

Tales of Herding Gods Chapter 226-230

Chapter 226: Sword Of Founding Emperor Sea Of Blood

In the main room, Hu Ling'er was sprawled on the dragon qilin's back. From that position, she sneakily opened her eyes to see the heads rolling off.

It was a queer sight. There was clearly no enemy, but when the strong practitioners of Celestial Being Realm stepped into the courtyard, they would immediately die an unnatural death!

The others reacted as if they had met a great enemy. A Celestial Being Realm practitioner gave a shout, and his sword qi covered his entire body like frost as he entered the courtyard. With a wary gaze, he swept his eyes everywhere.

His sword skill was intricate, and there were countless sword lights swimming around his body like incomparably fine fishes.

The method he had taken was a passive one to defend one's self. With thousands of fine sword fishes which contained his incomparably dense cultivation swimming around him, he could have them immediately counterattack when met with hostility and deliver a killing blow!

He had no choice but to do this since the enemy came and went without leaving any traces or shadow, so he couldn't see where the enemy was exactly and how he had made his move. With so many strong practitioners of Celestial Being Realm having lost their lives here, it was just too strange.

He didn't meet any danger right away, but he didn't dare to let his guard down as he slowly walked towards the main room that Qin Mu and the rest were sleeping in. There, he saw a painting hanging in the room.

Qin Mu had lighted up a candle in front of this painting, lighting it up.

On the painting was the back of a middle-aged man with a sword strapped to it. The middle-aged man's face was slightly tilted as if he was using the corner of his eye to glance at the painter.

That corner of the eye revealed an astonishingly murderous intent.

This lithe glance was captured by the painter who turned it into a painting.

Even though there was only the middle-aged man in the picture, it gave people the feeling that there was an endless amount of information which wasn't drawn, and it lay hidden in the blank spaces around.

This was the conclusion of a terrifying military campaign. Countless corpses of strong practitioners lay at the feet of this middle-aged man, floating in a sea of blood overflowing to the sky. The white bones were dyed red by blood and reflected an abnormal color. Countless lost souls that had died under the sword were captured by the messengers of deaths and dragged to the depths of gloom.

In there, a devil god with two long horns that had nine bends was currently holding a banquet to celebrate the souls of all the strong practitioners becoming his guests and food.

This was the information hidden in the blank spaces of this painting!

In the courtyard, the expert of Celestial Being Realm was stunned when he saw this painting and the person in it. He saw his own head sliding from his neck and felt everything becoming incredibly slow as he fell into a darkness that had no light. He felt himself sinking downwards endlessly, never reaching the bottom of that darkness.

Thump.

His head landed on the ground and tumbled two rounds. His eyes were still staring wide-open.

Suddenly, a huge hand stretched over and grabbed his head.

There were still nine people outside the courtyard who stood there with terror on their faces. Only the white-eyebrowed elder, Daoist Qing Shan, was still composed. He was the one who had grabbed the head of the Celestial Being Realm expert.

He was also the only great expert of Life and Death Realm among all of them.

Daoist Qing Shan looked into the eyes of the expert and let out a deep breath. "Superb sword."

The other eight people immediately looked over and asked in trembling voices, "What did Senior Qing Shan discover?"

"Look at his eyes."

The eight people gathered over and saw that there was a sword light in both the left and the right eye of this expert. The sword seemed to have gone straight towards his face, and in the next instant, the life of this expert had ended!

Daoist Qing Shan lifted the head and looked towards the main room in which Qin Mu and the rest were sleeping. "The sword is from there. What exactly is there?"

He slowly moved his body and found a good angle. Like this, he saw the flickering light of a candle and a corner of a painting. "It's a painting. I can see the corner of the shirt of the person in the painting..."

"Senior Qing Shan, is there a need for such trouble? Won't it be fine just to destroy this entire house and the people inside?"

A strong practitioner of Celestial Being Realm suddenly made a move, and his sword pellet rose into the air. A pillar-like sword light came out and stabbed towards the house where Qin Mu and the rest were in with a whoosh!

That sword pillar was incomparably thick, and everything it passed by was shredded to pieces!

This was Spiral Sword Form which Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor had founded!

Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor was not a selfish person. The sword forms he founded were mostly passed down, and there were many sword sects in the martial world that cultivated his sword mastery. The person who had made his move just then was one of the professionals!

His understanding of Spiral Sword Form was above that of many others.

This move sword was impressive, and if it swept into the main room, it would definitely grind everything there to powder, removing it from existence. No matter if it was Qin Mu, Dutian Devil King, or the dragon qilin, all of them would be shredded into pieces!

“Don’t point your murderous intent at that painting!”

Daoist Qing Shan’s expression changed suddenly, and he wanted to stop the other, but it was already too late.

The sword pillar seemed to have met a formless barrier, for it stopped in the air before disintegrating inch by inch. It then exploded with a bang.

A red mark appeared at the heart of the strong practitioner’s brows, and a drop of fresh blood dripped out before he collapsed on the ground.

“Be careful, on your guard!” Daoist Qing Shan shouted sternly.

His aura burst forth, and six booms rang out from his body. Spirit Embryo, Five Elements, Six Directions, Seven Stars, Celestial Being, Life and Death—his six great divine treasures had opened all at once!

Around him, the strong practitioners of Celestial Being Realm couldn’t maintain their footings and were forced to move back continuously by his overflowing aura.

Whoosh!

Behind Daoist Qing Shan, an apparition of a god that had a dragon’s head and a human body appeared. It looked like the god had descended with half of his body still in the void while the other half was stepping into reality.

Daoist Qing Shan grabbed onto a mirror and stared anxiously at Qin Mu and the rest who were still sleeping in the main room before shouting in a hoarse voice. “Aren’t you guys going to be on guard? Are you courting disaster?”

At this moment, Qin Mu, who was pretending to be asleep in the main room, narrowed his eyes and saw a human figure floating down from the wall behind him. He could see the shadow of a middle-aged man’s back which was elongated by the candle’s light.

This middle-aged man that had walked down from the painting was tall and slim and had a treasure sword on his back. He was very quiet and seemed like a spirit with no corporeal body as he floated towards the courtyard.

The figure raised its head to look at the sky and pulled out the sword on its back. The man waved his sword around and sang in a low voice as the sword lights moved while the fishes and dragons danced.

“Sword of Founding Emperor sea of blood, mountains and rivers exist, vast and obscure heart, looking around left and right, no more people donning the clothes of homeland...”

Qin Mu didn't dare to move at all, feeling that there were sharp sword qi and sword lights everywhere in this world that was moving to and fro beside him, swimming in time and space.

He shut his eyes but there were still sword lights flashing in front of his eyes, tearing apart the darkness.

He heard sword qi which was very rapid and fleeting breaking through the air.

He opened his eyes, and there were sword lights crisscrossing everywhere in front of him. Angry shouts came from outside of the courtyard, and a terrifying aftermath suddenly bombarded him. In the dusky night, the other houses of the village flew into the sky, disintegrating and shattering into pieces.

Qin Mu's heart thumped wildly. “Grandpa Deaf had bestowed a soul, he had bestowed a soul to Village Chief in the painting...”

Suddenly, all of the sound and light vanished, along with the low singing voice.

