

Ancient ST 971

Chapter 971 - Trivial Matter, Girls of Age Should Marry, Lies Exposed

"How long has it been since the Guo Clan's marriage proposal?" Qing Shui seemed to have noticed a neglected topic.

"A year!" Qing Yi said.

"Aren't you afraid that he would marry someone else after this much time has passed?" Qing Shui laughed.

"Elder brother Shui, you're underestimating sister Qingqing's charms. As long as sister Qingqing refuses to marry, he would wait for her every day. If she decided to not marry this year, then he would wait a year." Qing Bei said while giggling.

"Xiao Bei, don't spew nonsense," Qingqing said in embarrassment.

"Mother, you and Guo Clan should get in touch and choose a date." Qing Shui laughed.

"Alright, then tomorrow we will have someone deliver a letter to the Guo Clan and tell them that you have returned. I expect that they would arrive soon afterwards. Let's just have you guys discuss Qingqing's matter." Qing Yi said while laughing. She was truly happy. Her son had finally matured. Once they were of age, every male should take a wife and every female should take a husband. Having her daughter remain single here was not true happiness.

Qing Shui smiled. "You are our mother. You should be present for this matter. I'll also come forward to make sure that all is well for Qingqing."

Half a day passed by in a blink of an eye. Grandfather Qing Luo, Uncle, Qing You, Qing Bei and the rest of the extended family left. Only Qing Shui's direct family remained, even the children were quiet.

Qing Yu and Qing Yan sat within Qing Shui's embrace. Qing Yu was asleep. Meanwhile, Shi Qingzhuang picked up Qing Yan while Huoyun Liu-Li grabbed a small blanket and covered her daughter. Qing Shui continued to embrace her to let her sleep.

"Zun`er, Ming`er, wake up early tomorrow. We will be training in the backyard. Okay?" Qing Shui said while looking at his two sons.

"Okay!" Qing Zun's eyes were filled with excitement. Although he was young, he had heard a lot about his father. He was aware that his father was very strong.

"No, I don't want to train with you!" Although Qing Ming was small, Qing Shui could sense an evilish aura emitting from this child. It was the complete opposite of Qing Zun. Qing Zun emitted a feeling of vitality while Qing Ming emitted something bad...

Was it because their names were Zun and Ming...?

"Ming`er, listen to your father." Mingyue Gelou said anxiously.

"Gelou, children being a bit rebellious is okay," Qing Shui said with a smile.

Mingyue Gelou could only helplessly shake her head.

“These are for you all.” Qing Shui took out several specially crafted Violet Jade Swords. Yiye Jiange, Luan Luan, Di Qing, Canghai Mingyue, Shi Qingzhuang... he gave all of them one each.

“Gelou, do you prefer to wear gloves or sharp beast claws on your fists as a weapon?” Qing Shui asked while looking at Mingyue Gelou. Mingyue Gelou had been cultivating Tiger Form without the addition of weapons.

Fist Masters on the Main Continent all wore formidable fighting gloves. Most were made from metal with barbed knuckles or sharp spikes. Some even lace their gloves with poison... ..

“I’ll have beast claws then!” Mingyue Gelou said after thinking for a bit.

“Gelou, your Tiger Form has evolved.” Qing Shui stated with a bit of surprise.

“You can tell?” Mingyue Gelou was surprised.

“Just a guess!”

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“Ming`er, tell Daddy what you want to do? If you train with daddy, I’ll agree to anything.” Qing Shui smiled at Qing Ming.

“Really?” Qing Ming said with his eyes wide open.

“Of course!” Qing Shui replied with a smile.

“I want to play with the bow and arrows and hunt birds!”

Qing Shui understood the gist of it. This kid probably wanted to play with the bow and arrows but was forbidden from doing so. Probably because the other family members were afraid that the other kids would get injured. Thus, he was not allowed to play with it.

“This will not be an issue, if you listen.” Qing Shui said with a smile.

“I’ll obey you as long as you let me play with the bows and arrows.” Qing Ming looked at Qing Shui, pondering on whether or not Qing Shui was telling the truth.

Qing Shui thought that during the time he spent time at home, there would be no incidents if he kept watch. Moreover, once this child had enough, he would stop playing with the bow and arrows.

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The entire family was happily together, a happy bliss that could not be explained with just words. The loneliness and isolation from before had completely disappeared. A hundred years of loneliness. The greatest enemy known to men was loneliness. Many that had reached a very high realm would suddenly realize that there was nothing left to pursue. No matter how strong a person became, without family, without something to protect, they would slowly descend into loneliness and be consumed by the demons within their heart.

Qing Shui took out several small gifts to win his children over. After all, they were still kids. Although he had previously said something about raising sons, right now he was not ready to put those words into actions yet.

Qing Shui's collection of crafted toys brought joy to his kids. It did not take long for the kids to warm up to their father. Even Qing Yu kept calling out 'Daddy' nonstop. She hogged most of Qing Shui's time and attention. She would not let Qing Shui embrace the other kids.

Overly attached and possessive...

Qing Shui smilingly looking at the bossy baby girl. Many children would become overly attached and possessive, they would refuse to let their mothers hug other children.

In the last couple years, there had been no incidents involving the Qing Clan. This was something reassuring for Qing Shui. With his return, there would not be anyone who would belittle the Qing Clan. While he was back, he planned to enhance the strength of the family. At the same time, he could help set the foundation for the younger generation.

Qing Zi's children were already ten years old and growing up to be very strong. Qing Clan's three generation were all forming families. Qing Clan was a large clan now, many other clans on the Green Cloud Continent wanted to connect with the Qing Clan through marriage.

Qing Shui had never thought of marriage as a tool for establishing connections between clans. Whether it was himself or his clan members, this was unneeded, nor was it an agreeable method. In his heart, he desired for the happiness of his family. Strength was only the method to ensure freedom, so he had enhanced his own strength as quickly as he could to make the lives of the people around him better. He wants to enable them to live as they pleased. It was as simple as that. He had never thought about reputation or whatever benefits. He did not need these things. If he wanted money, he could pick something at random from the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal and sell for a hefty profit.

Moreover, Qing Clan's businesses were booming. There were auction houses, restaurants that carried Qing Shui's spices, medicinal herbs and materials that were easy to craft. Qing Clan was not short on money and although their savings from the last few years was not comparable to Aristocrats, they could still be called very wealthy.

"Qing Shui, sister Jiange was planning to leave originally. But since you were not home, she was too worried and decided to stay here until you got back. Can't you persuade her to stay?" Huoyun Liu-Li said to Qing Shui with a smile.

When he heard Huoyun Luo-Li's words, Qing Shui felt inexplicably uncomfortable. Yiye Jiange's position here was also a bit awkward. No matter what others thought, Qing Shui and Jiange were clearly aware of their relationship.

From Yiye Jiange's perspective, everyone here was Qing Shui's family. For her, she was only a friend of Qing Shui. Although their relationship was on the good side, it was still a bit awkward.

Luan Luan had gradually grown and Jiange knew that the Heart of Seven Orifices would become really strong in the future. However, right now, Luan Luan was Qing Shui's daughter. Jiange was not sure if

Luan Luan would leave with her. Although she probably would since she wouldn't let Jiange leave by herself.

Yiye Jiange was deep in thought and a smile leaked from her face. No one understood the loneliness in her heart. Luan Luan was not her daughter but she was the closest family she had. She was not certain whether she would marry anyone in the future, or even if she would have her own children. This was why Luan Luan was her closest family.

She had already decided to not think too much about the matter at Lion King's Ridge. But why was Luan Luan the owner of the Heart of Seven Orifices? She did not want to tell Luan Luan where she came from. She did not want her to feel the same loneliness. The Qing Clan was her family, there was a father here and a mother as well. There was also a grandmother, an aunt...

"I can't be so selfish... .." Yiye Jiange said to herself. If she were to go to the Lion King's Ridge without Luan Luan, she would be without a sliver of hope. She had never thought of asking Qing Shui do anything for her about this matter. If she did, then she would be even more selfish. Even if Qing Shui wanted to head to the Lion King's Ridge for her, she would not allow it. If anything happened to him, she would regret it for the rest of her life.

"Be at ease, I won't let my woman run off like that." Qing Shui said in a relaxed manner.

Looking at Yiye Jiange glaring at her for a second, Luan Luan laughed in happiness. "Only daddy could be so domineering. It is nice that our family is together. Mother, is daddy bullying you?"

"Ahem, young lady, don't make such irresponsible remarks, I would not dare bully your mother." Qing Shui interrupted Luan Luan quickly.

"Dad, you know I'm on mother's side. If you don't persuade mother and mother leaves, then I will leave with her. I'll protect mother for you, okay?" Luan Luan said with a smile.

Qing Shui's heart trembled after seeing Luan Luan's smile and his heart shivered with unease. He knew that Luan Luan had already figured out her past. The words she had spoken, in addition to her possession of the Heart of Seven Orifices, was proof that she was aware of the truth. Even normal children at that age would have been able to remember some things, let alone her.

Perhaps Yiye Jiange, Luan Luan and himself were all in a dream, but none of them were willing to say it. They were afraid that they would not be able to bear it.

"Be reassured my daughter, your mother is not going anywhere. This is our home, no matter when or where, this is your home and I am your father." Qing Shui said seriously with a smile.

Luan Luan was standing next to Qing Shui and was not looking at him, but her face was already full of tears. There were many things that could not be said out loud but could still be understood. She lifted her head and said, "En, you will always be my father. Always."

Although many people did not know what Qing Shui and Luan Luan were talking about, they all came to an understanding. The people here were all intelligent, Qing Shui and Luan Luan being father and daughter was already very strange.

Yiye Jiange sighed. A white lie was still a lie. Though the lie had not been exposed, it was only a matter of time before someone saw through this lie.

“This is something that could not be changed, nothing worth crying about. When you were little, we’d play with monkeys, catch birds, pick fruits...at that time you were about the same age of Yan`er and now you’re a big girl.”

Luan Luan smiled and sat next to Qing Shui. Her thoughts seemed to have flitted back to the past because of Qing Shui’s words. She had thought it was strange when she was little but now that she was a bit older, everything had become clear. She understood everything but she was still hoping that her aunt and Qing Shui could be together.

She was exceptionally intelligent. If her aunt really got together with Qing Shui, she might be able to pretend to be their biological child for the rest of her life. However, she was aware that they were acting right now and that it was all for her sake. She was happy but sad at the same time. She knew that if the situation were to continue, it would not be fair to anybody. It would become more tiring for everyone involved. Eventually, even if they did not want to say it, she would say it herself. However, her heart was suffering. Seeing Qing Shui embracing Qing Yu, Qing Yan, and Qing Yin, the pain was difficult to bear.

It was not because of jealousy. She knew that Qing Shui treated her better than the others. But blood ties were something that could not be ignored. She was aware that she and he were not related by blood. She raised her head and looked at Yiye Jiange, seeing the guilt in her expression.

Chapter 972 - Within Three Years, I’m Bringing You To The Lion King’s Ridge To Seek For Justice

When he saw the expression on Luan Luan’s face, Qing Shui reached out to rub her head. “Lass, stop overthinking. Nothing has changed since the beginning till now. It will never change. It’s been so many years, I have watched you grow up. Unless you don’t want to acknowledge a father like me?”

“Why would I not? If Daddy doesn’t want Luan Luan anymore, I fear that I won’t be able to take it.” More tears welled up in Luan Luan’s eyes.

“Foolish lass. There are no outsiders here. You are my daughter, just like the rest of them. This is your home and everyone here is your family.” Qing Shui suddenly grew relaxed after he finished this sentence.

Qing Shui looked at Yiye Jiange. It had been so long since then. He had thought that Luan Luan really didn’t know the truth so they had been acted out their roles. All this time, he had been thinking that this was unfair to Yiye Jiange. But it was all good now, they no longer had to be awkward like that.

“Daddy, can you promise me one thing? Just one.” Luan Luan raised her head and looked at Qing Shui.

“Daddy can promise you ten things, let alone one. I am willing to do anything you ask for.” Qing Shui hurriedly assured her.

“I know that you and Mother aren’t husband and wife. Even if both of you were really husband and wife, I would still like to stay like this forever. Both of you have been pretending to be husband and wife for my sake and I am really grateful. As a daughter, I really wish for the both of you to truly be true husband and wife. Daddy, can you promise me that you’ll think about how you can become truly married to Mother?” Luan Luan said earnestly while looking at Qing Shui.

Qing Shui had never expected that Luan Luan would suggest something like this. For him to marry Yiye Jiange was something very slow yet abrupt. He didn't know why he felt a little bit uneasy whenever this issue was raised. He no longer felt like he did before. He even wished for her to stay by his side forever.

Was this possessiveness?

"Lass, your mother is a peerlessly talented woman. I can only promise you that I'd try my best. Your daddy's cultivation is quite decent right now. I will beat anyone who dares to come and try to snatch your mother away until he runs and leaves. What do you think?" Qing Shui told Luan Luan in a serious tone of voice.

"Yes. Daddy is the best. Let's do a pinky swear. You are not allowed go back on your words. Also, you will have to work hard to please Mother. Do not bully her." Luan Luan laughed and extended her hand out.

"Of course. I can't bring myself to bully her. Without your mother, the Qing Clan and I would have perished long ago." Qing Shui laughed while he hooked his pinky with Luan Luan's.

Yiye Jiange was mad and embarrassed at the same time. She was also indescribably happy but she wasn't sure why she felt like that.

Qing Yi, Qing Qing and the other few ladies were looking at Qing Shui. The rest were smiling. They also glanced at Yiye Jiange.

"Sister Jiange, you've been husband and wife for such a long time. Does big sister have someone better waiting for you?" Huoyun Liu-Li laughed mischievously while teasing Yiye Jiange.

"Liu-Li, not you too." Yiye Jiange said with a small smile. Her tone was calm but a little helpless. She really didn't know how to resist this man when he became unreasonable.

Back then, he seemed just like an ordinary youth. She hadn't expected for him to grow to such heights. Without realizing it, the relationship between them had already become slightly ambiguous.

If someone in the Hundred Miles City said that she would pretend to be husband and wife with him back then, she would definitely not believe them. But now, even if someone told her that she'd definitely be married to him the future, she wouldn't be too surprised.

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The sky was growing dark. Qing Shui was at the rear courtyard with Yiye Jiange. Knowing that she wanted to leave, Qing Shui naturally would ask her to stay. Not only that, he definitely had to make her stay.

He felt that he could do it right now!

"Why do you have to leave?" Qing Shui asked softly while at Yiye Jiange's side.

