

Tales of Herding Gods Chapter 241-245

Chapter 241 – The Next Human Emperor

They went back on the path they had come from and when Qin Mu saw that empty village again, he walked into the room that had pasted the 'Xi' word and picked up that baby clothes that had the 'Qin' word sewed on it.

The more he cared, the more flustered he became. When he had come here the first time, he was deeply affected and couldn't keep calm for a long time, therefore he couldn't see any of the tiny clues.

The 'Qin' word on these items that Apothecary had brought out was nearly the same as the one of that baby clothing. They looked like they came from the same template but if one examined carefully, there was still some difference.

Qin Mu had learned calligraphy from Deaf before and if he could calm his heart down to look at it with an ordinary state of mind, he could also see that the 'Qin' word on the baby clothing was different from the 'Qin' word on his jade pendant.

However, his emotions were out of control then which had influenced his judgment.

Now that he had examined carefully, the 'Qin' word on this baby clothing should have been traced out before sewing thread by thread onto the clothing. The 'Qin' word was indeed different from the one on his jade pendant.

The other people in the village surrounded Village Chief and Patriarch to ask them about their encounters and what they had seen on that ship. Village Chief shook his head, "It was too dangerous inside and we didn't delve deeper. We only circled around the outskirts and had almost died. Luckily, Mute was here, therefore, we could safely retreat."

Everyone immediately asked Mute how he knew about that safe path and managed to bring Village Chief, Patriarch, and the rest in and out?

Qin Mu walked out of the courtyard and he had the same suspicions as well.

Even Dutian Devil King said he would take one to two years time to find a safe path into that ruined ship if his true body descended so why did Mute managed to barge in so easily?

Everyone kept asking him for a long time and Mute didn't say anything. He only revealed an honest smile and gave two ahs when he got anxious from the pressing questions.

Everyone immediately looked at Deaf. Deaf and Mute were the closest buddies and Deaf knew Mute's intention the best. Deaf was always the one translating when everyone didn't understand what Mute meant.

However, Deaf was at a loss this time. It was obvious he didn't know what Mute was saying as well.

“This mute don’t want to say anything!”

Granny Si said angrily, “You’ll stifle to death sooner or later!”

Everyone rest in this small village while that dragon qilin stuck close to the young patriarch. Now, this dragon qilin was full of energy and rubbing himself around Patriarch.

Patriarch struck a posture wanting to beat him which managed to chase him further away. However, he would come back in the next moment and raised his dragon tail as he rubbed against the young patriarch’s clothes which were now filled with holes made by him.

“You’re getting too fat!”

The young patriarch said bitterly, “I had already said I’m going to die of old age, I’m abandoning you, stop rubbing yourself on me... Don’t think of jumping into my arms, I can’t carry you now! Shoo shoo, go away!”

On the other hand, Blind was annoying Dutian Devil King about some questions regarding algebra. Dutian Devil King was slightly fearful of the people in the village, therefore, he also tried his best to answer his questions. However, he only answered Blind’s questions and didn’t offer to impart more profound algebra to him.

Apothecary hurried from person to person to check on their injuries and treating them.

Qin Mu walked into that house. Even though this might not be the house of his parents, this place made him feel at peace.

Mute also walked in and looked around. His rough hands caressed that small wooden horse and picked up that piece of clothing. This thick and solid man had a very gentle gaze.

Qin Mu looked towards him and Mute turned his head to give him a grin.

“该走了!”

“It’s time to go!”

Granny Si hurried, “Go back to the village to celebrate New Year’s Day! Patriarch, that plump pig that you had raised can finally be slaughtered to eat! Butcher is skillful at that and can still whip up a few good dishes, just enough for two tables!”

“You dare!”

The young patriarch was nervous and shouted, “Don’t think about touching him, ever since you were young you were already sneaking crafty glances at my dragon qilin, always wanting to eat him... Go away, stop rubbing against me, I’m not going to pat you... Elder of Discipline, drag him away!”

Elder of Discipline chased the dragon qilin over to Qin Mu. The young patriarch looked over and saw the dragon qilin moving its buttocks to walk to Qin Mu. He was so fat that his buttocks were as round as a ball. He was as fleshy as rhinoceros and every time he took a step, his round buttocks would jiggle uncontrollably.

“This fellow must have been cadging meals from the cult master and his meals aren’t bad as well. When I met him back then, he was small like a cat and rubbed himself against my leg to cheat food out from me. He ended up becoming fatter and fatter from me feeding him and glued himself to me...”

The young patriarch sighed. The dragon qilin then was so small and he could even embrace him and caress his head.

“What a huge ship!”

Everyone came to the front of Moon Ship and couldn’t help being astonished. Cripple planned to steal this ship away and got scolded by Granny Si, “Damned Cripple, even if you can steal it, where are you going to park it? I’ll break your leg if you place it in the village!”

Cripple could only drop his thoughts. He asked Qin Mu how he had managed to drive this ship here and after hearing Qin Mu’s encounter of driving the ship. Cripple’s thought sprung into action again, “Attaining the mighty strength of heavenly god after becoming the Moon Guardian?”

He quickly ran to touch the giant pillar on the ship but when he found that there was no transformation, he could only return.

There were too many unsolved mysteries in Great Ruins and Moon Ship was just one of them.

When they walked out of that formless barrier, the sun was already hanging high up in the sky. It was noon but the weather was still very cold as snow had fallen some time ago and the land had a brilliant snow white cover. The mountain ranges were also dyed in white and they gave off crunching sounds as they walked in the snow.

There were a few bears hiding in the hollow tree in the ruins and the mother bear was embracing the baby bears while sleeping soundly. When that mother bear saw Qin Mu and the rest suddenly appearing, she opened her eyes in astonishment but was so lazy that she didn’t move. She only nudged her body before going back into hibernation.’

Qin Mu looked back and saw the barrier vanishing. That unimaginable huge ship that was sealed inside, Moon Ship, as well as the incomparably complicated cube seal had all vanished.

What replaced it was a vast forest.

Only when the night fell would this mysterious seal appear once again.

“Let’s go, let’s return to the village for New Year.” Village Chief said calmly.

Everyone began to return and this place was very far from Disabled Elderly Village. The journey would still take one to two days but it was a good thing that everyone was safe.

The second evening, they had finally returned back to Disabled Elderly Village. Qin Mu, Granny Si, and Old Ma started to get busy decorating the village and preparing New Year's Day dinner.