Qin Mu's eyes were half-opened, and he could faintly see a figure walking towards him as if it wanted to return to the painting behind him. Suddenly, that figure fell apart and turned into a pool of ink on the ground.

Qin Mu was stunned for a moment, then immediately opened his eyes. He took a careful look backward and saw a piece of white paper hanging on the wall.

The light from the lamp flickered, while the surroundings were completely silent.

Qin Mu let out a deep breath, and Hu Ling'er opened her eyes and asked in a low voice, “Young master...”

“It's safe now, let's sleep.” He then added, “We still need to cross the mountains tomorrow and walk for quite a long time.”

Hu Ling buried her head down, and Qin Mu also lay down. Looking at the white paper behind the candle's light, he felt tranquility in his heart.

The next day, Qin Mu woke up and came to the courtyard. The little village from yesterday had turned into a piece of empty land, with no sign of any of the other houses. Only half of their own courtyard remained, with over half of the walls already collapsed. The east room was mostly gone, while the west room's ceiling was missing.

Qin Mu washed up and started making breakfast with his wok. Hu Ling'er adjusted Dutian Devil King's mechanism and ran out with him. While she was out, she cried out non stop in astonishment.

The dragon qilin woke up groggily and took a look outside. He gave a yawn and licked his claws, using them to wash his face before asking curiously, "Where are we now? Where did the village from yesterday go... Cult master, is it time for breakfast? Can you scatter some cumin on my Scarlet Fire Spirit Pills today? I would like a change of taste..."

Qin Mu grabbed some cumin and took out half a bucket of Scarlet Fire Spirit Pills, on which he scattered the cumin.

The dragon qilin lowered his head to look at his food before raising his head up in doubt. "It's only half a bucket."

Qin Mu said angrily, "You are so fat that you can't even run now, half a bucket is more than enough!"

The dragon qilin said, "My body is still growing. If you dock my food, I won't be able to grow..."

"Your body is still growing?" Qin Mu blew up and tried to pinch the flesh on the dragon qilin's belly and discovered that he couldn't do it at all. "Your body isn't growing, so it's your fat that's growing. Try pinching yourself and see if you can pinch a fold out!"

The dragon qilin also stretched out his claws to pinch and discovered that he couldn't pinch it as well. "My constitution is one that can grow fats even if I drink cool water..."

Hu Ling'er ran over and said angrily, "Fatty Dragon, you shall drink cool water from today onwards then!"

The dragon qilin immediately protected the Scarlet Fire Spirit Pills in front of him and smiled apologetically. "Aren't I just scared I will starve and want to eat slightly more. Alright, half a bucket it is, no less or else I'm really going to become skin and bones."

Dutian Devil King walked over when he saw that Qin Mu had finished eating and was taking down the painting which was now simple white paper. "This painting was painted by your elder?"

Qin Mu nodded.

Dutian Devil King was silent for a moment, then asked, "The person in the painting is also your elder?"

Qin Mu placed the scroll painting into his taotie sack with a nod.

Dutian Devil King said, "I'm not afraid of them. However, it's by no means a good way to keep me trapped in this devil god sculpture, so why don't you undo the seal so my consciousness can leave your world and return to Dutian to never step onto this land, how about it?"

Qin Mu didn't express his opinion and instead said, "Ling'er, eat faster so we can continue on our journey."

Dutian Devil King's head started to ache.

After Hu Ling'er was full, Qin Mu came forward to help wash the bowls and utensils, then put the cleanly washed bowls and utensils back into taotie sack. He looked at the rations inside and said, "There's enough for us to last till Great Ruins. Lord Devil King, let's go."

Dutian Devil King went after, saying, "I'm not afraid of them. If my true body descended, I would be afraid of nobody..."

God Broken Mountain Range stretched over tens of thousands of miles, and when Qin Mu and the rest reached the bottom its bottom, they could only see the incomparably precipitous mountain range that was hard to cross for even the nimble apes and flying birds.

Qin Mu took out the geographical map of Eternal Peace and carefully searched for something before smiling. "Lonely Mountain Ridge Canyon isn't far from here. Let's go!"

Just as he was saying that, a line parted from the dark cloud in the sky, and a huge red snake popped its head out, spewing great flames. The heat scattered the cloud layer in all directions, and a brilliant swarm of golden insects flew out in all directions. Some of them went in the direction of the group of four.

Chapter 227: Lonely Mountain Ridge Root Demon

"Other people beat the young and comes the old, mine's better, beats the old and comes the young."

Qin Mu sighed ruefully in his heart. It was really good to be Heavenly Devil Cult Master.

Since Long Jiaonan and the woman from Three Wonders Castle had come here, it meant that the other young experts were around too. If Qin Mu was caught by these people, it would be troublesome.

Hu Ling'er controlled the demon wind and swept away the insects that were flying over, sending them far away. "Young master, aren't these people going home for New Years?"

"They probably treat killing me as New Years celebration." Qin Mu shook his head and said, "Other than killing me, they still want to kill the emperor. They definitely can't kill me, but I wonder if they can kill the emperor. After all, the emperor is a much bigger target than me."

Hu Ling'er had handled the situation very well by blowing the insects away. Long Jiaonan and the rest wouldn't be able to find this place and locate Lonely Mountain Ridge Canyon.

This place wasn't far from where they were, and Qin Mu started walking towards it. The terrain here was not precipitous like in the other areas; however, there was something different around here. The surroundings were bleak, with no greenery at all.

The entire mountain was littered with withered trees, which were black like the ground. This made people associate it with being bad.

"What if they kill the emperor?" Hu Ling'er asked.

Qin Mu took the first step into Lonely Mountain Ridge, and Hu Ling'er immediately followed up by jumping onto the dragon qilin's back. She then skipped onto its head to look around.

"If they killed the emperor and had the crown prince ascend, Imperial Preceptor's reform will be overturned," Qin Mu answered. "Imperial Preceptor will then get rid of the crown prince and change to an obedient emperor. But even if Imperial Preceptor doesn't do that, I will do it. I will also invite Imperial Preceptor to become the fourth cult heavenly king since I have reserved this seat for him for quite a long time. However, they will not be able to kill the emperor and Imperial Preceptor will not be willing to be the fourth heavenly king."

Withered trees littered the ground, and there were no branches or leaves. The little white fox was pretty nervous as she felt these withered stems were like razor sharp claws and the warped trunks were like scary faces. All of them terrified her.

"There's blood of a god and a devil here, which tainted this place." Dutian Devil King swatted a few insects flying to him before grabbing a clump of soil and rubbing it. "Strange, this blood is very strange. I can't tell if it belonged to a god or a devil. There are parts of both of them in it. A blood which contained both the blood of a god and the blood of a devil, interesting..."

Qin Mu asked with curiosity, "Lord Devil King, could the blood of a god and a devil have been scattered here at the same time?"

He had seen the blood of a devil god, which was very powerful. He had entered the darkness of Great Ruins with Village Chief back then, and Village Chief had managed to injure a devil god in the darkness. One drop of blood from that devil god dripped onto the soil, and the greenery in a radius of three hundred yards had all withered, becoming much like the situation in Lonely Mountain Ridge.

That was just one drop of devil blood.

