

Tales of Herding Gods Chapter 1146-1150

Chapter 1146 Escaping into the void

Qin Mu smiled and said, "I suddenly remembered that Heaven Duke and I call each other brothers. Heaven Duke calls me Dao friend, so it's reasonable to call you nephew."

Divine King Zu was unable to restrain his anger, and the other Celestial Venerables hurriedly urged, "Let's just address each other as Dao friends. We are all Celestial Venerables, so there's no need to make things so awkward. Calm down, calm down."

Celestial Venerable Hong also tried to persuade him, "Celestial Venerable Mu, don't say too much. Don't take advantage of him. He has a hot temper, and if he really wants to kill you, we won't be able to stop him."

Qin Mu said angrily, "That day at Jade Pool, he was the first to jump out and tried to kill me! So what if I take advantage of him, so what if I make him call me uncle?"

Divine King Zu had just calmed down when he became furious again. He shouted, "Don't stop me, I'll hack this fellow to pieces!"

Qin Mu flew into a rage and pointed at him while scolding, "If you have the guts, come and chop my head off! If I blink my eyes, I'll change my surname to Zu!"

Everyone hurriedly stopped him. Celestial Venerable Hong held Qin Mu back while God Sovereign Lang Xuan held Divine King Zu, "Calm down, calm down!"

Both of them cursed at each other and turned their heads away, not looking at each other.

Qin Mu took this opportunity to examine his surroundings and was bewildered. Other than them, there was no one else present. Even Heaven Duke and Earth Count didn't come here.

"Where's Mistress Yuanmu? This shouldn't be the case!"

Qin Mu frowned and thought to himself, 'Logically speaking, Mistress Yuanmu will definitely not let go of this opportunity and will definitely come here. Why hasn't she shown herself?'

He looked around. Celestial Venerable Qiang is Grand Emperor, which is confirmed. Then, who was Mistress Yuanmu?

Could it be Celestial Venerable Hong?

Qin Mu looked at Da Hong and was suspicious. Mistress Yuanmu was a little hussy and isn't consistent with the image of an expert displayed by Celestial Venerable Hong.

"Other than us, there are only the heavenly dragons pulling the carriage. Mistress Yuanmu could not have become a heavenly dragon."

Suddenly, Qin Mu's gaze landed on the white cat in Celestial Venerable Yan's arms. The dragon qilin coughed. Qin Mu knew what he meant but he pretended not to hear and thought to himself, "Mistress Yuanmu wouldn't have become the white cat in Heavenly Lady Yan's arms, right? This white cat is a male, and Heavenly Lady Yan is suspected to be Celestial Empress. She's very serious, and the white cat looks more like her lover, not like Mistress Yuanmu..."

He couldn't help but have a headache. Compared to the white cat, he believed that Celestial Venerable Hong was Mistress Yuanmu.

The other Celestial Venerables gathered together to discuss and finally came to a decision. They said, "It's still possible to split the benefits equally. However, with the addition of Celestial Venerable Huo and Celestial Venerable Xu, Ancestral Court will be split into eleven portions. Including Celestial Venerable Mu, we will each receive a portion."

"As for Heaven Duke, Earth Count, and the rest of the ancient gods, their ambitions are aloof, so forget it."

"When we reach Ancestral Court, everyone will search for places of treasure: first come first served. There are void beasts everywhere in Ancestral Court, so we must clean it up properly."

Everyone finished their discussion and asked Qin Mu, "What does Celestial Venerable Mu think?"

Qin Mu said with a smile that was yet not a quite a smile, "Can't we just divide Ancestral Court into eleven portions directly and assign one to everyone?"

Celestial Venerable Hao said, "There are so many fierce strange beasts and void beasts in Ancestral Court. If we just divide directly into eleven portions, who will guard them? Everyone will have to rely on their own abilities to occupy their own land and clean up the void beasts in their territory for their disciples to explore."

God Sovereign Lang Xuan laughed, "If Celestial Venerable Mu doesn't have the ability, leave it to me. I'll help you manage it."

Heavenly Lady Qiang said, "That's a good idea. We are Celestial Venerables, after all, and we can't stay in Ancestral Court for long. After all, Celestial Heavens is the main matter. Let's first clear out a portion of the territory and ask Celestial Venerable Mu to send the disciples in. As for mining the treasure mines, collecting the treasures, and eliminating the other void beasts, let the disciples do it."

Qin Mu was very unhappy. These Celestial Venerables were obviously bullying him for not having his own strength. Even if Qin Mu manage to mark his territory, he wouldn't be able to defend it.

Another reason for not dividing Ancestral Court directly was to force Qin Mu to enter. This was the equivalent of exiling him into Ancestral Court.

If Qin Mu stayed in Ancestral Court and didn't leave, it would be the equivalent to suppressing this brat. They wouldn't have to worry about him creating trouble for them and giving them a headache.

But if Qin Mu left Ancestral Court, it would mean that Qin Mu had abandoned his own territory. These Celestial Venerables would naturally be glad to swallow Qin Mu's share.

If the land was directly split into eleven equal portion and they snatch Qin Mu's share, then this brat would most likely make a ruckus and make them all irritated.

Qin Mu snorted, knowing that these old fellows were bullying him for being young and weak. He said indifferently, "Let's do it as you say"

All of the Celestial Venerables were delighted to see him suffer.

Qin Mu immediately set up the sacrificial altar, and the eight Celestial Venerables around him watched from the side in awe. Qin Mu sneered and constructed the sacrificial altar in front of everyone. He even imprinted the runes required for the sacrificial altar neatly in front of everyone, without missing a single step.