Qin Mu brought red paper over for Deaf to write the auspicious words and Spring Festival couplets. He then called Qin Mu over to let him paste them on everyone's door.

"Paste it on the chicken coop also. As well as that ancient tree in front of the village, paste one there to invite prosperity in." Granny Si instructed.

Everyone worked hard for quite some time and finally, everyone in the village could sit down to eat and drink fine wine together in cheers and laughter. The young patriarch and Elder of Discipline also sat down and joined them in the hearty New Year's Day Dinner that had come late.

Early next morning, the young patriarch and Elder of Discipline bade farewell, "There are still countless mysterious in Great Ruins and it would be pleasant to search and take a look at them before I die. Fellow Dao friends, there's no need to send me off." When he was done, the young and the old left towards the distance while stepping through the thick snow.

Dutian Devil King looked at Qin Mu and said, "Devil cult master, it's time to keep your promise."

Qin Mu said with a firm look, "Devil king, don't worry. I'll keep my promise and release you."

Blind and Cripple came forward and Dutian Devil King became extremely nervous before shouting, "Devil cult master, are you thinking of letting them capture me again after releasing me? How dare you!"

Qin Mu was a little embarrassed and shook his head at Cripple and Blind.

Cripple muttered, "This fellow is a good helper and if I can make him stay, I can steal even more stuff..."

Qin Mu said warmly, "Devil king, don't worry. I shall remove these sealing runes on your body and you'll be able to regain your freedom."

He undid the sealing runes on Dutian Devil King's body one by one and only then did Dutian Devil King became at ease, "Little Buddy Qin, Dutian and here are two different worlds, after we part today, we may never meet each other again. After all, the life of you mortal are short and your lifespan is merely a flick of a finger to us, over in an instant. Maybe when I think of you again, you have already died thousands of years earlier. This is actually quite sad now I mention about it..."

Qin Mu smiled, "Devil king, I can also contact you frequently, I still know Ghost Transferring God Dispatching Runes Command from Great Mountain Sect."

Dutian Devil King laughed loudly, "Your world is too dangerous and even if you summon me over, I won't come. After I go back, I'll be looking for a new world, a new world for my people to survive."

Qin Mu undid the last of the seal and said, "Devil king, you can return now."

Dutian Devil King gave a try and discovered that there was really no seal before becoming fully at ease, "Let us never meet again!" Once he said that, his consciousness tunneled into the void and vanished.

Qin Mu raised his head and smiled, "Who can tell what will happen in the future."

Dutian Devil King's consciousness returned to Dutian World and went back into his original body. That majestic Dutian Devil King immediately knew what this consciousness had encountered and was greatly shaken. Letting out a murky breath, he thought to himself, "A dangerous world that is being monitored by gods, it's indeed not a dwelling place for my Dutian's citizens. Looks like it's time to find a new world..."

"Mu'er, come over." Village Chief called out.

Qin Mu hurried over and Village Chief hesitated for a moment, "I pondered for quite some time but there is still something I have to tell you. Other than the numerous 'Qin' word I have found on that ship, I had also found something else. Apothecary, bring that thing over."

Apothecary hesitated, "Is it suitable to give it to him now?"

Village Chief shook his head, "I don't have much long to live and if I don't give it to him, when should I give it to him?"

Apothecary took out a mirror and handed it over to Qin Mu.

Qin Mu took over the mirror and didn't find anything unusual about it. Village Chief said, "Inside this mirror is a geographical map which leads to Carefree Village, we have found this on that ship. You can stop examining it, this mirror has been sealed by me. Only when you can break my seal, you can see the route in this mirror. That place is too dangerous and I don't want to let you go there now."

Qin Mu was silent. Suddenly, he knelt down and kowtowed to Village Chief.

Village Chief immediately said, "Get up. There's one more thing. Suddenly I feel that there are quite a number of weights on your shoulder, the young cult master of Heavenly Devil Cult, the orphan of Carefree Village, maybe it won't be much if you take on my responsibility as well. Today, I shall take you in as my disciple and hand over my responsibility to you. From today onwards, you will be the next generation's..."

"Human Emperor!"

Chapter 242: Once More

'The next generation's human emperor?'

Qin Mu was bewildered. This title was slightly weird. There was obviously an emperor in this world as well as cult and sect masters of all the various big sects. Everything was being managed and governed, so what would the human emperor do?

There seemed to be no free space in this world that the human emperor could rule.

“Human emperor is not high above, and he doesn’t have any power, only responsibility,” Village Chief explained. “Human emperor is not a position from which you will rule over all living things nor will it let you give you supremacy to recklessly wage wars to kill those that don’t submit to you. Human emperor is a state of mind, a kind of righteousness and justice. Every human emperor has a treasured seal which has been handed down since the first generation human emperor. I’ve thrown in under the bed, so go and fetch it.”

Qin Mu went to Village Chief’s room, and there was indeed a black lump under the bed. Once he took it out, he saw that it was a palm-sized black iron seal and with bird-worm seal script carved onto it.

Qin Mu passed the black iron seal to Village Chief, who said, “This is the Human Emperor’s Seal, the supreme sacred artifact of our bloodline.”

Qin Mu looked at the seal and mumbled, “Village Chief, does our bloodline have any other sacred artifacts?”

Angered, Village Chief smashed the Human Emperor’s Seal onto Qin Mu’s head, causing a big swelling on his forehead. This iron lump was then placed into Qin Mu’s hands.

Village Chief said, “The Human Emperor’s Seal has been passed to you, so you are now the next generation’s human emperor.”

‘So simple?’ Qin Mu was stunned.

Apothecary was also shocked. Village Chief had always said that his responsibility was too huge, his burden was too heavy, and the title of human emperor was too powerful and shocking. Because of that, he always thought that a grand ceremony would have to be held for Qin Mu to inherit the position of human emperor.

Never did he expect Village Chief to just throw a black lump at Qin Mu and be done.

“There are not many who know about the title of human emperor anymore. We are not a sect nor are we emperors of a country; it’s just an inheritance. It’s passed down from generation to generation, so there will only be one in each generation, and usually the smartest person with the best comprehension will be found to inherit the title. The smartest one in this generation is Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor, but I don’t think he would be interested. He has also already gone down his own path, so it would be hard for him to accept my inheritance and responsibility.”

Village Chief sighed. “I’m also too lazy to go out, so after thinking for quite some you, I decided that you barely make the cut.”

Qin Mu consoled, “Village Chief, don’t force yourself, I think you can still find someone better.”