"Qing Shui, there's no banquet that doesn't end. Since Luan Luan knows about it, it is all the more reason I should leave." Yiye Jiange looked at Qing Shui with a smile.

This otherworldly lady was always so serene. He had initially thought that he had become closer to her. But after leaving this time and the fact that Luan Luan had known about her own background, Qing Shui suddenly felt that this lady had grown even further away from him.

“Who said anything about ending? Are you leaving? Where to? Are you bringing Luan Luan to the Lion King’s Ridge?” Qing Shui looked at Yiye Jiange with a frown.

“I don’t know, I haven’t really made up my mind to go to the Lion King’s Ridge.” Yiye Jiange didn’t comment on Qing Shui’s emotions. She only replied to him calmly.

“If you haven’t made up your mind, then why do you want to leave? Is it because you don’t like it here, or you don’t want to see certain people?” Qing Shui didn’t expect her to actually leave at all.

“No, it’s amazing here. Sometimes I can’t even differentiate between whether this is real or not. Sometimes, I really treat this place as my home. But I have only realized my mistake just now.” Yiye Jiange shook her head and laughed.

“Why?” Qing Shui was very doubtful.

“The bond between a husband and wife is children and emotions. I am very happy when I see the joy and harmony between you and them and your children. Did you see the envy in Luan Luan’s eyes? You doted on Luan Luan, even more than your own children, despite having no blood relation and despite the fact that we are not husband and wife. I only know how family love and joy looks like when I saw you together with them. I should thank you. I have been very happy all these years.” Yiye Jiange said calmly.

“Did I do something wrong that made you have to leave like this? Do you think I will be at ease if you leave this way?” Qing Shui gave Yiye Jiange a smile.

Yiye Jiange felt a little strange when she saw Qing Shui’s smile. She gave him a perplexed look. She also felt very conflicted because she couldn’t decide if she should go to the Northern Sacred Lu Continent or return to the Skysword Sect.

What would she do if she returned to the Skysword Sect? She thought for a moment before deciding that it was better for her to go to the Northern Sacred Lu Continent. It didn’t seem so bad to return there and take a look around. If she was careful, the Lion King’s Ridge shouldn’t be able to discover her.

“Qing Shui, you didn’t do anything wrong. I simply want to leave.” Yiye Jiange hesitated for a moment before answering.

“You’ve seen it too, Luan Luan wishes for us to become husband and wife. I’m sorry, I don’t mean to disrespect your opinion. Can you let me finish saying this?” Qing Shui hurriedly said after he saw Yiye Jiange’s lowered head.

He didn’t want to offend this lady that he had always respected.

“You think too much. I’m fine. Also, it’s not disrespectful for you to have such opinion. I am also a woman,” Yiye Jiange said gently.

Qing Shui was taken aback by her words. He suddenly remembered a joke from his previous world. Something about how a beautiful, prideful and aloof woman was like a goddess. But women like this

didn't wish that men would worship them as goddesses. After all, they were also human, a woman. They actually preferred it if others treated them as a woman instead.

Right now, this was how Qing Shui saw Yiye Jiange. But it was just a feeling. Looking at this woman who was as extraordinarily refined like an immortal, Qing Shui held one of her hands for the first time. He didn't have any desires. He merely wanted to tell her something.

When Yiye Jiange's hand was held by Qing Shui, she lifted her head up. A small smile appeared on her face when she saw his clear eyes. "I wish to return to the Northern Sacred Lu Continent."

"No!" Qing Shui's answer was very clear-cut.

"I want to go back!" Yiye Jiange insisted.

"If you're going back then the Qing Clan and I shall accompany you." Qing Shui said firmly.

"Stop making a fuss....."

"Don't you dare think of secretly leaving. Otherwise, I will hunt you down at the Lion King's Ridge. I'm sure you know that I'll do that." Qing Shui said to Yiye Jiange, destroying her idea of leaving without bidding farewell.

"You are a big scoundrel," Yiye Jiange said helplessly. She knew that this man intended to make her stay rather than pestering her immaturely.

The grasp that Qing Shui had on her hand didn't lessen. Yiye Jiange gave up after trying to shake him off a few times, figuring that she might as well let him hold her hand. "Three years. I'll take you to the Lion King's Ridge after three years at most." Qing slowly said after a while.

Yiye Jiange was still taken aback by Qing Shui's sudden words. She then firmly shook her head at Qing Shui. "I won't allow you to go."

"Why not? I can't go even if I am capable? After I know about your story, I've been thinking about this. At that time, I decided that my target was 20 years. I will help you topple the Lion King's Ridge in 20 years. But now, it seems like I might even be able to fulfil my plans a few years earlier. It was also this year I realized that I am capable of fulfilling your wishes. I was very happy at that time. I wish for you to put down the burden in your heart. But you won't be able to put that burden down until the Lion King's Ridge issue is settled. I wish for you to become happy. After the Yan Clan incident, my motivation to improve was to lift that burden off your shoulders."

Yiye Jiange was shocked. Her heart ached and she didn't know why she felt like crying all of a sudden. This was the first time she had such feelings in so many years. It was true that she had helped him before but that case was something easily achievable for her and the Skysword Sect. Just because of this, a man who was slightly perverted like him never had any intention towards her. The most unexpected thing to her was the fact that he had set a period of 20 years for her. This was the Lion King's Ridge in question.....

She had been through loneliness, desolation and anxiety for so many years. This was her first time feeling so assured. All of a sudden, she realized that her heart wasn't that empty. She was also suddenly aware of the close proximity between her and this man before her eyes.

Qing Shui could sense her emotions and feelings. Hai Dongying had told Qing Shui things about Hai Dongqing. However, she was a lot more fortunate compared to Yiye Jiange and also Wenren-Wushuang.

Qing Shui really wanted to lend Yiye Jiange a shoulder but he was afraid it'd be impulsive. However, once he saw her hand that was in his hand, Qing Shui summoned his courage to pull her into a light embrace. He didn't say anything nor did he have any intentions. He merely wanted to let her feel warm, so that her heart would no longer be that lonely.

At first, Qing Shui was nervous. But deep in his heart, he really wanted to pamper her and love her dearly.....

This time, Yiye Jiange could clearly feel it. This feeling was extremely wonderful. She kind of liked it.

"Jiange, stay. I will bring you there to seek justice in three years at most," Qing Shui said softly while embracing her.

"You still have the entire Qing Clan. Promise me that you won't do anything that you don't have confidence in. I would rather not go to the Lion King's Ridge. If something happens to you, I won't be able to forgive myself even if I died." Yiye Jiange raised her head to look at Qing Shui.

"I can promise you but you can't leave!"

"I won't leave!"

"And if you want to marry someone, please consider me first....." Qing Shui chuckled mischievously.

"You're starting to be a scoundrel again." Yiye Jiange huffed at him.

Qing Shui had told her stuff like this to lighten things up but mostly to make Yiye Jiange relax for the moment. He knew that she would never take the initiative to say this, so Qing Shui could only shamelessly speak a little about it.

Chapter 973 - The Formidable Skywolf Claw

The day was still early. Qing Shui had passed them the required things, including the Formation Techniques. It was still very easy to make arrangements for the night. Qing Zun and Qing Yin had already been sleeping separately from Canghai Mingyu but Mingyue Gelou and Shi Qingzhuang's children hadn't yet.

It was even impossible for Huoyun Liu-Li's child. Thus, the first bedroom that Qing Shui visited was Canghai Mingyue's. Even a reunion after a brief parting would be just as sweet as a honeymoon. On top of that, it had been a few years. This made even a kingdom toppling beauty like Canghai Mingyue a little nervous.

This amused Qing Shui and also greatly tempted him. He was admiring the woman who was at the edge of the bed. She didn't look any different even after delivering two children. She was still as devastatingly beautiful as she had always been. Her face had a faint red tint and her beauty was very impressive as always. It made one want to look up to her but in a different way to how one would look up to a Queen. Qing Shui leaned against her side, sharing the same snowy white blanket that covered their bodies.

Qing Shui was very fond of the fragrance in the bedroom. It was sweet and pleasant. He also loved the faint fragrance coming from his side. His shoulder pressed against hers. His head was turned to the side as he lovingly admired her gorgeous profile.

“You had to take care of the two children alone. Was it hard on you?” Qing Shui pulled her into his arms and gently embraced her.

“No, they are our children. My flesh and bones. I am only grateful, how would it be hard on me?” Canghai Mingyue leaned into Qing Shui’s arms as she laughed softly.

“The two children have a closer resemblance to you.” Qing Shui pointed out with a smile as he thought about Zun’er and Yin’er.

“But they are actually very fond of their father. It’s just that Zun’er isn’t really good with words and Yin’er is very shy.” The smile on Canghai Mingyue’s face was especially warm when she talked about her son and daughter.

“Our children are the best. They should start cultivating.” Qing Shui said softly, seemingly a little helpless about it. The Qing Clan could already be considered an aristocrat clan now. It was still vital for the next generation to be well nurtured, so they must cultivate. Thus, Qing Shui was thinking of some methods during the day time to get Qing Ming to agree with cultivating.

“Zun’er loves to practice martial arts. However, Yin’er doesn’t seem to have much interest in it.” Canghai Mingyue said with a slight worry.

“That’s fine. No need to worry about our daughter. I will agree to whatever she wants to study. It’s fine if she doesn’t want to cultivate. I will find some Gifted Earth Treasures to help her.” Qing Shui said after thinking for a moment.

Qing Shui was curious to see what that lass was interested in. When the time came, she’d be cultivating in a different way.

“We mustn’t spoil the children.” Canghai Mingyue shook her head.

“You think Yin’er would be spoiled? That lass is very intelligent, she just doesn’t show it. You don’t have to worry about it.” Qing Shui was especially happy when he remembered the way Yin’er looked at him fondly during the daytime and the wise look in her eyes.

“It’s getting late. Let’s sleep!” Qing Shui suddenly pulled her into an embrace again and smiled.

“Alright!”

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The bedroom was soon filled with noises that made one’s blood race. Qing Shui was admiring Canghai Mingyue’s gorgeous countenance. She looked as if she was lost in pleasure. Her alluring lips were slightly parted, letting out soft moans. The wonderful feeling was simply ecstatic.

They only stopped about two hours later. Canghai Mingyue didn’t ask for Qing Shui to stay the night in her bedroom. She knew that there were still people waiting for him.

“This is too troublesome. We should get a huge bed next time. That will be much more convenient.” Qing Shui smiled mischievously at Canghai Mingyue as he dressed himself.

“Don’t even think about it.” Canghai leaned towards the edge of the bed, The afterglow on her face almost made Qing Shui strip off the clothes that he had just put on himself.

He embraced her and kissed her with all his might before leaving!

Qing Shui only went to Huoyun Liu-Li’s bedroom after midnight. She wasn’t asleep yet and smiled when she saw Qing Shui. Qing Shui rubbed his nose and immediately climbed onto her bed.

The little lass was in a deep sleep. He lowered his head and planted a kiss on his daughter’s delicate cheek.

Huoyun Liu-Li embraced Qing Shui from behind. “I missed you!”

It only took these brief words for Qing Shui to quickly strip both of their clothes off. He stared into her long and narrow lovely eyes as he embraced her delicate figure that had grown a little fuller compared to before.

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Looking at Huoyun Liu-Li who was sleeping contently in his arms and his young daughter who was sleeping soundly at one side, Qing Shui felt extremely happy. Since there was still some time left, Qing Shui got up as he didn’t feel sleepy. He quietly left and entered the Realm of Violet Jade Immortal.

There was currently a little more than two hours before daybreak. Qing Shui was thinking about Mingyue Gelou’s weapon, the Beast Claw.

The Skywolf Claw!

He thought of the claw that was left behind when he killed the Skywolf before and immediately searched for it. He took the first two for building the frame and then added the violet jade along with some pure gold. He had gotten the pure gold from melting a small part of the Pure Gold Dragon-Headed Cane.

Refine!

Qing Shui refined the Skywolf Claw first. The forepart of this kind of claw wasn’t made of bone and was harder than pure metal. It was also extremely sharp. With a frame available, it was much more convenient to forge.

Only a little bit of pure gold was added while mostly violet jade was used. This was Qing Shui’s first time forging claw-type weapons. The Skywolf Claw was about two feet long. The most notable thing about Claw Fist Techniques were the effects it had in transmitting ‘dantian’s qi’, just like the sword qi weapons. Other than not being sturdy enough, an ordinary sword would break or shatter because the transmission of dantian’s qi was too weak.

Violet jade, pure gold, and that Skywolf Claw frame were all excellent materials for forging weapons. On top of that, Qing Shui’s current abilities in the Pentacolor Rainbow Art of Forging were still quite formidable. He was definitely the best in the five continents.

There should be a lot of people who could forge weapons with an additional effect of threefold increase in strength. But the difference between their success rates and Qing Shui's were like the Heaven and the Earth. Additionally, the weapons that were forged by Qing Shui would occasionally possess some special additional abilities.

When a flash of pentacolor light shone, Qing Shui smiled at the splendid and magnificent Skywolf Claw before his eyes. Even a picky person like Qing Shui couldn't help but sigh in amazement at the beauty of the Skywolf Claw. It was even sharper than the Violet Jade Sword.

He immediately took a look at the Skywolf Claw's abilities.

Skywolf Claw: Wearer will possess a very strong poison immunity. Increases strength twofold. Additional 10% chance of doubling damage. Increases attack speed by 5%.

Qing Shui was surprised when he saw the Skywolf Claw's abilities. Although it was not as powerful as the Violet Star Thunder God, this Skywolf Claw was definitely a very decent weapon for opponents lower than Martial Emperor. It was quite a lot stronger than the Violet Jade Sword.

That 10% chance of doubling damage mustn't be underestimated. A 10% chance meant that it would happen once every ten times on average, and it could even consecutively happen twice. Then again, it was possible that it wouldn't happen even once in twenty times. But then again, a 10% chance was definitely not little during battle.

An increase of twofold meant that the wearer's strength would be multiplied by three. Doubling on top of that would mean multiplying it again by two. Qing Shui was even a little envious right now. If only the Violet Star Thunder God could have such an additional ability.....

But then he still remembered what Qin Zongheng had mentioned. There wouldn't be any cultivator with a strength of more than 5,000 stars in the five continents. Even if some other cultivators from outside the five continents with more than 5,000 stars strength came here, their strength would also be restricted to 5,000 stars. This worked a little similarly to the Flowerfruit Mountain.

If this was really true, then wouldn't Qing Shui be invincible here in the five continents if his strength reached 5,000 stars.....?