He didn't mind Celestial Venerable Hao, Celestial Venerable Xiao, and the rest to witness the construction of this reverse summoning sacrificial altar. This was because reverse summoning required two steps. The first step in constructing this altar must contain no mistakes.

This first step was extremely important.

However, the second step was also equally important, and that was to use the reverse summoning divine art!

Qin Mu's reverse summoning divine art came from the master of creation Luo Xiao. However, Luo Xiao used divine consciousness divine art, which was unique to the masters of creation.

On the other hand, the reverse summoning divine art, that Qin Mu had improved on, had incorporated the modern system of runes. In order to maintain his life, Qin Mu did not impart it to Luo Xiao, naturally Da Hong and Gu Xiao wouldn't know either.

Even if the eight Celestial Venerables learned the runes on the reverse summoning sacrificial altar, it would be very difficult for them to deduce the reverse summoning divine art from the runes.

This was Qin Mu's qualification.

"Everyone, please step up to the sacrificial altar."

Qin Mu constructed two sacrificial altars with one prepared for the return trip. He climbed up one of them and stood in the centre of the sacrificial altar. He said with a smile, "When reverse summoning, you need to establish a consciousness connection with the void beasts in Ancestral Court. Therefore, if Dao friends suddenly see an eye above your heads, don't be alarmed; that's a void beast. I'll use the void beast to determine the location of Ancestral Court and pull us over."

"There's actually such a divine art?" the Celestial Venerables exclaimed in admiration.

Qin Mu said with a smile, "This is the effect of the reform. It's precisely because of the reform that Spirit Energy Mutual Shift Bridge exists: making it convenient to come and go. It's also because of the reform that there's this reverse summoning divine art."

Celestial Venerable Xiao coughed and reminded him, "Celestial Venerable Mu, don't say such treasonous words. Quickly execute your divine art."

Qin Mu laughed and executed his divine art.

Previously, it wasn't difficult for him to bring Luo Xiao, Gu Xiao, and Da Hong into Ancestral Court. However this time, he had to transport eight Celestial Venerables, making it a much harder task. Fortunately, Qin MU was much stronger than before. He executed the reverse summoning divine art with all his might, and a huge eyeball instantly appeared in the sky.

The Celestial Venerables exclaimed in admiration and said in unison, "Good divine art!"

Before they could finish their praise, a non-stop popping noise came from the sky above their heads, and hundreds of huge eyes instantly appeared!

Those were the eyes of void beasts, and there was more than one; there were hundreds of them!

Qin Mu feared that one void beast wouldn't be able to pull all of them into the Great Void, so he reverse summoned hundreds of void beasts in one go!

Even when the eight Celestial Venerables saw the eyes of so many void beasts, they remained calm and composed.

Their abilities were too strong, and only this many strange beasts couldn't do anything to them.

Boom-

The sacrificial altar flew into the void!

The next moment, the sacrificial altar appeared in Ancestral Court and floated in front of the hundreds of void beasts.

The Celestial Venerables laughed loudly and rose into the air. They went to find their own foothold in Ancestral Court and left Qin Mu on the sacrificial altar, surrounded by the void beasts.

Hundreds of void beasts stared at Qin Mu who was in the centre of the sacrificial altar.

Qin Mu sighed and smiled at Celestial Venerable Hong, "Why isn't Dao Friend Hong leaving?"

"I already promised you that we can be neighbours and rely on each other."

Celestial Venerable Hong smiled and said, "Furthermore, you can owe me another favour. This way, I can receive two promissory notes."

TL: Fun fact about the term “seven divine treasures”, in the raw, the term used is “七藏” which literally means the “seven stores”. It is a reference to the term “三藏” or “three stores” in buddhism which refers to the three branches of buddhist sutra.

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The hundreds of void beasts couldn't hold themselves back any longer and pounced towards Qin Mu, Celestial Venerable Hong, the dragon qilin, and Yan'er. They were like a pack of wolves fighting for food!

“We each take on half!”

Da Hong swept his sleeve and caught the many void beasts that were pouncing over. These void beasts were incomparably huge, but when they landed in his sleeve pockets, they seemed pitifully small.

Qin Mu's divine consciousness burst forth as he visualized countless sharp spikes. Those spikes appeared inside the bodies of the remaining void beasts and instantly riddled them with holes.

The void beast was brave and proficient in battle. The herd gave off a sharp and ear-piercing sound that directly bombarded his mind.

Qin Mu was muddle-headed from the impact of the cries of these void beasts. He hurriedly activated the Overlord Body Three Elixir Technique, transforming it into Great Overarching Supreme Consciousness, forming a divine consciousness domain to guard his mind to prevent his brain from exploding.

The void beasts tried to turn void to get rid of the spikes in their bodies. However, when they faded into the void, so did the spikes!

This was a divine consciousness divine art unique to the masters of creation!

Qin Mu tried his best to maintain his divine art while the void beasts quickly escaped frantically.

Only then did he let out a sigh of relief. Even though his divine consciousness was strong enough to reach the 28th layer of the void, it was still difficult to restrain a hundred void beasts at the same time, so he could only let them escape.

In a short period of time, these void beasts escaped the range of the power of his divine consciousness divine art. Each void beast hid themselves and didn't dare to come closer.

Qin Mu looked around and saw that the skies, mountains and rivers, were filled with huge eyes that stared at them, making his scalp crawl.

The most terrifying thing about void beasts wasn't their frontal attacks, but their sneak attacks hidden in the void. They could fuse with the mountains, rivers, and trees, or even become one with the ground. They could even lurk right around you and you won't even notice them.