Here, however, the entire Lonely Mountain Ridge Canyon had been tainted, which showed that there was definitely quite a large amount of god and devil's blood spilled here.

"It's not that." Dutian Devil King shook his head and said, "It's the same type of blood. It's just that this kind of blood contains both god and devil attributes at the same time. Your knowledge is still shallow and can't see the difference between the two options. The blood of a god indicates life, while the blood of a devil indicates death. The blood that was spilled on Lonely Mountain Ridge had both the attributes at the same time, with the god attribute hidden under the soil while the devil attribute was above, killing everything that comes out from the ground. These trees are dead, but their roots are not. On the contrary, they are abnormally healthy and strong. Some might even become spirits by relying on the life force of the god's blood.

Hu Ling'er immediately asked, "Will roots become demons?"

"They will," said Dutian Devil King. "They should become a strange organism which grows many tentacles."

Even though Lonely Mountain Ridge Canyon had the name of a canyon, its terrain was quite high. Yet when compared to the mountain ranges beside it, it was much lower.

This black canyon was winding upwards, and the mountain road wasn't easy to walk on. Heavenly Devil Cult must have gone through a lot of trouble to smuggle goods through here.

Once in a while, there would be a black stone tablet on the road which was about a dozen yards high. They contained rune markings, and Qin Mu took a while to identify them. "It's Demon Suppression Runes from our sacred cult. Ling'er, don't touch them, you will be sucked in if you activate them."

Hu Ling'er jumped in shock.

"There are quite a lot of Demon Suppression Stones in Lonely Mountain Ridge, so it seems like Heavenly Saint Cult had spent quite a lot of effort in paving this passage. This also means that there are many demons here which are very terrifying."

Qin Mu counted the number of Demon Suppression Black Stone Tablets he had met on the way, and there were as many as forty-six of them. This was not even half of the journey, so if the stone tablets could only suppress one demon each, that would make forty-six demons this far

However, Demon Suppression Black Stone Tablets were a dozen yards high, so it was impossible that they were only suppressing one demon each. Based on their size, the number of demons suppressed here should be pretty impressive.

They came to the center of the valley and saw a lake there. Snow was everywhere in the mountains, along with cold weather yet there was actually a lake here, which would make people click their tongues in wonder.

There was also an old dried-up tree beside the lake which covered a very wide area. Densely packed stone tablets, which numbered to several hundred pieces, surrounded the tree and the lake entirely!

Qin Mu and the rest jumped in shock. For so many Demon Suppression Black Stone Tablets to be here, could there be a few hundred demons being suppressed here?

Even though Qing Mu was the devil cult master of Heavenly Devil Cult, he didn't know much about this passage in Lonely Mountain Ridge. He didn't know what Heavenly Devil Cult had met here back then.

"Could it be a demon country?" Qin Mu muttered. "However, why are there so many stone tablets around this ancient tree? It doesn't seem like many demons are being suppressed, but instead this tree and the lake.

Just as he said this, he suddenly heard a call for help from the lake. The dragon qilin was tall so his gaze went past the black stone tablet when he raised his head. Taking a glance, he said slowly, "There's a woman bathing there."

'Help, help!' she cried out again.

Hu Ling'er immediately jumped onto the dragon qiling's head and looked towards the lake before saying angrily, "Fatty Dragon, is that bathing? She's obviously drowning!"

“It’s bathing,” the dragon qilin said slowly. “She’s not wearing clothes, so she’s naturally bathing. Have you seen anyone drown while being naked?”

“Naked?”

Dutian Devil King was surprised and delighted and hurriedly climbed to the head of the dragon qilin to look towards the lake. There was indeed a naked woman drowning in the lake, and he could see her seductive figure struggling in the water. With all the curves, Dutian Devil King got an eyeful and exclaimed in admiration, “This demoness is beautiful! Rascal, come have a look!”

Qin Mu smiled. “There are still pursuers behind, let’s go.” After he said it, he took a sneaky glance through the gap between the black stone tablets.

“Young master is an upright gentleman!” Hu Ling’er was full of confidence and praise.

“The officials outside, help me!” the woman in the lake cried out miserably. “Quickly push down the stone tablets and save me, I’ll then devote my life to you!”

Qin Mu and the rest took a detour around the lake, and Hu Ling’er said loudly, “Demoness, my young master will not be tricked by you. You should know that my young master is the sacred cult master of Heavenly Saint Cult!”

Suddenly, the woman became silent, and a sinister voice sounded out, “Sacred cult master of Heavenly Saint Cult?”

Whoosh!

The water in the lake that was surrounded by the black stone tablets overflowed into the sky as countless pitch black roots came rushing up like tentacles. At the end of each one was a naked woman in her prime of youth. They all looked at Qin Mu, and countless ear-piercing shrieks rang out in the air.

“Heavenly Saint Cult! Heavenly Saint Cult is the one who suppressed me here! They used these black stone tablets to suppress my body, to suppress my legs and my hands—”

Boom, boom!

In Lonely Mountain Ridge Canyon, the black stone tablets trembled as a huge body struggled under them, trying to break the seals!

Qin Mu jumped in shock. He had seen so many black stone tablets there were in Lonely Mountain Ridge Canyon and thought they were suppressing countless demons, maybe even a whole country. Never did he think that all these stone tablets were suppressing a single huge demon!

The black tablets trembled continuously, and the soil beside them loosened as if they were going to be uprooted. The runes suddenly lighted up, and the stone tablets suddenly became like huge mountains that were incomparably heavy. They pressed down on the demon of Lonely Mountain Ridge, making it unable to move.

“I want revenge!” In the sky above the lake, the faces of the countless women warped and cried out mournfully, “I want to kill every single person in your Heavenly Saint Cult!”

The black stone tablets around the lake lighted up, and the light from the runes shone on the ancient tree. The tentacles above the lake seemed to be dragged down by a weird force, and the women shrieked miserably. They tried to grab around, but they couldn’t get hold onto anything and were gradually dragged into the lake.

“This lake should be the damaged land that received the blood of a god and a devil. That blood was then absorbed by this ancient tree.” Dutian Devil King asked in bewilderment, “Why does your homeland have so much strange stuff?”

Qin Mu smiled. “My homeland has much stranger things than this. Let us hurry and walk out of Lonely Mountain Ridge before nightfall so we can find a safe place.”

“What a pity.” Dutian Devil King smacked his lips and said, “That little demoness was quite pretty, much prettier than the women in my Dutian.”

At this moment, Long Jiaonan and Qiu Yue met up with Scholar Lan Yu, Monk Ban Chi, and Yuan Shan while looking for traces of Qin Mu. Suddenly, they felt a tremble coming from Lonely Mountain Ridge, and they all looked towards there.

Scholar Lan Yu cried out, “Heavenly Devil Cult Master went to God Broken Mountain Range? Isn’t he afraid of getting shot by the Mysterious Pearl Crossbows?”

Qiu Yue waved her hand, and countless insects flew in the direction of Lonely Mountain Ridge. “Heavenly Devil Cult Master is cunning, so if he went through God Broken Mountain Range, there probably is a way to survive there! My insects will find a path, and we shall follow behind!”