Looking at the time, it should be almost morning. He exited the Realm of Violet Jade Immortal and saw that the sky outside had turned bright. The people who were doing their morning practice should be up by now. The moment he went out, he saw Canghai Mingyue.

"Morning!" Qing Shui greeted Canghai Mingyue.

Canghai Mingyue gave Qing Shui a rare charming glance. When she saw the slightly naughty smile that Qing Shui gave her, she immediately blushed a little when she recalled the events of last night. Although their children were already seven years old, her time spent with Qing Shui after their marriage was a lot less than that.

"Is Zun'er up?"

"He has already started cultivating in the morning since two years ago. He's at the backyard right now!"

"Then I'll go see if Ming'er is awake."

“He’s there too. He has actually started following the rest to cultivate about two months ago. He only wanted to get some benefits from you that day.” Canghai Mingyue laughed.

“This brat is already deceiving people at such a young age. What are we going to do with him?” Qing Shui was speechless.

“Gelou is someone with virtue and dignity. Who do you think Ming’er takes after?” Canghai Mingyue chuckled.

Qing Shui extended his arm and groped Canghai Mingyue’s perky rear before leaving with a laugh. Canghai Mingyue cursed inwardly with a crimson face as she watched Qing Shui leave. Nonetheless, her heart kind of warmed. This was life. It would have been good if this man stayed home all the time.

At the backyard, he discovered that other than Qing Yu, the rest were there too. Qing Shui saw Qing Zun with a single glance. The little guy was practicing Tiger Form and had already somewhat grasped the qi stance. Qing Ming, on the other hand, looked stiffer.

The two lasses, Qing Yin and Qing Yan, were slower but nevertheless seemed decent. Qing Bei, Qing You, Qing Qing and the others were practicing alone at one side.

Those who wanted to practice Tiger Form would look at Mingyue Gelou.

Mingyue Gelou was cultivating the Tiger Form right now and then guided a few children. She was currently practicing by herself. Every time she struck out, a snowy white tiger claw would be unleashed from her palm. That was materialized from the qi of Xiantian. Qing Shui could see the form. But due to her strength, it didn’t seem mighty to him. But of course, it was still formidable for opponents on the same level as her.

“Daddy, Mother said that you are good at it so you’ll be the one to teach me. And where’s my bow?” Qing Ming ran over. He was looking at Qing Shui with his pair of shining black eyes.

If it wasn’t for Canghai Mingyue, Qing Shui wouldn’t be able to tell that the child was lying because he didn’t seem like he was doing so right now. “Give Daddy a few more days. I will find you a good one.” He laughed.

Qing Ming could only nod his head. Qing Shui patted him. He then glanced towards Mingyue Gelou, who had already stopped and was coincidentally also looking towards him.

“Catch! Give this a try!” Qing Shui tossed the Skywolf Claw that he had forged towards her.

“It’s gorgeous!”

Mingyue Gelou exclaimed with a smile when she caught it. The moment she put it on, she gave Qing Shui an amazed look. Her beautiful eyes sparkled with an extraordinary splendor. She then started to practice her Tiger Form.

Her power was instantly raised by a few folds. She slowly executed the moves of the Tiger Form. The snowy white tiger claw that she unleashed had become a lot bigger and appeared to be much sharper. She suddenly unleashed a Critical Tiger Attack. A tiger claw that was a lot bigger than the earlier ones instantly exploded. It was at least a fold more powerful than before. This instantly stunned Mingyue Gelou.

“10% chance of doubling your damage again.” Qing Shui explained to her from the side.

Mingyue Gelou instantly felt relieved and came over happily. “Mother, let me have a look at it.” Qing Ming said when he saw Mingyue Gelou approaching them.

“Ming’er, this is not something a child can play with. It’s prickly.” Mingyue Gelou crouched down and explained to Ming’er.

“I’m all grown up. I know better than other children, I’ll be careful.”

Qing Shui was startled at Qing Ming’s words and looked towards Mingyue Gelou. Mingyue Gelou was instead smiling happily. He didn’t think that this little fellow would be this shrewd.

Mingyue Gelou took it off and left it on the ground. “If you can pick it up, then I’ll let you play with it.

Chapter 974 - The Journey of A Thousand Li Begins With One Step, Breaking Out of The Cocoon

Qing Ming grabbed the claws and exerted his strength. Nonetheless, the claws didn’t even budge an inch. A two foot-long Skywolf Claw was indeed quite heavy.

“So heavy. That’s not fun.” He clapped his hands and didn’t spare the Skywolf Claw another glance.

Qing Shui knew that he wouldn’t be able to do his morning practice today and decided to let his two sons start practicing the Back Connecting Fist technique in the morning while his two lasses would be practicing the Taichi Fists technique.

He currently had no idea if the two little lasses would enjoy practicing it but Qing Yin seemed to be very interested in the Taichi Fists technique. She had a gentle and quiet personality and was a particularly meek little lass. Most importantly, she was very intelligent. Hence, Qing Shui had already made up his mind since the beginning.

He would let her cultivate solely the Taichi Fists technique, nothing else.

Qing Yin seemed to be unusually fond of the Taichi Fists technique. Her eyes shone especially brightly after hearing Qing Shui mentioned the words using the weak to defeat the strong, to cleverly accomplish a great task with little effort and to let the opponent strike first and bring the opponent down when the opportunity arises. Qing Shui also gave a round of demonstration on the spot. She watched Qing Shui’s silhouette, which was deeply embedded in her mind.

While Qing Yin liked the Taichi Fists technique, Qing Zun and Qing Ming were still more interested in the Tiger Form and the Back Connecting Fist. Qing Ming’s eyes sparkled when he saw the Skywolf Claws that Qing Shui had given to Mingyue Gelou as a gift earlier.

“Daddy, can you make me a pair of claws too? A smaller and lighter one, so I can play with it!” Qing Ming blinked his bright eyes at Qing Shui.

This little guy didn’t like swords or spears. He was only interested in claws, spikes, daggers, slingshots, and bows and arrows. These weapons were good for ambushes. Qing Shui couldn’t help but remember Canghai Mingyue’s words again. ‘Gelou is someone with virtue and dignity. Who do you think Ming’er takes after.....?’

He saw a ferocious eagle in the sky. But of course, to Qing Shui, it was no different to a normal bird. He picked up Qing'er in his arms. "Watch closely, my son."

Qing Shui picked up a stone as soon as he finished his sentence and launched the stone by flicking his fingers. The stone in his hand immediately flew in a curve across the sky rapidly and hit the eagle. With a miserable shriek, the eagle fell out of the sky, flapping its wings. However, it was not dead.

Qing Shui didn't want to expose a young child to such a cruel scene. After all, Qing Ming was still too young. This was his first time witnessing an eagle in the sky being hit by a stone. Many people could hit a flying bird in the sky. However, if it was a flying beast with Xiantian strength in the sky, only a small amount of people could hit their target with hidden weapon techniques since their targets were flying in the sky.

"Daddy, you're too amazing! I've made my decision. I don't want a bow anymore. Can you teach me this?" Qing Ming's face was full of hope.

"You are my son. If you want to learn something, I'll definitely be more than happy to teach you. But learning this is very difficult. If you can't endure the hardship, then it is better than you don't learn this. I will teach you something else." Qing Shui laughed at the little fellow in his arms.

"No. I want to learn this. I will work hard." Qing Ming stubbornly insisted on learning this.

"Fine then. Learning this will require stamina first. Hence, you will need to cultivate the Back Connecting Fist technique and some other fundamentals diligently every day. You will only be able to launch the stone further and harder if you have stamina. After that, you will also have to practice another set of fist techniques that will allow your hands to be more nimble so that you will have better accuracy." Qing Shui explained to Qing Ming in the simplest way.

The intelligence of children in the World of the Nine Continents would develop at an early age. Qing Shui had also started his cultivation when he was five years old back then. He started off by asking Qing Ming to cultivate the Solitary Rapid Fist. Of course, Qing Zun would also be learning it. However, Qing Shui had decided that he'd be focusing on the 'Basic Sword Technique' as his main means of cultivation. The Solitary Rapid Fist had a very big effect. The biggest effect was enhancing the flexibility of the cultivator's hands.

The younger the child, the more effective the Solitary Rapid Fist would be. This was also why Qing Shui no longer let the few girls cultivate it. Qing Shui had instead told them to spare some time on researching formations everyday now instead.

To be exact, everyone was researching formations except for these few little fellows. He figured that they could wait for another few more years. However, the rest still had to research it. While they were at it, they'd coordinate with each other every day to practice the Five Elements Minor Formation for a short while.

If they were going to raise the Qing Clan's strength, then formations were definitely something that should not be neglected. Other than that, it'd be the Nine Palace Steps, and it should be picked up from a young age. The next generation was indeed setting out on a completely different level compared to everyone else.

This morning practice was only a starting point. He wanted them to study formations and Nine Palace Steps for a while during the daytime, while acting on the next step of his plan. Qing Shui, was currently setting up many Spirit Gathering Formations in the backyard and other places.

In addition to medicinal pills that could enhance the cultivation speed and the Spirit Gathering Formations, there were also Tiger Vitality Pills, Constitution Nurturing Pills, Rainbow Trout Fish, Plum Blossom Wine, Vermillion Fruit Wine and some other things. So with him around in the future, their strength should be able to increase a lot faster.

Qing Shui had taught the ladies how to make a few types of soups, and also put in quite a lot of fish and prawns into the huge pond in their residence. By now, no one was really too surprised by all of these things. They pretty much knew that Qing Shui had a lot of treasures with him.

Since Qing Shui had made the plan, naturally he would also monitor it. But the so-called monitoring meant that he would only guide or briefly assess them. The children's cultivations also depended on him.

After breakfast, Qing Shui held Qing Yu in his arms and made his way to Cang Wuya's place. Fei Wuji was already married with a child, a son who was older than Qing Yu.

"Is everything going well?" The smile on Cang Wuya's face was especially benevolent after he saw Qing Shui.

"Everything is going well!" Qing Shui smiled as he entered the room with Cang Wuya. This old man had always been like family since long ago. He was someone like a grandfather to Qing Shui and could be considered as Qing Shui's senior.

"Is Martial Uncle Fei still well?" Qing Shui enquired with a smile.

"Yes he is. The Old Ancestor should be resting in peace now. Grudges of the past have been settled. Wuji is also married and has built a family of his own." Cang Wuya chuckled. He seemed to be very happy.

Qing Shui was also smiling, but he knew that Cang Wuya would miss his son. It was fair to say that Fei Wuji was Cang Wuya's son and Canghai Mingyue was Cang Wuya's granddaughter now.

Qing Shui earnestly invited Cang Wuya to move to the Qing Residence if he had nothing else to do. However, Cang Wuya smilingly told him that he'd be coming over to stay for a period of time some time later. After taking his leave from Cang Wuya's place, he went off to find Elder Ge.

Currently, Elder Ge was the one responsible for taking care of everything in the Heavenly Palace.

Elder Ge enjoyed drinking, so Qing Shui had brought quite a lot of good wine for this visit. For someone like him who possessed the Realm of Violet Jade Immortal, he could have all the good wines he wanted in the world. Over his meeting with Elder Ge this time, he had given some cultivation techniques to the Heavenly Palace Sect.

The Heavenly Palace was nominally the most powerful sect in the Greencloud Continent. Despite this, it couldn't match up with some clans in the other continents. The disparity between them was simply too great. But why was it able to survive in the Greencloud Continent?

Qing Shui guessed that this had an intimate relation to the Greencloud Continent. The Greencloud Continent could be considered the poorest among all the continents. It was also the continent with the thinnest amount of spiritual qi. There should've been someone who had thought of coming here and dominating the continent. Many were willing to be the head of a dog rather than the tail of a lion, but then they also knew that the outstanding would usually bear the brunt of attacks. So they'd ask around for the most influential power of the region first at every place they stopped by. This was because being the most outstanding one wouldn't necessarily be a good thing. This should be one of the indispensable conditions for Heavenly Palace's survival.

Although having the strong and weak was a very normal phenomenon, the disparity between this Greencloud Continent and the other continents was simply great to the point that it was astonishing.

He stayed there half a day. Their discussion in the Heavenly Palace was accompanied by wine. Although the population in the Heavenly Palace had been reduced by more than 90% compared to before, their strength had instead become more powerful than before and was ever increasing every day. Their strength was simply too weak in the past. After Qing Shui took over the Heavenly Palace, he left some medicinal pills and some other things, and also implemented an incentive system. In each of the Heavenly Palace's nine halls, other than the original Elder Custodians, a few positions for Guardian were designated for the top ten disciples among the younger generation, according to their strength. They'd receive generous rewards as long as they got ranked in competitions. This could motivate them to greatly improve their strength.

However, enhancing the strength of a great sect was a very difficult task. It was not something that was achievable within a short period of time but rather over a few decades or even centuries. Fortunately, Qing Shui had his own methods which didn't require such a long time. Even so, it'd still take a decade or even two to three decades.

The few women by Qing Shui's side were from the Misty Hall and they could also be considered Peak Martial Saints. Currently, the Misty Hall was the strongest among the Nine Palace's nine halls.....

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By the time he returned to the Qing Residence, it was already almost late in the afternoon. The children still had to learn how to read. The Qing Clan had scholars that were specialized in teaching the children, but they didn't necessarily know martial arts. There were some scholars that were also powerful in martial arts, but the ones in the Qing Clan didn't really know any martial arts.

When Qing Shui settled down, he thought of that woman from the Skysword Sect again, Zhu Qing. Actually, when he returned, he had left out one woman from his story to them. Yun Duan. It wasn't like he wanted to hide anything. Then there was also Zhu Qing. No one in his family knew about her. There shouldn't be anyone who knew about her.

He was thinking that it was about time to ask her to return here. Since he was going to stay for a period of time in the Qing Residence, he should ask her to come gather with them and at the same time, announce her status to the family.

Returning this time didn't require a lot of time. On the contrary, it was faster compared to before. But Qing Shui still decided to stay over a few days, or a little longer. Maybe he'd wait until Qingqing had settled her things or returned after she got married.

While he was at it, he'd help the Skysword Sect. Despite everything, he used to be part of the Skysword Sect and he owed some favors to Baili Jingwei. The Skysword Sect was Baili Jingwei's, so he should help him so that he could witness the expansion of the Skysword Sect.

The subsequent three days were very crucial. His plans were progressively being carried out. Cultivation was also added in little by little to slowly blend it in. The Nine Palace Steps was very important. When they were free, they'd study formations.