There were simply too many void beasts here. If he didn't keep his guard up, there was a high chance that even his corpse wouldn't be left intact.

Qin Mu focused his attention and revealed his three heads and six arms to guard against the void beast's sneak attacks.

Celestial Venerable Hong shook his sleeves, and pieces of broken bones fell out.

Qin Mu took a glance at him and smiled, "When Dao Friend Hong saw me execute my divine consciousness divine arts, weren't you curious at all?"

He put away the sacrificial altar and brought the dragon qilin and Yan'er forward. Celestial Venerable Hong followed after him, his white eyebrows fluttering. He smiled and said, "You are the Overlord Body and have been to the past before. What's there to be curious about if you know divine consciousness divine arts?"

Qin Mu couldn't figure out the roots of this demon Celestial Venerable, so he probed, "I see that Dao Friend Hong and Dao Friend Gong don't seem to get along. Since you aren't Grand Emperor, why is Celestial Venerable Gong unhappy with you?"

"You know the identity of Gong?"

Celestial Venerable Hong's large sleeves fluttered as he looked down. With a wave of his sleeves, he forced the attacking void beast back. He chuckled and said, "She mistook me for someone else and has been chasing me relentlessly, trying to kill me time and time again. However, I don't want to kill her, so I can only tolerate her every time I meet her."

Qin Mu glanced around, looking for treasure land. He said indifferently, "In that case, you were the one who killed Da Hong back then and erased Grand Emperor's divine consciousness. You are an ancient god, as only the ancient gods are extremely wary of Grand Emperor. In that case, you are Mistress Yuanmu. I miss Mistress dearly. Ever since I met you, I cannot fall asleep any more. If Mistress is my neighbour, I can get closer to you."

Celestial Venerable Hong was stunned and smiled, "Why do you say that?"

Qin Mu said, "Da Hong is definitely Grand Emperor. Grand Emperor's divine consciousness is incomparably powerful. Back then, I heavily injured him, and his divine consciousness was damaged. However, not everyone can completely erase his consciousness. However, Mistress Yuanmu's Ruins of End divine art can destroy everything. Among the three Primordial Kings[1], Divine King Bo Yang[2] was forced into the Ruins of End by Celestial Empress and Mistress Yuanmu and was ground to dust: not a trace is left."

Celestial Venerable Hong smiled, "Mistress Yuanmu isn't the only one who can destroy Grand Emperor's divine consciousness."

Qin Mu looked at the Grand Creation[3] Mine in the distance and saw Celestial Venerable Xiao flying there. He frowned slightly.

Celestial Venerable Xiao is heading there for two things: Gu Xiao's corpse and the Emperor's Sword. The Grand Creation Mine was extremely useful to him, so he had to obtain it.

It was reasonable for him to fly there immediately.

“In that case, who among the ancient gods has the ability to destroy Grand Emperor’s divine consciousness?” Qin Mu asked humbly.

“Heaven Duke, Earth Count, Celestial Emperor, Celestial Empress, Earth Mother, and even Heavenly Yin can all destroy a portion of Grand Emperor’s divine consciousness.”

Celestial Venerable Hong also looked into the distance, but when he saw God Sovereign Lang Xuan flying towards Ancestral Court Jade Pool, he sighed and said, “This treasure land was taken by Lang Xuan. I was misunderstood by Celestial Venerable Gong because of this body, and I didn’t want to dispute with her. I just didn’t expect Celestial Venerable Mu to also misunderstand. Since Celestial Venerable Mu has the power to protect himself, it’s fine if we don’t become neighbours.”

Qin Mu was stunned, “Who exactly are you?”

“The heavens have its own rules. It does not live for the shepherd, nor does it die for the dawn.[4] Those who create shall be rewarded and those who destroy shall be punished.”

Celestial Venerable Hong’s large sleeves fluttered as he walked forward. He said with a smile, “I’m just an observer that has travelled from the ancient times until now. Ancient god Celestial Emperor didn’t let me look at Celestial Heavens, Mother Earth didn’t let me look at the Primordial Realm, and Earth Count didn’t let me look at Youdu. In that case, I can only make travel there and take a look myself.”

Qin Mu’s body trembled violently, and he was stunned on the spot. After a moment, he came back to his senses and quickly chased after him. His divine consciousness rippled, and he sent a voice transmission. “If you were him, why did you still lay your hands on West Deity?”

Celestial Venerable Hong floated into the distance and waved his sleeves. “Killing her is also to protect her and help her break free from the restraints of the ancient gods. However, as long as you want to help her, I’ll help you out and let her owe you a favour. I saved you at Jade Pool, so you have to return this favour to me, so I want you to write me another acknowledgement of debt!”

Qin Mu couldn’t catch up and was stunned on the spot. After a moment, he shook his head and laughed. “As expected of an old fox... an old veteran![5]”

Yan’er and the dragon qilin followed him, and the dragon qilin asked, “Cult Master, was it Heaven Duke who killed Da Hong back then?”

Qin Mu nodded his head. “It should be him. When I obstructed Da Hong from destroying Heavenly Han Celestial Heavens, both he and I erupted forth with extremely terrifying divine consciousness waves. This matter couldn’t be hidden from Heaven Duke. He must have taken the chance, when escaped whilst being heavily injured, to killed Da Hong.”

He was in a daze for a moment before shaking his head, “Divine King Gong Yun discovered that Da Hong was dead, and his divine consciousness was destroyed, and thus, she left. However, Heaven Duke split off a part of his soul into Da Hong’s corpse and became a Celestial Venerable of the demon race.”

“This isn’t correct.”