Apothecary had a weird expression while Village Chief almost died from holding back. The brat was obviously finding it troublesome, and since there were no benefits, he really wasn’t willing.

“Your guts have grown quite a lot since you went out; how dare you be sarcastic!” Village Chief sneered. “Are you going to be the human emperor or not?”

Qin Mu begrudgingly said, “Sure, sure, just give me all the dirty work. There’s already plenty of it I have to do, so an extra human emperor won’t make a difference.”

Village Chief was speechless from anger. He wished he could grow out an arm just to knock the youth on the head as he scolded, “Countless people begged me to teach them my sword techniques, but I didn’t teach them. They begged me to leave behind my inheritance to them, but I didn’t give it to them. How dare you reject it like that?”

Qin Mu lowered his head and kicked away a pebble as he said resentfully, “I’m not rejecting, it’s just that this title doesn’t have any use. Village Chief, why don’t you just teach me your sword skills and pass this title of human emperor to someone else?”

Village Chief smiled with anger and looked at Apothecary. “You say, is he rejecting it or not? Is it that embarrassing to be the human emperor? You’re getting more and more ballsy!”

Apothecary coughed and said, “You two shall slowly talk this out, I will go take a look at my worms so that they don’t freeze to death.”

Village Chief was filled with anger, but then he suddenly came to the realization and broke out laughing. “Other people begged me to teach them, but I didn’t, and now you’re making me change my way to beg you to learn, is that right? You’re becoming more and more mischievous. Honestly, you’re really not fit to be the human emperor. I’m just really too lazy to go out, else I would definitely find an even more outstanding youth than you.”

Qin Mu muttered softly with a pout, “I have an Overlord Body, who can be better than me?”

Village Chief almost choked to death. Qin Mu immediately went forward to massage the old man’s back, and Village Chief regained his breath. So when Qin Mu was about to say something, the old man said, “Stop talking and let me relax, it’s too much for my brain to handle...”

The corners of the old man’s eyes twitched. As the initiator of the lie, he had finally received his comeuppance.

After some time, he managed to recompose himself. It had been just a white lie which everyone took for a truth, for which he felt secretly proud since everyone believed in it. Yet now he had chosen Qin Mu as his successor, so could he have also come to believe that the youth had an Overlord Body?

‘Too many lies make me have no choice but to believe them even when I clearly know they’re not the truth. Oh well, oh well.’

Village Chief relaxed and smiled. “We, as the human emperors, only have one responsibility”—light burst forth from his eyes as though countless sword lights were coming, dazzling Qin Mu’s eyes—“to cut down gods, devils, and Heaven itself!

“What belongs to the gods is managed by gods, what belongs to the devils is managed by devils, what belongs to the humans is managed by humans! If gods or devils dabble with this, we’ll cut off their hands!

“If gods or devils stick their necks out, we’ll cut off their heads! This is the most basic responsibility of the human emperor.

“When you get stronger, you will have even more responsibilities. To cut down gods, to cut down devils, to cut down Heaven! Slay your way up to Heaven... Ey, come back!”

Qin Mu threw the Human Emperor’s Seal back into Village Chief’s hand and turned around to walk away.

Village Chief blew up, and his vital qi transformed into a huge hand to grab him back by his collar. With a pleasant countenance, he said, “You are the human emperor of this generation so how can you not know the aim of our bloodline? I haven’t finish— Still trying to run? Apothecary, Apothecary, help me grab him!”

Apothecary didn’t come, but Qin Mu still couldn’t break free and was forced to give up.

Village Chief continued, “There aren’t many rules for our bloodline bearers, and the aims are only these. I will impart my sword skills to you, but how much you will be able to comprehend will be up to you. That’s right, we also have the Hall of Human Emperors, so you can drop by when you are free to witness the meritorious exploits of the past human emperors. Also, even if my sword skills are not bad, but if a god or devil saw you using them, they will definitely make a move to kill you— Stop running, you can’t escape my grasp! I didn’t run back then and succeeded this inheritance without thinking it through.”

“Granny, save me!” Qin Mu called out for help.

Granny Si was full of smiles as she told Blind beside her, “Village Chief that old fellow is finally willing to teach Mu’er his legacy. Look, Mu’er is so happy that’s he going to cry.”

Blind turned his head and said in suspicion, “I heard him calling for help.”

“He’s elated.” Granny Si beamed. “Village Chief’s legacy has made countless people envious. He was the number one man in the world back then, the famous Sword God, so Mu’er is naturally speaking incoherently from being overjoyed.”

Qin Mu simply couldn’t break free, so he had to accept his fate and throw the Human Emperor’s Seal into his taotie sack.

Village Chief was very pleased. “You have already learned the first move of Sword Picture, Sword Treading Mountains and Rivers, now show me if you improved any after this while.”

Qin Mu acknowledged this and executed Sword Treading Mountains and Rivers.

His execution was different from what Village Chief had taught him since he had incorporated Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor's Spiral Sword Form, Drill Sword Form, and Swim Sword Form into it and added numerous variations.

After executing the move, Qin Mu retracted his sword qi back and looked at Village Chief nervously.

Village Chief was astonished and seemed to be thinking as he said, "This is the basic sword form Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor taught you?"

Qin Mu nodded. "Village Chief, I changed the Sword Treading Mountains and Rivers that you taught me, disrespecting you. Do you want to fire me and find another human emperor?"

"Not bad, not bad," Village Chief praised. "Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor is not bad, to be able to be original and create new moves on top of the fourteen basic sword forms. He is indeed more suitable to be the human emperor... However, you aren't bad as well, to not stick by the rules and even dare to execute the Sword Treading Mountains and Rivers you changed in front of me, very well, very well. Your vital qi thread has also changed, did you use Spiral Sword Form to refine your qi into a thread?"

Qin Mu nodded.

Village Chief said, "I shall use my Five Elements Realm's cultivation while you will use your new Sword Treading Mountains and Rivers, and we will exchange a blow."

Qin Mu's eyes lighted up and he smiled. "Village Chief, if I defeat you with my move, can I not be the human emperor?"

Village Chief revealed a smile and refined his qi into a sword while saying leisurely, "Alright. If you can defeat me, I'll bring the Human Emperor's Seal to the grave."

Qin Mu took a deep breath, and his body suddenly changed. He transformed into the form of Venus Sovereign that had the head of a white tiger and stood on two dragons. His vital qi transformed into gold qi, and he gathered his qi into a sword whose sword lights instantly exploded forth!

Sword Treading Mountains and Rivers!

Under his sword, the mountains and rivers appeared like a painting being unscrolled to cover the entire village, sending Village Chief inside it!

