

Ancient ST 951

Chapter 951 - A Quick And Decisive Battle, Marionette Mark, End Of Killings

Qing Shui quickly cocked his head to the source of the voice!

It was the Grand Elder of the Marionette Sect! He was still holding the Dragon-Headed Cane that he had back at the Octagon Inn long ago. Qing Shui was the one who ran away from his grasp last time, yet the Grand Elder was able to track him down with a profound confidence and relentlessness at the outskirts of Sky City.

Qing Shui didn't plan to run away from this confrontation either. He looked at the other old men surrounding the Grand Elder, but the woman named Huang Wu was nowhere to be seen. Perhaps she wasn't strong enough to join their mission this time.

Back then, Qing Shui had only one option - and that was to run away. He had to use the Nine Continents Steps to do so, otherwise he would be caught by the Grand Elder and forced to become a marionette. He also didn't have a Sky Penetrating Grass last time and he hadn't broken through to the Martial Emperor level yet.

A lot had changed within one year, albeit nothing too dramatic. Facing the Grand Elder had implicitly reminded Qing Shui of his desperate escape. But with his upgraded power, he felt great facing his opponents once more. This was a change and an improvement to his situation.

With his powers strengthened, Qing Shui was able to sense the Grand Elder's power clearly. The old man had the strength of 200 stars, so it was understandable that Qing Shui couldn't escape without depending on his Nine Continents Steps.

The Marionette Sect was incomparable to the Qin Clan with such prowess displayed by their Grand Elder. However, the weakest cultivator in the Marionette Sect was an early stage Martial Emperor. Even if they could not best the Qin Clan, they could still be considered one of the top clans among the others in Sky City.

No matter where they were, the weakest Martial Emperor was also considered a super strong cultivator. Qing Shui was able to reach a higher realm of cultivation recently and because of that, he might be truly deemed as a person of Nine Yang Golden Body based on his current power, which could potentially become the Nine Yang Marionette King if he was caught by the Marionette Sect.

And because of his ability, he was able to enter the Sky Penetrating Mountain by befriending Dong Yan, Sun Yan, Mu Qing and the others. It was a godsend opportunity that was given only to those who were prepared with power from strenuous cultivation. If they were not prepared, the opportunity would be wasted and ultimately become nothing more than a misfortune. If they did not have the right power, they would never be able to grasp the chance to stand on top of the martial world.

The circle of martial cultivators was a peculiar existence itself. Only those who have the appropriate power would be able to enter normally. If these old men in front of Qing Shui were to be put inside the circle, they would be the focus of attention immediately. Unfortunately, Qing Shui thought otherwise, now they were nothing more than tiny ants in his eyes.

“Didn’t the Marionette Sect lose a few men recently?” Qing Shui curled a smile, as he faced the Grand Elder in front of him.

This particular group, who traveled with the Grand Elder, must be the strongest one among the Marionette Sect. Of course, not all who were present here were considered the strongest in the sect, but they must not be underestimated. After all, the Grand Elder was among them.

Most importantly, Qing Shui was the person he had been looking for during the past 300 years, the one who could be turned into a Nine Yang Marionette King. If he could successfully turn him into one, the Marionette Sect would definitely gain a surge in power. No one would look down on them ever again, not even the clans from Sky City and Demon Gate.

The Grand Elder shot a gleam of rage from his eyes, as he looked at Qing Shui with deep hatred and said, “You were the one who killed them!”

Those five men were the top five cultivators from the next generation in the Marionette Sect. They were sent to the wilderness located between the Central Continent and the Eastern Victory Divine Continent to gain experience through various tests, but unfortunately fell into the hands of a cold-blooded murderer. Their corpses and bones were nowhere to be seen, but the members of the Marionette Sect already knew that those men could not have survived.

“Alright, I’m on a tight schedule. Let’s settle our score, shall we? I didn’t even ruffle your feathers when you first came to turn me into a marionette. An old man as unreasonable as you deserve to die, don’t you think?” Qing Shui wasn’t pressuring his opponents, yet the words that came out from his mouth were fanning the flames of hatred inside the Grand Elder’s heart.

“You ran away last time and managed to hide somewhere secluded. Well, it’s fine. Now you have come out of hiding, it would be a shame if we didn’t turn you into a Nine Yang Marionette King. Your return is God’s will descending upon us.” The Grand Elder looked at Qing Shui with a mix of expressions, ranging from rage to excitement.

Qing Shui shook his head. Sure, he fled in desperation for his life last time, but that was a year ago. In a span of a year, he didn’t expect that he would gain such a surge in power. His opponents would think the same, they didn’t factor in that Qing Shui had become stronger from the moment they laid their eyes on him again.

Qing Shui decided to stop all nonsense and called back his Fire Bird. Since his opponents had stated their intention to start a fight, then he would annihilate them as soon as possible. The faster the fight was settled, the quicker he could continue his journey. In an instant, he faced the old man and unleashed a Mighty Elephant Stomp in his direction.

Bang!

A wave of brazing gas akin to a cloud of black ash swirled across the Grand Elder in a loud roar. Qing Shui’s opponent was alarmed, but he didn’t pursue the old man. Instead, he turned towards one of the Eagle Jiao Beast and struck an attack.

State of Immovable as Mountains!

Qing Shui circulated the Qi from the State of Immovable as Mountains to the maximum and struck it against the Eagle Jiao Beast. Then he extended his right hand and stuck another attack!

Ripping Tiger Claw!

A Foot long ghastly tiger claw appeared on Qing Shui's palms, gleaming with an intimidating glow as he struck the Eagle Jiao Beast's head in a swift motion.

Roar!

A shrilling cry rang out in the air. Even a gigantic Eagle Jiao Beast would not be able to endure the deadly force of the Ripping Tiger Claw, as it fell from the sky towards the ground within a few moments. Two old men who were standing behind the fallen beast earlier immediately flew up into the air and summoned five large men with finesse akin to an iron tower with a flick of their hands.

These men had heavy armor fixed to their bodies. With a height of three meters, all of them were wielding giant battle sabres in one hand. Their eyes seemed lifeless without a shred of emotion, as they remained still while floating in the air.

They were the strongest of the lower leveled marionettes from the sect, with the strength of a Martial Saint of low level. Their muscles and bones had been tempered with potions to become as solid as steel, forcing the marionettes to become the very definition of brute force without any vulnerability. The marionettes would risk everything when they began fighting - not even cultivators of the same rank could defeat them.

Qing Shui immediately called out the Five-Headed Demonic Spider!

This time, he didn't plan on letting his pursuers go without a fight. On top of that, the battle must be swift as well. As soon as the Five-Headed Demonic Spider appeared, Qing Shui turned towards the Grand Elder to take him out by himself.

The Five-Headed Demonic Spider, on the other hand, unleashed the Corrosive Poison Web at the marionettes, entangling them in the process before rushing towards the two old men who were caught in the spreading web.

Bang!

With the disparity of their power, they were heavily wounded in the first round. The Five-Headed Demonic Spider then proceeded to entangle the old men by extruding the spider silk around their bodies. Eight spooky towering legs gleamed with the luster of cold metal moved in a quick coordination like a meat shredder, as the spider wrapped the seven bodies one after another.

The Five-Headed Demonic Spider performed everything in a mere few seconds. After it was done, the demonic beast turned towards the old man standing behind the last Eagle Jiao Beast and rushed towards his direction in a swift jump.....

Qing Shui had his eyes focused on the Grand Elder instead, who had already summoned two marionettes in front of him. Both of them were about eight meters in height with the same dull eyes as the other marionettes. Moreover, their bodies seemed to be emitting a faint layer of black mist.

These were marionettes of the Peak Martial Saint level!

If they were human martial cultivators, then their strength would be nothing more than impressive. But as a marionette with such power, the situation was changed. Human martial cultivators would not be able to destroy the marionette because of its hardness. On top of that, Qing Shui could sense an air of toxicity from the marionettes in front of the Grand Elder.

These marionettes were known as the Poison Marionettes, which belonged to the marionettes of middle rank. They were definitely stronger than the previous marionettes as their attacks had been infused with poison. Even an ordinary early stage Martial Emperor would have a hard time dealing with these two marionettes. They were essentially the pride and ultimately, the protection of the Grand Elder.

Qing Shui almost laughed when he stood in front of the giant marionettes. The crooked method of the Grand Elder was mediocre at best in the eyes of Qing Shui. He wasted no time and tuned the Nature Energy onto his hands.

Critical Tiger Attack!

Both of Qing Shui's hands materialized two proportionally enormous tiger claws gleaming with golden lights, which he promptly used to hit one of the giant marionettes' bodies.

Pu!

A sound akin to the smashing of tofu rang out the air, followed by the emergence of the Grand Elder's bewildered expression on his face, as he watched his last 'hope' vanishing into thin air. That was a just a simple attack, yet.....

He didn't expect that the young fellow would become this strong in just one year. Qing Shui only had the capability to run away when he first met him, but now he was the one who couldn't run away regardless of how desperate he was.

Clutching his Dragon-Headed Cane, he rushed towards Qing Shui with another marionette. Today was his last chance to be able to turn Qing Shui into his marionette. Despite the determined decision, he was still taken aback by the young man's stomp and prowess. As he was faltering between his thoughts, the enormously powerful demonic beast was already rushing towards him with a quick motion.

Marionette Mark!

The old man shouted abruptly in mid-air while swinging his pure gold Dragon-Headed Cane at Qing Shui. A thread of black halo spread towards him within a few seconds.

A halo of spiritual power!

Qing Shui could feel it, this was one of those unique psychological attacks, like hypnotism. Such an attack of this level was meant to subdue Qing Shui through his mind instead of physical confrontation.

The Marionette Mark would still inflict certain kind of damage to the target even if the subdue failed. That damage would include momentary confusion or a brief state of trance. The old man's cultivation in mental abilities was much greater than his cultivation in martial art techniques, so it wouldn't be an understatement that the Marionette Mark had killed way more opponents who were much stronger

than him. Both the marionettes were stronger than the Grand Elder when they were alive back then, but they were easily defeated and killed because of his Marionette Mark.

Unfortunately for the Grand Elder, he had underestimated Qing Shui's level of spiritual energy.

Qing Shui could feel a subtle sense of constraint crawling into his mind, as if his soul was being removed from his body or his soul was being bound by an unknown force. However, the constricting sensation only lasted for a brief moment. The immense force from the sea of consciousness quickly swept away the uncomfortable sensations like a strong wave from the tides.

As the Grand Elder was getting closer, Qing Shui raised up his hand, followed by the appearance of the Violet Star Thunder God. At the same time, the Five Headed Demonic Spider was already entangling its web on the last marionette.

Raging Blow!

The meticulous style of the Violet Star Thunder God was performed in one swift motion, releasing an attack of tremendous force. It seemed like a simple strike from a hammer, but there was something more to it than meets the eye.

The strike turned the Grand Elder's expression into a sheet of white paper. It was only then that he realized the disparity between their strengths. It was too late, as he struggled to understand why a young man such as Qing Shui could become so strong in just one year.

Bang!

The whole world fell into silence!

Qing Shui picked up the pristine pure gold Dragon-Headed Cane and left without staying too long. This was the most eastern part of the Central Continent. He had already decided that he wouldn't initiate a fight with the Marionette Sect after he had parted ways with Weng Xue and Qin Zongheng. But if the members of the Marionette Sect insisted, he would not hold back either.

As for Demon Gate, Qing Shui was confident that he could run away from their grasp. As long as he could run, they would not trouble him any further.

Qing Shui looked at the far horizon, as if in deep thought. After a while, he decided to leave and continue his journey.

"Qing Shui's fine. You shouldn't worry so much!" Qin Zongheng turned towards Weng Xue and assured his wife.

"I didn't think he was this strong. No wonder He'er wants to marry him so bad." Weng Xue giggled and left promptly with Qin Zongheng as well as the two old people with them.

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At that moment, the Marionette Sect was thrown into chaos. The death of the Grand Elder and five Elders was a huge loss, which sent the old man sitting on the master seat in the grand hall of the Marionette Sect, into a rage. His beard and hair were bristling in fury - he was extremely furious at the bad news he had just received.

“If we don’t have a standing in Sky City, even if the Qin Clan doesn’t crush us, the others will. The powerful cultivators from the Qin Clan will certainly come for us, what do you think we should do?” The old man growled, as he looked at the members below his seat.

Chapter 952 - Qing Shui, We Demon Gate Have Arrived!

“Sovereign, shall we report this to Demon Gate? We can get them to help us to deal with that lad and then let them send two of members to help suppress those restless people?” a thin old man stroked his beard and asked carefully.

“You think that they’ll help us?” the old man in the lead replied.

“Yes, definitely. We are in name a subsidiary of Demon Gate and such acts are like giving them a slap in the face. One can lose anything, but not their reputation. Therefore, we’ll just need to report the matter to them truthfully,” the thin old man said with great confidence.

The old man in the lead hesitated for a short while and nodded, “I’ll leave this matter to you. You must get this done right.”

The old man had said this with a great sense of helplessness. Marionette Sect had suffered a great blow and although they had only lost ten or so core members in all, the people who had died were all the most important people in the sect. This was especially true for the few Elders in the sect who had been the main supporting force for the sect.

Even a sect like the Marionette Sect wouldn’t have that many early Martial Emperors. This time around, with six of them gone, it was the equivalent of wiping out half of them.

There were many people under them, but not many of their words carried weight. Silence fell and they all went off after a while. The situation they were in at the moment wasn’t the most terrifying yet. It would spell trouble for them if other factions were to come look for trouble at this point. Marionette Sect had made quite a few enemies.

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Qing Shui was contemplating going to visit Lady Duanmu since it was on the way. There was Hai Dongqing as well. Cold Ice City wasn’t that far away from where Di Qing was and Qing Shui also planned to drop by.