The dragon qilin called out suddenly, “If Celestial Venerable Hong is Heaven Duke, then there will be five Celestial Venerables saving you at Jade Pool: Celestial Emperor Xiao, Mistress Yuanmu, Celestial Venerable Huo, Celestial Venerable Hong, and Divine King Gong Yun!”

Qin Mu took a glance at him and shook his head, “Celestial Emperor Xiao wouldn’t save me. He is afraid of being exposed. Everyone suspects that he will save me, and that’s exactly why he didn’t, because he is a human Celestial Venerable in name. Celestial Venerable Huo won’t either. Among the people who saved me at Jade Pool Meeting, only Hong, Gong, and Mistress Yuanmu were there. Mistress Yuanmu isn’t among the ten Celestial Venerables, but she is hiding in Celestial Heavens. Then, I reckon...”

He pondered and said, “When Celestial Venerable Xiao discovered that there were already ten Celestial Venerable level existences in Jade Pool and he wasn’t among them, he didn’t show his face and just observed quietly. If I was ancient god Celestial Emperor, what would I have done? He wouldn’t risk exposing his identity just to save my life.”

The dragon qilin said in disbelief, “But Celestial Venerable Huo...”

Qin Mu looked around and continued, “When I returned to Dragon Han Era, every time I visited Celestial Venerable Yun, it was fruitless. Every time, Celestial Venerable Yun would be looking for Celestial Venerable Huo, but he never received Celestial Venerable Hao’s support. Celestial Venerable Yun and Celestial Venerable Huo were good friends, but he couldn’t convince Celestial Venerable Huo, so why would Celestial Venerable Huo help me?”

In the distance, Divine King Zu used his Heavenly Dao divine arts to wipe out numerous void beasts. It was extremely astonishing.

He also found a treasure land and planned to occupy it.

49 Heavenly Dao treasures hung high in the sky, guarding the place so that even void beasts couldn’t enter.

[1] The Three Primordial Kings refers to the oldest three Divine Kings of the masters of creation. This includes divine king Shu Jun.

[2] The word 伯(Bo) means your father’s elder brother. This is in contrast to Divine King Shu Jun where 叔(Shu) means your father’s younger brother. This implies Bo Yang’s seniority is higher than Shu Jun’s.

[3] I don’t remember what the previous translator gave this word. It’s a term used to describe Celestial Emperor’s special identity as one of the oldest ancient god.

[4] This line is extremely important and has two meanings. The sentence “It does not live for the shepherd, nor does it die for the dawn” can also mean “It does not live for Mu, not does it die for Xiao”, hinting at his position.

[5] The raw is 老江湖 which loosely means someone who is wise and knows the way of the world but can also be used as an insult for someone who is good at cheating others.

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Even further away, Heavenly Lady Yan also took out her unique treasure. It was a treasure worthy of a Celestial Venerable that she refined. It rose with a strange glow and sealed off the void and earth, stabilizing her footing.

Qin Mu frowned and looked around. However, Heavenly Lady Qiang, Celestial Venerable Gong, and the rest had already occupied their own treasure grounds, so he didn't have many places to choose.

The dragon qilin still couldn't accept that Celestial Venerable Huo hadn't helped Qin Mu in the battle at Jade Pool and had instead joined the camp to kill him. He was muddle-headed.

"Celestial Venerable Huo suffered a huge blow because of Celestial Venerable Yu's death. From the day he was assassinated, he changed."

Qin Mu continued to search with the dragon qilin and Yan'er, "Back then during the era of the seven Celestial Venerables, the six Celestial Venerables were full of admiration for Celestial Venerable Yu. Other than Celestial Venerable You, Celestial Venerable Huo held the deepest sentiments regarding Celestial Venerable Yu. He was a role model in their hearts, an insurmountable mountain. After Celestial Venerable Yu died, Celestial Venerable You went into seclusion for a million years. Celestial Venerable Huo's thoughts had probably changed at that moment. He hated the ancient gods yet he also wanted to become one."

He stopped and fell into a daze, "Celestial Venerable You could also be said to have changed. Celestial Venerable Yue's words also revealed that he wasn't trustworthy. However, I had always had a good impression of him in the past, but it was all wishful thinking on my part. Maybe only when Celestial Venerable Yu is revived can he wake up from this dream."

The dragon qilin smiled and said, "Celestial Venerable Yu has already revived. As long as we steal back the remnant soul from Incense Scattering Hall, Celestial Venerable Yu will no longer be so foolish. Celestial Venerable Huo will definitely change his mind! By then, the human race will be saved!"

Qin Mu revealed a smile and said, "I also hope so."

His divine consciousness burst forth, forcing back the void beasts back.

"These old foxes have all chosen a place to stay. All the good places have already been taken by them!"

Qin Mu's gaze flickered as he looked around, trying to find an excellent treasure land. However, the eight Celestial Venerables each found an extremely excellent place and have already settled down there.

How could Qin Mu compete with them?

Furthermore, these Celestial Venerables each had a Celestial Venerable grade treasure to suppress the void and prevent the void beasts from invading. Soon, these Celestial Venerables would probably build their own respective strongholds.

When that time came, they would rush over to ask Qin Mu to send them out and let their disciples manage the place. They would get rid of the void beasts and extract various kinds of treasures.

“Even if I could find a treasure ground, I don’t have any treasure that can suppress the void beasts.”

Qin Mu blinked and thought to himself, “I can’t take out the Glassy Sky Pagoda[1]. With this treasure, it would be a breeze to suppress and kill the void beasts. However, if it catches the attention of the other Celestial Venerables, they will definitely try to take it away. Yet what’s even more terrifying is the ancient god egg inside the Glassy Sky Pagoda...”