Not only had he incorporated Imperial Preceptor's basic sword form, he had also incorporated the path of painting that Deaf had taught him. With thousands of mountains and rivers bombarding the opponent's face, it was as if the attack was a real world.

This kind of profound sword skill could no longer be described as a sword skill. It was a path, the path of a sword.

His Sword Treading Mountains and Rivers unleashed its full power, and at that moment, Village Chief's sword light flickered. It was Sword Treading Mountains and Rivers as well, so it was like two worlds colliding with each other. No sword light could be seen as a terrifying power burst forth!

Chi, chi, chi, chi!

Dozens of blood lights appeared around Qin Mu's body as he got injured in numerous places and flew backward. When he crashed into the wall of Butcher's shop, sword lights appeared and carved a pattern of mountains and rivers around him.

These were the traces left behind by Village Chief's sword lights.

"Once more!" Qin Mu shouted out and sealed the wounds on his body as he rushed towards Village Chief to execute Sword Treading Mountains and Rivers again. The next moment, a human figure flew out and crashed into Old Ma's house.

There was another pattern of mountains and rivers around the youth.

Qin Mu was stunned as he slid down from the wall. Applying the dragon's saliva on himself, he pondered hard and continued improving his Sword Treading Mountains and Rivers. After some time, he rushed towards Village Chief once again, "Once more!"

Boom.

The wall of the smithy gained the imprint of a human and around it was the pattern of mountains and rivers. This pattern was poles apart from the pattern on the other walls.

Every time Village Chief made a move, the patterns of the mountains and rivers were different.

Mute popped his head out of from the smithy and took a look at Qin Mu before laughing silently.

Qin Mu's face turned black as he applied the medicine before continuing to rack his brains. Getting rid of all the weakness in his move, he improved the sword skill.

"Once more!"

A human figure flew through majestic mountains and rivers before crashing into Deaf's wall.

Chapter 243: Convinced

Qin Mu smashed into walls time again and again, and pictures of mountains and rivers appeared in almost every wall in Disabled Elderly Village. Only Granny Si's house was not imprinted.

Qin Mu wanted to rush over once more when he realized that his vital qi was depleted. He couldn't help but feel stunned by this.

Defeated.

Overlord Body was defeated. It had suffered a crushing defeat. Not only was his sword techniques not on par with those of Village Chief, even the density of his vital qi could not be compared to that of Village Chief. It looked like he could only take over the title of human emperor.

Village Chief said gently, "You can wait for your vital qi to recover before coming again."

Qin Mu composed himself, "Okay!"

Village Chief's expression darkened as he saw the cowherd boy sprinting away to cultivate his weird Overlord Body Three Elixir Technique.

"You cheated," Apothecary said as he came over once he saw Qin Mu's figure disappearing into the distance.

Village Chief was stunned. "Did I?"

Apothecary sneered. "Your sword skills exhaust an extreme amount of vital qi, and with the density of your cultivation, you can execute them twice in Five Elements Realm, three times at most. How many times have you executed them just now? About seven times, right?"

Village Chief couldn't keep a straight face and muttered, "The density of my vital qi is not as you imagine. If I control it and use the lowest amount possible, I can execute my skills four times... However, Mu'er's vital qi is indeed dense. I thought my and his vital qi reserves in Five Elements Realm wouldn't be too different but to my surprise..."

Apothecary laughed. "To your surprise, he's a huge cauldron and you're only a barrel."

Village Chief sighed and shook his head. "His qi is several times denser than mine in Spirit Embryo Realm, but it's not possible for it to be so much denser than mine in Five Elements Realm. I had no shortcomings in my Five Elements Realm, but he... also has no shortcomings. You noticed it too, but didn't say it out."

Apothecary smiled. "He already lost to you with the same sword skill, so why do I need to say anything? However, earlier you said that the title of human emperor only has responsibilities and burdens but no benefits, isn't that false?"

Village Chief said lazily, "What benefits does it have? How come I don't know them?"

Apothecary's eyes flickered over. "I heard some legends about human emperors and their seal. Human Emperor's Seal is related to many ancient inheritances and some of them can be traced all the way back to tens of thousands of years ago. Some sacred grounds were founded by human emperors, and I've heard that the Human Emperor's Seal is even more useful than the emperor's jade seal."

Village Chief said indifferently, "That's a legend from god knows how many years ago, and the Human Emperor's Seal is merely a black iron lump. Who would listen to a black iron lump?"

Apothecary smiled. "Legend says that once the Human Emperor's Seal is used, one can command all the heroes of this world."

Village Chief yawned and said lazily, “Human Emperor’s Seal is with Mu’er. You can let him take it out and show it off, see which sect will be willing to hear his command. It’ll be lucky if he won’t be beaten to death.”

Apothecary said resentfully, “You clearly knew it was this dangerous, so why did you pass the Human Emperor’s Seal to him?”

Village Chief was no longer lazy and a sword light flashed across his eyes as he said solemnly, “This is a responsibility and also a burden. When this burden was placed on my shoulders, I couldn’t carry it so my limbs were severed. However, someone must carry this burden, I can’t it take into the grave with me! Some things must be done even if it’s clearly known that they’re dangerous!”

Village Chief let out a shaky breath and said, “If something is done, there’s a possibility of failure and even death, but there’s also a slither of hope. If nothing is done, there won’t even be a slither of hope. What the past human emperors did is much more than what you can imagine. Mu’er is pretty good.”

Apothecary said in sorrow, “I only feel pained for Mu’er to be pulled into your old path. How can he win against you?”

“He can’t win.” Village Chief’s tone had a hint of pride when he said, “He will never win against me using Sword Treading Mountains and Rivers. This skill may be formed by the fourteen basic sword forms, but after me polishing it, there’s already no flaw in it. When he wanted to incorporate the three basic sword forms of Imperial Preceptor into my sword skill, he had to make some changes. Even though his ideas were good, his horizons aren’t as broad as mine. A single change will create a flaw, and the more he changes, the more flaws will appear.”

Apothecary was dumbfounded. He let out a shaky breath and looked at Qin Mu who was currently sprinting and felt pity.

“However, he can borrow my hand to polish his sword skill.” Village Chief smiled. “The more he changes the Sword Treading Mountains and Rivers, the more he will understand the sword. The more he understands, the more likely he will be to step away from sword techniques, step away from sword skills and come closer to the path. If his understanding of the sword reaches the level of the path, it will no longer matter if there are fourteen or seventeen basic sword forms.