Everyone hurried towards Lonely Mountain Ridge while the swarm of insects poured forward. While flapping their wings, they came to the lakeside where they could see demon clouds permeating the air and hear neverending cries of “Heavenly Devil Cult Master, I will kill you, I will definitely kill you and eliminate Heavenly Saint Cult!”

Everyone looked at each other, and Monk Ban Chi coughed, then said loudly, “Demoness, what grudge do you have with Heavenly Devil Cult Master?”

A woman in the prime of her youth revealed her naked body on the surface of the lake while crying pitifully, “Heavenly Saint Cult has been suppressing me here for a few hundred years. The grudge between him and me is as deep as the ocean, and we cannot live under the same sky. If you can save me, I am willing to devote my life to you...”

Monk Ban Chi smiled. “I’m a monk so I don’t need you to devote your life to me. You just have to convert to Buddhism and assist me in killing Heavenly Devil Cult Master, then this little monk will break the seal here and release you.”

“I’m willing to convert to Buddhism!” the woman cried out in surprise and delight.

Scholar Lan Yu, Yuan Shan, Yu'e, and the rest frowned as they wanted to advise against it, but Monk Ban Chi had already pulled out a black stone tablet and thrown it on the ground. "Fellow Dao friends, this is a demon that Heavenly Devil Cult has suppressed, and since Heavenly Devil Cult belongs to the devil path, the demon they suppressed must be a good demon. Everyone, help me push down all these Demon Suppression Stones to save this friend!"

Everyone could only go forward and push down the stone tablets together.

Boom!

The mountains trembled, and the roots rose up once again. Below the tree, a huge black ball swelled up continuously, becoming bigger and bigger. The black roots squirmed like flood dragons and huge snakes, revealing countless white bones among themselves!

Monk Ban Chi saw these white bones buried under and felt a bone-chilling cold go down his spine.

He suddenly had a thought that this demon which Heavenly Devil Cult had suppressed might not be a friend of the same path. On the contrary, it could be an existence that was even more wicked than Heavenly Devil Cult!

"Quickly run!" Long Jiaonan screeched.

Everyone hurriedly sprinted away in the direction of Great Ruins.

"I'm free, I'm finally free!"

Countless mournful cries could be heard behind them as black stone tablets trembled before collapsing onto the ground. Thick tentacles tunneled out from the ground, waving non-stop. At the end of each root was a beautiful smiling woman. "Heavenly Saint Cult said I had eaten too many humans, so they suppressed me here. Thank you, thank you, little monk. I can finally eat humans again..."

Chapter 228: I Want To Go Home

Monk Ban Chi's scalp turned numb. They saw the terrain trembling violently while they were running and countless rocks flying in all directions. Among the rocks, pitch black tentacles tunneled out, which were the roots of the Lonely Mountain Ridge Root Demon.

Heavenly Devil Cult had used Demon Suppression Black Stone Tablets to suppress her roots while the many black stone tablets around the lake and the ancient tree were to suppress her head.

Now that the black stone tablets that were suppressing the head were pushed down by Monk Ban Chi and the rest, the root demon could once again use her strength, which could be said to be terrifying, causing the mountain ranges to tremble non stop.

She used her strength, and the black stone tablets there were suppressing her roots flew up one after another, shattering under her terrifying power!

“How does an ordinary root demon have such strength?” Monk Ban Chi cried out. “Was this tree demon purposefully placed here by Heavenly Devil Cult to harm people?”

Suddenly, thick roots swept towards them, and at the front of each one hung a beautiful woman.

“Trying to leave? You guys saved me, and I haven’t repaid you guys yet. Why don’t all of you stay and become one with me!”

Qiu Yue waved her sleeves, and countless insects flew out towards the roots. These insects grew larger in the wind and became three yards long by the time they pounced to gnaw on the roots. However, the razor sharp teeth of these insects shattered into pieces, unable to bite through.

Qiu Yue jumped in shock when she saw small roots, which then pierced the venomous insects, growing out from the navels of those women hanging on the roots. In an instant, only the shells of the venomous insects were left, while the flesh inside had vanished.

“The venomous insects I raise can even bite through spirit weapons, yet these roots are tougher than that!” Qiu Yue cried out.

A root came from behind them, and Yuan Shan leaped up while holding a sword pellet over his head. He gave a stab and pierced through one woman before spinning his sword to sever her head.

The woman’s head fell onto the ground and immediately withered, turning into a black charcoal that was shaped like a head. Meanwhile, the headless woman on the root grew out another head.

Yuan Shan was astonished and wanted to slice the root apart when another one stabbed him like lightning.

He hurriedly executed his sword pellet, wanting to sever the root that was at his back, but his body suddenly shriveled. His flesh vanished in an instant, so only his skin was left.

The other people had originally wanted to save him, but when they saw what had happened, they immediately rushed out of the canyon. Behind them, there were countless black-colored tentacles waving about and stabbing into the two mountains on their sides, pulling the true body out from the ground.

That true body was a behemoth that was like a ball of thread with countless roots hanging down. The movement of this behemoth was too great, which activated the Mysterious Pearl Crossbows that were on both sides of the mountain. The Mysterious Pearl Crossbows detected the lifeforce of this demon and shot at it automatically. Two incomparably thick arrow lights flew through the sky and hit the Lonely Mountain Ridge Root Demon which was like a big black ball.

The demon cried out miserably as if there were countless voices overlapping each other, causing an avalanche around the mountains.

Long Jiaonan and the rest were almost caught by the tentacles when luckily the Mysterious Pearl Crossbows inflicted pain to the demon, which made it retract its tentacles, allowing them to escape.

“These Mysterious Pearl Crossbows can even kill Celestial Beings, so they can definitely kill this demon!”

Everyone let out a sigh of relief, then suddenly saw the Lonely Mountain Ridge Root Demon waving her tentacles to sweep at the Mysterious Pearl Crossbows up the mountains. With a loud bang, one of them was shattered into pieces, and a huge bronze arm rolled off from the top of a mountain.

Next, the Mysterious Pearl Crossbow on the other mountain was also shattered.

The faces of Long Jiaonan and the rest turned ashen. They immediately jumped onto the back of the red snake Long Jiaonan had raised and slithered forward frantically. When they finally escaped Lonely Mountain Ridge, they took a look back. Countless roots that were like black pythons were climbing towards them, and a dull rolling sound could be heard coming from the canyon.

It was obvious that the terrifying root demon was too heavy and was unable to fly. It could only rely on her roots to climb the cliff, pushing herself forward.

This demon was too huge, so when she was moving, her body crashed repeatedly into the two mountains beside her, shaking them.

“Heavenly Devil Cult is truly sinful, to raise such a huge demon to harm people!” It was hard to say if Monk Ban Chi was trembling from fury or fear when he said angrily, “How many people have they killed to be able to raise a demon to this level! I hate how my abilities are too weak to subdue it!”

Everyone knew it was because he felt guilty for releasing this demon that he pushed all the blame to Heavenly Devil Cult. They didn’t call him out on it though and said to one after another, “It’s lucky that this demon has been lured by us to Great Ruins and didn’t go to kill the people of Eternal Peace.”

“The people in Great Ruins are all abandoned people and villains that have nowhere else to go. This demon creating havoc in Great Ruins could also be considered subduing devils and protecting the Dao.”