Qing Shui thought of Lady Duanmu and an indescribable feeling grew within him. In the end, he decided to drop by to pay her a visit before returning to Greencloud Continent. This time around, he might be staying for a while before heading to Demon Gate or Lion King’s Ridge.

He had previously considered if he should be heading to Demon Gate as soon as possible, but he thought of what would happen if Huoyun Liu-Li was to know about her background. Based on his understanding of her, even if she knew about her origins, there was no way that she would let him head to Demon Gate without her.

He didn’t know if Hai Dongqing was still waiting for him, but he would drop by. If she was still the same as before, Qing Shui wouldn’t say anything. If she were to have gotten married or engaged to someone else, he wouldn’t have any dissatisfaction either.

What troubled Qing Shui the most was still Lady Duanmu and Di Qing. His relationship with Di Chen was now very clear and he was still slightly against being together with Di Qing. Even though they were half siblings, they were still sisters.

Qing Shui didn't know if Lady Duanmu had been able to let things go. It had been so many years and he didn't know if she had changed. Qing Shui shook his head bitterly.

Since he couldn't be a man who gave his heart to only a single lady, he decided not to have regrets, nor let the ladies have regrets either.

The progress in Qing Shui's cultivation had also let him undergo some changes in other areas. These weren't drastic changes and even he himself didn't feel anything. It was just that he had managed to straighten out his thoughts.

Tang Manor!

Qing Shui had stayed for half a day and Fifth Master Tang had played host to him warmly. Qing Shui looked at this old man. Back then, he had saved his grandson and had thus become good friends.

"Brother, I'm here to trouble you again," after taking his seat, Qing Shui smiled and said.

"What are you saying? Treat this as your own home. If you continue to stand on ceremony with me, I'm going to be angry," Tang Wude said seriously.

After a short polite exchange, they had a meal and drank wine. This time around, there was only the two of them.

"Younger brother, has your journey to Eastern Victory Divine Continent been smooth?" Tang Wude looked at Qing Shui. He knew that even if Qing Shui had not found the Sky Penetrating Grass, he would still have had other encounters.

"It was alright. Oh right, have there been any things going on recently?" Qing Shui asked casually, as he filled up Tang Wude's cup with more wine.

"There haven't been any interesting things, but there's something which concerns you," Tang Wude frowned and replied.

"Oh? What is it?" Qing Shui smiled and continued to look at Tang Wude.

"It seems that Demon Gate has the intention of coming after you. Rumor has it that you've killed quite a number of people from Marionette Sect and considering that Marionette Sect is a subsidiary of Demon Gate, killing people from Marionette Sect is the equivalent as having slapped Demon Gate in the face. This is why they're bent on looking for you," seeing that Qing Shui was very calm, he finished his words quickly.

Qing Shui wasn't shocked to be hearing this, but he was still a little surprised. However, he wasn't too worried either. There weren't any benefits to panicking and now that he could use formations, he was no longer scared of anyone. His mastery of the Nine Palace Eight Trigrams Formation had also been improving daily.

"Brother, is Demon Gate far from here?"

“It’s not far, but not near either. It’s about a one-day journey.” Tang Wude didn’t know what Qing Shui was planning, but he still told him.

“Can you do me a favor?” Qing Shui hesitated a little before asking.

Tang Wude was stunned for a moment. Tang Manor wasn’t weak and might not be inferior even when against Demon Gate. At this stage, what other help could Qing Shui possibly ask for? Furthermore, he was still hesitating so much earlier.

However, recalling how Qing Shui had saved his grandson, being a person who treasured relationships, he gave it some thought before deciding, “Brother, just say the word. The branch I lead will definitely protect your safety even at the risk of our own lives.”

Qing Shui looked at Tang Wude and smiled, feeling very happy. Even though he hadn’t given his word immediately, this was after all a decision that couldn’t be made lightly. It was a decision that concerned the entire clan. When Tang Wude said this, Qing Shui was also astonished. If it was a sly and shrewd person, they would definitely first ask what the matter was.

“Brother, what are you thinking? I’ll deal with this myself. However, I’d like to trouble you help send a message to Demon Gate. Let them know that I’ll be waiting in Central Continent’s “Central Continent Inn” for them. I’ll give them two days. If they don’t come by then, I’ll leave.” Qing Shui smiled and said.

“Younger brother, Demon Gate is very strong...”

“Brother, don’t worry. If I were to need your help, I wouldn’t stand on ceremony either,” Qing Shui smiled and said.

“Alright!” Tang Wude replied helplessly and immediately gave out instructions to get the job done.

Central Continent Inn was the most special inn in Central Continent. It was because this inn was jointly set up by countless powerful factions in the area. There was also a huge arena set up not far away from it.

Central Continent Inn was only open to cultivators who were at least Martial Kings. This subconsciously caused it to be seen as a top notch inn. Moreover, considering how it was jointly set up by major influences in Central Continent, being able to patronize the inn itself was a strong representation of one’s status.

On the way here, Qing Shui hadn’t been there. However, the reason he chose that place was also because Demon Gate was one of the co-owners of the place. Furthermore, since they had an arena there, it was also quite convenient.

The reason Qing Shui had taken an active approach was because he knew that Demon Gate wouldn’t be sending their highest level cultivators. This time around, he wanted to give them a warning publicly, letting them be unable to do anything, even if they were to suffer a humiliation. Sometimes, one who had nothing to lose would even be able to beat those who did.

Qing Shui went to Central Continent Inn before it turned dark. The place was very grand but wasn’t very high. It just looked very sturdy, likely because it took up a lot of land.

It was very easy to enter. He would just need to prove that his ability was at least at Martial King. Moreover, with Tang Wude with him, there wasn't any need for him to prove himself. There were two Peak Martial King cultivators standing guard at the entrance. And even though many people entered and exited the place every day, the two guards would be able to sense if they were Martial King level. Having stood here for a prolonged period had also caused their spiritual senses to be even more sensitive than before.

Upon entering, Qing Shui realized that the decoration was about the same as Heavenly Cloud Pavilion's but it was structured with a rectangular corridor concept, with the center being like a hall while the surroundings are all rooms.

A silk embroidered carpet was laid out along the corridors and this was the only thing around that seemed luxurious. After Qing Shui got his room, Tang Wude wanted to stay to accompany Qing Shui, but was persuaded by the latter to head back.

"Brother, you represent Tang Manor. It won't be good to let Demon Gate see you here now," Qing Shui advised Tang Wude to leave.

"What's there to be afraid of? I'm already prepared to fight them."

Qing Shui knew that Tang Manor's overall abilities were definitely not a match for Demon Gate. While there might be experts in Tang Manor, their abilities would definitely be not too far away from the Fifth Master Tang's.

"It won't be too late for you to come out when I need help. It's best to not have a direct confrontation between Tang Manor and Demon Gate. After all, if that were to happen, things would blow up very quickly," Qing Shui smiled and said.

Tang Wude eventually did leave!

Qing Shui's room was on the third floor and he went straight to the hall on the third floor. He found a location next to the corridor and took his seat. Although the Central Continent Inn was only open to those who were Martial King or above, it was still fully packed. At least 80% of the seats in this hall were filled.

"Did you guys hear? Members of Marionette Sect have been killed. To think that Marionette Sect is unable to fight against him and can only seek help from Demon Gate." Not long after Qing Shui sat down, he heard a voice which lit up his interest.

"3rd Brother, stop spouting rubbish. One is bound to have a slip of tongue if he speaks too much," a middle-aged man next to the young man spoke up.

"What's there to be afraid of? Everyone's talking about it. Moreover, it's not as if it's some big secret."

"That's right, 2nd Brother, 3rd Brother. It's said that the one who killed Marionette Sect's Grand Elder was a young man."

"That's right. But the young man is really unlucky to be coming across a big sect like Demon Gate. If I were him, I'd definitely not pass by here. Demon Gate has already sent out instructions to intercept that young man."

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Qing Shui sat there, drinking wine while listening in on the conversations around him, but didn't say a word. Some people were curious about Qing Shui, but there were also many others who were like him, sitting there alone by themselves. Therefore, after seeing that Qing Shui hadn't had any actions for very long, they retrieved their gazes.

In the blink of an eye, one day passed by.

This time around, Qing Shui hadn't expected the other party to be so fast, arriving after just one day, bringing along great pageantry. In fact, before Demon Gate arrived, news had long since spread out.

When more than ten of Demon Gate's Divine Black Crows appeared in the far distance, a commotion broke out in the Central Continent Inn. After all, it was hard to meet people from Demon Gate. At the same time, many people secretly offered a silent tribute to that young man who had offended Demon Gate.

At this place, Demon Gate was a terrifying existence. Usually, only those who were so terrifying when they robbed people of their lives would be called demons.

Many people had already walked out of the Central Continent Inn and looked towards the black silhouettes which were closing in.

Qing Shui stood next to a window on the third floor, looking at the big black birds which were getting increasingly close. They were in so black a color that there were no other colors mixed in them and even the people on them were dressed in pitch black clothes.

The crows were 60 meters in size and specialized in speed and endurance. They were the best amongst all rides but they weren't good for battles.

"Qing Shui, Demon Gate has arrived!" an old sounding voice rang out.

Chapter 953 - Strongest Youngster In Demon Gate, One-sided Bashing

"Qing Shui, we, Demon Gate, have arrived!" An old sounding voice rang out.

Qing Shui looked towards the old man who spoke. It was an old man with snow white beard and hair that was extremely old, at least 70 years of age. However, the old man stood upright, with no hunch. His pitch black clothes caused his barely existing amiable expression to be completely gone, leaving only a cold expression.

"Demon Gate really does think very highly of me!" Qing Shui stood up and walked into the air, as if he was ascending a set of invisible stairs, one step at a time. It created quite a visual impact.

"So this is that young man... He's so young!"

"That's right. He's really powerful to be able to kill Marionette Sect's Grand Elder and other people."

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Many people were also very astonished, as some of them had seen Qing Shui before in the Central Continent Inn. However, they hadn't known who he was back then and right now, they felt that it was unbelievable.

As Qing Shui spoke, he continued to walk up into the air. There were fifteen opponents, with a young man amongst them or at least, he appeared to look young. Qing Shui wasn't afraid that all of them would take action and attack him all at once. No one would believe that Demon Gate wouldn't dare to do this, since they would never consider what justice was or care about being cursed by others. Otherwise, no one would feel that Demon Gate was very terrifying.

Other than old men, there were also people in their fifties. Qing Shui didn't know what their attitudes were and he didn't even know how things were going to progress from here.

When the old man saw Qing Shui, his eyes lit up, "What a good seedling. It's a pity that you aren't a member of our Demon Gate."

"Let's get the things settled fast. I still have things to do and we're all busy people. What do you think?" Qing Shui smiled and said, looking at the old man.

"You killed the Marionette Sect's Grand Elder?" The old man acted as if he hadn't heard what Qing Shui said.

"Oh, there's no need to ask this. Could it be that the old guy was resurrected? If so, I wouldn't mind killing him one more time. That old guy who wanted to turn everyone he saw into his marionette should have died a long time ago, don't you think?" Qing Shui continued to say calmly.

Although the old man was a person of Demon Gate, they weren't really people who acted recklessly without any restraint. They would act accordingly to the location and situation. There were times where they must appear to be arrogant, vicious, unscrupulous and employ terrible means. They didn't really want to agitate the public, they only wanted people to be scared of them.

A fist was the most powerful the moment before it was launched.

"Young man, it's good that you're arrogant and fiery, but don't underestimate how big the world is just because you have a skill or two. No one dares to be arrogant before Demon Gate and you are no exception," the old man also looked at Qing Shui calmly and said.

The old man's voice wasn't loud, but everyone in the area could hear him and it caused them to feel a chill running through their hearts. Many people felt worried for Qing Shui, but of course there were also some who were here for the action and the livelier, the better.

"Your fieriness is no weaker than a young man!" Qing Shui didn't feel anything to the old man's words. He was numb to threats.

Qing Shui was in fact trying to discreetly express that the other party was so unrefined despite his age, not knowing how big the world was and if not for the Demon Gate, he would be nothing.

"This is the first time I've come across someone who dares to talk to me like this. You have courage. We'll compare our skills today. It's useless to just talk about it." The old man held a White Bone Sword.

“All of you can come at me together. This will save some time,” Qing Shui smiled and said to the entire group.

“Lad, there’s no need to use reverse psychology on us. When the time has come, we’ll definitely not go easy on you,” the old man let out two cold laughs and said.

Qing Shui was speechless.

“As expected, they really are shameless!”

“You think Demon Gate is just a name? This is how it’s always been. They’ve always been able to do things that others can’t. Otherwise, how could they be so powerful?”

“This Qing Shui is really unlucky to have offended Demon Gate.”

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“Qing Shui was it? Let’s have a fight!” The one young man stepped forth and appeared 50 meters away from Qing Shui, smiling brightly.

The young man was very handsome and even appeared to have a slight demonic charm. However, it was a pity that he was a guy. His appearance made Qing Shui felt very awkward. Qing Shui didn’t know that he had a different charm to him as well, but thankfully it wasn’t a feminine one.

“Mo Zitong. He is Demon Gate’s top expert amongst the younger generation.”

“It’s said that he has inherited Demon Gate’s legacy. Qing Shui’s in trouble now that he’s stepped forth.”

“Seems like Demon Gate is taking this issue very seriously.”

Qing Shui could hear all the discussions going on around him. It was fine even if he couldn’t, since he could sense the guy’s abilities. It was about at a strength of 1,500 stars. The guy was holding onto a pitch black longsword, which was emitting a flashing three foot black sword light. He was the strongest person from the younger generation whom Qing Shui has come across thus far.

“May I ask if your words carry any weight in Demon Gate?” Qing Shui was in no hurry to fight, he merely smiled and asked.

The young man’s slightly elegant looking brows raised up, “What do you want to say? Just get straight to the point!”

“What will happen if you were to lose? What will happen if you were to die? Will these people be able to handle it?” Qing Shui said calmly.