“Furthermore, I can’t be trapped here forever to guard the treasure ground. If I go and ask First Ancestor along with the past Human Emperors to guard this place... I’m afraid First Ancestor Human Emperor won’t be a match for the void beast mother...”

Qin Mu thought about it and suddenly had a flash of inspiration. The vertical eye in the heart of his brows opened up and looked around.

“The last time I came to the Grand Creation Mine, the void beasts couldn’t enter the mine, which means that the five great mines can prevent the void beasts from entering. However, I only know that Grand Creation Mine is occupied by Celestial Venerable Xiao. Only Celestial Venerable Qiang and Celestial Venerable Gong know where the other four mines are.”

On the Qin Character Continent[2] in his vertical eye, two huge ancient god eggs were communicating with each other. Suddenly, the ancient god in the egg seemed to be able to sense the situation outside, and the Dao voices instantly stopped.

The two eggs gave off slight tremors, and the two ancient god eggs looked excited!

Qin Mu examined his surroundings and thought to himself, “I don’t know where the other four mines are, but these two ancient god eggs must know! Instead of me running around, why don’t I let them tell me?”

The two ancient god eggs didn’t move.

Qin Mu blinked and waited for a moment. The two ancient god eggs still didn’t move.

Qin Mu clenched his teeth, and his divine consciousness rippled. Not long later, the sky suddenly split open, revealing a huge eye.

The eye rolled around, and its gaze landed on Qin Mu’s body. Next, an incomparably huge void beast squeezed out from the void and landed on the ground.

Yan’er and the dragon qilin cried out in alarm and immediately went on guard.

This void beast was covered in void markings, and its six incomparably thick legs took a step forward. Its sharp claws gripped the ground as it circled around them a few times. Its eyes rolled upwards, revealing a mouth full of sharp teeth.

Yan'er gave a soft shout and her primordial spirit appeared, ready to attack at any moment.

"Do you still recognize me?" Qin Mu asked with a smile.

The eyes of the void beast drooped down, and its mouth disappeared. Its head popped out towards Qin Mu.

Qin Mu lifted his hand, and the void beast gently rubbed against his palm. Yan'er let out a sigh of relief. When the void beast heard her panting, it jumped far away and stared at her with caution.

The dragon qilin was astonished, "Cult Master, is this void beast the one you subdued back then?"

Qin Mu nodded his head and said with a smile, "It's been a million years, yet it's still living well and has become even stronger."

He rose into the air and landed on the bone mountain behind the void beast's skull, standing tall against the wind.

The dragon qilin and Yan'er hurriedly flew up and also landed on the bone mountain. When the void beast saw them, its eyes rolled upwards, and it turned its head to let out a threatening whimper.

Qin Mu took out the Glassy Sky Pagoda and used it like a walking stick to knock down on the bone mountain.

Only then did the void beast restrain its ferocious nature. It leaped up and sprinted frantically through the mountains.

Qin Mu leaned on the Glassy Sky Pagoda and used it to stand against the wind. Although the Glassy Sky Pagoda was eye-catching, the Celestial Venerables were tidying up their own territories and had no time to pay attention to it.

He completely indulged the void beast and allowed it to run without a destination.

The dragon qilin and Yan'er stood beside him and looked around curiously. They saw that the void beast that Qin Mu had tamed wasn't walking in a straight line. Instead, it looked like it was wandering aimlessly. They couldn't help feeling anxious, "Cult Master (Young Master) won't be able to find another treasure land, and all the treasures will be taken by the Celestial Venerables!"

This void beast had wandered for more than half a day and was still moving aimlessly. However, there was an "intuition" in its incomparably simple mind that told it that this wasn't the place its master wanted.

This "intuition" came from the ancient god egg of the Glassy Sky Pagoda!

In terms of foresight, Qin Mu definitely wasn't as experienced as Celestial Venerable Xiao, Celestial Venerable Hong, and Celestial Venerable Qiang. He wasn't as knowledgeable as half-gods like Celestial Venerable Hao and Divine King Zu.

However, the armillary sphere of the Glassy Sky Pagoda was actually an ancient god egg born in Ancestral Court's mine. Its knowledge and experience were definitely not inferior to that of Celestial Venerable Xiao, not inferior to ancient god Celestial Emperor!

Qin Mu knew that the two ancient god eggs he had obtained were on guard against him, so he summoned the void beast he had subdued and let the reins loose. The ancient god egg of the Glassy Sky Pagoda would lead him to the treasure land.

The void beast travelled for three days at an extremely fast speed. Before the other void beasts could see it clearly, it had already sprinted past them. On this day, the void beast finally came to a barren land and stopped advancing.

Qin Mu stood at a high vantage and looked around. He saw that there were already dilapidated mines all around him. They were like black holes that had sunk deep into the ground, winding as they went deep into an ancient mountain range.

Multicoloured light rose faintly from those mines, and the aura of treasures filled the air.

The masters of creation from prehistoric times had left behind traces of mining here. However, there were only tall skeletons left: the skeletons of the masters of creation.

The ground in the distance split open, revealing a few large eyeballs that rolled around. It was the void beasts nearby that were secretly observing them.

Qin Mu didn't mind. He put away the Glassy Sky Pagoda and was about to walk into the camp left behind by the masters of creation when he saw a slender woman walk out. Both of them were stunned when they met.

"Celestial Venerable Gong." Qin Mu greeted.

"Celestial Venerable Mu."

Celestial Venerable Gong returned the greeting and said, "I've already repaid your favour in the battle at Jade Pool. Celestial Venerable Mu, we don't owe each other anything. This is the mine of my Xin family, I won't let you have it."