Monk Ban Chi’s expression softened, and he said, “Heavenly Devil Cult Master must have purposefully made a din to lure us into the valley so he could borrow the power of this demon to harm us. But Heaven helps the worthy, so we have managed to escape with our lives, and he must be disappointed, right?”

Just as he said that, the body of the Lonely Mountain Ridge Root Demon squeezed out of the canyon and rolled down the slope, her tentacles flailing non-stop.

Everyone immediately rose into the air and Scholar Lan Yu said solemnly, “This demon can’t fly so everyone can be at ease...”

At this moment, a bird cry sounded out, and sharp wind bombarded the youth’s face. A huge golden-winged bird flew towards him like lightning, and its two claws grasped onto his shoulders, lifting him away.

Scholar Lan Yu felt pain on his shoulders. His left and right shoulder blades were pierced by the bird’s claws. At that moment, he was about to execute a divine art to save himself, but the huge golden-winged bird lowered its head to peck at him. His skull was shattered into pieces as the bird carried his headless body into the depths of a forest.

The group had arrived at Great Ruins, which was a savage land without law.

The strange beasts here didn't care if one was a disciple from a reputable sect or not. In the eyes of these creatures, there was only food and not food.

Qiu Yue said in a panic, "Don't fly in the sky, go toward the ground!"

Everyone immediately landed on the ground and behind them, the Lonely Mountain Ridge Root Demon came chasing over. As they ran for their lives, they passed by a lake, and a huge fish suddenly jumped. It bit onto a young expert, killing them instantly before dragging them into the water.

The Lonely Mountain Ridge Root Demon came rolling over, and countless roots pierced the lake. The weird fish inside immediately jumped out of the water and followed behind Qiu Yue and the rest. That fish actually ran like it was flying and soon surpassed everyone, stunning them.

After sprinting for over ten miles to avoid the slaughter of the Lonely Mountain Ridge Root Demon behind them, the group saw rows of trees that were uprooted.

"Devil king, Great Ruins are very dangerous, so if you have nothing to do, don't fly in the sky."

Far away, Qin Mu was sitting on the dragon qilin's back and seemed very relaxed. "We have our own unique rules in Great Ruins. You can fly in the sky if you want, but you must fly low and not be too flamboyant. If you think you are capable enough, you can fly slightly higher, but if the territorial strange beasts are not happy, they will come over and eat you."

Dutian Devil King sneered. "Isn't this just the strong preying on the weak? I understand this rule, my Dutian functions under the same rule."

"And also, don't go out when it's dark." Qin Mu had a grim expression. "Unless you have the ability of a god or a devil, don't ever go into the darkness. It will be just a road to death."

Dutian Devil King chuckled. "What's so scary about the dark? My Dutian is already broken to the point where everything is complete darkness. There's light only in some place, and it's where life can still thrive. In the darkness, I'm like a fish in the water. I'll show you how to frolic around at night."

Hu Ling'er rolled her eyes. In the eyes of the little fox, Dutian Devil King was already dead.

Qin Mu continued, "There's no law in our Great Ruins, so no matter who we meet, we must be polite. If we aren't polite and offended someone, it'll be easy for us to be gotten rid of. The more lawless a place is, the more polite people there are. Also, there are some terrifying gods and devils in Great Ruins. Some of them are sealed, some of them are suppressed, and some of them live luxuriously, so don't run around for nothing."

Dutian Devil King jumped in shock. "There are still gods and devils in this world?"

“Quite a number of them. I’ve met a few before,” Qin Mu said. “As long as you grasp the rules of Great Ruins, it’s actually a much safer place than Eternal Peace Empire. You can ask Ling’er if you don’t believe me.”

Dutian Devil King took a look at Hu Ling’er, and she nodded repeatedly with deep sentiments. “Eternal Peace is indeed much more dangerous than Great Ruins. The reason young master came out was to go to Eternal Peace Empire for experience. There’s no experience for us in Great Ruins, so you can see how dangerous Eternal Peace Empire is.”

Suddenly, an earth shattering boom came from behind them, and Qin Mu turned his head back to have a look. There, he saw countless tentacles flailing in the sky. A black behemoth with a mountain like body was currently rushing over to him.

On those tentacles hung naked women who were smiling weirdly.

“Why is the demoness of Lonely Mountain Ridge released? Who was so dumb?”

Qin Mu turned a cold shudder to the women hanging from the Lonely Mountain Ridge Root Demon, who had already seen him and were rushing over excitedly. Countless strange beasts were also running over in their direction.

“This demon is really courting death, it’s really easy to die by rushing headlong in Great Ruins.” Qin Mu shook his head. “Even Village Chief wouldn’t dare to be so reckless.”

Just as he was saying that, the ground suddenly trembled violently, and a huge palm which was covered in golden fur stretched out from underground. Flames blazed around the palm which slammed down forcefully against Lonely Mountain Ridge Root Demon.

The root demon flew away like a black ball which got smacked, disappearing into the distance.

The strange beasts that were escaping for their lives stopped and turned back to have a look. All of them then returned back to their own territories.

Dutian Devil King was stunned by the sight, unable to say a word.

Qin Mu consoled him, “It’s fine, it’s fine. Great Ruins are like this. There are often weird things hidden around, but everything will be fine if you enter a temple to offer incense and pay respect to the gods. I reckon that demoness had accidentally come into contact with some ruins and provoked the god there.”

Dutian Devil King’s body was stiff, and he only let out a shaky breath after some time. “It’s too dangerous over here, I want to return to Dutian...”

The devil king suddenly became agitated and broken pieces of components spewed out from his four mouths on his four faces. “How is your goddamn world a secular world? There are demons and ghosts everywhere! I won’t invade your world anymore, okay? Let me go, I want to go home!”

Hu Ling’er persuaded him, “Our Great Ruins are really safe, much safer than Eternal Peace Empire. You will definitely be fine if you follow young master.”

Chapter 229: The Fifth Era

Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor and his wife had come to Little Jade Capital in the sky a dozen or so days ago. This city in the sky was like a paradise, with sceneries that were rarely seen in the mortal world.

“Has Imperial Preceptor gotten accustomed to here?” a white-robed elder asked with a smile after coming over.

Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor said solemnly, “Little Jade Capital lives up to its name. The sceneries here are extraordinary, which made me enjoy myself so much that I forgot to go home. Even though this place is good, it’s far from the human world. My ambition isn’t here, and I will still have to leave. May Hermit Qing You please forgive me.”

That old Hermit Qing You smiled. “There’s no need for Imperial Preceptor to be in a hurry. This hermit has invited Imperial Preceptor as a guest yet I haven’t told you about the origins of Little Jade Capital.”

Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor said with curiosity, “I’d like to hear the details.”

Hermit Qing You led the way as he brought Imperial Preceptor and his wife up a rainbow bridge. This structure was sculpted out from seven-colored jade which stretched across the sky, so standing on the bridge was like standing on a rainbow. When at the center of the bridge, the scenery they could see from up there was different from what they could see from below. They could see that the mountains of Little Jade Capital were arranged into a natural formation in the sky, while the palaces on the mountains were where the immortals lived.

“Little Jade Capital City’s origins are even more ancient than Imperial Preceptor must have imagined.” Hermit Qing You smiled. “The history here can be traced all the way back to the Founding Emperor Period.”