Someone from the Guo Clan came after two days. It was Guo Polu and the Guo Clan's head. Many from the Qing Clan also joined in. The atmosphere was quite lively and very easy going. A date was very quickly set. The people from Guo Clan didn't want to leave Yan City but Guo Polu wished to stay in the Continent's Capital, specifically in the Qing Residence.

The Qing Clan naturally happily agreed to it. In the end, it was decided that the wedding banquet would be held at the Guo Residence. Although the Guo Clan was fine with anywhere, Qing Shui still decided to hold it at the Guo Residence in the end since it was the Guo Clan taking a wife.

This decision made the Guo Clan feel extremely grateful, because this way they would have the honor. Otherwise, it would seem as if their people were marrying into the wife's clan. Although some said that the Guo Clan was playing up to the influentials, the people from Yan City didn't think that way. Many knew that that Guo Polu was marrying that young miss from the Yan Clan who sold tea leaves on the big street, and they were sighing in amazement that a kind soul would indeed be rewarded fruitfully.

The big day was set as half a month later. The Guo Clan returned first to make preparations and the Qing Clan also returned soon after. Qing Shui was very happy and very satisfied with the Guo Clan's decision. If Guo Polu and Qingqing could stay in the Continent's Capital, the Qing Clan couldn't be better. Of course, Qing Shui wouldn't make this unfair for the Guo Clan. After all, they'd be future in-laws. The Guo Clan only had one heir in each generation, such a clan was very rare in the World of the Nine Continents.

Humans were very selfish creatures. Qing Shui didn't only have one woman, but he was really fond of the fact that Qingqing's man had her only. This was why Guo Polu was the best man for her. Most importantly, he and Qingqing were deeply in love.

Just like how Qing Shui thought that Duanmu Lingshuang marrying to Hu Yanlin was a very good thing. Regardless of the relationship between him and Lady Duanmu, he'd still work hard. When that time comes, Duanmu Lingshuang would be part of his family too.....

Fortunately, the lifespan of people on the World of the Nine Continents was long and they could also retain their youthfulness longer. Otherwise, Qing Shui wouldn't know if he could afford to wait.

Chapter 975 - General Country, General Inn, Zu Yanglong

After everything was settled, the close members of Qing Clan decided that they would attend the wedding ceremony together. They wanted everyone to know that Qingqing was an important family

member and that her wedding matters were not to be taken lightly. In any case, the Qing Clan felt that they owed Qingqing a great deal. If not for Qing Shui, her fate would be unknown.

When Qingqing was at the Yan Clan back then, she knew that she had a mother, and she desperately wanted her mother to come and bring her away from her miserable life. At that time, she didn't know she had a little brother. In the end, it was her little brother who had turned her life around, giving her a life worth living in this world.

After all these years, Qing Shui had never really forgiven the Yan Clan for what they did to his family. Even though he had allowed the relatives from his father's side to live, he had never visited them since then. Sparing their lives was an act of duty and respect for his father, otherwise, they would have been killed along with the other members of Yan Clan.

Qing Shui was actually heartbroken knowing that his father had died. He felt that way because of his mother, who had waited an extended amount of years in hopes that her husband would return to her side one day.

At this particular moment, Qing Shui went sightseeing and strolling at the neighboring mountains with Qingqing. He was dragged along by his sister, so he had no idea what she had in store for him. Nevertheless, whatever she decided to do, Qing Shui would do his best to meet her expectations.

"Qing Shui, do you think the members of Yan Clan will attend the ceremony?" Qingqing turned to ask Qing Shui after walking a distance into the mountains.

"Maybe. Sis, do you not want them to come? If you don't want them to, then I will stop them from coming to the wedding." Qing Shui said after a brief pause.

"It's fine. We've stopped caring for them after we left the Yan City. But you know, grandfather and the others had no choice back then." Qingqing sighed.

"I don't care if they had a choice or not. If they could treat you like that back then, whatever their reasons were, it is just excuses. Having no relatives is better than having relatives like that. I really wish I could kill them off when I had the chance to." Qing Shui became furious the more he thought about the Yan Clan.

He didn't want to bring up this topic, but he couldn't stand it anymore. His mother and Qingqing were his close family, including the other members of the Qing Clan. As for the Yan Clan, they were nothing more than strangers in the passing street. He had hoped that his father would be there, but he hadn't expected that he would leave this world before he could have the chance to meet him face to face.

While listening closely to Qing Shui's words, Qingqing was happy to realize that she was loved and cared for by her close family. Her face lit up as she felt a sense of contentment in her heart. She looked at Qing Shui with a cheerful expression and said, "I am so lucky to have a little brother like you."

"Why the sudden sentimental words? We are siblings, linked together by blood. That will never change no matter where we are." Qing Shui let out a soft laugh.

"Nothing, I just feel really happy, that's all."

"Are you happy because you are going to be a bride soon?" Qing Shui chuckled teasingly.

“You brat. Don’t tease me like that.” Qingqing followed up quickly as she became embarrassed by his words.

“Alright, fine. I will stop. Sis, Guo Polu is a great person, at least better than me, in my opinion.”

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The next day, the members of the Qing Clan flew towards the Yan Jiang Country in succession. The number of flying mounts were adequate, so the number of people going to the Yan City wasn’t an issue. The items that were made to block against the force of the wind proved to be useful again. This time, the children were using them as they mounted the flying beasts on a high altitude journey.

Their schedule for this journey was strictly restricted to traveling during the daytime and resting during the night time. They would stop by cities for pit stops, and if they could stay away from camping in the wilderness, they would do just that. Encountering demonic beasts in the wild was a trivial issue for the adults, but they were more concerned that the children. They might be startled should they encounter one during their sleep.

The traveling group consisted of at least 30 people, including eight children. To break it down, this group consisted of Qing Shui’s children, Qing Zi’s children, Luan Luan, Yuchang, and the older members of the Qing Clan traveling in this journey to Yan Jiang Country.

General Country!

They had finally reached the capital city of the General Country!

Even though Qing Shui hadn’t spent a lot of time in the Greencloud Continent, he could still remember most of the country names among the 81 countries in the continent. General Country was one of them. He could clearly remember it because the Yan Jiang country wasn’t far away from his home, and the name was simple to memorize.

Dusk was approaching, and Qing Shui decided to find an inn for the whole family to stay the night. The inn he chose had a simple name that was easy to remember as well.

General Inn!

“Mingyue, how did the name ‘General Country’ come by?” Qing Shui stood in front of the inn and asked Canghai Mingyue with a smile.

“According to the legends, the legacy of the General Country had been passed down from a long time ago, making it the oldest and the most ancient country in the Greencloud Continent. A long time ago, the sect clans weren’t the most powerful in the World of the Nine Continents. The Dynasty Emperor held the absolute power in the world, and the General Country was said to be the most powerful military stronghold back then. After all these years, General Country was still the most well-preserved area in the continent. The other countries had gone through tremendous changes and even had their names modified several times.” Canghai Mingyue explained as she glanced towards the ancient structure of the General Inn.

The power ranking of the General Country in the Greencloud Continent was only mediocre at best. This country had been keeping a low profile in all aspects and affairs. There were rarely rumors about the General Country, which piqued Qing Shui's curiosity more than anything else.

Based on the name of the inn alone, this must be an inn catered to the authorities and officials in the General Country a long time ago. When the waitresses saw a group of 30 people ranging from children to elders entering the inn, they knew that they were a family, presumably from a wealthy clan based on their extravagant clothings and distinguished aura.

Bringing an entire family for a migration was considered normal in the World of the Nine Continents. Most people would only do that if they could not survive in their previous home, or they were planning to move from a smaller city to a bigger place to live. In most cases, a big family would have guards to keep them safe from harm, but the Qing Clan had none, making them seemed like a bunch of castaways instead. This was despite the luxurious clothing on every member of the Qing Clan. After all, poor people could still afford to dress flashy in order to garner positive reactions from the public.

Those with a bit of power and wealth could hire hundreds and thousands of bodyguards, with the minimum amount being ten. Qing Shui's group had children and women, so most people would feel anxious when they saw a large family without guards whatsoever.

Of course, Qing Shui knew that very well. He turned to look at the ladies beside him. They were all notably attractive, which could only mean trouble to the family. It would be more strange if the public was devoid of restless behavior after seeing a couple of alluring women traveling to an unfamiliar place like this.

Evil forces of supremacy would always lurk about in every corner of the continent. The stronger these forces were, the more hedonic they would become. These people had a strong pillar of support in other parts of the country who would stop at nothing to cause evil and destruction to others without any reason. Some people could afford to act recklessly for the rest of their lives while living in the shadows of those who would protect them.

Qing Shui had heard of such things in his past life before. Because of money and power, these evildoers could attack other people in the daylight, took liberty of married women and even perform indecent acts on those innocent women without any consequences.....

Zu Yanglong was drinking wine with three other young men in the General Inn. He was a profligate son from part of the younger generation in the General Country who held the power of the General Manor in his hands. Because of this, his life was easy. He had everything he wanted - riches, people, and women. If he wanted a woman, regardless of her marital status, he would always acquire them as his possession without fail. Many people called him a demon behind his back because of these shameless acts.

His grandfather was the third master of the General Manor. No one would dare provoke the General Manor in the General Country because of their influence. Even if one were to be bullied by the members of the General Manor, they would not make a peep about it. Should they curse in front of Zu Yanglong even in the slightest, they would be eliminated immediately. And because of this reason, he was also called as a demon. Of course, no one would be foolish enough to call him that in his presence.

They were many people in the world, so even if Zu Yanglong were to bully one random person each day, he had only just touched the tip of the iceberg. He had never once caused any real trouble to his clan either. However, in these past few days, he had been gloomy because he could not get an erection from the women he had met a few days ago. The physicians said that he had over-exhausted himself, and he needed rest..... which was all the more to be worried about. Zu Yanglong called over his usual immoral friends to the General Inn in hopes of drinking his problem away.

The General Inn was the General Manor's main property. Even though this wasn't the Zu Clan's industrial business, they were allowed to stay and dine here for free. At that moment, a large group of people came in from the entrance door. There were men and women in the group, as well as elders and children.

When Zu Yanglong saw an alluring woman in a violet dress holding a delicate girl in her arms, he began to feel restless in his heart. His eyes lit up further when he saw a few more women following behind as they walked closely within the group.

"Young master Zu, this is the first time I've seen so many exquisite women in my life. The ones in the past were nothing compared to the ones I'm seeing now." A slender young man with a hooked nose spoke out to his master.

"Young master Zu, these people don't look like they are from this country. They must be a family, so I think we should be careful with our plans," said another young man who looked like a frail scholar in a soft voice.

"Regardless, no one can evade my grasp once they have entered the General Country. I will regret it for the rest of my life if I let them go freely just like that." Zu Yanglong revealed a sinister smile as he said with a playful tone.

"Tongliang, go to the kitchen. You should know what to do. Use all of those medicinal powders if you can." Zu Yanglong gulped down a cup of wine happily as soon as he finished commanding his subordinates.

The group that had passed by them were Qing Shui and his family members. When he noticed the attention he had garnered from those men, he shrugged them off. His spiritual sense was more acute as ever, and he didn't sense anything that could prove a great threat to him and his family.

He noticed them on the third floor before proceeding towards the fourth floor. Each floor had been partitioned into smaller sections that could be booked with other sections for a large group of people. Qing Shui took the left side of the room that consisted of roughly 30 subsections, which was more than enough to fit his family of 30 inside.

After settling the matters of their rooms, they went to the dining table outside to have a meal. Their rooms were too small to adequately have a family meal. There were halls outside their rooms, but they were too small for fit everyone for a place to eat. However, there was just enough space for them to sit and chat idly.

"Send in your best dishes. If we need some more, please send some over again." Qing Shui made a large order when he saw a few customers dining in the area. Since they were already in this new country, they decided to try some local delicacies and enjoy their meal.

The waitress took their order and went downstairs. Everyone chatted in the meantime as they waited for the dishes to be served.

‘Daddy, when are going to reach to Yan Jiang City?’ Qing Ying sat besides her father and asked softly.

‘We will reach there the day after tomorrow. Why, are you feeling ill?’ Qing Shui lowered his head and asked Qing Ying gently. Their journey had been at a moderate speed because they had children traveling with them.

‘No, I’m just asking. I feel that we have traveled quite far from home.’

Qing Shui smiled and rubbed Qing Ying’s head. This was her first journey away from home, and she seemed quite excited about it.

Within a few moments, dozens of waitresses climbed up in succession, each holding two dishes. The dishes were placed on a tray covered in yellow silk. The waitresses proceeded to place the dishes in the center of the table. Steam wafted from the dishes, and a delicious aroma traveled quickly to their noses.

Even though Qing Shui thought that these dishes were decent, half of the dishes consisted of lean meat, and the other half were vegetarian cuisines. Regardless of the color and flavors of the dishes, they all looked appetizing. One look at the dishes and the family members could not help but salivate with hunger.

Suddenly, Qing Shui furrowed his brows but quickly eased his nerves after that. The children were all salivating despite the delicious dishes he had made for them back at home. However, any kind of dishes worth salivating would instantly become the children’s favorite, regardless of the food or taste.

Qing Shui quickly picked up a portion of the dishes and placed them into his children’s bowls. After that, he called everyone to start eating while the dishes were still warm. Some of the family members immediately frowned before they took their first bite. They only started eating after they took a glance at Qing Shui, who seemed calm and undisturbed by the food.

Qing Shui knew that someone had contaminated their food with sleeping drugs that would only show its effectiveness after one hour. Their bodies would not be harmed, but they would be put to sleep for at least two days. The drugs were flavorless and colorless, but that wasn’t enough to fool Qing Shui’s spiritual sense from detecting those substances in the dishes.

However, he wasn’t afraid of the drug’s effects, so he ate his food like everything was normal. He wanted to know what kind of person would do such a reckless thing to his family. If they were foolish enough to do such things, they should prepare for the consequence that he had planned for them.

Of course, he was furious, but he didn’t show it on his face. The drugs were not poisonous, which meant that the perpetrators had been targeting the ladies all along. The more he thought about the shameless acts of the perpetrators, the more his heart was fueled with an intense flame of fury.

Chapter 976 - Third Master Zu - Zu Sui, A Kick Of Death

Before they knew it, another round of dishes was served. The members of the Qing Clan chowed down the food happily despite some realizing that there was a weird substance in the dishes. The drug’s effect

was indeed strong, but it could cause no real harm to their bodies. However, some of them could not even endure the effect of the drugs after they had taken a few bites of the food.

Despite the effects of the drug, it would take a bit longer for the drug to take its full effect. It would probably take effect after they had finished their meal. Even if they had been inflicted with the sleeping drug, Qing Shui had the capability to remove the drug in their systems. The worst thing that could happen to them was being put to sleep the whole night before waking up in the morning.