When Qin Mu heard her admit that she was one of the three Celestial Venerables who had saved him in Jade Pool Battle, he couldn't help feeling a little disappointed and thought to himself, "It really wasn't Celestial Venerable Huo."

"Sorry to disturb you."

Qin Mu bowed and patted the void beast. "I'll find another treasure land."

[1] The Glassy Sky Pagoda is the treasure that Qin Mu stole from East Deity a long time ago. It was a treasure that went missing in history as Qin Mu brought it to the present with him.

[2] The Qin Character Continent is also the iris of his eye: formed by a part of Earth Count's horns.

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He was about to leave when Celestial Venerable Gong's voice called from behind, "If I were you, I wouldn't use these void beasts. Void beasts aren't impossible to subdue, but they are extremely strange. Every void beast is equivalent to a small part of a brain. When all of them are put together, they become a complete brain."

Qin Mu was stunned. There was such a strange beast?

Celestial Venerable Gong continued, "And the mother beast is equivalent to the thoughts of the brain, controlling all the void beasts. When the void beasts first appeared in the void, many masters of creation tried to subdue them. Later on, when the mother beast appeared, these masters of creation were all swallowed by the void beasts, and not a single one was spared!"

Qin Mu expressed his gratitude and suddenly thought of a key matter. He probed, "Dao Friend Gong said that the void beast suddenly appeared from the void? Was there no such creature in the past?"

Celestial Venerable Gong shook her head and said, "Even though the ancient beasts in Ancestral Court are terrifying and incomparably strong, none are as abnormal as void beasts. This creature is born from the void, and from the moment of its birth, it dominates all kinds of ancient beasts and devoured them all. The power of a single void beast isn't the strongest among all the ancient beast, but the rate at which they reproduce is simply too fast. No matter how strong the other beasts are, they cannot endure the assault of a group, and so, they gradually became extinct."

Qin Mu had a similar sentiment.

The void beast eggs in the 19th void was the most terrifying thing to him.

"If a complete brain is only formed by the combination of all the void beasts, are these creatures naturally born or man-made?" Qin Mu asked.

Celestial Venerable Gong hesitated for a moment before saying, "Follow me."

Qin Mu followed her as she led him to the back of the mine. The terrain formed a huge basin which was filled with countless white bones.

Those skeletons were as tall as mountains, and even a beast leg was ten thousand yards[1] long!

"Back then, my Xin Clan was a matriarchy with women as the honoured ones. However, the physical strength of a women's body was inferior to that of stinky man."

Divine King Gong Yun led him into the basin and as they waded on top of the huge beast bones. She said apologetically, "I didn't mean you... That's why our Xin Clan often tamed beasts to fight. This is where the huge beasts of the Xin Clan are buried. Come look at this."

Qin Mu lowered his head and saw that this beast skeleton had six thick legs that were as thick as mountains!

“This species of strange beast is called Mountainous Hiss. It is akin to a walking mountain range, and its mouth will emit hissing sounds. It has six legs, and they look identical to the legs of void beasts. However, Mountainous Hiss does not have the sharp claws of void beasts.”

Divine King Gong Yun arrives at another huge beast skeleton. Its legs had claws that were as sharp as sickles, and each leg had eight or nine sharp claws.

“This is Odd Toll.”

Divine King Gong Yun said, “Its body is covered in trees and moss. When it’s crawling on the ground, people will mistake it for a hill. However, its claws are incomparably sharp and it is just like the claws of a void beast!”

Qin Mu examined Odd Toll’s sharp claws, and they were indeed abnormally sharp. They looked the same as the claws of the void beasts, except they were much smaller.

This beast skeleton is Slope Raccoon. They walk around as if they are limping but they have fleshy wings that are good at gliding off mountains. These flesh wings are the same as the flesh wings of void beasts.”

Divine King Gong Yun came to the corpse of another huge beast and said, “This kind of strange beast is called Great Fury. It has a single eye, and its divine consciousness is naturally strong. It’s good at confusing people. The huge beast over there is called Sniffing Wind. It has no eyes; it only has a huge mouth on its head.”

Qin Mu’s heart stirred slightly, and he asked solemnly, “What you’re trying to say is that the void beasts are man-made?”

Divine King Gong Yun shook her head, “I’m not sure myself. However, I once dissected the body of a void beast and found the organs of other huge beasts in its body. What’s even stranger is that these void beasts have no gender and no reproductive function.”

Qin Mu was stunned.

Divine King Gong Yun said, “Isn’t it quite strange?”

Qin Mu nodded his head and said, “There’s no difference between male and female... In other words, void beast mother can reproduce without a gender. However, if we kill the void beast mother, we should be able to get rid of them forever.”

Divine King Gong Yun shook her head. “The void beast mother was killed before. After killing it, the strongest void beast would turn into a new void beast mother.”

Qin Mu was stunned, “This reminds me of a divine artifact...”

“Divine Creation Artifact!”

Divine King Gong Yun said, "I also thought of the Divine Creation Artifact, but I have already witnessed the Divine Creation Artifact built by Celestial Venerable Ling. That divine artifact cannot create living beings."

Qin Mu frowned and probed, "In that case, was it created by Grand Emperor?"

Gong Yun shook her head, "It wasn't Grand Emperor. The void beast mother that was controlled by Grand Emperor is the seventh generation void beast mother. When the first void beast mother appeared, he was still young and didn't have that level of cultivation."

She came to the void beast that Qin Mu had subdued and gently touched the void markings on the beast's body. "Look at these markings, do they look like one of the Great Dao Runes?"