“Founding Emperor?” Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor had indeed not heard of Founding Emperor before and asked curiously, “Which country had the Founding Emperor period? Eternal Peace Empire never had an emperor that was called Founding Emperor.”

“Founding Emperor isn’t from Eternal Peace, he was from a land which was called Founding Emperor Empire,” Hermit Qing You said. “Imperial Preceptor should know that the Founding Emperor Empire is the current Great Ruins.”

Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor’s body trembled slightly as he let out a shaky breath. “Great Ruins.”

Hermit Qing You led them across the bridge and towards a mountain of immortals floating in the sky. “Founding Emperor Era is what the Daoism calls it, while Buddhism refers to it as Emptiness Era. Formation, existence, destruction, and emptiness, so Emptiness Era is the fourth one. Now that Eternal Peace is rising, we Little Jade Capital refer to the current time as Eternal Peace Era. During Founding Emperor Era, Great Ruins were prosperous. We Little Jade Capital refer to the huge calamity that wiped out that place as Founding Emperor Calamity. Before Founding Emperor Calamity, there was also three calamities.”

The gaze of Imperial Preceptor's wife flickered. "Elder said that the current time is referred to as Eternal Peace Era, so if Eternal Peace Empire is wiped out, are you going to refer to it as Eternal Peace Calamity?"

"Madam is wise." Hermit Qing You smiled and pointed far away. There was a jade mountain floating in the sky, and a few Daoists were currently building a palace there. "That palace over there is to store the history of Eternal Peace Era. When Eternal Peace Empire is wiped out, we can tidy up the coming and goings of Eternal Peace Calamity, leaving them as references for our future generations."

Imperial Preceptor's wife couldn't resist asking, "Elder, what kind of place is Little Jade Capital? Is it good or evil? What intentions do you have for us husband and wife? We have been here for quite a few days, and the elder had let us tour around as much as we wished. Shouldn't it be time for you to say the true intention of Little Jade Capital?"

"We Little Jade Capital have no intentions. We just want to observe Imperial Preceptor, to observe the reform, and record the things that we think will be useful for our future generations." Hermit Qing You smiled. "We call ourselves immortals and not gods because we don't want to interfere with how the world works."

Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor said, "Immortals and gods, how are they different?"

"Immortals are human, gods aren't."

Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor pondered it for a moment, then said, "What you mean is that humans can't become gods, only immortals?"

Hermit Qing You smiled. "Imperial Preceptor, having cultivated to Divine Bridge Realm, what do you see when you stand on the divine bridge?"

Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor didn't say a word. Divine Bridge Realm was the seventh realm after breaking the wall of Divine Bridge Divine Treasure, which was also the highest realm.

"Divine Bridge Divine Treasure is a bridge which leads to the god realm. However, it is broken within everyone, so no one is able to reach the other shore. It isn't different for Imperial Preceptor, am I right?"

Hermit Qing You continued, "It's no different for the immortals of Little Jade Capital. We had seen countless divine treasures, and all the divine bridges were broken. Being unable to reach the other shore means that we can't become gods. Actually, based on our cultivation, we could be on par with the gods yet the realm is broken."

Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor nodded. "I had discovered this many years ago and was distressed over this once. I had searched many ancient books yet I couldn't find a way to solve it. Does Little Jade Capital have records of the broken bridge being reconnected?"

"We have." Hermit Qing You led them to the palace up the jade mountain and said, "However, even Little Jade Capital isn't capable of doing it. Because we couldn't become gods, we decided to become immortals. This is why we, the old and useless, have chosen to stay in Little Jade Capital. Even though

we call ourselves immortals, once our allocated lifespans are up, our souls will return to the yellow springs. We aren't able to escape death. We are just seeking peace. Imperial Preceptor, madam, over here."

Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor and his wife followed him and walked into the palace. It was a place, but even though it had the faint air of the home of immortals, it was very cold and cheerless, with not a figure to be seen.

Little Jade Capital was a cold and cheerless place like this.

Hermit Qing You brought them through the long hallway and walked to the circular door, leading them into the depths of the palace. "During Founding Emperor Period, there was indeed a bunch of people who had connected their broken bridges. They had built a glorious divine dynasty which by now has turned into dust and no longer exists. The location of this divine dynasty is the Great Ruins of today."

Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor was slightly excited. "There have been people who connected the bridge? In that case, did they become gods?"

Hermit Qing You nodded and smiled slightly. "However, there are very few of these people now, and they are known as the people abandoned by gods."

Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor was stunned. "Those abandoned people in Great Ruins?"

"No. Almost no one has a complete Divine Bridge Divine Treasure among the abandoned people of Great Ruins. The immortals of our Little Jade Capital had gone to check before."

Hermit Qing You pushed open a door and brought them inside. "Eternal Peace Empire had received a prophecy before, am I right? They were told to restrict the abandoned people of Great Ruins from walking out of Great Ruins. Actually, what the oracle wanted you to guard against was not those abandoned people of Great Ruins, but the abandoned people from Carefree Village that are staying in Great Ruins. Their divine bridges are complete, and what the gods are guarding against are them."

Rows of bookshelves were in front of them, and they were with thick ancient books that contained the history of Founding Emperor Era which the immortals of Little Jade Capital had recorded down.

"Imperial Preceptor just needs to read all these ancient books once, and you will know what had happened during Founding Emperor Era and Founding Emperor Calamity." Hermit Qing You bowed, paying his respects since he planned to retreat from this library. "If Imperial Preceptor wants to continue walking down this path he has set, I'm afraid Founding Emperor Era's history will become Eternal Peace Empire's history as well. Whatever Founding Emperor Era faced, Eternal Peace Era will face as well."

Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor returned the bow and asked, "Wanderer Zhen from your Little Jade Capital died under my hands, so why is Dao brother still letting me come here?"

"Our Little Jade Capital does not interfere with worldly affairs and only records them. Once Wanderer Zhen left the mountain, he was no longer an immortal of Little Jade Capital. His life and death were no longer related to us."

Hermit Qing You said while walking out, "Both of you husband and wife are immortals of our Little Jade Capital while you are here, but when you leave, you will no longer be related to us. A saint appears every five hundred years, and we Little Jade Capital are interested in observing the saint of this current dynasty, to see if he can do what the saints of the past could not."

"Weird rules." The eyes of Imperial Preceptor's wife shifted and landed on the ancient scrolls. "Husband, there are some problems with Little Jade Capital's origin, I think they're the descendants of Founding Emperor Empire."

"That is possible." Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor sat down and picked up a book. "They have no ill intentions, so there's no need to guess their goals. I want to see the history of Founding Emperor since the current times is a reflection of the past."

In the Great Ruins, a certain devil was speaking.

"I just wanted to find a lowly world for my people to settle in, to find a place for them to live and reproduce. I don't want to wage a war on your world." Dutian Devil King had a blank gaze as he muttered, "Our Dutian is at its death door, so if we fight with you guys, we are really going to go extinct. I have to take responsibility for my race. Let me return, I have to find another lowly world, let me return..."

Hu Ling'er looked at Qin Mu and asked in a low voice, "Young master, should we let him return? He looks pretty pitiful."

