

Tales of Herding Gods Chapter 201-205

Chapter 201: Taking Advantage

Right Guardian put her hands on her hips and sneered at the sky. "Bald donkey, stay if you have the guts to! Old woman, I can scold you for three days and three nights straight in all kinds of ways!"

A bodhisattva sneered, "Xue Bi'e, all you have left is that mouth of yours!"

"Ignore them," said Old Rulai who was on Mount Meru. "If we continue squabbling with them, it may take us half a year. We have fought for a few hundred years and squabbled for a couple more, so there's no need to be impatient now. Let us take control of this battle first."

The monks on the mountain didn't stop and the apparition of Mount Meru floated over to the battlefield.

Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor was still fighting with Teacher Poor and the rest, trying his best to get rid of all these strong practitioners before the apparition of Mount Meru reached them. At this moment, Old Rulai's voice traveled over unhurriedly, "Imperial Preceptor, Dao friends, can you guys do me a favor?"

Eternal peace Imperial Preceptor's sword qi dispersed, and he stopped chasing Teacher Poor and the bronze-masked man. With a smile, he said, "Rulai, please speak."

"Excellent, may Dao friends hold back," Old Rulai said solemnly.

Teacher Poor and the rest were ready to make their moves when they heard Rulai and hesitated for a moment.

True Lord Tian was coughing up blood endlessly since her heart and lungs had been injured by Imperial Preceptor's sword qi. With a sharp voice, she asked, "Old Rulai, are you going to join hands to get rid of this evil?"

Old Rulai shook his head.

Wanderer Li's expression changed slightly and he sneered, "Could it be that Great Thunderclap Monastery has also become the dogs of Eternal Peace Empire like Heavenly Devil Cult?"

Old Rulai shook his head again.

Teacher Poor said indifferently, "Old Dao friend, stop keeping us in suspense, just tell us directly."

Old Rulai chuckled. "I'm here to create good karma with everyone and settle this contentious issue. Everyone here is a cultivator, and if we continue fighting, how many heroes will be lost, how many inheritances will disappear? Why don't we turn hostility into friendship, be polite and amiable, putting an end to each other's karma?"

Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor's gaze wavered, but he did not say anything.

Old Rulai looked at him and smiled. "Imperial Preceptor is a kind man and had come to my Great Thunderclap Monastery once. I spoke to Imperial Preceptor about Buddhism, about Mahayana, and formed good karma with him. May I know if Imperial Preceptor can return this good karma back to this old monk?"

Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor said solemnly, "Back then I was still young and traveled the world to seek knowledge. When I came to Great Thunderclap Monastery, Rulai didn't have sectarian bias and gave me pointers for my cultivation, therefore I can be considered half a disciple of Great Thunderclap Monastery and it's only right of me to return this good karma. However, how would I know if I'm not releasing the tiger back into the mountains? These people are the masterminds behind the rebels, would they give up just like this? If they rebel again, lives are going to be lost again. Rulai, you are benevolent and should know what I'm worried about."

Old Rulai smiled. "Old monk will make them convert to Great Thunderclap Monastery and not interfere with the matters of the mundane world anymore. What does Imperial Preceptor think of this?"

Imperial Preceptor didn't express any opinion.

Old Rulai smiled as he looked at Teacher Poor and the rest. "Everyone here was outstanding talents back in the day and had magnificent styles unmatched in our generation. After being powerful your entire life and living through an era in splendor, would you guys be willing to put down your arms and convert to Buddhism?"

True Lord Tian sneered, "Old Rulai, with us and your Great Thunderclap Monastery, won't it be easy to eliminate this evil? Do you think your Great Thunderclap Monastery will be safe if you give up on this chance now? After Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor eliminates us, he will definitely eliminate Buddha as well! Why aren't you showing your devil subduing methods and attack him mercilessly now?"

Old Rulai smiled in answer. "No matter how Imperial Preceptor treats my Buddhism, there will still be people that believe and worship Buddha. No matter if there are devils or gods in this world, while there's conviction, Buddhism won't disappear just because Imperial Preceptor eliminates us nor will it thrive if he supports us. If you are willing to let go of your grudges, follow me. If you aren't willing, this old monk can only say we're not fated. I'll take my leave."

Suddenly, figures hurriedly descended from the sky and landed behind Imperial Preceptor. There were a hundred generals of Eternal Peace Empire wearing bloodstained armor and radiating a desire to battle that surged into the sky.

Duke Wei exclaimed with his big mouth, "What happened? Rulai is here to join in the fun too? Trying to take advantage? Imperial Preceptor, let us clean up this old monk and the rest of the bald..."

Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor raised his hand to stop him from saying any more. He then whispered, "It's not good to let both sides suffer. It's a good thing for Old Rulai to come forth and mediate."

Duke Wei was bewildered, not understanding what he meant. "They're clearly here to take advantage, taking this chance to recruit the masterminds of the rebels into their Great Thunderclap Monastery,

strengthening its power. These masterminds are all powerful people and letting them go is equivalent to letting the tigers back onto the mountain. There will be endless troubles afterward! Imperial Preceptor, think thrice!”

Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor smiled. “Since Old Rulai gave his word that they will not interfere with the matters of the mundane world after they convert to Buddhism, I believe him.”

“You really believe him?” Duke Wei stared with his eyes wide open. “You can’t trust a person with no hair on his head with an important task...”

When he was about to say more, Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor raised his hand and said indifferently, “Old Rulai is the head of Buddhism and it’s a good deed to come and resolve our grudges, returning peace back to the world. Furthermore, I’m also injured.”

On Mount Meru, the bodhisattvas and arhats heard what he said and turned their heads over.

Old Rulai chanted one of the many names of Buddha to warn all the bodhisattvas and arhats. He then smiled. “Since Imperial Preceptor is willing to resolve the grudges, how about you guys? Teacher Poor?”

Teacher Poor and the rest of them looked one another in the eyes and nodded silently.

If they didn’t agree to convert to Buddhism, Old Rulai would not lift his finger to save them. After he left with all the strong practitioners of Great Thunderclap Monastery, they would definitely die under the hands of Imperial Preceptor.

For Old Rulai to bring all of the strong practitioners of Great Thunderclap Monastery, this meant that he was determined to win. If they agreed to convert to Great Thunderclap Monastery, Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor wouldn’t dare to probe further.

Old Rulai smiled. “Since all senior brothers and sisters are willing to put down their grudges and convert to Buddhism, this world is an illusion and you’re sure to achieve your Dao. Imperial Preceptor...”

Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor pointed at the bronze-masked man and said, “Rulai, he must stay.”

The bronze-masked man felt a lingering fear in his heart, and Old Rulai frowned slightly. The bodhisattvas, arhats, and venerables on the apparition of Mount Meru chanted the many names of Buddha.

Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor said with a smile, “He must stay.”

Even though his voice was light, his tone said that this was unquestionable and non-negotiable.

Old Rulai sighed. “This kind man, you have no fate with Buddhism. Teacher Poor, fellow senior brothers and sisters, please come up the mountain.”

Teacher Poor and the rest hesitated for a moment, looking at the bronze-masked man. They suddenly gritted their teeth and moved to Mount Meru. They said together in unison, “Old— we’re sorry!”