The food Qing Shui ate traveled down to his stomach and the drug effect was burnt off immediately. The meltdown of the poison was done automatically as his body was practically immune to any kind of poison. Moreover, his Nature Energy was quite effective in eradicating the sleeping effect of such an unorthodox poison almost immediately after the drug entered his system.

They took quite a long time to finish their meal since it was a large group having a meal together. The sky at that moment was still blue as well. Everyone took their time to eat and chat with each other. Some preferred to listen while chowing down their food, and some who would rather play with the children than chat with the others.

Time passed by slowly, and Qing Yu was the first to fall asleep. No one noticed anything wrong about him, because children were prone to sleep earlier than adults. However, when all of the children eventually fell asleep, the others realized there was something amiss about the current situation.

After a while, the others began to feel dizzy as they looked at each other in confusion. They finally realized that there was something wrong with the dishes before they turned to Qing Shui with a shocked expression. Qing Shui nodded his head with a smile, but shook his head afterwards without saying a word.

Then at that moment, footsteps could be heard trampling up the stairs. A number of young men were already at the staircase, and Qing Shui immediately knew that they were the perpetrators behind the sleeping drugs. By this time, almost half the members of Qing Clan had already succumbed to the drug's effect.

Qing Shui picked up Qing Yu quickly, while the other children were already asleep on the high-legged chairs that were made of beast leather. The chairs were comfortable enough, so Qing Shui decided to let them sleep on the chairs for now.

"Hahaha!" The leader of the young men burst out in laughter. His gaze was fixed on the ladies, who remained seated on their chairs due to their inability to stand up straight.

Yiye Jiange, Canghai Mingyue, and Di Qing felt uncomfortable, but were able to withstand the drug's effect. Despite being fine, they remained seated and went along with the flow of the current situation. They didn't move a muscle, nor did they make a sound.

"Who are you?" Qing Shui frowned as he looked at the despicable young man in front of him.

"You don't have to know who we are. Who you are is bound to be more interesting." The young man looked at Qing Shui before turning his head to look at the other members of the Qing Clan. His smile became more sinister as he observed the others in the room.

“You’re the ones who drugged the dishes?” Qing Shui already knew the truth, but insisted on asking them to get a bit of information.

“How do you feel now? Tell me, where are you from, and what do you plan on doing in the General Country?” the young man maintained a smile as he asked this question with a calm attitude.

“I advise you to hand over the antidote now. You don’t want to mess with us.” Qing Shui stood up and swayed for a bit before sitting down and before he demanded angrily at the smiling young man.

“Haha, can’t mess with you? Regardless of who you are, as long as you’re in the General Country, you have to follow our rules now. There’s no one that I, Zu Yanglong, cannot destroy. These women you have there are quite exquisite. Even if I die from ravaging them tonight, I will welcome death with open arms. Your threats are useless to me. Even if you have the support of an almighty emperor, it’s useless,” Zu Yanglong said excitedly as he clenched his teeth with exaggerated force.

“Zu Yanglong? We’re from the Continent’s Capital. Aren’t you afraid that I will destroy your clan if you make any reckless moves against us?” Qing Shui didn’t care if the Zu Clan had the support of an aristocratic clan or a prestigious sect, he used all his might to rage his anger at the Zu Yanglong. If he had to act like he was inflicted with the sleeping drug, he must put an effort to pretend like he was affected. But he didn’t expect to see this kind of monster that the young man had become - he had an insatiable hunger for lust and women.

“Continent’s Capital? Haha, what power is there in the Continent’s Capital? They will still be under the grasp of my General Manor even if they were to come to this country to look for trouble. And here I thought you were some kind of hidden aristocratic clan. You’re just taking the Continent’s Capital as a disguise to roam around foreign countries,” Zu Yanglong said with confidence as if he was determined that Qing Shui could not pose a threat to him or his General Manor.

Zu Yanglong was more than relieved to discover that Qing Shui and his family hailed from the Greencloud Continent’s capital. Qing Shui knew that Zu Yanglong would let down his guard if he mentioned he was from the Continent’s Capital. He didn’t have any good feelings from this despicable man at all, and he wasn’t a real threat to Qing Shui since he was just a martial cultivator with the strength of an Early Martial Saint.

A profligate son with the power of an Early Martial Saint in such a young generation should be no more than a few years older than Qing Shui himself. Qing Shui was more curious about his alliances, and what kind of power they possessed.

In any case, Qing Shui now understood why there had never been a group from the other continents which would attempt a coup and conquer the Greencloud Continent. The reason was quite profound because there were people of undeniable power hidden within the countries in a seemingly weak continent. They would keep a low profile most of the time, but they would not hold back their power should the situation require them to show their strength.

He also understood the complexity of the General Country, and to an extent, the Greencloud Continent as well. However, he was still baffled how he would end up for a trivial matter like this with the Qing Clan. Regardless, it didn’t matter anymore. Qing Shui had decided to retaliate no matter what forces they were. He had an exceptional martial skills, and most importantly, he had the Marrow Nibbling

Golden Silkworm in the Blood Essence Pool situated in his Central Palace. The silkworm had grown stronger despite not growing any larger. The golden gleam from the silkworm was more magnificent and animated than before. In addition to that, Qing Shui had also developed a deeper telepathic communication with the silkworm, forming a profounding bond between himself and the ferocious creature.

“Zu Yanglong, there’s still a chance for you to stop whatever you’re doing. Hand over the antidote and you’ll get a chance to live. I won’t ask you to be responsible for today’s incident either,” Qing Shui shouted while ‘struggling’ to stand up on his feet.

“No need to shout. No one will intervene when I’m dealing with you guys in the General Country. If you want to blame someone, blame those women besides you. They are too beautiful, and you don’t deserve to have them for yourself. Women are a source of trouble, you know. You should have realized that this day would come one day.” Zu Yanglong approached Yiye Jiange who was the closest to him. If he could conquer a celestial-like woman like her, then even if he were to die soon, it was all worth it.

“Sure, women are the source of trouble..... But you are the one seeking your own demise!” In the middle of his speech, he suddenly felt restless and dropped his act immediately.

Qing Shui returned to his normal self and shot a few Coldsteel Needles towards the perpetrators’ dantian areas.

Pu pu.....

A soft yet distinct sound rang out, like plastic abruptly exploded into pieces. Their dantian areas were pierced in an instant, causing the pitiful men to shriek in excruciating pain. Having their dantians destroyed meant that their cultivations had been crippled as well. No one could endure such an excruciating pain physically nor mentally.

“Shout again and I will make you disappear right away.” Qing Shui said calmly.

Everyone else sat down except for a few children. Qing Shui had calculated his time perfectly with the Violet Jade Pendant, which wasn’t just an accessory, but could notably be used to dispel poison, albeit not instantly for a colorless and odorless drug like the one they had just consumed. The drug effects would wear off in about the time needed to burn an incense stick.

In the meantime, Qing Shui allowed the others to return to their rooms to rest up first.

Zu Yanglong and his friends clenched their teeth and remained silent. One of them even bit his sleeves tightly, drenching it in a pool of cold sweat. His face was pale and the corners of his mouth were dripping with a stream of fresh blood.

Today would not end well for them, and there was no way that Qing Shui would let them go easily. Qing Shui faced Zu Yanglong, stared him in the eyes and said, ‘Speak, who are you people. It’s time you should tell us by now!’

“We are members of the General Manor.” Zu Yanglong said reluctantly without an ounce of foul language. He had a feeling that Qing Shui would kill them without a moment’s notice should they try to provoke him any further.

Qing Shui laughed when he saw the sudden change in Zu Yanglong expression. This reckless man feared death more than anyone else in this room. However, when Zu Yanglong mentioned the General Manor, Qing Shui froze for a while before turning his head towards the three women beside him - Yiye Jiange, Canghai Mingyue, and Di Qing.

“General Manor is the main command of the General Country. It is said that they are an ancient clan passed down from a great legacy, but they had been maintaining a low profile so no other details are known. In any case, they have existed for a long time in this country.” Canghai Mingyue gathered her thoughts before explaining what she knew about the General Manor to Qing Shui.

“Mingyue, what do you think about killing them and mutilating their corpses afterwards?” asked Qing Shui as he turned to Canghai Mingyue beside him.

“These men are indeed despicable. But killing them that way is a bit too filthy in my book,” Di Qing spoke out instead.

“So are we going to let them go freely?” Qing Shui said with a frown.

“How about we break their arms and legs, and throw them out from this floor?” Di Qing said as she looked at Qing Shui with a serious expression.

“Well said, Qing ‘er. I was thinking of the same idea as well.”

“Don’t kill me, I will give you anything. Please let us go.” Zu Yanglong pleaded for mercy in a horrified state.

The others followed and pleaded in loud voices.

At this point, they believed that Qing Shui was definitely capable of killing them without mercy. Regardless of whether the General Manor could win against these people from the Continent’s Capital, their fate was now in the hands of the young man in front of them.

Qing Shui’s ears twitched for a moment before he turned his head to the stairs with a smile. A series of loud footsteps became increasingly audible, followed by dozens of men rushing towards him. The leader of the incoming group was an old man clad in violet robes. He had a full head of white hair and bushy eyebrows above his bulging eyes, with a broad nose protruding from his face. Beside the old man were a few elders and some middle-aged men who were likely the subordinates of the old leader.

“Grandfather, save me!”

When Zu Yanglong saw the old leader, he pleaded for help desperately. He was just laying beside Qing Shui, unable to move his muscles freely. His hair was in a ruffled mess, and his face was as pale as a white sheet of paper. In contrast to his pale face, a streak of blood could be seen dripping from the corners of his mouth. Zu Yanglong had a miserable look on his face as he laid still in desperation.

“Who are you, why are you hurting my grandson?” The old man shot a furious look at Qing Shui, emitting an aura of killing intent as he spoke with a menacing and domineering tone.

“Your grandson? Good timing. I don’t have to go around and look for you then. Let’s consider how we should deal with your grandson today, shall we?” Qing Shui sat down and brushed off the killing intent of the old man.

Zu Sui knew all about his grandson's shameful acts. Without the need to think over the situation, Zu Sui knew that his grandson must have provoked the young man sitting in front of him, and it seemed that it was quite serious this time. Moreover, his grandson was beaten to a pulp in the General Inn, a place situated in the General Country where his power was absolute.

In any case, Zu Sui was furious. No one would dare to disrespect the Third Master Zu in the General Country, so who would have thought that he would be considering the actions needed to be taken against his own grandson? Wasn't the pitiful sight of his grandson enough already?

"What are you planning to do with him?" Zu Sui looked at Qing Shui coldly, slowly dissipating the killing intent he had earlier. The General Manor had never feared anyone, and no one had ever talked to him like that before.

"I have decided to break his arms and legs before throwing him out from this height. What do you think?" Qing Shui cocked his head to look at the old man and said very calmly.

"You are asking for it!"

Suddenly, the old man growled and leaped towards Qing Shui at an unfathomable speed. He aimed for Qing Shui's head and curled his fist in an attempt to strike a death blow. Unfortunately for the old man, his seemingly unfathomable speed was too slow in Qing Shui's eyes.

Qing Shui remained seated while striking a counterattack with an abrupt kick at the old man!

Tiger Tailwhip Kick!

The only thing the old man saw in front of him was an apparition of a meter long tiger claw that rapidly approached. The kick flashed towards him instantaneously and landed on his chest.

Pu!

Ultimately, the old man was killed by that single kick!

To be honest, it was not surprising. The old man was the one who had initiated the fight, so Qing Shui would naturally not hold back when he kicked him in retaliation. The old man's strength was less than two stars, which was unfortunately the strength of an ant when contrasted to Qing Shui's power. The kick was able to destroy the old man's vital organs with a menacing force. If Qing Shui had used his full power, the old man would be shattered to nothing more than a few speckles of dust.

From a Peak Martial Saint to a Martial Emperor, the disparity between their levels was greater than the depths of a natural ravine!

Chapter 977 - Ji Clan's Old Ancestor, An Old Monster With A Strength of 4,000 Stars

With a single stomp, everyone was stunned. Even the three ladies looked at Qing Shui in astonishment. Although they knew that Qing Shui was very strong, they still felt a bit of shock. That kick was just too powerful.

The people from the other side all had their mouths wide-agape, unable to accept this scene.

The few old men Zu Sui had brought with him were now looking at Qing Shui with stunned expressions. They had never expected that this seemingly handsome young man would be so powerful. To be able to kill Third Master Zu, Zu Sui, with one kick... just how strong was he?

Qing Shui could easily sense his opponent's level, but his opponents couldn't sense his. Usually, cultivators would be able to sense each other's level, but they wouldn't be able to do so accurately. Even if they sensed that the other party was powerful, it was just a rough idea. They won't be able to accurately judge how the other party compared to themselves.

Only those with a sharp spiritual sense would be able to clearly tell. People with strong spirit energy would also be able to do the same. If one's spirit sense wasn't powerful enough, as long as the opponent didn't exude a powerful enough aura, one wouldn't be able to sense their opponent's power accurately.

Otherwise, if cultivators were able to sense each other's abilities from just their auras, there wouldn't be any need for them to fight anymore. Only people like Qing Shui with a sharp spiritual sense and powerful spirit energy would be able to sense the existence of people who were stronger than him.

These old men opposite him were Peak Martial Saints and were definitely powerful existences. This was because on the surface, there weren't any Martial Saints in Greencloud Continent. However, he now knew that it was only appearances, and in the dark, there were even hidden clans in the Greencloud Continent. Even the General Manor in General Country was a powerful existence.

"Who's the one in-charge of General Manor? I don't wish to kill too many people, get the person-in-charge to come talk to me." Qing Shui said to his opponents. Compared to him, they were really weak. They had no power over the current Qing Clan.

An old man left quickly and Qing Shui didn't stop him.

"You, tell me about the things in General Manor!" Qing Shui pointed to a short and fat old man and said.

"Yes, yes..." The short and fat old man was trembling slightly. This young man was able to kill Zu Sui with a single kick. If Qing Shui were to land an attack on him, he would definitely die.

"General Manor is formed by three clans. Zu Clan is one of them, and there are another two clans, Tie Clan and Ji Clan. General Manor is primarily headed by Ji Clan. In comparison, Tie Clan and Zu Clan are much weaker." The short and fat old man looked at Qing Shui and said slowly.

"Why is General Manor headed by three clans?"

"Is the power held by one of the clans or do they hold power together?"

"On the surface, it's like all three clans share the power," the short and fat old man quickly said.