Qing Shui’s words caused the brows of the old man from earlier to raised up and he quickly stepped forth. Sometimes, it was better to be safe than sorry. If Mo Zitong were to die here, they wouldn’t know what were the consequences that they would have to face.

“Do you think that you’ll be able to do it?” Mo Zitong’s sharp eyes stared at Qing Shui. His tone had also turned piercing cold.

“Seeing how indecent the Marionette Sect is, even a large sect like the Demon Gate should be no different. Come, let’s have a round. I want to see what Demon Gate’s best youngster is capable of.” Qing Shui stretched out his hand and the Violet Star Thunder God appeared in it.

“Old man, if you’re worried, you can join in,” although Qing Shui said this, his tone was that of contempt.

“No need. Elder Wu, don’t worry, I’ll be fine.” Mo Zitong looked at the old man and said.

Considering Mo Zitong’s identity and status, the old man knew that he must definitely have something to protect himself and thus there was no need for himself to be too worried. He stepped back slightly, but was still careful to not be too far away so that he could deal with any sudden situations.

Qing Shui started circulating his abilities. His physical strength was now at 100 stars and after using the Heavenly Talisman and holding the Violet Star Thunder God, his strength could reach slightly over 1,400 stars. It was about the same as the young man he was facing.

Right now, Qing Shui felt that there was a need to forge his Big Dipper Sword. If his Big Dipper Sword could be as powerful as the Violet Star Thunder God, he could just deal with his opponents with just the Sword of Sixth Wave. People of the same level as him wouldn’t be able to withstand the impact from the blow. Furthermore, if he were to use the Big Dipper Sword, he could also use the Combination Sword Technique and could unleash an additional strength of 40 stars.

However, there were also many benefits for him in using the Violet Star Thunder God. Its attacking speed wasn’t slow and there was still the killer move, Raging Blow. Furthermore, during this period of time, his Nine Palace Steps had also improved by a lot.

Facing this young man before him, he felt no pressure at all.

Mo Zitong’s longsword trembled and his aura swelled up. In that moment, it was as if he was a sharp sword which was drawn from its sheath and the black colored cold gleam from the sword once again stretched out one foot longer. A clacking sound which gave one the feeling of pins and needles rang out.

Qing Shui’s body was very strong and with the transformation to his Central Palace Blood Essence Pool, he was now more powerful than before. Despite this, he wouldn’t use his body to try out how strong it was.

He unleashed his spiritual sense quickly and everywhere around him was within the Nine Palace.

Within the Nine Palace, he was the King!

The young man moved. His speed was so fast that he appeared to be like a black line, as he charged toward Qing Shui with a flash.

Nine Palace Steps!

Qing Shui unleashed the profound Nine Palace Steps and once the young man entered the perimeters of the Nine Palace, it was as if his speed slowed down tremendously. To outsiders, it appeared as if Qing Shui’s speed had become even faster.

Thousand Hammer Technique!

Boom!

Hammering down from a difficult angle, Qing Shui pushed the young man several steps back. The young man probably hadn't given it his all either, but Qing Shui casually pushed him back with his Nine Palace Steps.

To the young man, this attack seemed to be quick and elusive, catching him off guard. Just an attack had caused him to feel astonished. To think that there was someone who was so strong amongst the younger generation.

Mo Zitong retreated slightly and suddenly let out a low bellow!

A glow which was like that of Black Jade flashed. it was both eerie and beautiful. The young man then dashed out toward Qing Shui.

"Jade Stars Cover the Skies!"

The pitch black longsword immediately unleashed three sword shadows, each of them appearing as if there were pitch black crystals on them. It swung out and slashed toward Qing Shui.

Qing Shui didn't know what those dots were and he dodged them. With the Nine Palace Steps, he was like a fish in the water. Right now, he didn't wish to kill Mo Zitong. It hadn't reached such a serious stage yet. If he were to kill Mo Zitong, Demon Gate would definitely fight him to the bitter end.

He wasn't afraid of Demon Gate, but the time hadn't come yet. Moreover, Demon Gate was a bit related to Huoyun Liu-Li. This was also a very important reason.

Qing Shui appeared right before Mo Zitong and attacked with his Violet Star Thunder God!

From this angle and situation, Mo Zitong had no way to dodge the attack.

As numerous as raindrops in the wind, as powerful as a bolt of thunder!

Qing Shui slammed down stance after stance of the Thousand Hammer Technique. He wasn't afraid of losing to anyone in terms of endurance. After his Dantian formed a pellet, his powers had become stronger and it was being replenished incessantly by the Yin Yang Image. Moreover, the depletion by Qing Shui's techniques was very low.

In such a situation, Mo Zitong didn't even have the time to catch his breath. His handsome face had turned red due to his feelings of anxiety and anger. However, he wasn't stupid and knew that he wasn't a match for Qing Shui. To think that he wasn't able to break through Qing Shui's simple consecutive attacks. Although he managed to fend off slightly in the middle, it was useless. Qing Shui's foot technique was eerily and mysteriously terrifying.

When experts sparred, it would only take a short moment to determine the winner. Basically, they would be able to find out each other's abilities with one move and the winner would emerge within a few moves. People who were mediocre would take the time for one incense to burn or even up to half an hour and people who were weak but persistent could take up to an hour...

To the people on the ground, Qing Shui was the one who was one-sidedly bashing Mo Zitong. Mo Zitong was trying hard to fend off the attacks and didn't even have the ability to fight back. Everyone was astonished at how one-sided the fight turned out to be.

Everyone knew about Mo Zitong, a person who had once won against a Martial Emperor. Moreover, the people from Demon Gate even knew that Mo Zitong had defeated a Martial Emperor who had a strength of close to 2,000 stars. He was a prominent existence even in Demon Gate and was Demon Gate's future pillar.

Chapter 954 - Within the Nine Palace, He Was the King! As a Mother!

But right now, he couldn't even fight back. He had suffered no less than ten blows in between. Every blow had sent Mo Zitong flying. He had only managed to counterattack once before the scene from earlier repeated itself, unless he could endure the blows. But there was no point of enduring the blows because he couldn't even turn the situation of a single technique around. If it wasn't for the miraculous battle armor on him, he would have been injured long ago. He could only use an absolute power to face this type of situation. Otherwise, he couldn't even get near him.

"Do you think there's still a need to fight?" Qing Shui questioned while he fought.

"You can't break the defense of my battle armor. It's still hard to determine the outcome of the battle!" Mo Zitong's last bit of hope was a competition of endurance.

"I wonder if your head is as hard as your body!" Qing Shui said coldly while looking at Mo Zitong. If his opponent didn't know when to admit defeat, Qing Shui wouldn't mind teaching him a lesson.

Mo Zitong knew that he had been defeated. His opponent had been lenient towards him. But in a battle like this, he couldn't perform to his full strength. He was utterly defeated in the face of his opponent's absolute speed. He didn't use his full strength. It seemed that his opponent didn't use even a single killing technique.

A defeat was a defeat!

"Elder Wu, I have lost!" Mo Zitong said while shaking his head to the old man. He had a desolate expression on his face. He was completely blown away from this round's failure. He had always been a role model among his peers in the Demon Gate, an unbeatable existence. He was the leading figure of his generation. He had never suffered any setbacks and was doted on excessively. His path had simply been too smooth-sailing.

Elder Wu frowned when he remembered the words the Clan's Head said when he arrived. Tong'er's talent was a blessing from heaven. The path he walked on had been too smooth. Those that could defeat him were all older than him and this made him lose the sense of crisis. If this kept going on like this, he would suffer a big loss eventually someday.

"Now you know that there is always someone out there better than you no matter how good you are. You're a man, what's there to sigh about? This isn't a bad thing. Now you should know what to do in the future. You'll be a laughing stock if you're brought down by this tiny setback. Failure means nothing. Stand up and get your stage back sometime in the future. Such is the spirit of a man!" Elder Wu advised

gently. There weren't many opportunities like this. Therefore, he wanted to give this "future of the Demon Gate" a wake up call.

Mo Zitong was shocked. That was dangerous. He almost fell into that incurable emotion.

Every single one of the seven emotions and six sensory pleasures controlled the existence of a person. Regardless of being overjoyed or in great sorrow, they were harmful to the body. Too much of anything was bad. Ultimately, excessive feelings could cause one's emotions to fall into a type of mental state such as being trapped in sorrow and agony...

He had been living in favorable circumstances since he was young, just like a boat that sailed with the wind and current from upstream to downstream. Going against the current all of a sudden was an unacceptable situation to him.

The elderly man's words made him understand so much within a split second. He was able to suddenly understand many things that the senior used to tell him before too. He also understood what a blessing in disguise was as well, so his heart calmed down quickly.

"Let us fight once more!" The old man looked in Qing Shui's direction. The battle intent in his eyes was overwhelming.

"You are no match for me! Your strength is not as powerful as your mouth!" Qing Shui shook his head and laughed. This elderly man's strength was just slightly over 2,000 stars, but not more than 2,300 stars. He wasn't really pressured when it came to dealing with this kind of strength.

Moreover, he could defeat his opponent with absolute strength. Only the Nine Palace Steps alone would suffice.

"Take this!" This time, the old man took a leap without saying much. Like an Azure Hawk, he threw himself towards Qing Shui. The entire White Bone Sword* was surrounded by an impressive halo. Chaotic gray shadows trailed behind him.

Qing Shui frowned when he felt a sensation akin to Corrosion Claws' from the White Bone Sword. He muttered inwardly to himself about coming across yet another dishonest and vicious cultivation technique.

Facing such heresy, Qing Shui only needed to put in half the effort to deal with them with his current Nature Energy. The more vicious something was, the more it was feared by an ordinary person. But it would be powerless in the face of Qing Shui.

Qing Shui wasn't going to be courteous either. He activated Nature Energy to its limit. His figure flashed just like before.

Nine Palace Steps!

His figure instantly appeared behind the old man on his right. The elderly man held onto his sword with his right hand. The right rear side was the most uncomfortable position for him. Even so, he still spun around quickly.

Raging Blow!

Without hesitation, Qing Shui unleashed this tyrannical attack. Otherwise, there would be a great disparity between their powers!

The light on the Violet Star Thunder God that was akin to violet thunder and lightning was crackling noisily. It clashed immediately against the gleaming White Bone Sword. The old man's power was originally slightly weaker than Qing Shui's Raging Blow. In addition to the angle issue, his power was reduced a little when he abruptly swung his sword. Furthermore, Qing Shui's Nature Energy could restrain him.

Bang!

A dull noise rang out. It felt as if the atmosphere had been knocked apart from the strong clash. A wave of Qi aura observable with the naked eye dispersed. The old man's face paled slightly, as he was knocked backward. Qing Shui smiled and lifted his foot. In a flash, his figure was right behind the old man.

Within the Nine Palace, he was the king!

Raging Blow!

The old man was once again knocked back. Qing Shui calmly and steadily took another step again as usual. No matter how far the distance was, it seemed like he could travel around in the blink of an eye. Of course, that was how it appeared to the others. But in Qing Shui's eyes, this distance was still within the Nine Palace.

The further the distance when cultivating Nine Palace Steps, the faster the speed would become. The strength of the enemies who entered within the Nine Palace would also be somewhat affected. Just the speed itself would make them unable to turn over. Let alone the rest.

He unleashed the Raging Blow consecutively. Although Raging Blow required a high consumption, Qing Shui could still afford it. He unleashed the fourth Raging Blow, seemingly calm.

The old man spurted out a mouthful of fresh blood as he was sent flying back to those people.

"It's not that I don't dare to kill. It's just that there are still certain things that I have yet to clarify. Leave! I shall visit the Demon Gate in the near future," Qing Shui said dully while looking at them.

Every single person from the Demon Gate went silent. They had thought of many outcomes but not this. So the voices around him started to flare up, as his every sneering remarks had reached their ears. It was as good as a knife through their hearts. But now, no one knew who had said that. It was evident that the person who dared to utter such words was not afraid of the Demon Gate either. The Demon Gate was very formidable. But there were also many that were as powerful as them.

"Everyone has their own limits. Don't think that Demon Gate is undefeatable. Remember not to come again to dig your own graves within this period of time. Next time, I may not be this patient!" Qing Shui got up and left as soon as he finished his sentence.

From Qing Shui's words, not a single person thought that he was arrogant, for he was able to easily defeat Mo Zitong and the old man at this age. Furthermore, it looked as if he had casually defeated them. Just which clan was that outstanding young man from...?

The facial expressions of the people from Demon Gate changed when a wild guess traveled to their ears. They had hated the Marionette Sect to the core. When they saw the people from the Tang Manor as well as some people from formidable sects appear, they immediately left the scene. Staying would only further humiliate them.

“Little brother! Have a safe journey! I won’t be seeing you off!” Tang Wude smiled at Qing Shui.

“Take care of yourself, big brother!” Qing Shui waved, as he hopped on Fire Bird.

It was uncertain when they would meet again after this time. He waved his hand once again as Tang Wude’s figure faded into the distance. Qing Shui initially didn’t want him to see him off, but Tang Wude insisted until he was about to exit the Central Continent’s Capital.

Qing Shui wasn’t sure if the Demon Gate would still stop him. If it wasn’t for Huoyun Liu-Li, Qing Shui definitely wouldn’t have hurt only the old man like he did today. He heard Mo Zitong call out to Elder Wu or Fifth Elder earlier. It didn’t matter which one it was, this old man shouldn’t be a member of the Demon Gate.

Judging from this elderly man’s strength, he should have some status in the Demon Gate. Qing Shui had only injured his opponent due to the same reason, not because he was afraid of his opponent. He was not afraid of the Demon Gate at all now. Nobody could stop him if he wanted to leave.

The following journey was extremely tranquil. Duanmu City was already in sight. Qing Shui felt Lady Duanmu was the most complicated and most troublesome person. Even if this happened in his previous world, it would still be a very unique case. If Qing Shui and Lady Duanmu were to exchange their genders, it would be very normal in his previous world.