“There’s no need for further words, I understand.”

The bronze-masked man laughed out loud. “Imperial Preceptor, how are you going to deal with me?”

Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor said expressionlessly, “I’ll take you down and escort you to the capital city to meet the emperor.”

“Escort me to the capital city to meet the emperor?” The bronze-masked man’s tone was quite weird when he spoke, but he smiled nonetheless. “Then we’ll have to see if Imperial Preceptor’s sword is fast enough...”

He slowly raised his palm and suddenly smashed it against his bronze mask. It shattered into pieces, destroying the face beneath as well.

“Imperial Preceptor, the empire of Ling Family will be ruined under your hands sooner or later...”

His head split open, and he died right away, but his body stood there straight like a rod and never collapsed.

Duke Wei and the rest cried out and hurried forward while Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor stood motionless. He hadn’t intercepted the bronze-masked man when he was about to take his own life on purpose.

On the mountain far away, the corners of Qin Mu’s eyes twitched when he saw this.

For Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor to say that sentence was to force the bronze-masked man to suicide. No matter whose face was under the mask, he had to be someone high in the royal family, someone with an important position. He was a person of utmost importance to the emperor.

If he was taken alive by Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor and escorted into the capital city to meet the emperor, not only would the emperor be embarrassed, even the hearts of ministers would deviate.

It would even become a problem for the emperor whether he should kill him or not.

When his true face was revealed, the emperor’s prestige would receive a severe hit and people from all levels of society would discuss it in secret, guessing if it was the man himself who had the intention to start a rebellion or if it was the will of the emperor.

At that time, Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor’s prestige would surpass that of the emperor and most of the ministers’ heart would lean towards him as well. Even the emperor would start to guard against him. If an internal conflict between the emperor and Imperial Preceptor started, the empire would be in danger, and the Ling Family would be in danger as well.

As a higher up of the royal family, the bronze-masked man had to take his life. He couldn’t let the Ling Family be on the defensive, throw its face away.

Because of this, he had to disfigure himself so that no one would know his true identity.

Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor didn't stop him as he hoped that the man would take his life. He didn't want to escort him to the capital city to meet the emperor. If the man didn't disfigure himself, Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor would have helped him do so.

Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor didn't want to smack the emperor's face or the Ling Family's face. This was the best conclusion.

If Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor really escorted this bronze-masked man back to the capital, it would mean that he really wanted to rebel and take over the throne. From the looks of it now, the throne didn't matter to Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor. He only wanted to borrow Eternal Peace Empire to execute his aspiration, to achieve the three immortal deeds.

He wanted to become a saint.

From Mount Meru, Rulai paid his respects to Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor. "Imperial Preceptor, now that everything is settled, this old monk will be taking his leave."

"Take care, Rulai," said Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor as he returned the formalities.

The apparition of Mount Meru floated away to the west. Teacher Poor, True Lord Tian, and the rest turned back their heads to see Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor giving the command to chop off the head of the bronze-masked man to bury it on the spot. The headless body was put into a coffin and prepared to be transported back to the capital.

Wanderer Li sighed. "Dao Brother Rulai, if not for you..."

Old Rulai shook his head. "There's no need to say anything more. Imperial Preceptor is already dissatisfied with my Great Thunderclap Monastery. Let's go back to the mountain. I reckon my sinful disciple has already taken the opportunity to return to take his arm back. If we return in time, we might still meet him."

The monks on the mountain were astonished.

The apparition of Mount Meru floated past the mountain Qin Mu and the rest were on and sneers came from below again. "Bald donkeys!"

The bodhisattvas, arhats, and venerables shouted one after another, "Evil creatures of the devil path!"

Old Rulai shook his head and halted Mount Meru. He looked down and put his palms together. "Senior brother."

Most of the hall masters and guardians were astonished. Sword Hall Master gently shook his head at Qin Mu, but Qin Mu waved his hand and bowed his head. "Senior brother."

Old Rulai revealed an astonished expression and nodded before leading everyone away.

“Cult master, why did you have to return that bald donkey’s greeting?” Right Guardian Xue Bi’e grumbled. “Now that you exposed your true identity, you will be in the radar of that damned old badly, something will definitely happen!”

“As the sacred cult master, I can’t not return the greeting after he greeted me as an equal.” Qin Mu smiled. “We can’t keep hiding the fact that I’m the sacred cult master. Besides, I can’t throw the face of all of you nor the face of the sacred cult.”

Everyone said in unison, “We rather not have this face!”

Chapter 202: Steaming The Imperial Preceptor

On Mount Meru’s apparition, a bodhisattva put his palms together. “My Buddha, Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor said he was injured, why didn’t we take the chance...”

“Is it real or fake?” Old Rulai asked amiably and gently.

The bodhisattva was stunned. “Disciple... disciple does not know.”

Old Rulai smiled. “Those that believed so have already lost, and some of them even died. Teacher Poor, it’s because you guys believed he was injured that it was such a defeat, wasn’t it?”

The expressions of Teacher Poor and the rest were ashen, and Spiritual Master Dao Quan blamed himself deeply. From the medicinal dregs of Qin Mu, he deduced that Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor had been severely injured and everyone believed him, which was why they had chosen the second choice, the Martial way.

However, he couldn’t be blamed for it all.

The surprise attack by the three old monsters of the old generation—Teacher Poor, Wanderer Li, and True Lord Tian—had to have severely injured Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor. The three old monsters were the peak existences of today’s world. No matter if it were their abilities or reputation, they were at the top in the martial world.

No one would doubt the abilities of these three seniors, so even though Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor was known as the genius that comes once in every five hundred years and had a high reputation, he still couldn’t be compared to any of the three. It was because of this that everyone believed that he was severely injured. The tiny details that came after only strengthened this notion.

For example, when he gave a lecture in Imperial College, he only did so for two days, and there was perfume to cover the stink of his wound.

There was also the event of the dragon king of Dragon Rider Sect visiting Imperial Preceptor’s manor at night and leaving unscathed. Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor hadn’t been able to hold him back.

In the battle between Imperial Preceptor and Wanderer Zhen of Little Jade Capital, Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor's injuries had relapsed, which was why he needed Qin Mu, this little divine physician to nurse his body day and night.

The deduction of Spiritual Master Dao Quan and all kinds of other things indicated that Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor's injuries had relapsed. It was then deduced that even with Qin Mu's treatment, he would require at least a month to recover.

And all of this had begun when Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor was ambushed. From the very start, they were destined to be made use of in his scheme.

The two choices were also part of the scheme.

There had never been two choices, only one.

"It's not so easy to deal with a genius that appears once every five hundred years," Old Rulai said indifferently. "These five hundred years don't only mean his wisdom, aptitude, and comprehension are that profound, but his strategies and tactics are also something one may see only once in five hundred years. If such a genius can't become a saint, then he will become a lawless devil, and it won't be fortuitous to this world. Believe?"

He smiled, then said, "Fool."

Everyone was bewildered. They didn't know why Old Rulai had said this kind of words, but they felt that his speech was concise and comprehensive, having a deep meaning.

Beggar Sect Master Qi Dayou said, "He had allied himself with Heavenly Devil Cult and is destined to be a lawless devil. What a pity we don't know who's the new cult master of Heavenly Devil Cult."