“Learning sword skills and using sword skills is only the realm of technique; it’s learning and using something. If one wants to go higher, they will have to innovate, which is where Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor is on right now. To go one step further, one would have to abandon skill and technique, which is the realm of path.

Village Chief said, “Mu’er is currently between technique and skill. For him to use my hand to polish his sword skill is much better than for him to improve by me teaching him sword skills.”

After some time, Qin Mu’s cultivation recovered to its peak, but he didn’t find Village Chief straightaway. Instead, he sat down and comprehended quietly. He tried to perfect his own Sword Treading Mountains and River so that there was no flaw.

What he wanted to do was to incorporate Imperial Preceptor's three basic sword forms into Sword Treading Mountains and Rivers and not leave any flaw.

He definitely couldn't defeat Village Chief using Village Chief's skills, but if he improved on them, there was a chance he might win.

He comprehended diligently, and all the sword moves in his mind were messed up before they were reorganized again. He then simulated an image of clashing with Village Chief's sword skill in his mind.

However, every clash ended in a defeat.

Various battles were simulated in his mind, but no matter how he improved, he couldn't change his defeat.

Sometime later, Qin Mu roused his spirit and stood up. In the storm in his mind, he had finally managed to defeat Village Chief with his new sword skill, so he rushed over with excitement. "Village Chief, once more!"

Village Chief beamed. "Okay."

Qin Mu rushed over and executed his improved sword skill. He then flew high up into the air and left a trail of blood in mid-air before crashing into the chicken coop.

A dozen hen dragons clucked and rushed over fiercely. Qin Mu immediately rose into the air, and the hen dragons also flapped their wings to fly. Their feathers were like swords and they spewed fire at him.

Mountains and rivers suddenly appeared in mid-air and flooded the dozen hen dragons. After one move, they fell bare from the sky, and their feathers fluttered everywhere.

Qin Mu landed on the ground, stunned.

The hen dragons clucked and ran back into the chicken coop, closing the wooden door and not daring to show their faces again.

"Cluck cluck!" the old hen clucked in a stern tone.

Qin Mu waved his hand and a few traces were left on the wooden door by his sword qi.

The chicken coop was in a flurry.

Qin Mu was stunned and looked at his hand. When had he become so powerful?

"Mu'er is so suave, he can finally defeat chickens!" Cripple praised.

Qin Mu's face turned slightly red, but he continued to concentrate on comprehending what he felt. Suddenly, Mute threw a sword pellet over and signaled, "Aba! Aba! Ah ah!"

Qin Mu thanked Mute. What Mute meant was that he had just created a sword pellet and he should try it out.

He gripped the sword pellet tightly, and his vital qi rushed into it. Countless sword lights instantly flew out, and they were the rays of swords which seemed to have no substance. They could warp according to his will and be as natural as his vital qi!

Qin Mu grasped the sword pellet and gave a punch forward. The sword rays in the sword pellet instantly transformed into a huge dragon which rushed out and roared through the small village!

Qin Mu jumped in shock, and Village Chief also jumped in shock before giving an angry stare to Mute.

Qin Mu retracted his fist, and his mind moved slightly. He could feel as if the sword pellet that he was gripping tightly was melting. He took a firmer grip of it, and the sword rays transformed into a huge smithing hammer. When he smashed down with a powerful force, he created a huge pit in the ground.

He leaped up, and knife lights appeared. Sun on East Sea Thousand Layers Wave had knife lights which were like a wave with a thousand layers and a sun rising into the sky.

The knife skill was then retracted as the sword rays transformed into a huge brush which swept into the sky to draw a painting of a flood dragon, which soared into the sky and transformed into a long spear that was twelve yards long. Qin Mu grabbed onto the spear in mid-air and stabbed forward.

The corners of Village Chief's eyes twitched furiously as he stared at Mute with an unpleasant gaze.

Mute immediately retreated into his smithy and didn't dare to show his face.

The spear vanished, replaced by countless sword lights which formed vast mountains and rivers.

Sword Treading Mountains and Rivers!

Qin Mu landed on the ground with surprise and delight. This sword pellet that Mute had forged was to his liking. He must have extracted the gold qi from the mysterious iron and mysterious gold, choosing qi and forgo the form.

Even though this sword pellet was a sword pellet, it had a myriad of changes. His fist skills, spells, and sword skills could all be unleashed, and there was no obstruction at all.

Mute's forging skills were already close to the path!

Qin Mu kept the sword pellet, but he didn't use it to challenge Village Chief. Mute popped his head out and gave two signals, drawing a line across his head. What he meant was that this sword pellet could definitely get rid of Village Chief who was using the Five Elements Realm.

Village Chief blew up and the wrinkles on his face twitched. If Qin Mu was to really use the sword pellet, the power of his sword skill would increase exponentially, and he might really be able to defeat him.

Qin Mu shook his head. "Grandpa Mute, Village Chief is not using a weapon so I can't use one as well; otherwise he won't accept that he lost."

Mute rolled his eyes and gave him a 'you are hopeless' look.

Qin Mu continued to concentrate on comprehending and improving his Sword Treading Mountains and Rivers. However, the result of each clash was the same.

Every time he failed, he would have new comprehension which allowed him to perfect his Sword Treading Mountains and Rivers more and more. However, he still failed after each improvement.

Finally, after one more failure, Qin Mu discovered that he could no longer improve his move.

With his current knowledge and experience, he could no longer upgrade his skill.

He was stunned for a moment, then suddenly came to realization. He executed one of the moves of Sunset Sword Skills, Sun Sets on Surging River, and his sword skill was like the surging river water that had a red sun half-set in the heart of the river. From the red sun, countless sword lights would burst forth.

He had only practiced this move once or twice, but the power he had unleashed was incomparably astonishing. It was like he had spent a hundred years polishing this skill.

Qin Mu was then convinced, and he knelt down in front of Village Chief to carry out the rites of taking him as his master.

Village Chief smiled. "Get up, there ain't so many rules. I shall teach you the other moves of Sword Picture in no time, and with your current attainment, it won't be hard for you to learn them... Mute, you rogue, you still have the face to come out and congratulate?"

Chapter 244: Wreck the Country and Ruin the People

Everyone from Disabled Elderly Village came out to congratulate Village Chief for finally having a successor and Qin Mu for succeeding Village Chief's legacy, becoming the current human emperor. However, Village Chief wasn't pleased with Mute and Qin Mu wasn't really happy with being a human emperor.