Qing Shui, who had been reborn once, was able to accept any unpleasant facts. He couldn’t be bothered by the opinions of those that didn’t matter or how they saw him. But Lady Duanmu couldn’t free herself from the shackles that she had put on herself.

That time was only a mistake, something he did because he had no other choices. So Qing Shui left the all the decisions to Lady Duanmu.

It had been a while since his last goodbye. He had even forgotten how long it had been, but he could still find the place easily. It seems that the Duanmu Residence had flourished more than before. Qing Shui was very delighted too.

Perhaps it had been a long while and Qing Shui had changed quite a bit from before. Perhaps it was also because the guards were no longer the same as the ones before. Qing Shui was stopped when he walked to the entrance of the Duanmu Residence.

“Who are you, sir? This is the Duanmu Residence.”

Maybe they could tell that Qing Shui was no ordinary person. After all, his bearing and the aura he exuded discouraged them from being rash with him. Hence, they asked him politely.

“I would like to meet Lady Duanmu,” Qing Shui said before thinking for a moment.

“Who are you? What business do you have with the madame?” a slightly older looking man came out and asked Qing Shui politely.

There was hardly anyone who came to look for the madame like this in the Duanmu City. They could either send an invitation in advance or the madame would inform them in advance who would be coming.

It was at this moment, a lavish carriage came to a stop. Then, a stunning woman in a blue dress stepped down from the carriage. Qing Shui could recognize that this woman was Duanmu Lingshuang with just a single glance. But she wasn't as cold as she used to be. In fact, she even had a faint smile on her face. But Qing Shui had his eyes fixed at her arms.

She was cradling a child. A few months old child who was as delicate as a crystal. A rough and burly man then came over. "Lingshuang, let me carry the child."

Duanmu Lingshuang smiled happily and passed her child over to him. "Be careful. Don't injure our child again."

"I won't!" The man smiled and carefully held the child as if he was carrying a treasure.

Duanmu Lingshuang had a very warm smile on her face. She was stunned when she turned around and saw Qing Shui smiling at her. She stared for quite a while. "You are Qing Shui!" she said doubtfully.

Qing Shui smiled and nodded his head. "Miss Lingshuang! I'm so glad to see you!"

Qing Shui was actually very surprised that Duanmu Lingshuang already had a child, but not overly so. He never thought that Duanmu Lingshuang had fallen in love with him. It was just a joke at that time. Moreover, so many years had passed and she wasn't getting any younger. He didn't have the confidence to have a woman crying for him to marry her when she had just met him yet. It seemed like she had the hunch that she might not even see him again for the rest of her life.

Chapter 955 - Hu Yanlin, Meeting Lady Duanmu

He was surprised that a slightly cold woman like her would also marry someone. Qing Shui also had an especially favorable opinion towards that seemingly simple and honest man when he saw him.

"Yanlin, this is Qing Shui. A friend of mine and my mother."

"Qing Shui, this is my husband. Hu Yanlin." Duanmu Lingshuang introduced them to each other. She was a lot more cheerful now than before.

"Hello!"

The two of them greeted each other and Qing Shui was checking the man in front of him out. He should be slightly older than himself. He wasn't really handsome, but he appeared to be good-natured and seemed like a dependable man.

He was a fatherly man. Qing Shui could understand now why Duanmu Lingshuang was willing to marry this man who didn't seem to be particularly handsome. He could feel that this man could tolerate everything from just one look.

For a lady like her, she had quite a lot of promising young men pursuing her. But she wasn't interested in any of them. Qing Shui had only interacted with her a little in the past and had never considered any possibilities between them. There were plenty of fine and beautiful women and he had never thought of

possessing all of them. However, after he saw this man, he understood how great a family's influence was to the growth of a child.

This man didn't have a powerful cultivation and on top of that, his cultivation seemed to be a little all over the place. This was what Qing Shui had sensed through his spiritual sense. Most importantly, this man didn't look like he was a member of any aristocrat clans. A noble couldn't be nurtured in three generations. He couldn't sense even the inner arrogance of an aristocrat in him.

It was merely a feeling he had.

On top of that, he was still a peak Martial King cultivator. To Qing Shui, he was a little pitiful. Furthermore, he seemed to be very bad at controlling the Qi stance and energy in his body. The man that Duanmu Lingshuang had found was indeed surprising.

"Is this a lad or a lass?" Qing Shui looked at the delicate little fellow and asked with a smile.

"A lad, a lad!" Hu Yanlin chuckled.

Qing Shui took out a brocade box that contained a strange fruit and passed it to the man. "Consider this a gift to the little fellow."

"This..." Hu Yanlin looked at Qing Shui in bewilderment and then looked towards Duanmu Lingshuang.

"Just accept it. Keep it so that the little fellow can eat it in the future. It can increase his physique." Qing Shui pushed it into the arms of the man. He was very fond of this good-natured man.

Qing Shui didn't know if this man was lucky or unlucky. For someone like him to be able to marry a woman like Duanmu Lingshuang, it wasn't too much to say that he had the blessing of three lifetimes.

He must have eaten something good for his strength to skyrocket like this. Even if he married Duanmu Lingshuang, he must've been mocked and gossiped about behind his back quite a lot because Qing Shui could see it from the looks of the guards.

If even the guards from Duanmu Clan were looking at him this way, he could imagine that it was probably worse for the outsiders.

He was able to conclude that this man's cultivation had never reached the Xiantian realm before after he sensed his aura. Thus, he also came to the conclusion that he wasn't the son of an aristocrat clan.

Life is like a play; fortune favors the fool or the good will be well-rewarded!

"Miss Lingshuang, is the Lady around?"

"Mother is around. Let us go in!" Duanmu Lingshuang answered. The three of them then made their way towards the Duanmu Residence.

They continued walking towards that familiar-looking courtyard. He saw that gorgeous silhouette at a distance. It was still as gracefully refined as ever. That silhouette bore an indescribable charm.

"Mother!"

"Mother!"

Duanmu Lingshuang and Hu Yanlin greeted Lady Duanmu. Compared to Duanmu Lingshuang's joy, Hu Yanlin's greeting was more of a form of respect.

"You've return.Yong'er has fallen asleep already." Lady Duanmu nodded at them with a smile and then gestured towards the little fellow who was sleeping soundly.

However, Lady Duanmu's gaze unintentionally fell on Qing Shui, who wasn't standing too far away. She had mistaken him for a Duanmu Residence guard earlier, so she didn't think much or paid any attention to him either.

But now she saw him. By the time she discovered that he was Qing Shui, he was looking at her with a smile. That familiar young face was still so familiar to her, only that it looked more mature than before...

Duanmu Lingshuang held her child, as she excused herself from Lady Duanmu with Hu Yanlin. "Mother, I'm sending Yong'er to the bedroom. Qing Shui, you go and have a nice talk with mother first."

"Sure!" Qing Shui nodded his head with a smile.

Hu Yanlin nodded back at Qing Shui with a smile and then left with Duanmu Lingshuang.

Lady Duanmu smilingly watched them leave before turning to Qing Shui. "What brings you here all of a sudden?"

"Am I not welcome?" Qing Shui laughed, as he looked at Lady Duanmu. She was still as graceful as ever.

"Come in and have a seat. It's been so many years. I am very happy to see you again." Lady Duanmu gave him a smile before turning around and making her way inside the house along with Qing Shui.

Qing Shui happily followed Lady Duanmu into the living room. It had been a very long time since he last came here, but he still remembered. The decorations here weren't much different from how they were before.

"Miss Lingshuang has married?" Qing Shui asked after taking a seat.

"Yes, they got married two years ago." Lady Duanmu replied with a smile. However, Qing Shui could feel slight worries in that smile.

"That man seems quite decent," Qing Shui said while looking at Lady Duanmu.

"This was decreed by fate. Yanlin was an orphan who had grown up in the mountains and possessed great physical strength. Back then when Lingshuang went to the mountains in search of medicinal herbs, a mountain tiger attacked her. Actually, this mountain tiger wouldn't be able to harm Lingshuang, but Yanlin happened to pass by and stopped the mountain tiger bravely. But in the end, it was still Lingshuang who saved him. Perhaps this is fate. The lass who had never shown a pleasant expression to any man all this time actually told me that she wanted to marry this man." Lady Duanmu also sighed when she shared the story up to this point.

"You feel that he isn't worthy of Miss Lingshuang?" Qing Shui smiled at Lady Duanmu.

Lady Duanmu shook her head. "It has nothing to do with worthy or unworthy, only willing or unwilling. I worry about their future. Yanlin isn't really liked within the Duanmu Clan, let alone outsiders. But he

loves Lingshuang very much, so he can endure anything. He has been cultivating painstakingly every single day and had consumed an 'Earth Fruit' in between. In just two short years, he is already a peak Martial King cultivator. It's a pity that he's a little weak in controlling his strength." Lady Duanmu explained. Qing Shui couldn't tell how she felt.

She threw Qing Shui a couple of strange glances in between, puzzling Qing Shui. Lady Duanmu knew that her daughter had some feelings towards Qing Shui in the past. But after her daughter knew that he already had a few women, she felt that he was no different from those profligate sons. As time passed, all her feelings had basically faded from her memories. Yet Lady Duanmu couldn't forget about him. Qing Shui had left her a lasting mark that was too deep.

"Then why do I sense that madam still seemed to be a little concerned?" Qing Shui looked at the woman opposite of him. What happened before was a mistake. In addition to not meeting for all these years, the heart that had lost its warmth had grown even colder.

"Lingshuang told me that the man she wants to marry can only have her alone as his woman. She said she wanted to find someone like her father; a man who has only one woman. But men who are slightly capable usually have many wives. I will support her no matter what her decision is. Although Yanlin's cultivation and aptitude were slightly inferior, he has a great personality." Lady Duanmu shook her head.

Qing Shui's face burned a little. He knew that Lady Duanmu had merely pointed out the fact and that it wasn't directed at him. Even so, he still felt a little awkward. When he thought about how Duanmu Lingshuang was looking for a man who would marry only her, he agreed with what Lady Duanmu had pointed out. Most sons from aristocrat clans that were slightly powerful had been married through connections and even if they hadn't, they had quite a few women setting their eyes on them. A person who could be righteous alone in a community where the general moral tone was low was as rare as phoenix feathers and unicorn horns. The power of beauty was no less inferior to a Martial Emperor cultivator.....

"Madam, what weapon does Hu Yanlin use?" Qing Shui asked pensively when he recalled his big and strong body.

"He only uses a heavy hammer for now."

"Alright, I have something suitable for him here. I'll pass it to you later so you can give it to him." Qing Shui remembered that his other Thunder God also had hammer skills. He was very fond of that man, so he had decided to help him out and let those who had mocked him slap their own mouths.

"I can't possibly accept that!" Lady Duanmu said reluctantly.

"Am I not your friend?" Qing Shui smiled while looking at Lady Duanmu's graceful and lovely face that showed no signs of aging.

Her face turned crimson. She was a traditional woman and she couldn't forget about the 'mistake' from that time. Her heart was very restless when she looked at the man who had matured so much since then.

She had hoped that Qing Shui would never come to find her again, so that she could slowly forget about the incident as time went by. This wasn't too bad of a choice and was also the most peaceful route she could take.

"I have always considered you a friend. Are you and your clan still well?" Lady Duanmu lifted her head up to look at Qing Shui.

"We're still well. How about you? Do you have any troubles? Perhaps I can lend you an ear." Qing Shui offered, seemingly casual about it.

However, Lady Duanmu could tell that he wasn't just casually talking about it when she saw the look on his face. Lingshuang and she were orphan and widow. Although she was the head of Duanmu Clan, she knew that the people of Duanmu Clan weren't close to them. It wasn't like she wanted to monopolize the position of a clan's head, but Duanmu Clan had no other potential candidates who could be capable of shouldering this burden.

She had worries, but she had no one to confide in. She wasn't going to tell her daughter because she didn't want any unhappiness to befall her.

"I've been good too. What have you been busy with?"

.....

They chatted leisurely, like how friends that hadn't seen each other for more than two years would do. Time passed by and before they realized it, it was about noon time.

"You should stay a few days longer at the Duanmu Residence over this visit. You were in a hurry last time. I'm taking you to look around here this time," Lady Duanmu suggested with a smile.

"Ruyan!"

Qing Shui called out softly.

Lady Duanmu's body quivered as she looked towards Qing Shui, flustered.

"I am serious about the things I told you just now. The decision lies in your hands. We are friends no matter what. Best friends. Regardless of what your decision is and when you will make your decision, I won't force you. I hope that you will think about me when you are in trouble. I am willing to do anything for you." Qing Shui was looking at Lady Duanmu, who was slightly flustered.

"Thank you, I will." Lady Duanmu smiled after hesitating for a moment. Her smile was a bit more relaxed this time.

After another moment passed, Duanmu Lingshuang came to the entrance with her child in her arms and called them to a meal.

"Where's Yanlin? Is he still cultivating?" Lady Duanmu asked, when she gently took the child over from Duanmu Lingshuang's arms.

"Yes, he is practicing his fists techniques in the rear courtyard. He told us not to wait for him. Yanlin told me to apologize to Qing Shui on his behalf," Duanmu Lingshuang said apologetically.

“Oh, practicing his fists techniques? I shall go take a look. I’m not hungry anyway. The last meal was not so long ago.”

“Then let us all go take a look. Call those two servants here and tell them to keep the dishes warm.”

Qing Shui was startled before he let out a laugh. “Well then, let’s go take a look together.”

Chapter 956 - Elegance Could Be Bone-Deep Too, Lei Clan?

Since Qing Shui had said it, Lady Duanmu and Duanmu Lingshuang didn’t say anything else. The three of them laughed and made their way towards a remote smaller courtyard.

