations to bully people. Today, we fight them inside the formation. Either they die or we die.”

Noise continued to reach Qing Shui’s ears. It looked like the Sky Prison Sect had arrived.

By the time Qing Shui and Mu Qing rushed over to the front yard, more than half of the Mu Clan had already gathered. The women had already hidden themselves in the secret chamber. It had been sealed beforehand with a formation. If nobody eventually went to unseal the formation, it meant that they had been annihilated. Thus, they would by then escape through the secret passage. Whether they could escape in one piece would be up to them at that point.

Mu Fengyang, Mu Qian and several other people were here. They were all Mu Qing’s elders, part of the direct bloodline of the Mu Clan. Other people had already been dismissed. In this situation, they would not be able to help in any way, and could even end up being distractions. Thus, their absence did not create any ill will. However, many whose strength was decent still decided to stay. More importantly, they were all completely loyal to the Mu Clan, otherwise they would not have been allowed to stay behind.