After the commotion, Qin Mu continued to learn sword skills from Village Chief.

Sword Picture was a set of sword skills founded by Village Chief and not the sword skills of Hall of Human Emperors. The first form, Sword Treading Mountains and Rivers, was the most complicated sword skill that Qin Mu had seen so far. It was even more complicated than the first form of Dao Sword, Yin Yang Come and Go Within Two Modes.

However, Sword Treading Mountains and Rivers was the simplest sword skill in the set of Sword Picture. The second form, Sword of Founding Emperor was several times more complicated than Sword Treading Mountains and Rivers, and it was extremely difficult to master.

When Qin Mu had first learned Sword Treading Mountains and Rivers, he had spent over a dozen days to do so.

After experiencing Eternal Peace Empire, his horizons had broadened. He had also received teachings from Woodcutter's Rock and comprehended Unity Technique, which had then fused with Overlord Body Three Elixir Technique. Because of all this, his aptitude and comprehension had improved quite a bit as well.

However, learning Sword of Founding Emperor still took him over twenty days.

Only then did he understand Village Chief's intentions. If they hadn't competed with Sword Treading Mountains and Rivers, he would have needed a much longer time to learn Sword of Founding Emperor. He might have even taken a year and half to master this move.

Village Chief had squeezed his wisdom out so Qin Mu could learn Sword of Founding Emperor in just over twenty days. Since he was already at half step to sword skill from sword technique, he could learn it, even if it was strenuous.

However, the third form, Calamity of the Apex Emperor reached the extremes of technique and transformation which a sword skill could reach, so it was not something Qin Mu could master. He could memorize move, but if he wanted to execute it, he would have to comprehend the marvel of it first. But at that time, no matter how much he concentrated on comprehending, he couldn't understand the marvel of Calamity of the Apex Emperor completely.

He was limited by the width of his horizons and knowledge. With narrow horizons and lack of knowledge, his foundation wasn't good enough, so even if Village Chief taught him, he wouldn't be able to learn or use the skill.

Qin Mu could only drop his thoughts about mastering it and concentrate on Sword of Founding Emperor.

Sword of Founding Emperor Sea Of Blood—Qing Mu had heard the young Village Chief chanting these phrases after walking out of Deaf's painting in a small and empty village in Eternal Peace Empire. At that time, he had sensed a strange emotion hidden within the sword skill.

Sword Treading Mountains and Rivers that Village Chief had taught him had an implicit charm and mood to it. It was the feeling of heroes gathering to slay gods and devils, while Sword of Founding Emperor had the mood of commemorating martyrs.

The two moods were different, not matching one another at all. Because of this, even though Qin Mu had learned the two sword forms, he still couldn't understand the different feelings behind them.

The vital qi needed for Sword of Founding Emperor was astonishing since one move had depleted almost half of his cultivation. If a person wanted to execute this move, it was impossible to do so without dense vital qi.

"Village Chief, how many moves are there in Sword Picture?" Qin Mu asked.

Village Chief said calmly, "Only eight moves."

Qin Mu was astonished. "Eight moves? So few?"

"One move in each realm." Village Chief narrowed his eyes. "That's why there are only eight moves."

Qin Mu counted with his fingers—Spirit Embryo, Five Elements, Six Directions, Seven Stars, Celestial Being, Life and Death, Divine Bridge. No matter how he counted, there were only seven realms, so why were there eight moves?

'A step above Divine Bridge Realm is the level of gods! Could Village Chief's eighth move be the move of a god?' His heart thumped violently.

Other than comprehending sword skills these days, he competed with Village Chief and borrowed the pressure Village Chief exerted on him to improve himself.

He was trying to incorporate Imperial Preceptor's three basic sword forms into Sword of Founding Emperor. With an existence like Village Chief guiding him, he naturally improved by leaps and bounds.

Village Chief's sword skills were close to the path and to him, so it didn't matter if there were fourteen or seventeen forms. However, to Qin Mu, adding Imperial Preceptor's three sword forms could increase the power of his move by quite a lot.

As the days passed, his attainments in sword skills increased rapidly.

Qin Mu seemed to have returned to the past. Training his fists with Old Ma daily, competing in knife skills with Butcher, stealing from each other with Cripple, learning to forge with Mute, cultivating his god's eyes with Blind, refining medicine with Apothecary, painting with Deaf, and tailoring with granny.

Even though he went to bed exhausted every day, it was very fulfilling.

After returning to Disabled Elderly Village from his journey away, the things that Old Ma, Butcher, and the rest taught him were much more profound. In the past, they had only taught him entry level techniques, but now that Qin Mu's horizons had broadened, they could teach him more profound abilities. Because of this, all the elders in Disabled Elderly Village were very gratified.

"Granny's heart devil is acting up again!" A commotion rose in the village, and Cripple called out in a loud voice, "Blind, come quickly! Granny Si has recovered her true appearance so I can't lay my hands on her. You can't see so you shall deal with this little demoness!"

At the time, Qin Mu was competing knife skills with Butcher. when he looked over after hearing the commotion, he saw a woman walking out from Granny Si's room. Upon seeing her, his heart throbbed uncontrollably a few times. He felt as if he had been ruthlessly struck by invisible arrows.

Granny Si had revealed her true appearance and even dressed herself up meticulously. The clothes on her body were no longer the old drabs she usually wore, but were tailored from exquisite silk. They fit her perfectly, showing off her good figure.

Her make up was also applied meticulously. With her bright eyes and white teeth, her face was lightly powdered and her astonishing beauty was on full display.

She wore a bracelet on her left wrist that was made of green jade and pearl earrings that were shaped like tears hanging from her ears. When she walked out, the winter suddenly seemed to turn into spring and summer. Even though the weather was still freezing, everyone in the village felt the warmth of summer blossoming.

She walked out like a goddess descending from paradise into the mortal world, stunning everyone in the village.

Apothecary felt inferior and covered his face in shame to walk away. Deaf dropped his brush onto the table and hurriedly took out a bronze mirror to tidy himself. Mute ran to the water cauldron in a hurry to wash his face while Old Ma chanted the names of Buddha to suppress his heart devil. Butcher used his Pig Slaughtering Knife to shave his favorite full beard while Cripple just shut his eyes and shouted for Blind to come over.

Village Chief was also a little flustered and turned his head around to shout, "Blind, Blind!"

Blind walked over towards Granny Si with his bamboo cane and asked calmly, "Are you Cult Master Li or Granny Si?"