“I’m just going to watch from a further distance!” Duanmu Lingshuang looked at the little fellow in her arms and smiled at Qing Shui and Lady Duanmu.

“Alright, best to not frighten the little fellow.” Qing Shui rubbed the back of little fellow’s head. He then walked towards Hu Yanlin, who was sweating heavily in the distance, along with Lady Duanmu.

Ferocious Ox Fist!

Qing Shui was able to identify that Hu Yanlin was practicing the Ferocious Ox Fist with just a single glance. There were quite a lot of people who knew this fist technique because it was a low-level fist technique. However, it was very suitable for him to practice it now, as his cultivation was not high. Besides, the main objectives of him practicing this fist technique was to temper his body and bones and the Ferocious Ox Fist was just the fist technique for tempering the body and bones.

The muscles on Hu Yanlin’s body seemed to be very powerful and very strong, but it wasn’t to extent of creating a terrifying visual impact. He merely looked very strong. He was panting very heavily right now. Yet his every fist was very serious and could even be considered meticulous.

“If you can’t maintain a normal Qi circulation and breathing, then stop. Otherwise, your cultivation is ineffective,” Qing Shui’s voice rang out, interrupting Hu Yanlin.

“Mother, Mister Qing!” Hu Yanlin respectfully greeted Lady Duanmu and then greeted Qing Shui.

Qing Shui felt very happy in his heart while he watched that smile that was simple and honest. It wasn’t easy to be him because the person he married was Duanmu Lingshuang. It was no easy feat for someone like him to just survive with his strength.

If Qing Shui wasn’t wrong in his guess, he must’ve been challenged by quite a number of people. If he refused, he would be insulted as a coward or softballs. If he couldn’t endure his opponent’s provocation or tolerate that kind of humiliation and let blood rush to his head, then only death awaited him.

It seemed like he should be carrying a very heavy burden upon him right now.

So he strove hard and endured the pain. Hitting the lowest point in life and enduring humiliation for a short while didn’t really matter. When one stood at the pinnacle of men in a year, a decade or even a century, he would be able to forget all the humiliation he had gone through. The disgraces from the past would toughen him and broaden his insight...

All humans were narrow-minded and could only see the present and future or even the present only. It didn't matter how glorious one was in the past, as long as they lost everything in the present or was a fool, they would no longer be of any value to the others.

That was why Qing Shui found this man very admirable. He treated the people closest to him very well. If he knew that a person important to him was in danger, he would turn into a fearless wolf.

"If you don't mind, I can teach you another fist technique. It is stronger than this Ferocious Ox Fist," Qing Shui offered with a smile.

Hu Yanlin hesitated for a moment. He was also quite an obstinate man or more like he didn't like to owe others favor.

"Yanlin, you should thank Qing Shui." Lady Duanmu smiled. She knew if she didn't say anything, this son-in-law of hers would be very reluctant to accept Qing Shui's offer. So she spoke up.

Accepting Qing Shui's good will now wasn't as heavy as before. After hearing what Qing Shui had said earlier, she had also come to realize something else too.

There was no need to reject the benevolence of others sometimes. But of course, assistance that had an ulterior motive behind it should be reconsidered. For most of the time, the important thing was to think about how to draw support from the other's assistance to get back on one's feet. Strength was an insurance. It was fine to draw support from those with ulterior motives, at least one wouldn't feel like they owed favors to the others by doing so. They only had to think about how to get back on their feet.

"Thank you, Mister Qing," Hu Yanlin laughed and scratched his head.

"You're welcome. Watch closely!"

Right after Qing Shui finished his sentence, he started to demonstrate the Back Connecting Fist. His every movement was very slow, yet of a very high realm and it also gave people a very deep impression. Every single movement of the Back Connecting Fist was slowly demonstrated.

After he was done with one round, Qing Shui started another round again. This time, he slowed down his movements even more and explained a sentence or more for every form.

Qi from Dantian, connect the energy through the back.....

Tense up both legs, put all force in the right leg, smash the left shoulder downwards.....

Qing Shui continued demonstrating it a few more times before he stopped to look at Hu Yanlin. "Try it a few times."

"Alright!"

Hu Yanlin replied with slight excitement before starting to practice it. Regardless of everything, he was a peak Martial King cultivator. His Qi stance was fierce and firm, but he paused for awhile in three places in between. But then he still pulled through it and repeated another round. His movements became very smooth in the next round. There weren't a lot of styles in the Back Connecting Fist and Qing Shui had demonstrated about ten rounds from beginning to end.

Hu Yanlin repeatedly practiced it for fifteen rounds. He had to surpass Qing Shui's count as a form of respect to him.

During his final few rounds, Qing Shui would guide him from time to time and tell him when to exert force, the important points and also some things he had to pay attention to in the meridians.

After about twenty rounds, Hu Yanlin was able to feel the benefits of this Back Connecting Fist clearly. The energy and bones in his body had gained some subtle changes to them.

This was the effect of tempering the body and bones and it was surprisingly good. Hu Yanlin, who had stopped, gratefully threw a glance at Qing Shui, but he didn't say anything to express his gratitude again. Gratitude didn't have to be expressed in words.

Qing Shui didn't teach him the Taichi fist. He felt that the violent Back Connecting Fist was more suitable for his body and bones instead of the soft and suppressed Taichi Fists. Now, it seemed like the effect was especially good.

"Come here tomorrow morning. I'm going to teach you something else." Qing Shui was planning to teach him The Tiger Form and hammer techniques. He was planning to develop and promote his Tiger Form, so as long as anyone whom he knew was interested to learn, Qing Shui would teach them.

"Mister Qing, there are no words to express my gratitude," Hu Yanlin said earnestly.

"We're going to eat, are you coming?" Qing Shui smiled, as he looked at the sky.

"I wish to familiarize myself with this Back Connecting Fist. I'm a slow-witted person. I should strike when the iron's hot, so I'd like to excuse myself Mister Qing." Hu Yanlin scratched his head and bowed towards Qing Shui.

"It's fine. You can come ask me if there's anything you don't understand."

"Alright!"

Hu Yanlin started to cultivate once again after Qing Shui and Lady Duanmu left and was even more hardworking than just now.

Duanmu Lingshuang watched the scene from somewhere slightly further and was very happy. She wished for her man to become stronger. Yet at the same time, she was also worried that her man would change after he got stronger. But she laughed when she recalled Hu Yanlin's personality. She knew that he would never change in that aspect.

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It was already afternoon when they were done with their meal.

"Qing Shui, I'm bringing you to explore Duanmu City!" Lady Duanmu told Qing Shui with a smile after the servants had cleared away dishes on the dining table.

"Sure!" Qing Shui replied happily. Duanmu Lingshuang had excused herself earlier because she had to settle her child. Children of big clans usually had a specialized nanny, but Duanmu Lingshuang insisted on looking after her own child.

When Qing Shui thought about it, it seemed like his women were all taking care of their children personally too. The Qing Clan could also be considered as a big clan..... or at least they could afford to hire a nanny.

Duanmu City!

Qing Shui had visited here in a hurry a few times. At least he could finally take a good look around here for the first time today. The street that was not far from the Duanmu Residence was the most flourishing street in the Duanmu City. It was even wider than the main roads.

There were carriages passing through this street, although they were mostly lavish carriages. Countless manors and commercial buildings lined on either side of the road. There were all kinds of people walking on the road - traders, cultivators, peddlers and commoners, as well as sons from the rich clans.

Looking at the mature and graceful woman by his side, his heart was very tranquil. He had never thought that this day would come and he also didn't know what would happen between them in the future.

Qing Shui felt kind of relaxed and pleasant when he was watching everything around him. It was as if he didn't have to worry about a single thing here. Nothing here seemed to affect him.

"There's always so many humans here. They have their own social circles and are always busy with their own stuff. But in the end, what is all that for?" Qing Shui expressed in amazement, as he was slowly walking around with Lady Duanmu.

"Everyone has their own mission. They are constantly on the move to accomplish their missions. Aren't you doing the same too?" Lady Duanmu replied softly after thinking for a moment without looking at Qing Shui.

"Indeed it is for a mission. What's your mission then, Ruyan? Do you mind telling me?" Qing Shui smiled while staring at the beautiful outline of Lady Duanmu's face.

Lady Duanmu quivered again. This was the second time Qing Shui had called her by her name. She grew silent for a moment before she lightly sighed. "To let Lingshuang live happily without any worries."

"That's a given. Anything else?" Qing Shui was still smiling and looking at the side of her face.

"That's all!" Lady Duanmu turned her head around and gave him a smile.

Qing Shui was dazed by her smile in that exact moment. It was so beautiful, just like a flower blossoming all of a sudden. It was stunningly beautiful.

When he lifted his head again, Lady Duanmu was already watching him from two steps away. Her smiling face was indescribably beautiful and breathtaking at this very moment. That elegant smile was so charming that it was bone-deep.

"Ruyan..."

"Qing Shui, you said that you won't force me," Lady Duanmu gently interrupted Qing Shui.

"Of course I won't." Qing Shui rubbed his nose and smiled wryly.

“That’s right. Come, let’s go over there!” Lady Duanmu said cheerfully instead when she saw Qing Shui smiling wryly.

Just when Qing Shui was about to catch up to Lady Duanmu, he realized that she had stopped. Turned out that there were three people watching them from a distance up ahead.

As soon as Qing Shui saw the three of them, he knew that there was something to be taken care of today. But he was a little puzzled. Was it another coincidence?

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There were a youth and two old men up ahead. Qing Shui frowned when he saw his opponents’ strengths. Such strong cultivators existed in Duanmu City.

Peak Martial Saint cultivators!

Of course, that was referring to the two elderly men at the back.

The last time Madam Duanmu left, her strength was about 5,000 countries. Now, she was also a peak Martial Saint cultivator. It should be just a short while after she broke through. Her strength now was a little more than one star. One of the two elderly men had the strength of more than three stars, while the other was more than four stars.

Since when did Duanmu City have such powerful figures? But when he thought about it again, it had been a very long time since he left here. Lady Duanmu’s strength had already doubled, so naturally it shouldn’t be a surprise that some powerful figures had emerged.

Why did Qing Shui have a feeling that they didn’t seem to have come with good intentions?

“They are from Lei Clan, who have just moved into Duanmu City a few years ago. Don’t offend them because the Lei Clan is very powerful,” Lady Duanmu warned Qing Shui softly.

“Lady Duanmu, what a coincidence!” That youth came over and immediately scanned Qing Shui

“Good day, Young Master Lei!” Lady Duanmu greeted slowly. It was impossible for one to tell if she was being intimate or cold. This was just how she had always been.

Qing Shui was staring at that youth because the eyes of this fellow with a mediocre strength had never once left Lady Duanmu’s chest. Qing Shui’s hands slowly curled up into fists.

“Madam, have you made up your mind? Can we both possess the Jade Dragon Mountain? Madam, you should provide me a letter.” The youth looked at Lady Duanmu, as though he could definitely devour her.

Chapter 957 - The Wave of A Hand, It’s Fine If It’s Less Overboard Right?

Lady Duanmu remained silent. It was only then that the youth seemed to have noticed Qing Shui. Although he was a dandy, he had a pair of very sharp eyes. When he saw that calm-looking youth by Lady Duanmu’s side, he could tell that he was slightly extraordinary from just a single glance.

But it was only slightly.

“Madame, the Jade Dragon Mountain is ours. Didn’t I say before that it shouldn’t be shared with anyone else?” Qing Shui suddenly told Lady Duanmu.

Yu Ruyan spun her head around and saw Qing Shui smiling. She had already warned him not to offend them earlier, but why did he still do something like this?. Just the two elderly men before them were enough to raze the Duanmu Clan to the ground. Not only that, the Lei Clan still had other experts among them.

“Who are you to meddle in the affairs between the Duanmu Clan and me?” The youth raised his eyebrows and yelled at Qing Shui loudly.

The youth had gotten used to being arrogant since no one in Duanmu City dared to oppose him. He was greeted as Young Master Lei no matter where he went and was well-served. It was evident that this youth before him was inexperienced. How dare he actually offend him, the Young Master Lei.

“Young Master Le...”

Lady Duanmu was about to say something in panic, but Qing Shui pulled her back instead. “You can’t keep on feeding bones to an ignorant dog like this. The more you feed it, the harder it will bite. The best thing you can do is to get rid of it by beating the hell out of it.”

“Sigh, Qing Shui!” Lady Duanmu sighed and reprimanded Qing Shui. Right now, she was a little out of her wits. She knew that Qing Shui’s current strength had perhaps improved immensely to almost the same as the two elderly men across them and that he would be able to defeat them. But it was the other people of the Lei Clan that she was worried about.

“Brat, you sure have some balls to actually be calling the Lei Clan dogs. The Duanmu Clan will also suffer a calamity because of your words. Kill this little bastard.” The youth spat at Qing Shui sinisterly. Maybe he was actually this angry right now because no one had ever treated him this way.

Qing Shui stared at him coldly, as though he was staring at a dead person. This youth was way more inferior to Mo Zitong. He was also 18,000 li behind Gu Wu of the Poison Mountain Stockade, in terms of his accomplishments, cultivation and manners. They were of a totally different level.

The two elderly men rushed towards Qing Shui. Right now to Qing Shui, anyone with the strength of less than five stars was no different from an ant. He looked at one of the elderly men. A golden light flashed across his eyes within an instant.

Buddha’s True Eyes!

The elderly man on the left pathetically collapsed on the floor immediately as if he had been struck by lightning, with blood coming out of his mouth. He looked at Qing Shui in disbelief, his eyes were filled with terror. The other elderly man on the other side was already approaching Qing Shui. His extended arm clawed towards Qing Shui’s throat like an iron claw.

But he was distracted by the scream of the other elderly man. He hurriedly withdrew when he sensed the immense dangerous aura. But at that exact moment, Qing Shui landed a blow on his arm with a wave of his right hand.

Kacha!