"We know." Old Rulai smiled. "It's none other than the young man that returned my greeting. Come to think of it, this old monk had a destiny with him and wanted to enlighten him to Great Thunderclap Monastery, but it's a pity that the destiny was suddenly broken and passed on to another wonderful being."

"It's him?"

Most of the monks, Teacher Poor, and the rest of people on Mount Meru were stunned for a moment. Old Rulai smiled. "It's him. Those old Dao friends are quite remarkable, to have taught such a little devil. What a pity Khakkhara staff couldn't retain its destiny. I was only a step late, only a step..."

...

"Imperial Preceptor, you're smarter than me, couldn't you see any problems with Mount Meru's arrival?" Duke Wei looked at the headless body entering the coffin and turned his head to talk to Imperial Preceptor who was beside him. "They were clearly here to take advantage of the situation and save Teacher Poor and the other old monsters, strengthening the power of their Great Thunderclap Monastery! If these people aren't rid of, they will be a problem in the future!"

“Teacher Poor and the rest have only ten to twenty years left, so they are of no concern, let Old Rulai save them,” said Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor. “I understand Old Rulai’s actions, it’s as expected that he came to take advantage of the timing. I’m injured so I had no strength to stop him.”

Duke Wei sized him up in suspicion, his expression quite weird. “Real or fake?”

Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor said solemnly, “It’s real.”

“Are you sure?”

Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor scowled at him. “Of course it’s real. You try fighting with those cult master level existences! And there were even three god-like existences among them! How can I be unscathed when it was a fight to the death with them?”

“I don’t believe!” Duke Wei said resentfully. “I’d be a fool to do so! I won’t believe a word you say! Those that believed you are all lying in coffins, unable to move an inch.”

Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor didn’t know whether to laugh or cry. “Actually I’m quite truthful sometimes.”

“That’s why you can trick others convincingly. I can’t read you.” Duke Wei looked down at the coffin and kept quiet for a moment. “You should know who is in the coffin.”

Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor shook his head. “I can’t say.”

“I will know even if you don’t say. When we go back to the capital, we will know once we see which old prince has suddenly died.”

Duke Wei looked left and right before whispering. “There’s a conflict in Ling Family, and this won’t be an isolated incident. What if the old Empress Dowager is the same? I feel that you should take a step further and just be the emperor...”

Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor glanced at him with murderousness in his gaze.

Duke Wei jumped in shock and hurriedly said, “You and I have been friends for over two hundred years, don’t scare me! This isn’t my idea, this is what the old brothers that are following you think. Your position has been raised to the max, so even if you do an enormous contribution, there will be no way for the emperor to raise your official position anymore. Now that you have done another huge contribution by quelling the rebellion, how do you want the emperor to reward you? To hand the throne over to you?”

Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor shook his head. “The emperor and I are bosom buddies. The emperor knows me and knows I won’t ask for credit. What I want is to achieve the aspiration of my lifetime.”

“That’s why the emperor is troubled. If he won’t reward you, everyone in the world will be bitterly disappointed. If he wants to reward you, there’s nothing he can reward you with. Do you want him to give you beautiful women? Do you want him to give you gold?”

Duke Wei said in a low voice, "The emperor knows you well, but what about the crown prince? When the crown prince succeeds the throne in the future, will he know you as well as his father? What would the crown prince use to reward you? Furthermore, those old brothers that have followed you all their life can also get promoted if you go a step further. Some can't wait to be promoted, and if they want to achieve that, they have to support you up to the throne. What do you think Empress Dowager is worried about? About you? She's worried about those people under you!"

"I seek my own path. There's no need for you to say anything else." Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor walked forward while speaking calmly. "It's tiring to talk to you. You shall just quell the rebellion properly and clean up all the rebel remnants. I shall find the little divine physician to treat me."

"Treat you again?" Duke Wei was puzzled. "You're really hurt? You aren't lying to me again?"

Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor didn't give him a pleasant look and waved his hand as he walked away.

Qin Mu brought the dragon qilin, Chen Wanyun, Yue Qinghong, and the rest down the mountain. Meanwhile all the hall masters, as well as left and right guardians of Heavenly Devil Cult, activated their teleportation flags to leave.

Below the mountain, Qin Mu and the rest met Imperial Preceptor.

"I'm injured," Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor said.

"Pssh..." the dragon qilin tried to stifle its laughter.

Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor gave a glance at this enormous creature, and the dragon qilin immediately shut its mouth. Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor's complexion was a little pale as he told Qin Mu, "I'm injured."

Qin Mu asked suspiciously, "Real or fake?"

"It's real." Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor's complexion grew even paler.

"You serious?"

"It's true!" Veins started to pop out on Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor's forehead.

"Alright then."

...

Only an empty city remained in place of Daxiang City which was razed to the ground. There was no medicine store here, so they could only return to Hidden Fog City. There was a lake around here which frequently saturated the air with fog. The city ended up appearing and disappearing in the fog which was how it got its name.

In a governmental office, Qin Mu checked on Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor's injuries and discovered that there were more than a hundred places in which he was wounded. Most of them were internal

injuries, and there were even venomous insects in his body. There were also injuries in his divine treasure, but he was lucky he had a dense cultivation which helped him suppress them.

The injuries were all different, and the ones that had invaded his divine treasures were especially hard to deal with, testing Qin Mu's medical skills. The injuries in the Spirit Embryo Divine Treasure, Five Elements Divine Treasure, Six Directions Divine Treasure, Seven Stars Divine Treasure, Celestial Being Divine Treasure, Life and Death Divine Treasure, and Divine Bridge Divine Treasure were all abnormally hard to deal with. The injuries on the soul were also a huge test. This was a rare opportunity for Qin Mu to learn about the secrets of the divine treasures in great depth.

The external injuries, on the other hand, weren't as severe.

If he wanted to nurse Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor's injuries, it was going to be a huge project. Qin Mu calculated for quite some time before setting his mind on a treatment method and ordering people to collect the herbs.

Most of the herbs in the medicine store were ordinary ones, with the precious ones being harder to find. Even though Hidden Fog City was large, there were still many herbs that were unavailable here and required them to seek them out in the capital.

Qin Mu first treated the injuries that could be treated with the herbs available. The other injuries would have to wait until they were back in the capital.

In the governmental office, Qin Mu ordered to find him an incomparably huge pot. The pot was then filled with water and herbs and a huge steamer was placed inside to let Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor lie inside naked. Hundreds of needles were pierced into his body, their points reaching his divine treasures. The silver needles were used as a bridge to draw the medicinal energy into the divine treasures.

Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor lay inside the steamer quietly when he suddenly said, "If the emperor rewards me with beautiful women and gold, should I want them?"

Qin Mu twirled the needle in the heart of his brows. That silver needle had a hollow center which could help guide the medicinal energy. "What else can the emperor reward you with?"

Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor was silent for a moment. "There's nothing else."

"Then you should take them." Qin Mu took another needle and jabbed it into the lungs. "Who else is in Imperial Preceptor's house?"

"Other than me, just a few old servants and bodyguards."

"How much money do you have?"

"The salary every month is enough for me."

"Do you have a wife or children?"