Cripple said angrily, "Of course she's Cult Master Li, that pervert! Granny Si can't suppress him anymore! You can't see her true appearance so you shall be the one to suppress Cult Master Li!"

A rough and old voice came from Granny Si's mouth which smiled flirtatiously. "My wife is no longer a match for me, and now she's the one being suppressed. Look at me, aren't I beautiful?"

She smiled very sweetly, obsessed with her own beauty. When she spoke next, her voice was still rough, but her tone was very gentle, and her breath smelled like irises and orchids. "When I married my wife, I realized that I was no fit for such a beauty like her. And it wasn't only me like that, none of the stinky men in this world were fit to be with her! However, I still decided to marry her, and I knew that she was willing to marry me since I was her master. She couldn't resist it.

"I knew she was preparing to kill me the night we would consummate our marriage, but I was willing to let her kill me. That was because..."

She raised her wrist and examined her flawless white skin that was even whiter and more exquisite than fine white tallow jade. Even the flawless bracelet was serving merely as a prop, unfit to be on this wrist.

Cult Master Li covered the mouth and giggled. "That was because I was too envious of her. I didn't want to marry her, I wanted to become her. After she killed me and I became her, wouldn't I gain the best of both worlds?"

Blind walked over with his cane. Even though the woman before him was extremely beautiful, it didn't have any influence on Blind. He said unhurriedly, "Cult Master Li, you're too much. Have you forgotten that you once were a man?"

“What is there to miss about being a stinky man?” Cult Master Li’s body was charming when it rolled its eyes at him. “Damn it, Blind. Both your eyes and heart are blind, you don’t know the benefits of being a woman at all. Don’t block my way, you can’t block me alone. I’m leaving, I shall live another lifetime as a woman!”

Qin Mu shut his eyes tightly to not look at the beauty, but he could resist opening his eyes almost right away. “Cult Master Li, you’re getting a little sick in the mind! As a fellow cult master sacred teacher of Heavenly Saint Cult, I despise you as a human!”

Blind propped himself on his bamboo cane while smiling. “Well said, Mu’er.”

Cult Master Li shot a glance at Qin Mu, and Qin Mu instantly felt his mind turning blank. There were no more thoughts in his mind other than that the woman was really beautiful.

“Talk some more and I’ll kill you to become sacred cult master once again.” Cult Master Li laughed while pinching the orchid-shaped fingers.

Qin Mu’s heart thumped violently. He felt that if such a beautiful woman wanted his life, he would be willing to give it to her.

“No, no! She’s Granny Si... Eww, eww, it’s Cult Master Li, a damned old man! Eww, eww, it’s not okay even if it was Granny Si, she’s the granny that raised me!”

Cold sweat rolled down Qin Mu’s forehead as a heart devil was almost planted in his heart. He hurriedly shut his eyes.

Cult Master Li walked towards the outskirts of the village, and the devil qi around the body grew heavier and heavier, the devil nature growing stronger and stronger. On the road in front of the woman stood a blind man with a bamboo cane.

The two people made their moves almost at the same time. Among the sparks and flames, the outcome was decided in an instant.

Energy surged forth in all directions, and numerous treasures that were lying all around the village were activated by the terrifying shockwave from the clash of the two people. A brilliant light shone as terrifying throbs bursts of it scattered all the clouds in the sky!

Cult Master Li grabbed his chest and collapsed. “Blind, my wife’s cultivation is too weak, or else I wouldn’t be inferior to you, I’d certainly be stronger than you...”

Blind propped himself on his bamboo cane and said indifferently, “We had never exchanged blows before so how do you know you’d be stronger than me?”

Qin Mu rushed into Granny Si’s room and fetched a human skin and old clothes to cover Cult Master Li. The old man turned back into an old woman and screamed, “I don’t want to be like this! I’m the most beautiful woman in the world, I don’t want to be so ugly! I want to wear the most beautiful clothes and be the most beautiful woman!”

Old Ma hurried over and chanted the names of Buddha to suppress the devil nature, suppressing Cult Master Li entirely. After some time, Granny Si regained her consciousness and thanked Old Ma.

Apothecary immediately came forward to check on her injuries. After treating her, he said, "Blind, you're too harsh. Mu'er, you are faster than me in refining pills so you shall refine the spirit pills."

Qin Mu acknowledged and refined spirit pills right away.

Blind sighed. "I had no choice but to be harsh. Granny Si's cultivation is improving too fast; she's almost at Life and Death Realm. Cult Master Li's primordial spirit must have fused well with her. Furthermore, Cult Master Li's Unity Technique is simply too strong."

Granny Si got up and consumed the spirit pills that Qin Mu had brought over. "I'm fine, much better now."

Village Chief floated over and shook his head. "Granny, it's lucky that you were in the village. If you were outside and Cult Master Li took over your body, I'm afraid you would have wrecked the country and ruined the people. His devil nature is extremely strong, so it's quite normal that he would bring great turmoil to this world. Even the emperor wouldn't be able to hold himself back, and the entire Eternal Peace Empire would be ruined at the hands of Cult Master Li."

Old Ma said, "Your heart devil is becoming stronger and stronger, so dragging things out isn't an option any longer. My buddhist skills aren't as profound as those of Old Rulai, so maybe he could help you suppress Cult Master Li. Why don't you take a trip to Great Thunderclap Monastery?"

Butcher touched his face and discovered blood all over his hands. He had shaved his beard too fast and cut his face with his Pig Slaughtering Knife. However, at the time he had been too infatuated with Granny Si's beauty, so he hadn't felt anything. Only when Granny Si put on her old woman's skin once again did he come to realize what had happened and said in a hurry, "There's no time to lose, it's best if granny sets off now! The longer you delay, the more danger we'll be in!"

Village Chief coughed lightly, then said, "We will be going to Great Thunderclap Monastery to ask Old Rulai to suppress granny's devil nature and not to eradicate that place, so there's no need for too many people.

"Old Ma knows the way there so he must go, and Blind can ignore granny's appearance so he needs to go as well. Mu'er is clever and has cultivated Heavenly Devil Creation Technique, so he can also help out, and he's proficient in the art of healing as well. You three shall accompany granny to Great Thunderclap Monastery." His expression was grim when he said solemnly, "Remember, never let Cult Master Li run away, or else the world will be in utter chaos!"

Chapter 245: Sea Suppression Heavenly King

Qin Mu, Old Ma, and Blind nodded in agreement. Even though Granny Si was beautiful, she wouldn't use her beauty as a weapon. On the contrary, she knew her beauty was too deadly and took the initiative to cover up, dressing up ugly when meeting people.