The ear-piercing noise of bones shattering made one's teeth ache and it was accompanied by the blood-curdling scream of the elderly man. He was sent flying with blood staining his clothes crimson. It was uncertain if the blood was from his mouth or his arm. Qing Shui was guessing it was probably both.

He had immediately crippled the two elderly men in just a flash.

Lady Duanmu and the other people around them were flabbergasted. They were completely dazed. Those two elderly men were from the Lei Clan. Not only that, they were also the experts from Lei Clan. But now, they had just witnessed how they were easily struck down by a youth. Just what was this strength...

Lady Duanmu initially thought that Qing Shui was only slightly stronger than those two elderly men. She didn't expect his strength to be that much higher than them. It was on a completely different level.

"Since when did the Duanmu Clan have such a powerful cultivator?"

"Who is he to Lady Duanmu? He actually laid a finger on the Lei Clan for Lady Duanmu. But he is really powerful. This is getting exciting." There were bound to be some people who were dissatisfied that the altercation wasn't bad enough to have any casualties.

"Lady Duanmu has only a daughter and she has been married. There's no cultivator as strong as him in the Duanmu Clan. Lady Duanmu is a peerless beauty. Do you think they are....."

"Ma Liu, if you still don't stop yapping then you might not even know how you died," a stern-looking fatty hushed him in a soft voice.

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"You're Young Master Lei, right?" Qing Shui frowned and looked at the youth who was about to pee on himself before him. This well-dressed trash was nothing if he didn't have his clan's background to rely on.

"Don't come near me. I am the young master from Lei Clan. My clan will not let you get away if lay a finger on me....."

Boom!

The youth was sent tumbling and flying, his teeth were knocked out in midair. His blood-curdling scream was mournful and shrill. Qing Shui smiled in disdain as he watched the youth that was howling in agony and the elderly men. "I don't want to kill anyone today. Bring this message to your clan's head, tell him to come to the Duanmu Clan with an apology tomorrow. Otherwise, he will face the consequences. Now scram."

The youth had passed out long ago. It took only one slap across his face to knock out all the teeth in his mouth. This was because Qing Shui didn't intend to kill him, otherwise he would have immediately smashed his head in.

The first elderly man and the other one who had one of his arms crippled picked up the unconscious youth and left hastily. Qing Shui was currently thinking about his next plan.

“That felt so good. The Duanmu Clan is different after all. How horrible of this Lei Clan to actually be thinking about suppressing the Duanmu Clan here. They’re really courting death.” Someone made cynical remarks as soon as the Lei Clan left and they were quite loud about it.

“That’s right. The Duanmu Clan didn’t want to lay a finger on them before, but then they were actually bold enough to be insolent with them. It’s good that they know their place now after getting their ass whooped.”

“Do you think the Lei Clan’s head will go to the Duanmu Clan and apologize tomorrow?” a thief-like youth who was holding a worn out knife said.

“Yes. Maybe the Lei Clan will even go to the Duanmu Clan before tomorrow,” a middle-aged man said smilingly.

Many got what the middle-aged man was trying to say. The Lei Clan would definitely not take things lying down with the Duanmu Clan. An apology was unlikely, but a battle was guaranteed.

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“Madame, let us return!” Qing Shui smiled at Lady Duanmu.

Although many addressed her as ‘madame’, which was an honorific, she was always flustered when it was Qing Shui calling her that. She nodded before sighing lightly once again.

Qing Shui and Lady Duanmu left. The crowd around here dispersed too. But of course, many were still discussing some things among themselves. Some even went to somewhere near the Duanmu Residence, waiting to see what was going happen next.

“Let me say this. Things may have already turned out like this but don’t you worry. The Lei Clan is nothing,” Qing Shui laughed. Although he wasn’t really clear about the Lei Clan, he knew that they could hardly amount to anything.

“Qing Shui, the Lei Clan is very powerful. Why did you still go and get yourself involved with them?” Lady Duanmu was at loss of what to say. She knew that the incident today was bound to happen, she just didn’t expect that Qing Shui would be here.

That profligate son of the Lei Clan had his eyes set on the Duanmu Clan for a very long time or more like on Lady Duanmu. Lady Duanmu was aware of that too and she had been stalling. She knew that this day would definitely come sooner or later and when that time came, it would all be about the choices she would make.

To be toyed around with by the strong in the palm of their hand might be fun to them or could satisfy their selfish desire, but it was a catastrophe to the weak.

She looked at Qing Shui. He had become mature when she had not seen him for these past few years. He wouldn’t act recklessly. He was already very mature back then. Thinking up to this point, a glimmer of hope appeared in Lady Duanmu’s heart.

“Can You really oppose the Lei Clan?” Her voice was filled with joy and anticipation, mostly the latter.

“Why don’t we make a bet?” Qing Shui smiled at Lady Duanmu who had a slightly dejected expression on her face.

“On what?” Lady Duanmu turned her head as she walked slowly.

“If I can settle this issue with the Lei Clan without a hitch. How about that?”

“Sure!” When Lady Duanmu thought about it, if Qing Shui couldn’t settle this then only elimination awaited her. The entire Duanmu Clan might also disappear. If Qing Shui could settle this, then it was a chance for everything here to start fresh again. So there was no point in gambling about this. But she still nodded in agreement when she saw how Qing Shui seemed to be in high spirits.

“If I lose, that will spell the end for everyone. So we’re not going to talk about how to compensate you if I have lost because we’ll die together if that happens,” Qing Shui laughed while looking at Lady Duanmu.

Lady Duanmu grew silent. She didn’t say anything else after she heard Qing Shui’s words. Her heart felt very heavy.

“If we can’t stay together when we are alive, then it isn’t too bad to die in the same hole!” Qing Shui laughed.

“Qing Shui.....”

“Alright, that’s enough. Let’s talk about how you’re going to reward me if I managed to settle this,” Qing Shui said with a smile.

The two of them walked along the road to the lake area. There were many people around them. But since Lady Duanmu was very well-known, most people wouldn’t approach them because anyone could tell that she wasn’t in a good mood right now.

“How would you like me to reward you?” Lady Duanmu blushed and averted her gaze when she saw Qing Shui’s coquettish gaze. Even her speech lacked confidence.

Looking at the mature woman who seemed a little like a delicate girl right now, Qing Shui was quite shocked. She was no longer a naive lady. In fact, she was the most mature and graceful woman Qing Shui had ever seen. But she seemed to be kind of bashful now. After all, she had stayed a widow for so many years and they had done it once in between. Although it was something compelled by the situation, there was no changing the things that had happened. Scars that were left from some things wouldn’t fade, no matter how much time passed.

“Am I that scary?” Qing Shui rubbed his nose and laughed awkwardly.

“If you manage to settle this, I will give you any reward you ask for. But don’t go overboard,” Lady Duanmu said softly.

“Alright, I won’t. So it’ll be fine if it’s less overboard right?” Qing Shui chuckled mischievously.

Lady Duanmu was speechless.

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When they returned home, they saw some people rolling their eyes at them from time to time, especially at Qing Shui when they passed by the Duanmu Residence.

News had already traveled to the Duanmu Clan. Some people from the Duanmu Clan actually escaped. Many servants and some nurses of the Duanmu Clan had already started fleeing as well.

One of the middle-aged men was carrying something on his back, but immediately dropped his stuff on the floor when he saw Lady Duanmu who had returned. He was standing there blankly with a pale face.

Lady Duanmu walked over without saying anything. She picked the stuff up and helped to put it on the man's back once again. This person only possessed the strength of a Xiantian cultivator. He didn't own an Interspatial Silk Sachet, so he had to carry one big sack of his belongings.

"Madame....." The man stammered nervously.

"Go, go!" Lady Duanmu inserted a money pouch into the bag he was carrying and then went inside with Qing Shui.

"Why didn't you kill that person who escaped earlier?" Qing Shui calmly asked with a smile.

"Why kill? Such is human nature. Why force someone to do something. I know this man. He has old and young at home. I am very glad that he left." Lady Duanmu was searching for a room with Qing Shui.

Qing Shui smiled wordlessly. He was neutral about Lady Duanmu's way of handling matters.

"Are you thinking about how a woman's heart isn't hard enough to accomplish anything?" Lady Duanmu turned around and laughed at Qing Shui when they arrived at the entrance to a bedroom.

Chapter 958 - Panic, Lei Clan's Choice

Qing Shui was stunned and he smiled, saying, "This is a woman's nature. If there's any less, it wouldn't be perfect anymore."

Lady Duanmu quickly turned her head, pushed open the door and walked in. Qing Shui followed after.

There was a hall and a room inside which should be the bedroom. There was a bathroom and washroom at the other end of the living room and it could be considered a small-scale basic room.

However, everything here was new. There wasn't much furniture, but there was the scent of a new room. It was probable that no one had stayed here before.

It was still not too dark outside since it was only late afternoon.

"Qing Shui, what do you think about this room?" Lady Duanmu smiled and asked.

"Of course it's fine. It's very good." Qing Shui replied happily before taking a casual look around and heading for the room where the bedroom should be located.

The bedroom was considered neither big, nor small. There was a bed with thick blankets set up and it was very clean. There was a standing cupboard, a clothes rack, as well as a desk and chair. Everything was made from high quality sandalwood and the room was filled with a rustic fragrance.

In this area, the people in the World of the Nine Continents knew how to enjoy themselves better and it was quite commonly seen. After all, there was plenty of precious wood around in this world and thus carpentry flourished too. In terms of skills like carpentry to create furniture and stuff, it was more developed in the World of the Nine Continents.

Qing Shui turned and saw Lady Duanmu standing next to him. In such a relatively small room with an extremely soft and comfortable bed with fresh blankets and pillows, a seductive aura gushed out.

This aura came from Lady Duanmu and she seemed to also have sensed a hint of intimacy in the room. She was about to walk out but the moment she took a step, Qing Shui grabbed her hand.

“Qing Shui, you...” Lady Duanmu said with a tremble.

“Your thoughts aren’t very healthy. Why are you running when I’m not even thinking about anything? Are you thinking about scenes not suitable for the eyes of children?” Qing Shui looked at the blushing lady teasingly.

When a lady like herself blushed, it held a greater charm than a young and shy girl. She glared at Qing Shui, “You’re the one with the unhealthy thoughts. You’re the one whose thoughts are running wild.”

“Right, right, I’m the one whose thoughts are running wild. I shouldn’t be thinking about you. But when I look at this bed and then see such a great beauty next to me, can’t I even think about it even though I can’t do anything?” Qing Shui looked at Lady Duanmu, looked at her beautiful flushed red back, her dark and dense eyelashes fluttering like fans and trembling softly.

“Qing Shui...” When Lady Duanmu heard Qing Shui’s words, she called out to him angrily. She knew that Qing Shui was teasing her.

“Alright, alright, I’ll stop.” Qing Shui didn’t let go of her hand, but instead grabbed it tightly. He could sense her palpitating heartbeat. It had been a long time since the last time they had been together. For a woman like her, it was as if this was an extramarital affair.

Her husband was long dead and with her gifts, she should long be remarried, but she had refused to do so. Qing Shui didn’t know the reason why. This should be the shackles which the World of the Nine Continents had placed on her. It was very hard for a woman with a traditional mindset to get rid of those shackles.

However, Qing Shui wanted to work hard to help her jump out of the cage she was in. He wanted to let her be happy. Right now, even Duanmu Lingshuang shouldn’t be against her remarrying. After all, there was still a very long life ahead of her and being alone like this was a very painful thing.

“Qing Shui, let go of me!” She looked at Qing Shui who had only grabbed her hand and didn’t do anything improper and said, heaving a sigh of relief in her heart. If he were to force himself on her, there was no way that she could resist. She couldn’t shout out for help either.

Qing Shui didn’t do anything. He knew what the situation was too. If he were to force himself on her, she would definitely disappear and he might never find her again.

He knew that right now, he was at least her best friend, the only person she could rely on. Therefore, Qing Shui was planning to slowly break through her shackles, letting her be truly free.

He shamelessly grabbed her hand for a while more before letting go under her furious gaze. Lady Duanmu, upon seeing his smile, also showed a hint of a warm smile.

After finding Qing Shui a room, the two of them walked out. People were just starting to prepare dinner and the sun had completely set, leaving just a hint of lingering light. It would still take a while before it turned completely dark.

About one-third of the people from Duanmu Clan had left and even a few branches from Duanmu Clan's main family had left. They were very fast, using a few beast carriages, rumbling as they left.

Toward all this, Lady Duanmu was as if she had neither seen, nor heard anything. She just let them decide if they were to leave or stay. Of course, Qing Shui didn't feel anything about their departure either. They were the ones to make their own decisions and they could blame no one. People without any persistence tended to be the ones who would miss out on opportunities the most.

Time passed little by little and no one came to look for Lady Duanmu. Those who should leave had already left and the others had either chosen to remain behind or were unable to leave.

It had yet to turn dark, but the light stones had started to light up. It was very bright both in the Duanmu Clan and along the streets outside. There were many people outside Duanmu Clan and the restaurants across the street from the Duanmu Clan were all filled with people.

After all, it was very boring to be standing outside, so they filled up the restaurants and inns nearby. There were also people before the clothing shops and roadside stalls. Everyone was waiting for something.

The Lei Clan was not too far away from the Duanmu Clan and they would definitely arrive today. There was no difference whether they were to come at night or in the day, since Duanmu City was a city with a great nightlife and with the moon hanging in the west, the sky was very bright tonight.

Suddenly, Qing Shui looked into the far distance where there were tens of black spots.

"They're here!" Qing Shui looked toward the distance.

Lady Duanmu didn't say anything, but she was also looking into the distance. This trial concerned the life and death of the Duanmu Clan and if they could get past this, their future would be very bright. It would all be because of this man next to her.

The Duanmu Clan was also rapidly developing. The reason she could manage the Duanmu Clan was that there were still people who supported her. All these people were the blood siblings, nephews and other relatives of Lady Duanmu's past husband.