“With heaven’s law in one’s heart, what’s the need for desire?”

“Imperial Preceptor should start a family... You should stop talking, after I place this needle, I will have to cover the steamer and raise the fire.”

...

After half a month, Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor had regained much of his complexion. While treating him, they had passed by fifteen cities yet Qin Mu had not found all the spirit herbs he needed. However, the injuries were more or less cared for.

Qin Mu was proficient in using medicine, so when not having top quality spirit herbs, he used ordinary ones to replace them. However, some injuries really needed incomparably precious spirit herbs which left him helpless.

When they reached the capital, they saw white lanterns and white banners hanging on numerous streets. After asking around, they learned that North Garrison King Ling Yinfeng had passed away. The emperor was mourning, so the entire empire was grieving.

North Garrison King Ling Yinfeng was the younger brother of the former emperor and was ranked eight, so he was referred to as Eight Imperial Uncle. He was well respected and loved by the people, since when the former emperor was conquering the world, Eight Imperial Uncle had outstanding military service, conquering numerous countries. The injuries he received were very severe, and he had almost died a few times in battle, yet he had also saved the life of the former emperor quite a few times.

The successful ascension of Emperor Yanfeng to the throne was due to his support. He played a huge part in paving out the empire of the Ling Family.

Chapter 203: The Cripple That Deserved To Be Trusted

When Qin Mu heard the news, he frowned slightly and took a look at Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor. The man revealed a mournful expression and said, “I’ll be offering my condolences to North Garrison King’s manor.”

Qin Mu asked in a low voice, “Imperial Preceptor, why did North Garrison King rebel?”

“He’s not rebelling against the emperor, he’s rebelling against me for the empire of his Ling Family,” Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor said in a soft voice. “My power is too great, making him feel uneasy. He thinks I will overturn the rule of Ling Family. You’re right, it’s time for me to start my family. Even with heaven’s law in my heart, desires are still needed.”

Qin Mu had a weird expression.

Someone like Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor starting a family? It was more or less beyond people’s belief, yet it was about to happen.

“I shall return to the manor first to change into robes of quiet colors. North Garrison King had contributed to the empire, and even though he didn’t agree with my way of handling things, he was still a person deserving respect. I have to pay my respects to him.”

Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor then bade farewell to Qin Mu. “Now that we’re at the capital, you won’t have to trouble yourself with my injuries anymore.”

Qin Mu nodded. Since Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor’s injuries from the previous ambush had been healed, this meant that he had a divine physician by his side, thus there was no need for Qin Mu to continue treating him.

When Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor returned to his manor, he was vigilant. He didn’t walk through the main door but jumped into the manor directly. Looking around at the surroundings, he saw that all the seals were still in their places.

Yet he didn’t let his guard down and called out solemnly, “Old Fu? Yuanqing?”

There was no sound in reply; Imperial Preceptor’s manor was unusually quiet.

He walked in, and when he reached the hall, he saw his servants and bodyguards tied up and piled together.

Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor frowned, then saw Fu Yuanqing. Little Poison King Fu Yuanqing was stripped of all his clothes and trussed up on the ceiling of the hall. His tongue was sticking out, a golden rope tied around it. At the other end of the golden rope was a huge iron weight which was pretty heavy.

Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor frown deepened, and the sword light on his fingertips flashed, slicing apart the ropes on his body. Fu Yuanqing crashed heavily to the ground, and only then did Imperial Preceptor discover that all the cultivation in the man’s body had been sealed, and as well as his divine treasures. Because of this, he couldn’t unleash any bit of cultivation.

Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor broke the seals on him and the other servants and bodyguards. With a solemn face, he asked, “What happened?”

“I have no idea.” Fu Yuanqing shook his head in shame. “I didn’t see anything before I got hung up there. And I didn’t see anything even when my tongue was pulled out. A huge iron weight was then tied to it so I couldn’t cry for help even if I wanted to!”

“Old master, is our manor haunted?” A few servants looked terrified. One of them said, “I also saw nothing before finding myself in the pile of others, unable to move!”

“Haunted?”

Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor said, “It’s not a ghost. That person’s speed was too fast, so fast that you guys could not see him. I know who this person is. He must have barged into my manor to take advantage of me not being around to take back his leg. If I’m not wrong, my treasury should also have been emptied out.”

He brought everyone to the treasury only to see the seal on it still there, untouched.

Fu Yuanqing let out a sigh of relief and smiled. "Imperial Preceptor, you have guessed wrong, the seal is still here. I reckon the thief couldn't break your seal so he didn't touch the items inside."

Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor sighed. "A phantom has no form, he can pilfer the heavens and switch out the sun, so why would he need to break the seal? He can pass through the seal directly, without touching it in the slightest. The treasury is indeed emptied."

Everyone didn't believe him.

He then opened the seal and pushed the door open, revealing the treasury to be empty, cleaned out to the point it was spick and span.

On the room's opposite wall, a painting had been hanging before. It portrayed the back of Sword God drawn by Heavenly Painting Country's crown prince, but it was gone without a trace now.

In place of it were scribbles that were shocking to read.

"Imperial Preceptor, I took back my leg. Thanks for your treasures as well. Your servants were treated quite well by me, so there's no need to worry. Oh! I also slept on your bed, and after I woke up, I took a dump on it. I even made a pot of fragrant tea for you in your study room. Our grudges are thus cleared, but you don't need to thank me!"

Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor's expression darkened. He immediately went to his bedroom and lifted the blanket. When the stink permeated the air, he covered his nose and waved his hand. "Old Fu, throw it away, throw it away!"

Old Fu immediately bundled up the blanket along with the bedsheet, but the stink came from the bed as well.. Old Fu asked, "Old master, do you want to throw the bed away as well?"

"Throw it away!"

Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor waved his hand and went to the study room with quick steps. The entire study room had the smell of urine, and the yellowish liquid in the teapot was clearly not tea.

Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor's sleeves swept the teapot out the window along with the teacups, his face black. "Disgraceful! Never mind him taking his leg back, but to even eat, sleep, and poop in my manor to spoil my peace! Old Fu, prepare another tea set and bed."

Old Fu hesitated for a moment before saying, "Old master, there isn't much money left..."

Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor was slightly stunned. He then mumbled to himself, "The emperor's reward will take a few more days to come. My salary comes once every month, but it will only be given at the start of the month. This month's salary is gone?"

“This time old master had gone out, you took more than half of the salary with you. The rest of it was used to send some meager gifts to the kings, dukes, and ministers for their birthdays. Those that had given birth to a son also had to be sent a gift. A few days ago it was the Empress Dowager’s birthday, and the gift I prepared was even disdained for being unpresentable.”

Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor’s head started to ache. “North Garrison King has passed away, so some gifts are needed. Are we really broke? Is there anything we can pawn?”

“This...”

Old Fu hesitated for a moment, then decided not to say anything. Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor looked around, but even though the house wasn’t small, there wasn’t a lot of furniture around. There wasn’t anything that could be pawned.”

He always felt that infatuation with fine details prevents one from making progress, so all the stuff he ate and used were simple things, nothing fancy. The things he collected were mostly weird: Cripple’s leg, the painting of Heavenly Painting Country’s crown prince. Yet even these things were stolen by that thief god.