"Then in the dark, it's not true?"

Hearing Qing Shui's words, the short and fat old man said, "In the past, General Manor's head had three kids. Ji Clan is General Manor's orthodox lineage."

"Tie Clan and Zu Clan were formed by the foster children of Ji Clan in the past. Their ancestral teachings were that all three brothers had to collaboratively lead General Manor and if anything were to happen, they must discuss it together."

This made Qing Shui feel very strange. Why were the Ji Clan's ancestral teachings like that? By right, in those days, foster children were unable to call the shots, even if they were together with blood descendants. But why did the Ji Clan want their two foster children to lead the clan together with their blood descendant?

"Could it be so that they could restrict each other?" Qing Shui was puzzled.

"What kind of people are in Zu Clan?" Qing Shui didn't care if the old man was speaking the truth. He just treated this as a means to waste time.

"Third Master Zu is from the second generation. There's an older generation above him and I'm not sure if there are any others from the previous generation." The short and fat old man said carefully.

"What about Tie Clan and Ji Clan?"

The short and fat old man didn't dare to withhold any information. His life was in Qing Shui's hand so he said, "Tie Clan and Zu Clan are about the same. I'm not sure about Ji Clan."

Qing Shui sat there, tapping lightly on the armrest of the chair. General Manor's Ji Clan, was at least a secluded clan and it should be the same for Zu Clan and Tie Clan. It was no wonder that Zu Yanglong dared to be so arrogant. It wasn't only in General Country, he would have the rights to be arrogant even in Greencloud Continent.

However, there should have been seniors who had warned him not to leave General Country. Usually, no one in General Country would resist him, and even if anything were to happen, they would be able to arrive within a short period of time to take care of the situation. General Manor was still quite confident of their abilities.

Qing Shui didn't wish for there to be any delays to his journey, nor did he think of killing all of these people completely. Of course, it would also be dependant on how the other party reacted. If they didn't know what's good for them, he wouldn't mind killing them.

After 30 minutes, a series of footsteps rang out and more than ten people came up. This time around, Qing Shui locked his gaze on the old man in the lead.

Early Martial Emperor!

Qing Shui was astonished as well. One really couldn't judge based on appearances alone. It seemed like it wasn't that the people from the other continents didn't wish to dominate here, but actually they couldn't do so. There was no need for powerful cultivators or clans to come to Greencloud Continent to dominate. And if people of mediocre abilities were to come, they would die an unknown death.

Qing Shui was stunned. He looked at the old man in the lead who wore white clothes. The old man had snow white hair, beard, long brows, and his eyes appeared very upright.

"You guys must be from Heavenly Palace. Let me apologize on behalf of General Manor for offending you guys." The old man in the lead bowed and said to Qing Shui.

Qing Shui was stunned by the old man's sudden action, and so were the other people from General Manor. These people were from Heavenly Palace... Right now, news of Heavenly Palace had spread very far, especially about that young Patriarch they had.

Zu Yanglong looked at Qing Shui in a daze. He probably felt like dying now. He hadn't expected to come across someone from Heavenly Palace. Heavenly Palace was one of those groups his clan had warned him not to offend.

Why did his grandfather suddenly attacked them? Was it out of fury or was it negligence...?

Zu Yanglong had completely lost all hope. His cultivation was gone and his grandfather was dead. This time around, with the trouble he had gotten into the Ji Clan would probably not let him go either.

"You're able to call the shots?" Qing Shui looked at the old man and asked calmly.

"I am Ji Wutong. I'm here to represent General Manor to have a talk with you. I'll definitely let you be satisfied." The old man looked at Qing Shui and smiled.

"Oh. This General Inn belongs to General Manor right? Have it torn down tomorrow." Qing Shui looked at General Inn and then at the old man before speaking.

Ji Wutong's mouth twitched, "Mister, do you think that we can look for another means..."

"These few people drugged me and held evil intentions for my women. What do you think I should do?" Qing Shui's powerful spirit energy pressured Ji Wutong.

Ji Wutong was an Early Martial Emperor. Putting aside the fact that his abilities were a far cry from Qing Shui's, even when Qing Shui was still at his level, his spirit energy had far surpassed Ji Wutong. Right now, Ji Wutong was immobilized by the pressure from Qing Shui's spirit energy.

Ji Wutong was stunned. He had initially thought that this young man was also an Early Martial Emperor or only a Peak Martial Emperor. After all, Qing Shui was far too young. Unknowingly, a layer of perspiration appeared on his face.

Because Heavenly Palace was Greencloud Continent's greatest sect and also because Zu Yanglong was the one who was in the wrong he apologized since he wanted to settle this problem peacefully. Additionally, the General Manor had always kept a low profile.

Suddenly, Qing Shui withdrew his aura. The old man wiped the sweat from his forehead and said to the people behind him, "Bring these few back and punish them according to the clan's rules!"

"Elder Ji, kill me!"

Zu Yanglong was brought away amidst his loud cries. Even Zu Sui's corpse was taken away. Ji Wutong then carefully said in a soft voice to Qing Shui, "Mister, do you still have any other instructions?"

"Oh, you think that this is sufficient?" Qing Shui's lifted his brows and looked towards the old man.

Ji Wutong now bore a great hatred towards Zu Clan for offending such a powerful person. They really didn't know any better. To think that they dared to have evil intentions on this guy's women. They truly deserved death. The women of powerful people could not be touched. He knew that things wouldn't be solved so easily and just the mere thought of this caused his face to fall.

"No, no, please go ahead. I'll promise you anything." Ji Wutong knew that no matter what was to happen, he would have to accommodate this young man's wishes.

“How many other members of Zu Clan are there in General Manor?” Qing Shui asked.

Ji Wutong’s body trembled slightly before he said, “Over a hundred!”

“But Zu Sui is ranked third and there are only two people in his branch. He’s dead, and now, Zu Yanglong is crippled as well.”

“Tell me why the General Manor still exists in such a poor Greencloud Continent?” Qing Shui stared at Ji Wutong and asked softly.

“Let me answer your question!”

At that moment, a voice rang out. It was clear as if the person was right next to him. However, Qing Shui knew that the person was still over 1,000 li away from him. However, within three breaths of time, an old man walked out from the staircase. He had black hair, a white beard, white brows, and his gaze appeared kind yet intelligent. He wore white clothes and a double-headed dragon cane hang on his arm. When Qing Shui saw that old man, he abruptly stood up, his aura raised to its maximum.

Unknowingly, the Violet Star Thunder God was already in his hands. He took a step forward and stood before the three ladies.

To think General Manor had such an old monster to support them...

4,000 stars...

Qing Shui was mainly worried about the people behind him and was also astonished by the old man’s cultivation. This was the strongest person Qing Shui had come across and it was in Greencloud Continent. How could he not be astonished?

“Old Ancestor!”

...

“You guys can leave. I’m sure that Qing Shui will not stop you. No one is allowed to come in.” The old man’s voice was calm and amiable, it could even calm their erratic heartbeats.

“Qing Shui, we’ll leave you to chat with this old sir and we’ll head back first!” Canghai Mingyue smiled and said to Qing Shui.

“Alright!” Qing Shui nodded.

The three ladies greeted the old man, and seeing that he didn’t mean any harm, they went back. It was because they knew that even if they were to start fighting, there was nothing they could do to help. Their presence would only cause Qing Shui to be distracted.

The old man found a seat and sat down. “The youngsters these days are really formidable. This old man doesn’t feel that he is your opponent.”

“Sir, you’re too humble. Your appearance had given me a big shock. To think that there’s still an existence as powerful as yourself in Greencloud Continent.” Qing Shui sat down gradually, not letting go of his Violet Star Thunder God. The double-headed dragon cane was the old man’s weapon!

“Lad, there’s no need to be nervous. I had never thought of starting a fight. Let me answer your question from earlier. I’ve never expected that Greencloud Continent could nurture such a demonic character like yourself. I’m heartened to see this. It’s really the blessing of Greencloud Continent!”

Qing Shui was a bit puzzled, but he didn’t say a word and just quietly listened. Qing Shui didn’t know this old man’s name. However, it didn’t matter if he knew his name or not. A name was just a designation, an address!

Chapter 978 - The Guardian Clan! Qing Shui’s Reverie! Reaching Yan City!

The old man stared at Qing Shui and smiled. After seemingly pondering for a moment, he slowly spoke, “Actually every continent is watched over by a formidable power that defends and protects those continents. The General Manor is an example, however, it is the only one left.”

Qing Shui’s heart stirred. No wonder no one had come to dominate the Greencloud Continent. He didn’t reply but instead quietly listened on. He knew that the old man’s next words would be very important.

“The Central Continent is very strong because of its many guardian forces. The Greencloud Continent only has the General Manor alone right now. This is also the reason why the Greencloud Continent is weak. Every guardian force has their own inheritance. Only under very few circumstances would the inheritance be discontinued. So, the guardian force is also known as the Guardian Clans or Inheritor Clans.”

“Why are they called Guardian Clans or Inheritor Clans? Could it be that this type of power can only be passed down within the clan?” Qing Shui asked when he thought of the sect.

“The form of the sects are actually also the form of the clans. There are also many clans within sects. In other words, it is small clans combined together to become a big clan. Or a few big clans joining together. It is in fact still a clan.” The old man’s chuckle made others feel that he was especially benevolent.

Qing Shui thought so too. He had previously heard from the old man that the General Manor was the only remaining guardian force left in the Greencloud Continent. This meant that there used to be a lot more of them. “Was the Greencloud Continent powerful in the past?” He asked.

“All the nine continents used to be equal. But the Greencloud Continent gradually declined. Its decline was unstoppable, causing it to eventually become the weakest continent. The four other continents became stronger existence while the remaining four out of these five continents became independent.”

“Do you know the locations of the Four Continents?” Qing Shui was particularly curious about the direction of the Nine Continents but he had never found the right person to ask about it all this time.

“There are legends spread by some people, saying that they were up in the sky. In actuality, the other four continents are very vast and are around us. Our five continents are not only surrounded by the four other continents but are also isolated.”

“Are you saying that one of the other four continents can be reached by passing through the Southern Sea, Giant Beasts Mountains, Sky Penetrating Mountains, Eastern Sea or Polar Icefield?” Qing Shui asked in surprise.

“Clever! But it has been many, many years since anyone has passed through them. It has been so long that whether or not anyone had ever actually passed through them has become a legend itself.”

Among the ancient desolate beasts in the Southern Sea, legend has it that a terrifying sea dragon exists in those waters. It is needless to further discuss the dangers lurking in the gigantic mountains deep in Giant Beasts Mountains. There were desolate beasts, beast tides, poisonous insects and poisonous grasses.....

There was no need to bring up the Eastern Sea and the Sky Penetrating Mountains. Behind the Northern Sacred Lu Continent was the Polar Icefield. Legends has it that there was a formidable ice beast, some kind of an ice monster, that filled the sky with snow. It was so terrifying that people would rather pass through the Eastern Sea and Southern Sea than try to go through the Polar Icefield.

Regardless of the location, it would always be through the sky. The sky was actually the scariest existence.

“Are we able to reach the other four continents from Northern Sacred Lu Continent?” Qing Shui thought before he asked. Chances of him meeting someone who was knowledgeable about this matter was hard to come by, hence Qing Shui had a lot of questions which he wished to ask.

“Yes! But it is recommended that you possess very strong strength before you attempt to do so. There’s an ancient formation technique. Only those with formidable strength can use it and be able to withstand any invasions during the process.” The man said with certainty.

“So, what strength is needed to sustain it?” Qing Shui thought for a while before he turned to the old man’s direction.

“The strength that exceeds 5,000 stars.”

“Is there any being with the strength of over 5,000 stars in the five continents?” Qing Shui was both not shocked and shocked at the old man’s answer because he had heard that there were no beings with over 5,000 stars in strength in the five continents before.

“The strength that can be exhibited within these five continents is 5,000 stars at most. But one’s physical strength can exceed 5,000 stars. However, their unleashed destructive power will only be 5,000 stars at most.” The old man looked at Qing Shui, not showing even the slightest sign of impatience as he explained the details to him bit by bit.

Qing Shui felt at ease after he heard the old man’s answer. As long as he could accumulate his strength so that it reached 5,000 stars, he would be invincible within these five continents. He could then go to the Demon Gate and Lion King’s Ridge. He could even visit the other four continents.

“Old man! Is there no other way to travel to the four other continents?”

“Passing through Southern Sea, Eastern Sea and so on could also bring you there. You can also pass through the Northern Sacred Lu Continent’s Ancient Great Formation after your strength exceeds 5,000 stars. It is also said that there is another way, which involves the legendary treasures such as the Shrinking Ruler and Heaven Measuring Ruler.....”

Qing Shui was stupefied when he heard the old man's words. Those treasures weren't easy to find and he was thinking of his Nine Continent Boots right now. The Nine Continents Steps could be raised a few more levels. With that, Qing Shui felt that it wasn't impossible to cross places like the Southern Sea. But of course, it would certainly be difficult to raise those boots by a few levels at the moment. The journey was too far and the route was too dangerous. Most importantly, nobody knew how long this journey would be. Hence, he had never considered this method at all.

"Old man, can that Ancient Great Formation be used at any time? Will I be able to come back after I have gone over?" Qing Shui thought about it. He wasn't sure if he could come and go as he wished.

"The Ancient Great Formation is guarded by a Guardian Clan of the Northern Sacred Lu Continent. It can only be activated once every five years and the activation lasts a day. Each person can only use it once per day. This means that it will require five years to come back again after you have gone over there." The old man chuckled. Qing Shui couldn't read the old man's mood.

Qing Shui felt a little relieved after hearing the old man's words. Otherwise, there would definitely be many people coming over from that side. It seemed that people from the other four continents would never come over here for nothing because their strengths would weaken to 5,000 stars if they came over. If one happened to be eyed by their enemy, it was possible that the person would die there.

"Thank you very much for telling me so much." Qing Shui said earnestly.

The old man waved his hand, "These are not secrets. You have formidable strength. Even if I didn't tell you, you would still find out very soon in the future."

"About the Zu Clan....." The old man looked at Qing Shui.

"It's up to you. It is fine as long as they stop bothering me." Qing Shui smiled and said indifferently. Zu Sui was already dead. Zu Yanglong was crippled. Qing Shui had also stopped questioning what had transpired between Zu Clan, Ji Clan and Tie Clan. It was their personal matters and he was not interested.

"Then this old man shall thank you for your help. How is your family?" The old man asked slowly, as if he was striking up a casual chat.