Very soon, the people from the Duanmu Clan all came out. They looked at Lady Duanmu and Qing Shui who were a distance away. Some of them were talking secretly amongst themselves, but they couldn't hide the worry in their eyes.

Duanmu Lingshuang carried her child and was with some other people together with Hu Yanlin. Qing Shui waved his hand and called out the Ten Thousand Poisonous Violet Sable before he nodded to Duanmu Lingshuang.

The Ten Thousand Poisonous Violet Sable ran near to Duanmu Lingshuang. When Lady Duanmu saw Qing Shui's actions, she broke into a faint smile. Seeing Qing Shui's confident look, she also gradually relaxed.

With a wave of his hand, he called out the Fire Bird.

"Madam, let's go take a look!"

Lady Duanmu stood on the Fire Bird, while Qing Shui walked with his hands behind his back. Each step he took, it was as if he had just appeared in front with a flash. The Fire Bird's speed wasn't fast and Qing Shui appeared to be very leisurely too. However, to outsiders, they still seemed to be very fast.

Many people from the Duanmu Clan also went onto their rides and flew into the air, while some others stayed on the ground. The buildings in the area were very far apart and since Qing Shui and the others were very high up, everyone on the ground could see them clearly.

"Look, Lady Duanmu and that young man have headed over."

The moment Qing Shui and Lady Duanmu went into the air, astonished cries could be heard.

"Do you think that the Lei Clan will apologize to the Duanmu Clan?" Someone asked.

"With the group that they've brought, do you think that they look like they're here to apologize?"

...

Qing Shui and Lady Duanmu came to a stop after proceeding forth for less than 500 meters. They then looked at the people from the Lei Clan who were getting closer.

Snow Eagle!

There were over 20 Snow Eagles, with only two to three people on each of them.

Qing Shui could see them very clearly. There were fifteen old men, probably less than 30 slightly old and middle-aged men and a small group of slightly over ten young men.

"About 80% of Lei Clan's main fighting force must have come!" Looking at the opponents, Qing Shui thought to himself after sensing their abilities.

The other party came to a stop 200 meters away. Qing Shui smiled. This distance showed the opponent's abilities. Most people would stand in a spot which was the most advantageous to them and was at the furthest distance they had the greatest confidence to attack from.

The two huge Snow Eagles in the lead were snow white, with only their eyes and claws in black and all other parts of their bodies were white. They looked very handsome and ferocious.

There were a total of four old men on the two Snow Eagles. They stood in pairs, next to each other. Only one of them was wearing a set of purple colored clothes while the others were wearing silver rimmed golden clothes.

"It's that guy!" An old man at the back said to the old man in the lead.

Qing Shui could hear very clearly. It was the old man he had crippled one of the arms of in the afternoon. He didn't see the other person and it seemed like he must really have been injured quite badly by the Buddha's True Eyes.

"You're the one who has harmed a member of our Lei Clan?" The old man in purple clothes looked at Qing Shui, his voice deep and hoarse.

"You're not strong, but you put on such airs. You still have a chance to admit your mistake." Qing Shui's voice was very bright and even the people on the ground could hear him clearly. This time around, Qing Shui was also trying to establish authority. Although he didn't kill those people in the day, they were practically crippled.

"Did I hear wrongly? So many people from the Lei Clan have come. It seems like they're here to butcher the Duanmu Clan to establish their authority. This young man is really daring!" Someone on the ground immediately spoke up in astonishment.

"The Duanmu Clan is in danger this time!"

"The Lei Clan is really infuriated. Seems like they aren't planning to let a single one of them go. In Duanmu City, no one dares to humiliate the Lei Clan. This time around, the Lei Clan must be planning to make an example out of them. I wonder if this young man will be able to withstand it?" an old man sighed and said, looking into the far distance.

"5th Master Song, I heard that this young man managed to cripple a Peak Martial Saint from the Lei Clan in a single move," a man next to the old man who had just spoken, frowned and said.

"Any one of those old men from the Lei Clan would be able to do it. After all, those people were only the weakest ones amongst all Peak Martial Saints." When the old man said this, confidence filled his face, seeming as if he could do the same.

...

"Young man, you're talking so shamelessly even though you're on the verge of death. I don't care what relationship you have with the Duanmu Clan but all of you will have to die today." The old man looked at Qing Shui. They didn't really care about who the Duanmu Clan had gotten help from. For the past two years, they already had a very good idea of how strong the Duanmu Clan was and thus, they weren't worried about Qing Shui at all.

"You've made this decision yourself, I hope you don't regret it!" Qing Shui looked at the old man coldly and spoke in a cold tone.

When the old man heard Qing Shui's words, he hesitated for that short moment before waving his hand decisively.

"Kill! Don't leave a single person from the Duanmu Clan alive!"

Chapter 959 - Destroying the Clan, Establishing Authority, Forging The Other Thunder God

"Kill! Don't leave a single person from the Duanmu Clan alive!"

Hearing the old man's decisive command, Qing Shui no longer had any hesitation. There wasn't any need to be lenient on the Lei Clan any further. He waved his hand and called out the Five-Headed Demonic Spider, letting it stay on guard next to Lady Duanmu.

He took one step forward and sent out a fierce hit toward the leading old man.

Critical Tiger Attack!

Pa!

A crisp sound rang out. Even though Qing Shui wasn't holding the Thunder God, these people were still no match for him. The old man in the lead was only a step away from Martial Emperor and had a strength of 90 stars.

This was the leading and formidable existence in Duanmu City. However, right now, he was up against Qing Shui, a cultivator who could hit out with a strength of close to 2,900 stars. Even without his Thunder God, he would have a strength of close to 500 stars.

Under the amazing effects of the Nine Palace Steps, in a short moment, both of the old man's arms were crushed. Qing Shui had unleashed a furious attack and if the old man had not worn armor to protect the vital parts of his body, this attack would have been sufficient to claim his life. However, as it was, he was already on the verge of his deathbed.

Many people from the Lei Clan who had noticed this were dumbstruck. They couldn't believe what had happened right before their eyes. The dominating existence in Duanmu City, the Lei Clan's clan head had been crippled by a young man in a single move...

Who on earth was this young man?

How strong was he? It seemed that he was very close with Lady Duanmu. If she had such a strong support behind her, why did he only come out now?

Qing Shui knew what he had to do. Flashing as he moved, each time he leaped, one life would be taken. Everything was completed very cleanly. He was like a ghost from hell, appearing elusively in every corner, reaping one life after another, regardless young or old.

Instant kill!

Lady Duanmu stared in a daze at Qing Shui's silhouette. Since when had he become so powerful? In the past, he wasn't even as strong as her. Although his martial techniques were very strange, his abilities were simply unfathomable. What had he been through in the past few years...

She looked at Qing Shui, then at the huge Five-Headed Demonic Spider which was protecting her. She had read many books and knew a lot about the demonic beasts in this world, including this Five-Headed Demonic Spider before her.

It was a Martial Emperor existence.

Even his demonic beast was at a Martial Emperor level. If he had called this out earlier, then she would not have had to feel worried. This rascal had intentionally wanted her to feel worried, force her to have a bet with him and then ended up losing.

Thinking of how she had to reward him if she lost the bet, her mind went into chaos when she thought of the “reward that doesn’t go that far”. She also felt a little bit of an indescribable joy. It should be related to his victory. From the start, she had only thought of herself losing her bet. It was because this was the only way that they could all keep their lives.

However, now that she knew that she could live, she started panicking over that bet earlier. As her imagination ran wild, her eyes followed Qing Shui. In the time required for a few breaths, there were only three members from the opposing side left. They were three middle-aged men and Qing Shui had even killed over ten of those snow eagles by stomping down on them. The remaining ones had made their escape.

It was only when there was no one left around Qing Shui, that he then brushed his hands together before looking toward Lady Duanmu who was staring at him in a daze.

Lady Duanmu had a problem processing this. It was so simple. What had meant a huge disaster to them, had been easily resolved by him in just a short moment. It was the same as what happened in the afternoon, but this time around he went for the kill each time.

The Lei Clan’s corpses dropped one by one, dropping down on the street of Duanmu City. Each time the people on the ground saw one, they would let out a huge outcry from shock and excitement. Of course, they spent most of the time staring at that figure in the sky who was like a demon. The impact dealt to them was tremendous, both visually and mentally.

“It’s too terrifying. Each of them were killed with a single slash from a blade!” a fatty put his hand to his chest and cried out in astonishment.

“Fatty, where did you see that they were each killed with a single slash from a blade? Is he holding a sabre?” a rough young man next to him asked.

“It’s really scary to be uncivilized. I’m just stating an analogy. It means to kill in a single move.” the fatty grinned and said.

...

The people from the Duanmu Clan cheered in joy. They had heard what the leading old man shouted earlier. He had wanted to wipe out their entire clan. Some of the more timid ones even broke down crying. When one’s life was being threatened, not many people would be able to keep a calm face. At that time, many women and children from the Duanmu Clan had all cried.

However, what they saw next was the guy breaking through the enemies, killing them one by one, one-sidedly, they couldn’t describe what they felt. They even felt as if they suddenly could see through some things clearly now.

Only when a person was going through a life and death situation would their minds be easily cleansed and their mindsets and stuff would all go through a tremendous change. In the past, many people from the Duanmu Clan felt that Lady Duanmu shouldn’t hog onto the position of being the clan’s head, but now they no longer had the same resentment as before. They suddenly felt that it wasn’t easy for this woman to hold up the entire clan either.

Other than her, there seemed to be no one else in the clan who could take on this heavy responsibility. Many people now felt that they had done great wrongs in the past. Why did they have such a strong bias? Was it only because she was a woman or that she could only be considered an outsider? But everything that she had done was for the Duanmu Clan.

They had seen what she had done for them over the years. Lady Duanmu's husband had died young and even if she were to remarry, no one would be able to stop her. However, she didn't do so. It was because it would leave a bad reputation on the Duanmu Clan. She brought up her daughter by herself and still had to plan for the Duanmu Clan's future.

In this final moment, to keep the clan alive, she stayed back to stand against the Lei Clan. She had always seen herself as a member of the Duanmu Clan. Otherwise, she could have chosen to leave at this point. However, she didn't do so. Good heartedness is often rewarded and she ended up receiving help.

...

Qing Shui walked up next to Lady Duanmu. He looked at this woman who was in a daze, not saying a word, but just smiled as he looked at her.

In this moment, she suddenly felt that this guy was very unfamiliar to her. She wasn't able to process all this and only smiled and said after a very long while, "Let's go down!"

Putting away his Five-Headed Demonic Spider, the two of them returned back to the Duanmu Clan. There would naturally be people who would deal with those corpses. After they had descended, Qing Shui told Lady Duanmu to lead some people and make their way towards the Lei Clan. Qing Shui didn't join them. He didn't wish to be involved in such scenarios. He neither cared for the wealth, nor wanted to get involved with them. He merely let the Five-Headed Demonic Spider go along with them.

"Since the Lei Clan wanted to make an example out of the Duanmu Clan to establish their authority, then let the Duanmu Clan be the one to establish their authority this time around!" Looking at the sky, Qing Shui headed to his room. Everything had ended and thus the effect he had wanted had been attained.

Lady Duanmu led the people from the Duanmu Clan. This time around, she could clearly sense their changes. In the past, she had always felt hatred or other gazes, as if someone was staring at her from the back with vicious glares, giving her an uncomfortable feeling.

However, this time around, she realized that there were more feelings of understanding in their gazes and she broke into a faint smile. However, she thought of that increasingly daring little guy or rather, he was already now a matured man.

The Lei Clan was a powerful clan and had gotten their hands on quite a number of properties and benefits for the past two years. Their clan and properties were both very big and they were very wealthy. This time around, the Duanmu Clan could also get their hands on quite a considerable amount of wealth through them. This would allow the Duanmu Clan's development to be even faster and they would become an unmovable presence in Duanmu City in the future. Those who wished to lay their hands on the Duanmu Clan would need to give consideration to that guy's abilities. Since he could wipe out the Lei Clan for Lady Duanmu, then he could do the same to other people.

After having cleared up the remnants from the Lei Clan, Qing Shui no longer had any worries. With the Five-Headed Demonic Spider and Ten Thousand Poisonous Violet Sable joining them, there wouldn't be any accidents. It would be useless no matter how many old-good-for-nothings they had in the Lei Clan. They were no match for the Five-Headed Demonic Spider.

Qing Shui had entered Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal. It was about time.

After some cultivation, he spent some time on refining medicinal pills. The alchemy recipe for the Violet Qi Pellet would be coming out very soon and he had some anticipation for it. The increase in his experience was very slow.

He looked at the other Thunder God which he had put aside for a very long time. Back then, he had gotten his hands on two of them. The effects of using both Thunder Gods were the same as when he used just one of it, thus Qing Shui had always been using just one of them.

Therefore, he decided to give one to Hu Yanlin now. After all, it was impossible for him to forge this one into another Violet Star Thunder God. He didn't have the Violet Star Stone as a material and Qing Shui had no plans to use two hammers.

The feeling of forging the hammer was still alright, after all, Qing Shui had been practicing his Art of Forging. However, Qing Shui didn't go overboard with the materials used for fear that the effects of the hammer would be too strong and Hu Yanlin might end up not being able to use it.

Another thing was that Hu Yanlin would be breaking through to the Martial Saint realm soon, as long as he could completely control the Qi in his body. Qing Shui had also prepared some Five Elements Fruits for him. The reason Qing Shui helped him so much was that he felt that he was quite a nice person, but most importantly it was for Lady Duanmu.

He was the husband of Lady Duanmu's daughter and Lady Duanmu's greatest wish was for her daughter to have a happy and blissful life. This was why Qing Shui was helping him like this.