“Can we ask for the salary in advance?”

Old Fu asked, “Old master, do you still want your face?”

Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor hesitated. “Could we borrow some?”

Old Fu shook his head. “We recently went to war and the few people that old master is well acquainted with have been deployed and are no longer at home. Who would lend me money when the head of their house is not around? Unless old master went personally...”

Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor muttered, “My painting skills aren’t bad and could be sold for some cash.”

“Is old master going to sign it?”

Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor shook his head. “If I sign my name, the person buying the painting would be bribing me, I won’t sign.”

Old Fu shook his head. “In that case, old master’s painting won’t sell.”

Those words pissed off Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor. “How do you know it won’t sell? I’ve had the painting of Heavenly Painting Country’s crown prince for a long time and copied it countless times. Even though I don’t dare to say I’m comparable to Art Saint, but shouldn’t that be good enough?”

“Old master, what kind of place is the capital? There are so many famous scholars around that they all look like carps crossing the river. How much do they earn by selling their paintings? More than half of those people are starving to the point they’re skin and bones. Old master, how well do you think your skills fair when compared to theirs?”

Old Fu then said, "On the other hand, old master's disciples can lend money to old master."

"Borrow money from my disciples? I can't lower myself to that." Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor suddenly thought of Qin Mu and smiled. "I know who has money that I can borrow. He's liberal with his money and would usually pay when buying herbs for me. Otherwise, with that salary of mine, it would have been long gone. He's also not in the imperial court so it's not embarrassing to borrow from him. I shall go and borrow money, you guys wait for me here."

When Qin Mu returned back to Scholar's Residence, he could smell a medicinal fragrance the moment he entered. It seemed to be coming from his courtyard, which bewildered him.

Although there were odd-job workers cleaning Scholar's Residence, every one of them would often go to the hall to sit for lessons, so their cultivations weren't weak. There were some odd-job workers who were even stronger than the scholars. In the history of Imperial College, there were quite a few odd-job workers that had cultivated extraordinary abilities which allowed them to leap into the position of scholars and be promoted to reputable officers.

With odd-job workers guarding Scholar's Residence, almost no one was able to sneak inside.

Qin Mu brought the dragon qilin and Hu Ling'er into his courtyard and saw huge bags of herbs piled up in his courtyard. There was even stuff like a medicinal furnace, medicinal cauldron, et cetera.

The medicinal furnace and medicinal cauldron were extraordinary. The markings on them were extremely extraordinary, which made it clear that they were precious treasures. They weren't inferior to the treasures Qin Mu had taken from Rolan's Golden Palace!

Inside a medicinal cauldron, there was a leg, and there was an arm in the medicinal furnace.

When Qin Mu saw these two limbs, he was slightly stunned. He told Hu Ling'er and the dragon qilin, "Stay guard outside the courtyard and don't let anyone enter."

Hu Ling'er and the dragon qilin got up and walked out of the courtyard. Qin Mu turned his head back to see the dragon qilin squeezing through the creaking door frames and shook his head. "This fellow is getting fatter by the day, very soon he'll probably break my door and I'll have to get a new one again."

He pushed open the door to the main room and saw two men that were old and yet not that old sitting inside. Cripple had tidied himself. His hair was glossy black, while the beard under his chin was also tied up with a dazzling golden thread. The clothes he was wearing were also quite tastefully chosen.

Old Ma sat opposite him and wore green clothing that wasn't as gaudy as Cripple's. One of his sleeves drooped down empty, and he looked travel-worn. He must have arrived not too long ago, so his sideburns were grizzled and his hair was messy.

When they saw Qin Mu walking in, Cripple revealed a simple smile while Old Ma's cold face brightened up.

"Grandpa Ma, Grandpa Cripple..." Qin Mu felt moved and his eyes grew red. "Are you two here to see me?"

“No,” Old Ma replied.

Qin Mu’s felt hurt and Cripple smiled, “You are living more comfortably than us, so why do we have to come and see you? You’re just someone we picked up so why would we travel thousands of miles just to see you? Don’t think too much.”

Qin Mu retorted angrily, “You’re clearly here to see me!”

Cripple shook his head. “I’m just here to have you reattach my leg. Can you help me see if my leg is still alive?”

“I won’t.”

Cripple flew into a fury. “You rascal, turning independent? We’re certainly not here to see you!”

Old Ma gave a cough and said unhurriedly, “If you’re not here to see him, why didn’t you bring your leg to Apothecary instead? Stop teasing him, look at him, he’s about to cry.”

“I’m not crying,” Qin Mu said, putting up an act.

“Alright, alright, stop crying, I’m here to see you. I just returned from Imperial Preceptor’s manor, having stayed there for quite some time. I also took some items while I’m there as well. Do you see that leg in the cauldron?”

This elder was very proud of himself. “My leg! I took it back from Imperial Preceptor’s manor and Imperial Preceptor couldn’t do anything about it. He could only look at me helplessly as I took back my leg!”

Qin Mu kept quiet for a moment before letting out a warm smile. “Grandpa Cripple, Imperial Preceptor and I just came back, so what Imperial Preceptor was there in the Imperial Preceptor’s manor?”

Cripple stared at him, and Qin Mu didn’t give in, staring right back. The smiles on their faces were similarly warm and gave others a feeling that they could be trusted. Even if one was stabbed by them, they would still think they deserved to be trusted.

Chapter 204: Qin Mu’s Dark Past

Qin Mu and Cripple continued staring at each other.

Old Ma was warm-hearted despite looking cold. “We’re all adults, so stop throwing a tantrum. We’re here to see how you’re getting by and if our limbs are still usable.”

Cripple smiled. “Old Ma had run over here from Great Thunderclap Monastery, so you should know he’s here to see you specifically. Great Thunderclap Monastery is thousands of miles away from here and only a thousand miles away from Disabled Elderly Village. As for me, I’m not here to see you. My leg was at Imperial Preceptor’s manor, and you happened to be the closest.”

Qin Mu's heart was warmed when Old Ma said, "Don't mind Cripple's harsh words, he's actually a good man. When you were young and always wet your bed, granny was annoyed by you as she had never raised a child before, so she wanted to send you away to be raised by the neighboring village. When you were sent over the first day, you were back on granny's bed on the next. Granny sent you over a few times more, yet you always came back mysteriously. It was Cripple, of course, who had stolen you back."

Cripple shook his head. "I did not. I hate kids the most. If I didn't have just one leg, I would have kicked his balls daily."

Qin Mu felt a stab of pain, and he said in disbelief, "Granny sent me away because I wet the bed when I was young? But granny dotes on me so much..."

"Quite a few times," Old Ma said. "Granny had never given birth nor had she raised a child before. You peed like a waterfall and cried at night, cried when you were hungry, cried when you were stuffed, and even cried when you couldn't sleep. Even the cow that was fenced up was driven crazy by you, so it would be weird if granny wouldn't have been annoyed. Us old geezers were so annoyed that Village Chief and Apothecary had agreed that it would be a good thing to send you away as the village would become more peaceful."

The pain in Qin Mu's heart worsened, and he said with a black face, "Grandpa Village Chief and Grandpa Apothecary also wanted to send me away? How did I not know about this?"