Qin Mu's heart stirred slightly. He had long discovered that the void markings on the void beast's body were very gorgeous and shared similarities to the runes of the Great Dao. Therefore, he had already planned to spend time to understand the marvel within and comprehend the Void Runes.

"Knowledge like the Great Dao Runes is something the masters of creation don't have. Back then, in our era, this knowledge was far too ahead."

Divine King Gong Yun said, "Only ancient gods born from the Dao have such runes, but the masters of creation can't understand them."

Qin Mu muttered to himself for a moment and said, "The exalted one of myriad Dao, ancient Celestial Emperor, should be proficient in all kinds of Great Daos. Could he have created the void beasts?"

"It's not him either. He cannot control the void beast, and he's not omnipotent."

Divine King Gong Yun looked up at the sky and said, "In this Ancestral Court, we and the void beasts are not alone."

Qin Mu shuddered. "We aren't the only ones in Ancestral Court?"

What did this mean?

Could there be something sealed in Ancestral Court by the ancient gods of the Primordial Era?

"Celestial Venerable Mu, you have to be careful. The dangers here isn't limited to the void beasts and the Celestial Venerables."

Divine King Gong Yun had the intention to send him off, and Qin Mu understood her intentions. He jumped onto the bone mountain behind the void beast's head and said to Divine King Gong Yun, "Divine King, I want you to owe me another favour. How about it?"

Divine King Gong Yun looked up at him and said, "That will depend on whether your news is worth it."

Qin Mu smiled faintly and said leisurely, "I heard your relationship with Celestial Venerable Hong isn't good."

Divine King Gong Yun's expression turned cold as she said coldly, "I beat him a few times, but I didn't manage to kill him. Why are you bringing this up?"

"Celestial Venerable Hong isn't Grand Emperor."

Qin Mu smiled, "Your close friend, Heavenly Lady Qiang, is Grand Emperor."

Divine King Gong Yun was dumbfounded. "Impossible!"

Qin Mu laughed loudly and said, "Doesn't that little hussy have a good relationship with you? Doesn't she always look for you for no reason?"

Divine King Gong Yun nodded.

Qin Mu asked, "Doesn't Celestial Venerable Hong hide whenever he sees you: the further the better?"

Gong Yun nodded again, and she suddenly came to a realization. She gritted her teeth and said, "Grand Emperor won't hide when he sees me. Instead, he will rush forward. He won't leave even if I ruthlessly beat him up! Damn it, he has become a little slut!"

She was furious. Heavenly Lady Qiang had once invited her to share a bed, and the two sisters would lie on the same bed and talk about everything. Thinking about it now, Gong Yun shuddered.

Qin Mu said with a smile, "The primordial mine of Xin CLan... I want ten percent of the divine stones produced. Is my news worth ten percent?"

[1] The term yard is quite often used in this novel. The term in Chinese is 丈(Zhang) and it denotes 3.33 metres.

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Divine King Gong Yun snorted and said plainly, "If this news is true, I'll give you ten percent of my divine stones. Since that slut Heavenly Lady Qiang is Grand Emperor, who is Celestial Venerable Hong? Why didn't he resist when I hit him and just ran away?"

Qin Mu's spirit was roused, and he opened his mouth to demand an exorbitant price. "This news, I want to exchange for the origin stones[1] produced in your mine! If you dig out origin stones, then they will belong to me!"

Divine King Gong Yun thought about it and shook her head. "Celestial Venerable Hong isn't worth this price."

Qin Mu sighed and felt that it was a pity. He thought to himself, 'Looks like Heaven Duke can't be sold at a good price...'

Divine King Gong Yun said, "If you tell me Hong's true identity, I'll tell you the location of the other primordial mines."

Qin Mu shook his head and said, "I have a way to find those mines. I can't betray my friends over such a small matter, so you have to offer more."

He raised two fingers, "Give me twenty percent of the divine stone!"

Gong Yun had a weird expression as she shook her head, "Celestial Venerable Hong's true identity isn't worth this price. I won't buy it. When I verify the little slut Heavenly Lady Qiang identity, I'll give you ten percent of the divine stones."

Qin Mu saw that she had no intention of offering more, and he revealed a disappointed expression, "What kind of divine stone is in this Divine King's primordial mine[2]?"

Divine King Gong Yun threw a stone over and said, "It's this kind of stone. In the past, the masters of creation didn't know how to cultivate their vital qi and primordial spirits, so the secret of this type of divine stone wasn't discovered. This mine can also produce ancient god eggs just like the Grand Creation Mine, therefore this type of divine stone must be useful! You can take that one away to research."

Qin Mu took the divine stone and examined it carefully. The divine stone gave off a seven-coloured glow with eight corners and twelve edges[3]. However, what was strange was that this divine stone actually looked like a living thing!

He pinched the upper and lower corners of the divine stone, and it actually collapsed inward. Meanwhile, the space inside actually flipped outwards, circulating continuously, giving people a feeling that it was extremely mysterious!

This was different from the Grand Creation Divine Stone.

He wanted to delve into research and uncover the abilities of this divine stone, but finding a treasured land was more important. When he found a treasured land, he could slowly study it.

Qin Mu took the divine stone and bade farewell. He thought to himself, "If I sell the identity of Heaven Duke to other Celestial Venerables, I will definitely get another ten percent worth of divine stones. It's a pity I can't just casually sell it to others or else I'll be harming him... I really want to sell it to Grand Emperor and Celestial Emperor for a good price! However, if I sell it, they will definitely do whatever it takes to get rid of me."