"My elder sister will be getting married in a few days. It will be held in Yan Jiang Country. Thus, I came over earlier to prepare." Qing Shui smiled. This was not a secret either. Qing Shui felt that he would definitely be involved with this General Manor in the future as it was the Guardian Clan of the Greencloud Continent.

"Oh! Congratulations, little brother! You don't have to call me old man either. If you don't mind my arrogance, you can just address me as big brother." The old man said with a forthright smile.

Qing Shui hesitated for a second. Those who had the say in the Main Continent were based on strength. Age didn't mean anything. It was especially based on this kind of relation that achievers were prioritized. He smiled and looked at the old man, "Big brother!"

"Haha! Good! Come! Let's go over there and have a drink!"

The old man and Qing Shui walked over to the stairs and took a seat on the other side. The old man clapped his hands and soon enough, a waitress came over, "Serve us the best wine and dishes you have here."

Qing Shui had already found out that the old man's name was Ji Yunlang. He was the ancestor of the General Manor and was 500 years old this year. He was basically no longer concerned with the affairs of the General Manor. It was absolutely normal for some profligates to appear among the younger generation. But the rules in Ji Clan were very strict. Most of these profligates were basically from the Zu Clan and Tie Clan. This Inheritor Clan was passed on to the Ji Clan. There should only be one of them from each generation. This type of inheritance was similar to the Bloodline Inheritance.

There were usually one or two Blood Awakening members among the descendants of the Bloodline Inheritance. While inheritor Clans and Bloodline Inheritance were actually pretty similar, one or two outstanding descendants would appear among them. Their strengths would increase at an unusually quick pace and they would definitely be very powerful. Hence, many said that the Guardian Clans all had Bloodline Inheritance in actuality. However, the Bloodline Inheritance of those clans usually involved things like Golden Bloodline and Violet Golden Bloodline.

Lastly, Ji Yunlang invited Qing Shui to the General Manor. However, Qing Shui declined politely. Ji Yunlang didn't force him either since he knew that Qing Shui still had other matters to attend to. Thus, he took his leave and left.

Qing Shui hurried on with their journey the very next day. Nobody had mentioned anything about the incident that had taken place the night before. So, Qing Shui casually explained it. Of course, he also mentioned the Guardian Clans as well, causing everyone to sigh in amazement.

In the past when their cultivation was weak, the people here basically had no chance of coming across all these matters. Even Di Qing, who had grown up in the Di Clan, had never been aware of such information.

Two days later, Qing Shui and the others arrived at Yan City. When the Guo Clan learned this news they came forward to welcome them from a distance. The Guo Clan was ecstatic to see that so many of them had come. It was evident that the Qing Clan took them very seriously.

Guo Polu, as well as the clan head, and the old man from Guo Clan greeted everyone happily. Guo Polu saw the woman he had been yearning for day and night. While he was being courteous to his guests, he stole a few glances at Qingqing in between.

Qing Shui initially planned to stay in an inn located somewhere near the Guo Residence. But the Guo Clan wouldn't allow them to do so and insisted that they stay in the Guo Residence. He didn't insist any further since there were many rooms in the Guo Residence and there were not many people in the Guo Clan anyways.

Back then, the people from Yan City had already known that Guo Clan's only son was infatuated with the bitter fated young lady of Yan Clan. It was only because Qing Shui appeared to be more powerful later on that he had been able to bring Qingqing away with him. As time went by, everyone knew that the Qing Clan's strength had skyrocketed. The disparity between Guo Clan and Qing Clan grew and he became even more and more unworthy of her.

No one had said anything about Qing Clan. After all, Qingqing and Guo Polu weren't engaged in the first place. Hence, they weren't considered ungrateful either. But they knew that Guo Polu was infatuated.

After so many years, the Qing Clan had now become the lord of Heavenly Palace. Almost everyone felt that it was completely hopeless, especially when the Guo Clan went over to propose the marriage a year ago and were instead told to wait for Qing Shui's return to get an answer.

At this point, everyone felt that this was just an excuse. Even the Guo Clan thought so too but they weren't able to change Guo Polu's mind.

Guo Polu was very happy at the moment, even though he was actually very nervous before. He wasn't sure if Qingqing was willing to accept his proposal in the first place. He had only talked very little with Qingqing a year ago when he went to propose. He was very reserved. Many years had passed and she was no longer that delicate lady among the snow. He was happy that she was more cheerful than she used to be. She had been smiling a lot more frequently and also seemed to be very friendly towards him as well. Although he went to propose the marriage, he wasn't brave enough to ask anything until news of Qing Shui's return had arrived from the Qing Clan later on. He had a feeling that he might succeed too. Otherwise that 'excuse' was indeed a very good excuse.

When things had finally been decided, only then he dared to gleefully talk to Qingqing. Their conversations flowed very naturally, unlike previously when he was very reserved. The fear of the unknown had scared him.

Chapter 979 - Yan Ling'er Cried, Thousand Crane Slash, Six Lotus Flowers

"Qingqing!" Guo Polu rubbed his head and stood before Qingqing. There was surprise, love, as well as some slight happiness and unease.

Qingqing was wearing a snow white pleated dress and snow white boots. Her beautiful hair was tied up high. With her exquisite beauty, as well as her eyes which were like a pair of Black Treasured Stones, she wouldn't lose out even if she were to stand amidst Yiye Jiange and Canghai Mingyue. Qingqing didn't have same the domineering aura that they had, but she had a stubborn and soft disposition.

"You look so foolish!" Qingqing smiled and chided Guo Polu, causing him to be dazed.

"Young Master Guo, isn't my Sister Qingqing beautiful?" Qing Bei teased Guo Polu.

"Beautiful, beautiful!" Guo Polu said straightforwardly. He was a devoted person and wasn't one who would flirt around with other ladies. He didn't even know how to coax a girl and had fallen in love with Qingqing at first sight, falling hopelessly in love with her. Even though she had been in a plight, he had still fallen in love with her. It was also this aspect that made Qingqing touched. She knew about all the things he had done for her. It was just that back then, she didn't even have freedom.

For so many years, only a few people had truly entered her life. Her father, Qing Shui, her mother, the people from Qing Clan, and then Guo Polu.

Qingqing had even thought of marrying him. At least, if she were to get married, it would have to be to this guy. She hadn't expected for him to wait for so many years, waiting just for her.

This might be fate. Therefore, this time around, she didn't resist but was a little happy. It was because she saw that the women around Qing Shui were very blissful. Whenever she thought of Yan City, she would feel very sad. However, this guy had left a deep imprint in her heart.

...

The group headed toward Guo Clan. This was Yan City and everyone could remember what had happened here in the past very clearly. After all, many of them couldn't forget what had happened.

After the marriage to Guo Clan has been decided, the news spread out in Yan City within a few days time. Some people said that Guo Clan must have accumulated good karma from their previous life. There were also people who said that Qing Clan didn't judge people based on their background and there were fewer clans who were like them these days.

These words were especially prickly to the ears of the other clans in Yan City. Most aristocrat clans would always try to use their children's weddings as tools to form relationships. Therefore, when they heard people saying things like this, they felt a little weird.

...

Yan Clan knew of Guo Clan's wedding when it was decided. Right now, Yan Haoran was the one in-charge of Yan Clan. He was Qing Shui's and Qingqing's grandfather, but Qing Shui didn't recognize him as his grandfather.

Right now, there were many people in Yan Clan's hall, and Yan Ling'er was around too. Many of them were sighing deeply. Many other people, if placed in the same situation, would do the same as the Yan Clan. However, now that Qing Clan had soared, Yan Haoran would not dare to do anything shameless.

Back then, he had also felt helpless, very helpless. He couldn't let more people from his sixth branch be killed just for a single granddaughter. Yan Haozheng had lost his mind. However, Yan Haoran was very happy to see that his granddaughter was living the life of a phoenix right now. It was better than her staying in Yan City and leading a tough life.

"I feel that no matter what, Yan Clan would still have to go once to offer gifts and congratulations. After all, you're still Qingqing's grandfather and Qingqing knew that we were left with no choice. We aren't asking for more, but just for quiet and safety. We won't suck up to Qing Clan. Qingqing was Zhongyue's child and had grown up in Yan Clan. We let her lead a hard life. This is good as well. We have to start somewhere." An old man sighed and said as he thought about Yan Haoran.

Yan Clan's sixth branch was under Yan Haoran, since he was ranked sixth amongst his siblings. Yan Haozheng's branch had been eliminated by Qing Clan and Yan Clan's clan head had committed suicide to end the problems between Qing Clan and Yan Clan.

Lai Clan!

Lai Jiutian looked at his son who was becoming increasingly mature. He had never expected that his son had managed to get to befriend such a powerful character. He smiled before saying, "Chusong, remember to bring a big gift on the day of the wedding. Let Qing Shui and his family come stay at our place for two days so that we can play host to him."

Chusong was very thankful toward Qing Shui. Back then, Qing Shui was the one who had cured his 'illness'. If he didn't, Chusong wouldn't know how he would live. Additionally, how could he explain it to his family? Impotence was worse than death for a guy.

"Mmm, I know what to do!" Lai Chusong nodded and said.

"Then that's fine. Chusong, when you came into contact with Qing Clan, they weren't what they are today. What's important in a friendship is to keep an open heart. Don't try to suck up to him, it'll only put you in a bad spot. Let nature take its course, just like how it is for friends." Lai Jiutian patted his son's shoulder and said.

...

After staying in Guo Clan, Qing Shui would bring his children out to walk around and buy things. He would carry Qing Yu, and lead the other children, including Qing Zi's child. Qingqing was around as well. She also wanted to take a look around Yan City.

Although this place held many sad memories for her, it was also where she had grown up and where Guo Polu had grown up as well. Furthermore, it was also the place that Qing Shui had brought her away from.

Qing Zi was around too. Qing Zi was now in his forties and was tall with a muscular build. He was still honest and straightforward, but now he gave others a feeling of maturity. Towards Qing Shui, he really was full of admiration.

"Brother Qing Zi, Changfeng has good potential. You must teach him well. He'll be able to achieve big things in the future." Qing Shui smiled and said as he looked at the few kids who were running around.

Changfeng was already over ten years old. Together with Qing Zun and Qin Yin, he was looking around the surroundings quietly while the other younger kids ran around the place, taking a look at anything and everything.

"Qing Shui, when you're back at home, help me teach him. This lad only listens to you." Qing Zi laughed and said.

Qing Yan tripped on a piece of brick as she was running and started to fall forwards. Qing Shui's heart tightened. Although they were a distance away and there were people between them, he had the ability to catch Qing Yan before she fell down.

It was just that he was carrying Qing Yu, and it wasn't suitable for her to perform the Nine Palace Steps. Qing Shui didn't know Spiritual Confinement. If he did, he would be able to use it on Qing Yan and she would be fine.

Qing Shui was very anxious and could only rush over quickly.

However, just as Qing Yan was about to fall, a pair of arms grabbed her and carried her up. The lass lifted up her head to see a beautiful lady who was smiling as she looked at her.

"Thank you, aunty!" Qing Yan said happily.

Qing Shui only saw who this lady was after he reached forwards.

Yan Ling`er!

Right now, Yan Ling`er was much more mature than before. Her face was still very exquisite and she now had an additional graceful disposition. When she saw Qing Shui, she smiled and said, "Brother Shui!"

"Sister Qing!"

...

Qing Shui didn't know what to say, but Qingqing smiled and said, "Ling`er, you came at the right timing. Otherwise, that lass would have fallen."

After Yan Ling`er exchanged a few lines with Qingqing, she then looked at Qing Shui. In fact, she was slightly older than Qing Shui, but she was used to calling him 'Brother Shui'. When she looked at Qing Shui once again, there was a hint of sadness in her eyes.

"Brother Shui, I know that Yan Clan did the Qing Clan wrong, and did Sister Qing wrong. We had tried hard before as well, but it was useless. We were even beaten up a few times before. Back then, whoever was found to have given Sister Qing money or other things, they would have their legs broken." Yan Ling`er sighed and said.

"Qing Shui, they are innocent. They've secretly helped me on several occasions as well. If they didn't, I wouldn't have managed to wait till you came for me." Qingqing looked at Qing Shui and said softly.

"I hope that you don't mention Yan Clan to me in the future. I don't wish to hear it." Qing Shui looked at Yan Ling`er and said calmly before reaching out his hands to take Qing Yan from her hands.

Tears quickly trickled down Yan Ling`er's face. She took a look at Qing Shui before she quickly turned and ran off.

No one else said anything, and even Qingqing was silent. Back then, Qing Shui had already found Yan Clan unforgivable for abandoning their mother, and they even put a blade against their grandfather's neck...

Someone had already paid the price for all of these things, a terrible price. Qingqing looked at Qing Shui. The anger he felt was also partially because of the hardships she had been put through in Yan City.

"Father is dead. If father was still around, it might be different if mother were to step out!" Qingqing sighed helplessly.

She reached out her hands to carry Qing Yu, letting Qing Shui carry Qing Yan.

"Qing Shui, can you never forget Yan Clan? The people in Yan Clan who deserved to die are already dead." Qingqing asked softly.

"Unless that person comes back to life." Qing Shui hesitated a little before he said with great determination.

Qingqing fell silent. She knew who Qing Shui was referring to. It was their father, Yan Zhongyue!

Yan Ling'er's appearance caused Qing Shui to lose a lot of interest in shopping around and they returned after a short while. Qingqing's and Guo Polu's wedding banquet was to be held in two days. Although they had decided on a time in Qing Clan previously, it was only a rough estimation and it would still be dependent on when the members of Qing Clan arrived.

They would be issuing wedding invitations during these two days.

After returning, Qing Shui found time to enter the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal.

The flowers, grass, and even the pond in the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal had all been surrounded by Qing Shui's Spirit Gathering Formation. This would not only hasten their growth, but would also allow them to gain spiritual intelligence. However, Qing Shui's mastery of formations was still quite low and he would be spending most of his time now studying them.

His main focus would be the Nine Palace Eight Trigrams Formation. The other members of Qing Clan had also started to study about formations. Qing Zi and some other people would only learn the Duality Minutest Formation, how to survive in formations, as well as the Five Elements Minor Formation.

Currently, Qing Shui could only learn five formations. He didn't know if it was because he would only be able to learn the remaining formations after reaching a certain level of mastery, or if there would be some special formations which would pop up.

His progress in the Tiger Form had increased a lot and his Roc Form had also reached a bottleneck. He hadn't reached the large success stage for the Roc's Might and there no new battle techniques had appeared. Therefore, right now, he still needed to cultivate the Heart of Roc, Roc Spreading Wings, and Roc's Might.