Cripple smiled. "You were not a year old, so how would you remember? It would've been fine if you had just peed on the bed, but you even shit on it. Mute had originally wanted to send you away to be raised by others and even included a milking cow to make the offer more tempting for others. Yet you stopped wetting your bed soon, so you weren't sent away..."

"Grandpa Mute also wanted to send me away?" Qin Mu was silent for a moment. "Luckily there's still Grandpa Blind and Grandpa Deaf who dote on me."

Old Ma said, "Blind indeed doted on you. But after he raised you high up in the air and you peed on his face, he did not say anything after granny wanted to send you away."

Cripple then continued the story. "When you were young, Deaf was the most annoyed by you. You often climbed onto his desk and covered everything in ink. You even peed into his ink stone..." He sighed. "Still, you were cute when you wet the bed. You became not so cute when you grew up and peed on the stone statues in the village."

Having received many psychological blows, Qin Mu said hoarsely, "Grandpa Ma, Grandpa Cripple, I'm now the cult master of Heavenly Devil Cult, so can we not mention wetting the bed? Let me take a look at your leg and arm."

Cripple smiled at Old Ma. "This incident of him being sent away after wetting the bed always cracks me up. I'm sure I'll laugh until I jump out of the coffin upon remembering it even after I've died."

Old Ma revealed a smile. "Me too."

Qin Mu walked into the courtyard with a black face and moved the medicinal cauldron and furnace in. He checked the arm and leg of the two people and took out Junior Protector Sword to slice an opening on Cripple's leg, taking out a few drops of blood to check hem in detail.

After a moment, he cut open Old Ma's arm and also took out a few drops of blood. After studying them for a moment, he said, "Even though the lifeforce in Grandpa Ma's arm has been depleted by half, it's been preserved well. It seems like someone used a Buddhist incantation to vibrate the properties of the blood in the arm, keeping the blood fresh. With some nourishment from spirit pills and miracle medicine, the life force can be recovered, so the arm could be reattached. After training it for a few years, it would return back to its original state."

Old Ma said, "My arm was placed in Thousand Buddha Pagoda where the physical body of previous Rulai rests. Monks chant incantations day and night to preserve the activity of the body."

Qin Mu jumped in shock and cried out, "There is really a thousand buddhas in Great Thunderclap Monastery?"

Old Ma shrugged. "I didn't count them, but there should be."

Qin Mu composed himself and checked on Cripple's leg. "Grandpa Cripple, this leg... The blood has already spoiled and the leg has died. It can't be reattached anymore."

Cripple's face turned pale white, and the smile on his face vanished as he cried out, "How is that possible? I'm known as the divine legs and these two legs were trained to the realm of god, so how could one just die? Furthermore, it was chopped off just recently, merely some twenty-thirty years ago. I don't believe my leg is inferior to Old Ma's divine fist, it's definitely still alive!"

Qin Mu revealed an honest smile. "My condolences, Grandpa Cripple. It's already dead and can't be reattached. Furthermore, I tasted your blood just now, and there was the taste of five spices and a smoky flavor to it. I reckon it was turned into a dried leg by Imperial Preceptor."

Cripple laughed from extreme anger. "Rascal, fooling me again. How could Imperial Preceptor be so poor to smoke my leg into dried meat?" The moment he said that, he became nervous. "Imperial Preceptor is indeed very poor, he wouldn't have turned it into dried meat, right?"

Qin Mu was pleased with himself.

Old Ma said, "Don't scare him, thieves are timid."

Qin Mu smiled. "Even though Grandpa Ma's arm and Grandpa Cripple's leg were less active than Grandpa Butcher's lower body, the lifeforce within them is still there. I'll first use medicine to activate your severed limbs, and after ten days to half a month, they will recover. When they are reattached, there should be no problems. Grandpa Butcher's lower body had been on Grand Shaman's body, so there were no hidden injuries left behind. Yours are not in such a good condition since there was no nourishment from a living body."

Old Ma and Cripple let out a sigh of relief. "As long as they can be reattached, it's good."

Cripple smiled. "I took a portion of spirit herbs from the palace's treasury, so you should see which spirit herbs can be used. If you lack any, I'll go and... uhm, borrow some more."

"No need, the warehouse of Imperial College should have the needed herbs."

Qin Mu came to the courtyard and was about to check the types of spirit herbs there when Hu Ling'er's voice reached him from outside. "Young master, Imperial Preceptor came to visit."

"Imperial Preceptor is here? Could it be that what Grandpa Cripple did have been traced all the way here?"

Qin Mu was astonished. He turned around to close the door to the main room. Tidying up his clothes, he opened the gate to see Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor standing outside. This middle-aged man who shook the world with his might was ill at ease. He stood quietly for quite some time before saying slowly, "Imperial Academician is well to do, could you lend me some money?"

Qin Mu was bewildered as he smiled. "Imperial Preceptor came this time to borrow money? The magnificent Imperial Preceptor actually lacks money?"

Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor answered truthfully, "When I went out for battle, a thief came into my house and cleaned everything out. Now my pockets are empty, yet I still have to go to North Garrison King's manor to offer my condolences, I really don't have any money to spare..."

Qin Mu's heart was moved slightly. "Could Grandpa Cripple have cleaned out Imperial Preceptor's manor and not left him any money? Grandpa Cripple may have lost a leg, but he's still more nimble than me."

He smiled. "Imperial Preceptor, how much money do you need?"

Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor calculated for a moment and said, "My salary is eight hundred great abundance coins a month, so I'll borrow the salary of a month to tide me over."

Qin Mu told Hu Ling'er, "Ling'er, fetch a thousand great abundance coins over and pass them to Imperial Preceptor."

Hu Ling'er gave a sound of acknowledgment and slipped into the room.

Qin Mu smiled. "Is there a need for Imperial Preceptor to be so poor?"

The man shook his head. "Too much external desires would affect one's cultivation and wisdom. With lesser desires, money is of no importance anymore."

Suddenly his gaze flickered and he smiled. "There are other people in your room. The person is an existence that's like a Rulai sitting there motionlessly... That's not right, there should be two people. The other blends with the heaven and earth, drifting without a resting place. It seems like he could escape at any moment, what a superior body technique which almost made me overlook him! Academician, why are you not inviting me in to take a seat?"

Qin Mu shook his head. "Imperial Preceptor, I'm not going to invite you in. My elders have come, and they are injured so it isn't convenient for them to meet people."

"Oh, so they're injured, that explains why there are so many spirit herbs in the courtyard. I'm also injured therefore it's indeed inconvenient to disturb them."

Hu Ling'er brought a huge coin pouch over, and Qin Mu took it from her, handing it to Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor with a smile. "If Imperial Preceptor is tight on money, there's no need to return. Imperial Preceptor, a person of noble character can be poor, but there's no need to be poor. Being poor is not a requirement to be a noble person."

Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor said, "I have to return. The emperor's reward will come in a few days, and I'll be able to pay you back then. I just need this to tide me over the next few days."

He expressed his thanks and bade farewell.

Qin Mu waited until he walked farther away before telling Hu Ling'er and the dragon qilin to guard outside again. He walked into the main room and asked, "Grandpa Cripple, you cleaned out Imperial Preceptor's manor?"