"How do I know if he really plans to return or if it's a lie?" Qin Mu shook his head. "He is just a consciousness, while his true body is still in Dutian. He can continue to search for another world with that, so there's no need for this consciousness to return to Dutian. If he doesn't return and instead hides somewhere to summon his true body, won't I be guilty? You can't believe a word this fellow says. If you believe him, you'll lose instantly. Border Dragon City is right in front of us, and it's only a thousand miles away from Disabled Elderly Village."

Border Dragon City was already in their sight, so Qin Mu was finally at ease. He had finally reached his own territory."

"Young master!"

"Young master has returned?"

"Young master, how is Eternal Peace Empire compared to our Great Ruins?"

...

Qin Mu brought the dragon qilin into Border Dragon City, and many store owners on the way waved towards him. He smiled and returned their greetings. "Eternal Peace Empire is much more chaotic than our Great Ruins. Rebellions happen every day, and wars are waged constantly; it's not a good place."

"That's right, there were many immigrants who had escaped to Great Ruins. They all said they were running from war and disasters. It's good young master is back; home is the safest after all."

Qin Mu came to the city lord's manor and asked, "Has the city lord returned?"

"City lord had come back a few days ago before leaving once more. Does young master want to stay? Little one will go and prepare a banquet to hold a welcoming reception."

"There's no need," Qin Mu said. "New Year is coming, I have to return to the village first."

Border Dragon City was his and Granny Si's property since some time ago due to most of the people here being people of Heavenly Devil Cult. The only difference from outside was that the followers of Heavenly Devil Cult outside referred to Qin Mu as cult master sacred teacher while followers in Border Dragon City referred to him as young master.

The owner of this city was Granny Si, after all, and Qin Mu was the child she had raised, so it was natural he was called young master.

Qin Mu continued on the journey home. The distance of a thousand miles was very short, and with the foot power of the dragon qilin, they could reach Disabled Elderly Village in half a day.

The dragon qilin stepped on the river surface and moved upstream. The sunlight of the winter sun provided warmth as it shone down, and it was not chilly like in Eternal Peace Empire. Qin Mu remembered how he had broken the ice tide with Xian Qing'er last year. Right then, he saw Xian Qing'er smoking fish with the villagers. By rubbing salt on the huge fish hanging under the tree by the river and using moist firewood to smoke them, the smoky flavor would seep into the meat.

The people of this village had caught many huge fish that were taller than a human, and they hung on the tree. The flesh of these fish was bright and shiny. The villagers rarely went out to hunt during New Years, so they could only rely on these catches to survive through this winter.

Qin Mu stopped the dragon qilin, and the little girl with three braids blinked her bright and beautiful eyes at him. "The one that herds cows, you're returning home in glory? Is outside fun?"

Qin Mu smiled. "It's okay, I'm getting chased by people everywhere I go. Didn't the monks of Little Thunderclap Monastery come to find you?"

Chapter 230: Done Too Much Evil

"Pui pui, go and touch wood. The monks of Little Thunderclap Monastery have not found their way here yet." Xian Qing'er was curious, though. "What bad things have you done, why are people chasing after you so much?"

"I guess it's because I'm too outstanding?" Qin Mu raised his head and pondered it. He felt that what he said was definitely correct. "I'm too outstanding so people are jealous of me and chase everywhere I go."

He waved his hands to bid goodbye, and Xian Qing'er immediately said, "I'll go play with you when I'm free, don't let your elders kill me!"

“Okay!”

When the sun started to set in the west, Qin Mu finally reached Disabled Elderly Village. Just as he had entered it, he saw over a dozen hen dragons that were taller than a human surrounding him with unpleasant looks.

At their head was that old hen which became agitated when she saw Qin Mu and pointed her wings at him while clucking non-stop to the other hen dragons. It was as if she was telling the them that this brat was an egg thief.

“I merely went outside for half a year and now there are so many hen dragons in the village.”

Qin Mu seemed to have met his greatest foes and shouted out, “Times have changed, I’m now the cult master sacred teacher of Heavenly Saint Cult, even if you hens outnumber me, I’m not afraid at all!”

“Cluck! Cluck! Cluck!

The flock of hen dragons swarmed forward and drowned him out. The feathers of these hen dragons were like swords, and they spewed fire like dragons. With sharp claws which could split stone and metal, they were incomparably fierce.

Hu Ling’er saw this situation and immediately said, “Young master, I shall go home first to have a look!” When she had said it, she disappeared like a wisp of smoke.

After a moment, Qin Mu forced back the flock of hens while panting heavily. His face was covered in blood, and his hair was all messed up with chicken feathers stuck in it. In front of him, the head of the hen dragons brought the flock to walk away with their heads held high as they patrolled the village.

Dutian Devil King laughed as he rejoiced in Qin Mu’s misfortune. “Rascal, you can’t even beat a flock of hens!”

Qin Mu pulled out the chicken feathers from his hair. “And you’re someone who lost to a fellow who can’t even defeat a flock of hens. Granny, Village Chief, I’m back! Why didn’t any of you come to save me when you saw me getting bullied by a flock of hens! Eh, why is no one here?”

Qin Mu walked around the village, surprised.

Village Chief and Apothecary’s rooms were empty, and the other people of the village had not return either. Qin Mu could only find a few slips of paper which he opened up. The first slip wrote that Village Chief, Apothecary, and Devil Cult Patriarch were going to search for Carefree Village. If anyone came back, they should first help Apothecary feed his insects.

The second slip was in Butcher’s handwriting which said that Village Chief and the rest had yet to return so he was worried about their safety, so Blind and he was going to search for them.

The third slip was left behind by Mute, and it said that Blind and Butcher had not returned as well, so he was going to find them.

The fourth slip was left behind by Cripple and Old Ma, saying that Village Chief and the rest might have met with danger. They could move fast so they had gone out to find them.

The fifth slip was left behind by Granny Si which said that the old geezers were always causing trouble. She had left to find them and told Qin Mu to not wander off.

“Granny and the rest are really worrisome.”

Qin Mu shook his head and placed his luggage down. He went to pluck a few leaves from the herb garden outside the village, then opened the pots in front of Apothecary’s door and placed the leaves inside them. In the pots, the starving insects immediately snatched the food.

Qin Mu then walked into Apothecary’s room and found a few spirit pills which he shattered and scattered into other pots. He then washed his hands to cook dinner.

“These broken pots...”

Dutian Devil King saw the broken pots which kept the little insects and was greatly shocked. His gaze then landed on the water cauldron in front of the smithy and was shocked again. “This huge water cauldron... that rake, that pot, and all the other treasures strewn everywhere...”

“Lord Devil King, stop wandering around, you have more arms so come and help me cook a few dishes,” Qin Mu summoned him over.

When the last of the sun rays disappeared, darkness came pouring over from the west and surged towards the east like a huge flood, swallowing all the mountain ranges on its way and drowning out Great Ruins!

Qin Mu was long used to this sight and didn’t pay any attention to it as he served the dishes with an apron around his waist. However, Dutian Devil King was seeing such a terrifying sight for the first time, so he was dumbfounded and couldn’t say a word.

Just before the darkness was about to drown Disabled Elderly Village, a lean elder walked in with a book basket on his back. The darkness swept over right at that moment and whooshed towards the east around Disabled Elderly Village.