The Elephant Form seemed to be mainly supporting techniques. There were also killing moves, but it shouldn't Form Transformation. He hadn't expected that the Tiger Form would be the first to Form Transformation. For this period of time, Qing Shui had managed to cultivate the Thousand Crane Slash to the large success stage. However, he hadn't used it before and he hadn't spend much time cultivating it either.

The other thing was the Blue Lotus Art. Qing Shui had been constantly cultivating this, but he hadn't discovered any great killing prowess from it when he used it against high grade cultivators. It could be because he hadn't reached a high enough mastery. With the tremendous change to his spirit energy, Qing Shui could now control the six golden lotus flowers with great mastery.

However, he could only use them as hidden weapons right now, from quite a good distance away. In the past, there was someone in Qing Clan who had managed to reach the 9th Lotus Manifestation Stage. Qing Shui felt that these golden lotuses which were the size of big basins could be used as more than hidden weapons and shields.

Compared to using them as hidden weapons, Qing Shui felt that they were better used as shields. These lotuses were controlled by spirit energy and would move wherever he willed them to. He could instantaneously create six barriers to defend himself from his opponents.

It was only recently that six lotuses had appeared, and he was only recently able to control them with ease. Right now, what he needed was more practice on his control. His spirit energy was many times

stronger than before and it didn't take much effort for him to freely control the six lotus flowers. He felt that this time around, he would be able to fully grasp control over them in the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal.

Chapter 980 - Wedding Banquet, Some Were Happy, Some Were Sad

It would never hurt to acquire more skills. He had the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal, so time wasn't an issue. Qing Shui decided that he would continue his practice, hoping that his efforts would eventually lead to a surprising result. Even if it wasn't anything surprising, it would at least be useful to some degree.

Because of his surge in power and the strengthening of his spiritual energy, the golden lotus the size of a washbasin had become twice as large as before - or even more. The current diameter of the lotus was about two feet wide. It used to be a foot wide at most.

With both of his hands, he continuously struck out with the Blue Lotus Art and six golden lotus flowers flew out in a line. This was followed by a streak of black scratch marks behind the whistled glimmer. The force of each strike was decently strong, but it would be a bit difficult to match up against any Martial Emperor. The deadliness of this skill was quite lacking but the energy consumption was high.

The lotus flowers continued to change its position, with three circling around Qing Shui to shield him from harm, and the other three forming an equilateral triangle before they swiveled outwards in the direction of the sky. The lotus flowers had the ability to change their forms in the air as well. Qing Shui waited until he had recovered some strength in his fists before he released the lotus flowers again, increasing the formidable force of the golden lotus flowers.

Boom!

Two golden lotus flowers clashed with each other, instantly exploding into a burst of golden light. Qing Shui jerked a little when he felt an abundant amount of spiritual energy traveling to the surroundings from the earlier explosion. He was also surprised when he discovered that the golden lotus flowers could act as a barrier between him and his opponent as he could prepare his killer move without his opponent's knowledge.

However, those were just some conceptual ideas he had at that moment. Qing Shui began to condense his energy once more. Controlling the golden lotus flowers required constant scheming, which was why he had decided to cultivate his Blue Lotus Art in the first place. Even though this technique wasn't as powerful as the Hidden Weapon Technique, it wouldn't stay like that forever. Moreover, he had a feeling that the Blue Lotus Art has a miraculous effect that he had yet to discover.

There might only be a slight difference from the growth of the Blue Lotus Art, but the difference was noticeable. This was especially true because he wasn't able to fully grasp the power of the Blue Lotus Art in the past. For that reason, he decided to continue the cultivation of this technique in an attempt to discover the depths of its power.

Suddenly, Qing Shui felt the three lotus flowers that had been surrounding him release a subtle amount of spiritual energy into his body, enveloping him in a warm sensation. He closed his eyes slowly and began to feel the warmth traversing through his body.

Qing Shui then abruptly opened his eyes, visibly shocked to see the three golden lotuses already shifting behind his back. He then took out a golden knife and slit a wound across his arms before he closed his eyes again. Even though his body and self-regenerating ability were strong, he could still feel the spiritual energy emanating from the golden lotus flowers traversing to his wound to regenerate his damaged cells.

Qing Shui pondered on what he had discovered for a while. He then realized the potential of his Blue Lotus Art. Not only could the lotus flowers act as barriers against his opponents, they could also be used to heal him as well. Moreover, these lotus flowers also had a subtle rejuvenating effect on his dantian qi, an effect that he had just realized a few moments ago.

Could this be a special effect that only the six golden lotuses had? Qing Shui was able to grasp the ability of the six golden lotuses, albeit barely. The effect of the golden lotuses would definitely become stronger in the future, and its current appearance of a dignified lotus would also become larger, enhancing its formidable power in the process.

The time inside the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal passed by slowly. Once he entered the realm, he would have to spend about 100 days inside, totaling to about three months. Because of that, he was able to train every day until he had reached a certain level of improvement to his techniques.

At the end of his time spent inside the Realm of the Violet Jade Immortal, Qing Shui's golden lotus flowers had grown to about three feet in diameter, with its thickness being about two feet. He had grown proficient in controlling the lotus flowers, and he felt more powerful when striking with them, gaining an incredible amount of prowess in this particular skill.

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Two days later, the wedding ceremony began. The entrance of the Guo Clan was flooded with carriages and guests made their way into the banquet. The earliest to arrive was Lai Jiutian, Lai Chusong, and their families from the Lai Clan. Qing Shui smiled and greeted them with the members of Guo Clan at the entrance door.

"Brother Lai, you've arrived!" Guo Yanglong and Guo Polu both greeted them sincerely as the Lai Clan walked in.

After a few words of politeness, Lai Jiutian, Lai Chusong, and the other members of the Lai Clan entered the residence happily.

Qing Clan were relatives by marriage, but the distance between their hometown and Yan City was quite far apart. But soon after the Lai Clan had arrived, the others guests soon followed suit. Among these guests were mostly those who came from the Continent's Capital. This was the wedding of the eldest daughter of the Qing Clan, which was also an opportunity to shower flatteries to the Qing Clan - an opportunity that they could never miss.

Although Qing Shui had expected such things to happen, he was still shocked for an entirely different reason - there were too many guests paving their way into the banquet.

In the end, Qing Shui and the other members of the Qing Clan had to come out to welcome the absurd number of guests into the residence.

“The Yan Clan has arrived!”

After this announcement, Qing Shui looked into the distance and saw a group of people approaching the residence. The man leading the group was Yan Haoran, walking side by side with Yan Ling'er. When she saw Qing Shui at the entrance, she flashed a wide smile, as if she had forgotten the incident of that fateful day.

Guo Yanglong and Guo Polu glanced at Qing Shui with a smile before moving forwards to greet the Yan Clan. Regardless of the past, they were now guests of the wedding. Before Qing Shui could turn around and enter the Guo Residence, a voice called out to him and stopped him in his tracks.

“Brother Shui!”

Yan Ling'er smiled as she approached Qing Shui with eyes widely looking at him.

When this girl knew about his true identity, she had nothing else in her mind except a glimmer of hope that Qing Shui would eventually forgive the Yan Clan in the future. She hoped that he would stop looking at the Yan Clan with hatred, and stop looking at her with scornful eyes. When she saw Qing Shui leaving, Yan Ling'er took the chance and called out to him amidst the crowd surrounding the area.

Qing Shui stopped and looked at her.

“Bother Shui, today is sister Qingqing's wedding. You see, everyone's happy. I'm happy too.” Yan Ling'er held onto Qing Shui's sleeves and let out a soft laughter. However, there was a bit of anxiousness in her eyes when she spoke to Qing Shui.

Qing Shui smiled and understood her meaning. He should have let Qingqing's wedding settle with a happy ending and prioritize Qingqing's happiness before his own selfish desires. This was a simple reason to stop delving into his family feud, so he stopped holding onto his hatred for now. He hadn't even noticed the same friendly greeting she had called him, even after all these years. How nasty had he become?

Qing Shui stood at one side so that the members of the Yan Clan could see him when they came in. They glanced at the man who should have 'Yan' as his surname and a flood of regrets and anguish flushed through their hearts. They recalled what Yan Clan had done to his family, and most importantly, his sister.

If he had kept his surname as Yan, perhaps the Yan Clan could have become what the Qing Clan was today. They were the ones who pushed away a prodigy to the Qing Clan, causing themselves to fall into this situation that they had wrought for themselves.

The members of the Qing Clan had become stronger than before, creating a great disparity between the strength of the Qing Clan and the strength of the Yan Clan. Back then, the members of the Qing Clan didn't even have what it took to reach Xiantian...

Yan Haoran sighed and continued his way inside. At this point, he seemed to have aged considerably. As Yan Zhongyue's father, he felt that he mistreated his own son as well as his grandchildren. Zhongyue would not rest easy if he knew how bad he had mistreated his children in the past!

Yan Haoran frowned as he passed by the members of the Guo Clan.

Qing Shui turned to look at his mother and noticed the depressed expression on her face as she stared at Yan Haoran's back blankly. He sighed and said, "Mother!"

"Qing Shui, he is your grandfather, after all. Regardless of whether you admit it or not, your father is gone. Aren't we a bit too cruel to them right now?" Qing Yi said softly.

"Cruel? Was it not cruel when they treated you like that long ago? Was it not cruel for Qingqing? Was it not cruel to the members of the Qing Clan?"

Qing Shui wanted to seek justice for that man his mother loved dearly, but he was no longer in the living world anymore. However, that did not stop Qing Shui from pursuing the others from the Yan Clan, including the late old ancestor as well.

"Only a few from the Yan Clan were cruel, and they have gotten what they deserved. I'm the luckiest mother to have a son like you, but the blood flowing in your veins are of the Yan Clan's. These people are victims like you too." Qing Yi said as she looked at her son with a confused gaze.

Qing Shui understood his mother's feelings, but he was still displeased that no one helped Qingqing when she was forced to suffer an uneasy life. His father was gone too, so Qingqing had no one to depend on. That kind of pain and loneliness, as if being one was abandoned by everyone in the world - Qing Shui understood these feelings clearly. If Qingqing didn't have an open mindset, she wouldn't be able to hold out on her own for a very long time.

"It's your decision, mother. Whatever decision you make, I will listen to you." Qing Shui smiled.

While they were talking, Yan Ling'er kept standing beside them with a face full of hope. At the same time, she showed a grateful expression as she glanced at the woman whom she called aunt.

Qing Yi smiled when she noticed Qing Shui's expression, but remained silent. She had only mentioned about them for a moment, but she knew that it would take more than a day or two for Qing Shui to forgive the Yan Clan for what they had done.

Time passed by slowly, and before they knew it, the sun was already high in the sky, shining brightly. This was the time when most of the guests would have arrived. Qing Shui preferred to stay at the entrance with Guo Polu to greet the guests, especially the people from the Yan City, and the people who came specifically for Qing Shui's sake.

"You are?"

Suddenly, a group of people approached the entrance. The Guo Clan could not recognize them at all. Qing Shui seemed like he didn't want to move forward to greet them, so Guo Yanglong approached them and asked with a smile.

The leader of the group was a middle-aged man who seemed calm and reserved. His eyes were focused on Qing Shui as he replied, "We are from the General Manor. You must be senior Qing. The old ancestor told us to bring a gift as a token of congratulation. Nice to meet you, my name is Ji Sha!"

Qing Shui turned to the leader and gave a respectful bow.

“Old brother is too kind. Mr. Ji, please come in!” Qing Shui was a bit shocked when he heard they were from the General Manor. He didn’t think Ji Yunlang would go through the trouble to send someone to bring a gift to his sister’s wedding.

The other members didn’t have a big reaction towards their interaction. After all, there weren’t many who knew about the strength of the General Manor itself, and those who knew them as a family of guardians were even less than a handful. In any case, they would never show their power in a place like the Yan City.

The banquet proceeded quite smoothly without any hastiness. Guo Clan was indeed powerful in the Yan City, but there was also the existence of the Lai Clan and Yan Clan. Most importantly, Qing Shui was a patriarch in the Heavenly Palace, a common knowledge that every household should know by now. Ever since he had annihilated the Xiao Clan and later on, the Sword Tower, no one had dared to cause trouble again.

Because his father was long gone from this world, Qing Shui took over his role and handed Qingqing’s hand to Guo Polu.

“Even though I am just a brother, I feel the need to say something to you. You must have known about my sister’s past by now. She had suffered a lot during her younger days, and I won’t mention the rest for her sake. I don’t wish to see her suffer anymore, and no one should make her suffer any longer. Qingqing likes you, so I believe you are the one who can bring her happiness.” Qing Shui smiled as he calmly said to Guo Polu.

“As long as the Guo Clan lives, we will not let Qingqing suffer even for one bit.” Guo Polu said with a stern voice.

“Good, I will remember your words. Initially, I had wanted Guo Clan to expand their influence in the Continent’s Capital, but since it is hard to part from here, I will not force the Guo Clan to move. But your powers are too weak as of now. Go to the Heavenly Palace and train for a few days. That way, you can become stronger and protect those who you love.” Qing Shui let out a smile.

“Thank you!” Guo Polu said emotionally. Man’s craving for power could not be described with words.

“We are a family now. You’re very welcome!” Qing Shui laughed.

Many people surrounding them felt envy towards Guo Clan because they had such a good son. After considering everything between the Guo Clan and the young lady from the Yan Clan, their love was deemed to be true and genuine. A lot of people from the Yan Clan were aware of Qing Shu’s existence, and they were also aware of the mistreatment the Yan Clan had forced onto Qingqing, but none had the courage to profess their love no matter how much they liked Qingqing. Guo Polu was the only exception as he forged towards his love with Qingqing regardless of her history or the people around her. They were meant to be with each other.

A lot of people from the Yan Clan felt desolated after witnessing the love between the two souls, but they could do nothing. The Yan Clan had lost their chance of soaring to the heights of power. The elders could only sigh and blame their misfortune on Yan Haozheng.....

A clash of toasts echoed around the banquet, which lasted until late evening. The banquet tables were covered with many servings of dishes, and some guests had to leave in between the servings because of urgent matters. All of the guests eventually left once the sky had turned dark.

Qing Yi and Qingqing were walking together while they had some casual conversation. Meanwhile, Qing Shui and the other brothers of the Qing Clan gathered together and chatted idly. The children, on the other hand, were playing nearby. Qing Jun and Qing Ying were sensible enough to be careful while playing, but Qing Ming was a bit troublesome as he was much more daring and reckless. Qing Shui had a bit of a headache dealing with this particular child - he was a bit different than the rest of his children.