"What do you mean by cleaned out?" Cripple shook his head. "There was not much money in his manor to begin with, and he didn't even have any valuable furniture. The thing worth the most was probably Deaf's painting, which is priceless."

Qin Mu was puzzled. Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor was really that poor? He was an important minister that had power over all levels of society, so how could he have no capital?

There were some officials in Eternal Peace Empire that were compradors in mining, some set up refineries, casting factories, and had unspeakable wealth. As the imperial preceptor, how could he be so poor?

Cripple took out a scroll from god knows where and opened it up. "This painting of the Sword God's back should be of Village Chief, right? Deaf should have seen the Village Chief young, keke. This painting can't be seen else the eyes will become blind..."

He rolled back the painting of Sword God and threw it at Qin Mu. "I'll give it to you, use it to ward off evil. The painting of Village Chief painted by Blind makes it hard for ghosts to come near you. Don't open it. With your cultivation, you'll turn blind if you take a look and might even die! Even though the paintings of Deaf from back then had yet to reach the god realm, the person he had drawn was too powerful so you still can't see it."

Qin Mu was skeptical, but he placed the painting in his taotie sack.

Old Ma said, "Deaf had indeed seen Village Chief before, but it was reverence in him, more than anything. In the village, he was closest to Mute. Now that Mute left without saying a thing, I reckon Deaf will be unable to keep still and will definitely come out to find him."

Qin Mu was moved. Ever since he left the village, the people of Disabled Elderly Village had come out one after another. Even though these old folks said that they didn't miss him, they had all walked out of the village for him.

He concentrated on distinguishing the spirit herbs that Cripple had 'borrowed' from the palace, thinking to himself, "The herbs from the palace are indeed precious, but they're a little inferior to the herbs in Grandpa Apothecary's herb garden. These are all hard to get spirit herbs!"

With them, he already had the prescription to nourish Old Ma's arm and Cripple's divine leg. He just needed to pick some supplementary herbs from the warehouse in Imperial College.

Chapter 205: A Tree Of Yellow Pears

Qin Mu tidied up the herbs and matched them up. He nourished Old Ma's arm and Cripple's leg with medicine before buying some venomous insect powder of the south from the warehouse of the Imperial College.

This insect powder was made of incomparably tiny insects called Vermillion Beauty Venomous Insects. If a single insect was placed in front of a person, it was impossible to see with a naked eye, only with the third eye.

After the insects were dried and turned into powder, they would revive when in contact with blood.

Qin Mu asked for some fresh blood from Old Ma and Cripple and used it to dissolve the insect powder. When Vermillion Beauty Venomous Insects received the nourishment of fresh blood, they revived and made it seem as if the two goblets of fresh blood were alive.

Old Ma and Cripple looked at the goblets. Their eyesight was extraordinary and could naturally see the insects in the blood. There were tens of thousands of them densely packed in the goblet, and the sight of it was terrifying.

Cripple smiled. "Mu'er, you plan to use these insects to cure our limbs? What insects are these? Are they harmful or not?"

Among the people in the village, Butcher could only claim to be number two when ranked on fiendishness that could make little maidens cry. The number one was Apothecary who loved to raise flowers and little insects.

Apothecary's face was scary, but his insects were scarier. Cripple was used to stealing stuff and everyone's room had been visited by him. Even Qin Mu's sugar-coated hawthorns were scammed away by him a few times, but he had never touched Apothecary's room.

Qin Mu followed Apothecary to learn the art of healing, so he was quite knowledgeable about insects. Looking at the insects in the two goblets, Cripple couldn't help feeling his hair stand on end. He kept having the feeling that a wicked person was trying to harm him.

"Grandpa Cripple, don't worry. The use of Vermillion Beauty Venomous Insects is one of the venomous insect techniques from Five Sprouts of the southern borders. There's no harm to the body."

Qin Mu injected the insect blood into the blood vessels of Old Ma's arm and Cripple's leg, and the Vermillion Beauty Venomous Insects were now planted into the limbs. He then said, "The reason why these insects are called Vermillion Beauty Venomous Insects is because there are some women from the sects of the southern borders who use them to freeze their beauty and preserve their youth. They even continue to look alive after they are dead."

"Looking alive after dying..." Cripple gave a shudder, still feeling that these Vermillion Beauty Venomous Insects weren't anything good.

Qin Mu placed Cripple's leg and Old Ma's arm into the medicinal cauldron. There was already a cauldron of medicinal decoction there, and he said, "This kind of venomous insect can eat away the dead blood in the blood, the dead skin on the skin, the mucous membrane when muscles are damaged, broken bones, and dead bone marrow. That's why people who use Vermillion Beauty Venomous Insects are able to preserve the appearance of their youth until they die of old age. Grandpa Apothecary said he had a few intimate friends of the fairer sex who raised this kind of venomous insect in their body. Even years later, they still looked sixteen to seventeen years old and were very tight. Grandpa Apothecary said he likes girls who are very tight..."

The youth revealed a thoughtful expression. "What does girls who are very tight mean?"

Cripple said, "You're still young, don't think about these nonsensical things. Can I use them?"

Qin Mu found a seed from the spirit herbs taken from the palace and lifted up a floor tile in the main room, revealing jade-like soil underneath, "Of course. However, there's a disadvantage to this kind of venomous insect. If they get hungry, they start eating the healthy flesh and blood, so people who have these venomous insects need to use fresh blood to raise them. As time goes by, there will be more and more Vermillion Beauty Venomous Insects in their body, so the fresh blood they have to consume will grow in quantity."

He opened his taotie's sack and took out some water from Jade Dragon Palace to water it. "Grandpa Apothecary said that in the land of Five sprouts, it is a frequent occurrence that beautiful women seduce young and strong men. After a night of fun, only the skin of the men would be left, their owners having turned into dissolute ghosts. The essence and blood sucked away from their bodies would have been used by the women to feed their Vermillion Beauty Venomous Insects."

Cripple shuddered.

After Qin Mu watered the soil, it bulged out and a soft shoot popped out, growing taller and taller at a speed visible to the naked eye.

The youth executed Overlord Body Three Elixir Technique as he continued walking around the tiny sapling in the main room. He then executed Earth Eon Creation Technique and struck the tiny sapling with mudras. The moment his palm and his five moving fingers touched the leaf of the sapling, they would immediately get deflected.

When the branches and leaves came into contact with his palm or fingers, there were actually ding and dong sounds which were like notes of a guqin. A melodious rhythm rang out in the main room.

Qin Mu stepped about, and with his Earth Eon Creation Technique, the small tree grew to the height of a human and began to sprout, revealing lush green leaves.

Next, flower buds grew out and bloomed into snow-white pear blossoms.

“The reputation of Vermillion Beauty Venomous Insect isn’t good, so when I went to the warehouse of Imperial College to buy it earlier, the directorate even asked what I wanted to use it for. That directorate said that there are many females in the kings, dukes, and ministers’ families that like these kinds of things. There are also some consorts in the palace that like them, so Hall of Supreme Healing had altered these venomous insects so that they couldn’t reproduce.”