“Grandpa Deaf!”

Qin Mu was surprised and delighted. He immediately put down his bowl and chopsticks to welcome him. Deaf’s clothing was old and tattered, which made it evident that he had not lived well outside. He placed down his book basket and asked, “Is there food? I’ve been starving for a few days.”

“Food is just ready!”

Qin Mu immediately washed another set of bowl and chopsticks. Deaf sat down and gorged himself, taking a breath after eating four to five bowls of food continuously. Qin Mu poured another bowl of soup for him and asked in bewilderment, “Grandpa Deaf, where have you been these days?”

The corners of Deaf's eyes twitched, and he grumbled, "Eternal Peace. I went to find Mute, but I couldn't do it, and I used up all my travel expenses so I could only sell my paintings." The elder's voice was pained when he spoke. "The people of today have sadly degenerated! Degenerated! I actually didn't manage to sell even one painting. When I was extremely starving, I met Old Woman Si who spared me some cash, even if she mocked me for a long time. That's right, don't speak about this to Apothecary, that guy always laughs at me for not earning as fast as he can by selling medicine."

Dutian Devil King stared wide-eyed. This old geezer was a top-notch expert, so could he be the painting expert who had painted that sword god? This kind of great expert had actually come close to starving to death? Couldn't he have gotten money by force if he didn't have any?

Qin Mu didn't know whether to laugh or cry. "Grandpa Deaf, now that the world is not peaceful, who would buy paintings for pleasure? If you lack money next time, you can sell them to Imperial Preceptor's manor, since Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor will definitely be willing to spend a huge sum to buy them."

Deaf shook his head. "I eliminated several thousands of Eternal Peace Empire's soldiers, so if I went to his house to sell my paintings, he would definitely take me down. I can't win against him."

Qin Mu beamed. "You can find me in Imperial College, all I have is money. I can buy all of the paintings you have painted. Are there any left in Grandpa Deaf's book basket? You can sell them to me, I'll pay you now."

"I've burned them all," Deaf said nonchalantly. "Where are the others? Have they not returned?"

"Burned?"

Qin Mu felt pained. If Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor was here, he would definitely puke three liters of blood up.

He took out the slips of paper Apothecary and the rest had left behind, and Deaf read through them before saying, "Their handwritings are really ugly. I'll have a good night sleep tonight and go find them tomorrow. Who is he?"

Only now did he notice Dutian Devil King, and the other said proudly, "I'm the master of Dutian, the ruler of Dutian. There's no need for you to pay respect to me."

"He's really ugly," Deaf got up and returned to his room to sleep.

"I'm the Lord Devil King of Dutian!" Dutian Devil King retorted angrily.

Qin Mu said with good intentions, "Devil king, Grandpa Deaf can't hear."

"Bullshit, he was able to hear you just now!"

Qin Mu explained, "Sometimes he can hear, sometimes he can't."

Dutian Devil King was speechless from anger. Qin Mu cleaned up the bowls and chopsticks before getting ready for bed. "Devil king, don't wander about at night. The darkness is very dangerous."

Dutian Devil King said yes repeatedly and thought to himself, "Since the rascal doesn't dare to enter the darkness, now is the best time for me to leave. I just need to enter the darkness and I'll be able to shake him off. Then I'll be able to host the sacrificial ceremony to summon my true body."

Not long later, Qin Mu fell asleep, and the snoring could be heard from his room.

Dutian Devil King tiptoed toward the outside. The stone statues in the four corners of the village were giving off a faint glow, so the surroundings weren't too dim. However, the places which the light from the stone statue couldn't shine on were pitch black and nothing could be seen in them.

Dutian Devil King carefully came to the village entrance and hesitated for a moment. He stretched out a finger into the darkness and heard nibbling sounds. Pulling his palm back, he couldn't help being stunned. His finger had already vanished, having been eaten by something in the darkness.

Dutian Devil King sized up his wound, and his heart trembled slightly. He probed, "Gang nuo di da hei (Who is in the darkness)?"

Silent came from the darkness. After a while, a sinister sounding voice answered, "A pu gao ni hen (Who are you yourself)?"

Dutian Devil King's spirit jolted, and he was about to say something when a voice sounded spoke behind him. "What are you doing? Why are you speaking the devil language?"

Dutian Devil King saw Deaf who had appeared behind him at some point in time, and his heart tightened. "The ears of this deaf are so sensitive! Wait, isn't he a deaf person?"

Deaf yawned and raised his brush to write a 'fix' word on his body before going back to sleep.

Dutian Devil King couldn't move at all. He wanted to say something, but he couldn't make a sound, either.

The next morning, Qin Mu woke up early to prepare breakfast. The dragon qilin brought a face basin and placed it in front of Qin Mu before sitting down to wait for his food.

Deaf ate to his fill. "Mu'er, I shall go out to search for Village Chief and the rest to come back for New Years, while you and your big dog shall stay here to look after the village."

Qin Mu gave a sound of acknowledgment. The dragon qilin ate the Scarlet Fire Spirit Pills while speaking in a low and muffled voice, "I'm not a big dog, I'm an auspicious beast that's half dragon and half qilin."

Deaf didn't hear him and walked out of the village. He raised his brush and painted a dragon in the sky, then rode into the sky.

Dutian Devil King was still standing by the entrance, unable to move.

Qin Mu put away the bowls and chopsticks while thinking to himself, "I wonder how devil ape that big fella is doing these days. I should bring some presents to him."

He saw Dutian Devil King and gave a smile before saying softly, "Gang nuo di da hei?"

Dutian Devil King's heart was slightly shaken. "This brat also knew?"

Qin Mu made the dragon qilin guard the village while he headed towards Doom Suppression Palace. Before he could walk far, he heard one of the many names of Buddha. "Amitabha! Heavenly Devil Cult Master, fancy meeting you here by sheer luck when one has searched far and wide for you. Never would I have thought this little monk will meet cult master here."

A monk in ragged clothes appeared in front of him. They were both astonished to have met each other.

Qin Mu immediately recognized this monk as the one that had attacked his treasure ship in Eternal Peace Empire. He had used Junior Protector Sword to injure his leg, but he could still sprint like flying.

"How do I address you, monk?" Qin Mu smiled and looked around. When he didn't discover Long Jiaonan and the rest, he let out a sigh of relief.

This monk had clearly been chased by Lonely Mountain Ridge Root Demon and met with all kinds of unfortunate events in Great Ruins, one of which was getting separated from Long Jiaonan and the rest. With him having escaped in a panic, they had met up here by coincidence.

"Little monk's name in religion is Ban Chi."

Monk Ban Chi raised his head at the sky, and two trails of tears rolled down his cheeks as he sighed ruefully. "My Buddha of compassion, the virtuous achievements of little monk can finally come to their successful conclusion. Heavenly Devil Cult Master, you have done too much evil, so let this little monk send you on your way."

Qin Mu said solemnly, "Monk, you said I have done too much evil. Please name one evil I have done to let me accept my death wholeheartedly."

Monk Ban Chi had an awe-inspiring murderous intent as he rushed over with his buddha rays shining brilliantly. "You are the Heavenly Devil Cult Master, and that's the greatest evil you've done! If there's a life to come for you, reincarnate to become a good person!"