After walking far away, Qin Mu took out the Glassy Sky Pagoda again. He said intentionally yet also unintentionally, "This treasure land was occupied by Celestial Venerable Gong. Luckily, she accepted my kindness and gave me ten percent of the divine stone. However, I also have to find a treasure land that isn't inferior to this place and mine more treasures to exchange for more divine stones from her. Where can I find such a treasure land?"

The void beast advanced aimlessly.

Qin Mu was at ease, and his gaze flickered, "The true aim of the ancient god egg in the armillary sphere is that primordial mine of the Xin Clan. Most likely, he needs that mine to mature and break out of its shell. Therefore, he must seek another primordial mine for me no matter what!

"Only then can I exchange for more divine stones from Celestial Venerable Gong."

Qin Mu leisurely looked at the big eyes that appeared and disappeared unpredictably around him and thought to himself, "Furthermore, he also knows that I habitually store all the treasures into the Qin Character Continent, so he can take this opportunity to absorb these divine stones and be born earlier! However, as long as I find another primordial mine, why would I place the divine stones I got into the Qin Character Continent? Hehe..."

The void beast wandered for two days and arrived at another ancient mine.

Qin Mu's spirit was roused, and just as he was about to jump down from the void beast's back, a huge mouth akin to an abyss endless abyss suddenly appeared on the ground below, and its flying tongue swept towards him like an upside-down waterfall.

Qin Mu's hair stood on end, and he hurriedly executed his divine consciousness to fill the stomach of the void beast that was hidden underground with sharp spikes.

The void beast felt pain and escaped into the void.

The back of Qin Mu's neck was covered in cold sweat. The void beast was still extremely powerful. The abilities of an adult void beast should be somewhere between Jade Capital and Numinous Sky[4]. Yan'er could definitely fight it.

However, these huge beasts appeared and disappeared unpredictably, making it impossible to guard against them. Even a strong practitioner of the Numinous Sky Realm like Yan'er would die on the spot from a sneak attack from a void beast!

His divine consciousness swept through the void and forced all the void beasts hiding nearby away. Only then did he let out a sigh of relief. He got the dragon qilin and Yan'er to come down and said, "This mine should be one of the five most ancient mines. Follow me closely, I'll use the Glassy Sky Pagoda to protect us."

The dragon qilin and Yan'er hurriedly followed him.

Qin Mu guarded the Glassy Sky Pagoda and walked into the mine. He said, "There are a lot of Grand Creation Divine Stones in the Grand Creation Mine, so it's very dangerous. Even eight ancient gods died there when they carried their coffins in. Luckily, we have the Glassy Sky Pagoda, which will grant our requests. Otherwise, we would also die."

Yan'er was astonished, "Why is Young Master talking to himself?"

But she didn't know that Qin Mu wasn't talking to himself. He was talking to the ancient god egg in the Glassy Sky Pagoda.

His goal was to let the ancient god egg protect them, which was why he was behaving unusually.

This ancient mine was situated in the middle of the mountains, and the mountain peaks were as steep as walls. When they entered the mountains, the surroundings were filled with chaos. It looked like darkness, but also like there was light. However, they couldn't see far.

In the boundless chaos, there were fragments of plants that were rooted in the chaos qi. Those plants actually had dragon scales which were very bright.

Qin Mu went forward to take a look but what he saw was his own organs!

He was astonished, "This plant is very strange. Could it also transform into a divine dragon and fly away?"

He saw some plants blooming and bearing fruits, but he didn't know the medicinal properties, so he didn't dare to pluck them.

"I wonder if I can enter the medicine? Grandpa Apothecary's chance has come. If he comes here here, his medical path will most likely improve further, and there's hope for my Medical Celestial palace!"

They gradually went deeper into the mine, and Qin Mu suddenly stepped on the skeleton. He frowned slightly and roused his vital qi to force the surrounding chaos qi away.

The chaos qi was incomparably heavy, and a little qi flow was as heavy as a mountain. Qin Mu forced back the surrounding chaos qi with great difficulty.

At that moment, he saw the skeletons of the masters of creation further into the mine!

Without exception, these corpses were all facing towards the exit of the mine. It was as if something terrifying had happened inside the mine. The masters of creation who were mining frantically tried to escape, but before they could, they died!

Qin Mu frowned and lifted a skeleton. He examined the wounds on the skeleton, but he didn't find any injuries.

"How did these masters of creation die?"

He composed himself and bowed to the Glassy Sky Pagoda. The canopy of the Glassy Sky Pagoda opened up, and rays of treasure light shone down, forcing the surrounding chaos qi away.

Qin Mu continued to advance with the help of the Glassy Sky Pagoda.

This mine was extremely deep and gradually extended downwards, forming a diagonal passage.

Suddenly, Qin Mu stopped and saw a divine stone in the hands of a skeleton.

This divine stone was circular in shape and looked like a ball that contained divine light. Qin Mu stretched out his palm and was about to take this divine stone out of the skeleton's hand. However, just as he touched it, the divine stone turned into ashes.

He couldn't help but frown and continue walking forward. The masters of creation miners had already mined out numerous divine stones, but without exception, the power in the divine stones had been absorbed by something!

Even the divine stones that had yet to be mined would turn into ashes if Qin Mu touched them lightly!

He felt uneasy. 'This mine is probably empty... In other words, the ancient gods in this mine had most likely already been birthed!'

[1] I read some of the past translation and the term "Grand Primordium Origin Stone" was used to describe the origin stone that originated from Grand Creation Mine. As such, the updated term is "Grand Creation Origin Stone"

[2] Mistranslated it as "ancient mine" a chapter before.

[3] I believe this is referencing a cube. (6 faces, 8 corners, 12 edges)

[4] Changed Soaring Heaven back to Numinous Sky to avoid confusion.