Qin Mu’s footsteps didn’t stop, and neither did his hands. The mudra continued to change like Guanyin flicking her fingers. Each flick produced a thump sound of a stone landing into a calm lake.

The pear blossoms on the tree withered as green pears grew out. Those pears were small and exquisite, only the size of a thumb.

However, under the transformation of Qing Mu’s mudra, the fruits slowly grew bigger.

“Imperial Physician You even created an Insect Elimination Pill so when the Vermillion Beauty Venomous Insects start to harm the body, one can consume this pill to kill the Vermillion Beauty Venomous Insects and remove them from their body.”

Qin Mu transformed his creation technique, continuing to ripen the fruits, and the green pears on the tree became as big as a fist. “I had the directorate of the warehouse fetch an Insect Elimination Pill for me to have a look. The herbs used in it are only ordinary herbs yet they are sold for an exorbitant price. Even Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor’s month’s salary isn’t enough to buy one of them. That directorate said that Imperial Physician You had relied on this pill to become a tycoon among the imperial physicians!”

Cripple’s eyes lighted up. “Imperial Physician You? Tycoon?”

The pears on the tree turned yellow and gave off a fragrant fruity smell.

Qin Mu plucked a few and threw them to Old Ma and Cripple. The two old men took a bite and the sweetness of the pear spread throughout their mouth, making them exclaim in admiration.

“What kind of spell did little divine physician use to transform these pears?” Old Ma asked.

Qin Mu blushed and said, “Grandpa Ma, stop making fun of me. This is the Earth Eon Creation Technique that granny taught me.”

“Earth Eon Creation Technique?”

Old Ma and Cripple looked at each other in dismay, and Cripple muttered, “I saw Granny Si execute this move to refine the sun before. At the time of noon, the five hearts faced upwards to gather the essence of the sun, causing the fire clouds in the sky to come surging over. The sight was so terrifying that it was

obvious at first glance that it was a top-notch technique of the devil path. Granny Si used this technique to scorch many people to death, which is very unlike how you used it just now...”

Qin Mu was stunned. “Could I have cultivated it wrongly?”

Old Ma disagreed. “You didn’t cultivate it wrongly. You had cultivated it purely, while I reckon Old Woman Si was the one that had strayed from the path. The sun nourishes all living things, so by right it should be used this way.”

Qin Mu plucked a few more pears and sliced them into half before placing them in the medicine decoction. “I use Vermillion Beauty Venomous Insects to get rid of the dead parts in the arm and leg, and after they are gotten rid of, I will use medicine to force the Vermillion Beauty Venomous Insects out. The insects won’t harm your limbs. This yellow pear is a herb to excite the medicinal energy of other herbs. It’s also pretty delicious, but there are little medicinal properties in it.”

His knowledge in the art of healing even surpassed that of Imperial Physician You. This physician had used Insect Elimination Pill to poison Vermillion Beauty Venomous Insects, so after they died, they would still remain within the body to be slowly discharged.

Qing Mu, however, had used medicine to force these venomous insects to swim out by themselves, not leaving a trace behind.

Furthermore, the medicinal decoction he had refined could help improve blood circulation, exciting the activity of Old Ma’s arm and Cripple’s arm, which would help with the recovery of its lifeforce. When the limbs were nursed back to health, he could reattach them back.

Qin Mu plucked the other pears and filled up a basket full of them. He then pulled out the pear tree with its roots and moved it to the courtyard.

Qin Mu called Hu Ling’er and the dragon qilin over, giving some pears to them as well. Hu Ling’er tasted a mouthful and exclaimed endlessly. The dragon qilin also ate quite a few of them. Even if these weren’t Scarlet Fire Spirit Pills, it still ate heartily.

“It’s time for this fellow to lose some fat.”

Qin Mu stared at this dragon qilin and thought to himself, “If he continues eating like this, I doubt he will be able to fly up while stepping on fire clouds.”

Cripple couldn’t sit still. After staying half a day at Qin Mu’s place, he started grumbling about going out for a walk. Old Ma was worried he might meet Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor, so he went out with him.

The person that Cripple always obeyed was Old Ma. He was respectful and afraid of him, so he could not reject him. Even if the two had run out, Qin Mu wasn’t worried about their safety.

Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor was also heavily injured, so if he met Cripple, Cripple might not be the one at a disadvantage.

Furthermore, Old Ma was the most steady person in the village. With Old Ma around, Cripple wouldn't fool around.

A few days passed by, and the imperial scholars that had gone to the frontlines returned. In Lizhou, Surging River, and Deer County, they had met with Great Mountain Sect summoning a devil, Nine Spectre Sect summoning souls, and Corpse Immortal Cult controlling corpses.

After they received the surprise attack of General Xiaoyi, thirty percent of the imperial scholars that had headed to the battle were killed. These thirty percent were the elites of the elites, so they could be said to have suffered a great loss.

The imperial scholars who had gone forth into the darkness had been completely wiped out. Luckily, the main forces of Eternal Peace Empire's army had managed to quell the rebellion in Surging River under the command of Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor. General Yuyuan Chuyun had also managed to gather the power of everyone to slay the devil god that was summoned forth and made his way to the gate of the netherworld.

Lizhou Prefecture Magistrate Yuyuan Chuyu had led her army across the river to stop General Xiaoyi and only when both sides of the army launched a bloody battle on the surface of the river that the power of General Xiaoyi's army finally came to a halt. The swords of Yuyuan Chuyu and Yuyuan Chuyun matched harmoniously as the sun set in Surging River. At that time, a sword sun was half sunk into the heart of the river and numerous sword lights burst forth from the setting sun in the heart of the river, slaying countless people from the rebel army. Flying ships fell from the sky and corpses rained down.

General Xiaoyi could only retreat.

Only when Yuyuan Chuyu and Yuyuan Chuyun's armies crossed the river was the chaos in Lizhou quelled.

They checked the imperial scholars after that, and only then did they realize that they had suffered a great loss. There were even some directorates who had died in battle to save the scholars by fighting the devil.

After that, numerous scholars had followed the directorates to quell the rebellion. Only when Imperial Preceptor returned to the court did the scholars' experience end and they returned to Imperial College. They were thus slightly later than Qin Mu.

There were many imperial scholars that had died, and Gu Linuan couldn't avoid the blame, so he requested his punishment from the emperor. The emperor forfeited his salary for half a year and demoted him to a fourth-ranking official. He was still in charge of Imperial College, but he wasn't spared from his duty.

Gu Linuan ordered people to tidy up the casualty list, hoping to see Qin Mu's name there, but was a pity it didn't appear.

After tidying up the casualty list, he immediately headed to the palace to meet the emperor. On his way, he met a eunuch that announced imperial decrees heading towards Imperial College, and Gu Linuan immediately said, "Eunuch, are you going to Imperial College to announce an imperial decree?"

That eunuch smiled. "Congratulations lord, the imperial academician gained merit in quelling this rebellion, which saved the scholars under you. His Majesty wants me to bring the imperial decree to him and raise his official position!"

Gu Linuan's expression froze, and he said angrily, "This is what he should do, why is there a need for a reward?"

"His Majesty said that some people can't even do what they should do properly, so he decided to use this as a warning to others."