There weren't many changes to how the Thunder God looked. Only higher level techniques and the Qi of was used in the forging. He used the Penta Color Art of Forging and after a half day, the Thunder God shone in a bright glow.

He had succeeded!

Qing Shui didn't feel much joy, but he used his Heavenly Vision Technique on this brand new Thunder God.

Thunder God, could increase the user's strength by twofold and increase one's attacking speed by 5%.

It wasn't bad. It also increased one's speed by 5%.

Qing Shui waved it for a short while and then put it down. He then looked at the Big Dipper Sword and the materials were complete too. However, he continued to suppress his urge to forge the Big Dipper Sword right now. He thought of waiting for a while until his Penta-Colored Art of Forging has stabilized before forging it. After all, there was still the wolf fang which was hard to come by. He was afraid of wasting ingredients and there would be nothing he could do if they were to go to waste.

He then continued with his cultivation, forging, alchemy, Talisman drawing, drawing the Hundred Forms of the Tiger...

...

In the middle, Qing Shui came out twice. He saw that everything in the Duanmu Clan was normal, with sounds of happiness spreading through the house. Lady Duanmu had even come to his room twice and left when she saw that it was dark inside.

The next day, Qing Shui woke up early and headed for the backyard. Before he reached the backyard, he could hear the sounds of a person practicing fist techniques. When he saw Hu Yanlin, he was stunned.

He had made such progress in a day. The progress Qing Shui was referring to was the suppressing of the violent aura in his body. Right now, the Qi in his body was slowly calming down.

Chapter 960 - Favor, Psychological Attack, The Eve Of Departure

Qing Shui understood after a while, recognizing Hu Yanlin's Back Connecting Fist as an 'appropriate method' that could yield twice the result with half the effort. The Back Connecting Fist seemed to have cleared a few points of his meridians, creating a flow of Qi as smooth as an unhindered river stream.

His fists were as fast as thunder, exploding the air with each succession of moves, yet with the smooth movement of flowing water. When he turned around and saw Qing Shui approaching, he flashed an honest smile and went to greet him.

"Mr. Qing!"

Hu Yanlin gave a reverent greeting to Qing Shui, who was smiling back as he walked closer to him. "How does it feel?" asked Qing Shui.

"Very good," Hu Yanlin chuckled with an expression of utmost excitement. Ever since Lady Duanmu and the others returned safely, he didn't manage to get a wink of sleep and continued to cultivate his skills in the backyard. He had been practicing all night while waiting for Qing Shui to come in the morning.

Because Qing Shui asked him to wait for him in the morning, he stayed the whole night until dawn. He didn't know how early Qing Shui wanted to meet him and he didn't want Qing Shui to wait for him, so he decided to stay in the backyard until morning while mastering his Back Connecting Fist, striking the iron while it was hot.

"Eat these." Qing Shui handed ten Five Elements Earth Fruits to Hu Yanlin, whose body constitution was of the earth element. He took the fruits without hesitation and ate all of them quickly.

"Unleash the 'Back Connecting Fist' with everything you've got. Clear your mind of everything else!" said Qing Shui.

Hu Yanlin nodded and proceeded to unleash his Back Connecting Fists. The strength of the fists was strong and ferocious, each striking fist was followed by a distinct blast. However, he was quite tall for his height, making his form seem bit awkward. But it wasn't too unsightly, his form was rough but masculine in a good way.

At the same time, Qing Shui took out a Golden Needle and shot it at Hu Yanlin in a quick flash like a passing ghost, which he continued to do so after each period of time.

After half an hour had passed, a number of Golden Needles could be seen sticking out of Hu Yanlin's body. Qing Shui had no intention of stopping, adding a few more every few moments, increasing the number of Golden Needles in his body. Hu Yanlin pretended like nothing had happened and continued to strike the Back Connecting Fists with increasing momentum. His face was colored an intense red, as he drenched himself in a pool of sweat.

Lady Duanmu and Duanmu Lingshuang were already standing at the gates of the backyard, forbidding anyone to enter and interrupt the situation. They had been watching the two of them for a while now.

"What are they doing?" Duanmu Lingshuang turned to look at Lady Duanmu after witnessing Qing Shui shooting Golden Needles, while Hu Yanlin was striking his Back Connecting Fists.

"Qing Shui wants Yanlin to break through to Martial Saint," Lady Duanmu replied with a smile.

Duanmu Lingshuang was surprised. She swiveled her head back towards Qing Shui and Hu Yanlin in excitement. She knew Hu Yanlin was a Peak Martial King, but it would be extremely difficult for him to break through to Martial Saint because the flow of Qi inside his body wasn't smooth enough. In order for him to break through to Martial Saint, not only did he have to unblock his flow of qi, he would also need the purest item of 'Five Elements Force' as well. The abnormal Five Elements Fruits alone could not assist in his breakthrough even the slightest.

She had thought about his breakthrough before, but she estimated that he would take at least five to ten years before he could become a Martial Saint cultivator. However, that would be possible if he had a diligent restoration to his flow of Qi, as well as a good insight to his cultivation.

Still, if Hu Yanlin managed to break through to Martial Saint, then it wouldn't be difficult for him to advance to Peak Martial Saint with the aid from the Duanmu Clan in a short amount of time. The rest would be up to him should he wish to break away from Peak Martial Saint towards the next level. Even so, the Martial Emperor realm was still far away, even Lady Duanmu was only a Peak Martial Saint cultivator.

"Yanlin should be fine, right?" Duanmu Lingshuang asked in a worried tone, but with a look of anticipation as she continued watching the men in the backyard.

As long as Hu Yanlin could reach a breakthrough, no one would look down on him in the future regardless whether it was the people from the Duanmu Residence or in the Duanmu City. The strength of a Martial Saint was an important marker to achieve, much like the transformation of a sparrow into a phoenix.

The 49th Golden Needle!

Qing Shui stopped immediately. At the same time, Hu Yanlin's movements had become as heavy as an imposing mountain. Every time he tried to strike a move, his actions would seem clumsy and slow.

The Five Elements Acupuncture in addition to the Earth element and the Earth Fruit had allowed his body to reach the point of outburst after a period of time. Qing Shui hoped that Yanlin would continue to endure the extreme fatigue of his body, because the next step towards the realm of Martial Saint was

soon to come. The path to Martial Saint afterwards would be smooth and his powers would grow stronger. He would be able to control the capacity of his energy flow with ease, which was a crucial point of being a Martial Saint.

“Keep it up. You can cut back five years if you manage to endure through this stage and you will be able to enjoy the fruits of being a Martial Saint very soon!” Qing Shui said calmly, as he continued to support him from the side.

Hu Yanlin opened his eyes fiercely so that he could stay conscious to lift up his spirits. He wanted to sleep for a while, but he knew he couldn't afford to do that. He couldn't forget the laughing faces of those who looked down on him and he didn't mind that. But he had a wife and a child to protect and he couldn't disappoint Lingshuang any longer. It was a grace from the heavens when Lingshuang chose him as her husband, so he vowed that he would do whatever it took to make her the happiest woman in the entire world.

“Ah!”

With a loud outburst, he struck the ground violently with his fist, emanating a cloud of grey-black mist around him instantaneously. Before this, his body looked like an overfilled water tank. The strike on the ground was the breaking point to the doors of Martial Saint.

Bang bang bang.....

Loud explosions echoed in the air towards the far horizon. Hu Yanlin's muscles did not expand, but had grown more solid than ever. The Qi of Xiantian in his body continued to nourish every part of his meridians, vital organs and bones...

His spiritual energy had increased exponentially as well. The body that had gone through an ordeal of extreme fatigue was brought back to life, brimming with a strong sense of vigor. After the breakthrough, his body was recovered to his best state, restoring his good health in no time.

Because of that, opponents who could reach a sudden breakthrough in the middle of a battle were likely to be feared, because their body would recover to its maximum state of health, in addition to the surge of strength to their power. In any case, the battle was over the moment their opponents were able to recover their full health.

After 15 minutes had passed, Hu Yanlin finally stopped emanating the mist from his body. His face was flushed in a glow of red as he noticed Qing Shui standing nearby smiling at him.

Hu Yanlin approached Qing Shui and gave him a respectful 90 degrees bow and said, “I can never repay the kindness you have shown me today for the rest of my life.”

Qing Shui almost laughed at the honest display of the man in front of him. He extended his arms, pulled him straight up and said: “I don't expect you to return the favor. You are Lingshuang's husband and Lingshuang is Lady Duanmu's daughter. The reason is as simple as that.”

Although Hu Yanlin was a simple man, he was not stupid, not a bit. He knew what Qing Shui meant, he was able to receive his help all because of Lady Duanmu and Lingshuang.

Even so, he understood his situation clearly. If it weren't for the ladies, he wouldn't be able to meet a man of such strength and power, much less receive a boost to break through to the Martial Saint this quickly.

"Mr. Qing, I know what I should do now," Hu Yanlin said with deep respect. In spite of what Qing Shui said, nothing would affect the respect Hu Yanlin had for him.

"I heard you like to use a hammer as your weapon," Qing Shui said to Hu Yanlin with a chuckle.

"Yes, I feel that hammers can hit very hard," Hu Yanlin replied quickly.

"Then, this is for you!" Qing Shui took out the Thunder God and handed it to Hu Yanlin.

"This....."

"Be a man and take it," Qing Shui smiled.

Hu Yanlin received the Thunder God and remained silent without saying thanks to Qing Shui, but his eyes were so full of deep gratitude that words were simply inadequate. As he held the hammer in his hands, he knew that this weapon was of extraordinary power. A strong aura flowed into his body, filling him with an abundance of explosive energy through his veins.

He had gained twice the strength to his power...

"Watch carefully, my time here is limited, so how much you can absorb will depend on you." Qing Shui then swiveled his head towards Lady Duanmu and Duanmu Lingshuang and beckoned them to come closer.

Unfolding the Thousand Hammer Technique!

Qing Shui kept demonstrating his techniques while he explained the moves thoroughly. It took about an hour to explain while allowing Hu Yanlin to practice on the spot. The sky was already bright and it was almost time to have breakfast. However, no one mentioned a thing about eating, as they continued to watch Qing Shui explaining the hammer technique to Hu Yanlin.

"I will teach you some of the Tiger Forms. Lady Duanmu and Miss Lingshuang should also take note, it might prove useful in the future."

Two hours had passed after Qing Shui had taught them the Tiger Form. It wasn't difficult to learn, but it was more difficult to grasp and adhere to the steps. He repeated the key points of the form several times and demonstrated the form repeatedly so that they would remember clearly. After that, he took out a silk sachet and gave it to Lady Duanmu.

"There are useful items inside. Keep it for now!" Qing Shui smiled as he handed the sachet to Lady Duanmu.

She went ahead and took the sachet before she looked up to the sky and said, "Let's go back and have breakfast. It's getting late."

.....

This was a joyous occasion for the Duanmu clan as they had taken over everything that used to belong to the once glorious Lei Clan. The atmosphere outside the Duanmu Residence was quite lively, with every household discussing news about the Duanmu Clan. The power of the public was not to be underestimated, as nearly every household in Duanmu City had already known about the current situation within a mere few hours.

When a man attained the Dao, even his pets were allowed to ascend the heavens. Even though Qing Shui wasn't a member of the Duanmu Clan, in the eyes of the public, it didn't matter. Everyone could see that Qing Shui did it all because of Lady Duanmu. However, no one knew about their relationship - an intimate relationship between a mature woman and a young man.

"Qing Shui, you are leaving, aren't you!"

The two of them stood at the top of the mountain situated in Duanmu City. Lady Duanmu looked at Qing Shui, she already had a feeling that he was going to leave soon after the deed was done.

"We still think alike. So you knew already." Qing Shui turned to look at her. There was no sign of aging on the charming face of the elegant woman.

Her skin was as delicate as gleaming jade, with the luster that could captivate the hearts of men. Based on her appearance, she could be around 30 years old if he compared her appearance to the normal standards of his past life.

Qing Shui recalled about the immortals that were as ancient as old demons, yet as beautiful as maidens in their endearing youth. The Spiritual Qi in the World of the Nine Continents was quite abundant, which Qing Shui had adapted gradually as he grew stronger. To preserve an eternal youth required skills and cultivation of a strong level. If the requirements were met, preserving 200 years of youthfulness would become nothing more than an effortless feat.

When Lady Duanmu caught Qing Shui staring at herself, she quickly turned away from his gaze in embarrassment.

"Don't be shy!" Qing Shui was inches away from her beautiful face. A distinct faint blush appeared on her cheeks, which made his heart beat faster in a rhythmic excitement.

"Qing Shui....."

"I am going soon. But before that, I want my reward from you for winning the bet," Qing Shui said, as he ignored Lady Duamu's bitter anger towards him.

"What kind of reward are you asking for?" Lady Duanmu asked in a soft voice.

She wasn't too worried that someone would spot them together like this. Even though there was no one in this vicinity, someone could have passed by and caught a glimpse of their intimate act. Even so, she wasn't too flustered about the thought at all.

"I want a kiss from you!" Qing Shui teased while he stared at Lady Duanmu.

"Qing Shui....."

“If not, let me kiss you. Your choice. Do you want me to initiate the kiss or the other way around?” Qing Shui reached out, taking her chin gently yet with enough boldness and lifted her head proportionally to his.

His heart was still beating fast, despite already having had the most intimate interaction with her before. But that was a long time ago. Even though they already had sex, they weren’t connected together spiritually. Back then, it was a frustration and a mistake he could not erase.

But now, it was different. Both of them were slowly getting to know each other, connecting two hearts together subconsciously. While teasing a mature elegant woman with such boldness and frivolous attitude, he felt anxious yet excited at the same time...

He maintained his grasp and touched her chin with his thumb. As he saw the delicate dimples on the side of her desirable lips and her shivering body when she half-closed her eyes, revealing a slight view of her misty eyes and quivering luscious lashes, he couldn’t help but feel a rush in his heart as he inched closer to give her a kiss.