However, Cult Master Li was different.

The heart of Heavenly Devil Cult's previous cult master was twisted. He loved Granny Si too much and was envious of her beauty which was why he wanted to become her. Furthermore, he had a different comprehension of Great Educational Heavenly Devil Scriptures than Qin Mu. Even though Qin Mu had also received the same book, the same teachings from Woodcutter's Rock, and comprehended the same Unity Technique, he was influenced by everyone in the village since he was young. Even though his actions might be slightly recalcitrant, he still stood upright.

Qin Mu's Unity Technique had Overlord Body Three Elixir Technique as a foundation, which was very orthodox. Many spells and divine arts that many people viewed as from the devil path were executed righteously by him.

Cult Master Li's Unity Technique was, however, pretty evil and had the impression of the devil path.

Cult Master Li would also not let 'herself' suffer from grievances by dressing ugly to meet people. On the contrary, 'she' would flaunt her beauty and cause devastation to all living beings.

The old cult master didn't care at all about the so-called overturning a city with a smile and overturning a country with another.

Qin Mu went to back into Granny Si's room and fetched all the beast skins that she had collected. He put them in his taotie sack, preparing for emergencies.

Old Ma and Blind also packed their luggage. Blind's luggage was simple, a bamboo cane and a copper eight-divinatory symbol hanging from a fortune-telling banner. Old Ma, on the other hand, brought the memorial tablets of his wife and children. After kissing them, he placed them safely in his bundle.

He wore a green buddhist robe and looked like a traveling monk that had gone through great hardships.

Granny Si's Dao heart was still slightly unstable at times, acting up frequently. Old Ma could help her suppress Cult Master Li while Blind was there in case the suppression wasn't enough. He will then injure Cult Master Li, and Qin Mu would be in charge of treating the old woman.

They walked out of the village, and Granny Si laughed at herself. "I still need you guys to protect me, and even Mu'er has to help. However, with me being the previous saintess of the devil cult and Old Rulai being the Buddha, will he lend a helping hand?"

Old Ma didn't show any emotions on his face. "Old Rulai will help you. Cult Master Li is the previous cult master of Heavenly Devil Cult and is of the same seniority as Old Rulai. Old Rulai will gain merit from subduing devils, and subduing a great devil such as Cult Master Li can aid him in his cultivation. Furthermore, Buddhas giving up their lives to rear devils is a common event."

Qin Mu said worriedly, "I'm afraid that when they subdue Cult Master Li, they will subdue granny as well."

"Old Rulai won't do so." Old Ma shook his head. "He has his own principles, and they are his path, his practices. Upon reaching a cultivation like his, he doesn't even have to keep his practices in mind; his actions will never step over his practice, that is what practice is."

Qin Mu couldn't help being curious. Old Ma had such a deep grudge against Old Rulai, but from his words, he still held great respect for Old Rulai.

This was not merely because Old Rulai was once Old Ma's master. There had to be something about that old monk that made people respect him.

"What I'm doubting is Old Rulai's ability." Blind raised his head. "Does Old Rulai have the ability to suppress Cult Master Li? This old devil was once an existence on par with him."

No one said anything after this.

Among the three sacred grounds of the martial world, there was Dao Sect, Great Thunderclap Monastery, and Heavenly Devil Cult. As the previous cult master of Heavenly Devil Cult, Cult Master Li was a top figure in the martial world and on par with Old Rulai.

If Old Rulai wanted to refine him, it would be quite difficult.

"Great Thunderclap Monastery lies at the borders of Great Ruins and Eternal Peace Empire," Old Ma said. "Legend says that God Broken Mountain Range was the mountain range sliced apart by a god, creating a natural chasm between Great Ruins and Eternal Peace.

"Great Thunderclap Monastery has a similar legend, but it has something extra. When the god slashed and his attack came near Mount Meru, there were monks sitting on the mountain. They filled the entire mountain and pledged to die and live with Mount Meru. The god saw their sincerity and took a detour around Mount Meru. All other mountain ranges were sliced apart, with only Mount Meru saved from damage."

Blind smiled. "I feel that there was someone above Mount Meru, or else the god wouldn't have cared one whit about the lives of the monks on the mountain."

Mount Meru lay at the border of Great Ruins and Eternal Peace Empire. One side was to the empire, and the other to Great Ruins. The sacred mountain was quite a distance away from Eternal Border and Secret Waters. It was, however, not very far from Qingmen Pass of the northern borders. It was only a journey of four to five thousand miles.

The distance from Disabled Elderly Village to Mount Meru was thirty thousand miles. Qin Mu was much slower than Granny Si, Old Ma, and Blind, so they had to take six to seven days to reach there.

The nights at Great Ruins were extremely dangerous, so they could only hurry throughout the day, because of which they took a bit longer than they would have done elsewhere.

If they flew through the air, they could reach the place in two days, but Qin Mu's cultivation wasn't high enough for that. They would have to stop to rest and recover his vital qi after every hundred miles if he ran at full strength, so it was better to travel on land instead.

Qin Mu brought the dragon qilin as a mode of transport. The dragon qilin could barely match the speed of Old Ma and the rest, so they didn't have to slow down because of him.

When first evening came, they reached an ancient temple which was desolate and uninhabited. There were some strange beasts inside, but they ignored them, continuing to lie lazily beside a statue of the heavenly king.

“Mu’er, come and pay your respect.” Blind took out a few sticks of incense and waved for Qin Mu to come over.

The two people, one young and one old, immediately to the front of the heavenly king’s statue and stabbed a couple sticks of incense in the broken censer before taking three steps back. They then prayed in one voice. “This little one is from Disabled Elderly Village which is located near the river. I have come across your temple and would like to rest my legs here for the time being. If I have alarmed the owner of this land, I am deeply sorry. Since he was young, this little one had weak kidneys and a frail body. My primordial yang has long since dispersed...”

“Ugh!” Granny Si groaned. In anger, she then added, “Blind, you have taught Mu’er bad!”

Blind laughed. “Granny Si, you might not be afraid of being plucked, but we are. If you don’t believe, you can ask Mu’er if the prayers I taught him worked.”

Qin Mu nodded repeatedly. “They work. When Xian Qing’er heard my prayers, she didn’t pluck me.”

Granny Si didn’t know whether to laugh or cry. She called Mu’er over. “Come and help me cook.” After Qin Mu walked over, she said secretly, “Blind is full of bad ideas, don’t always learn from him.”

When night descended, the surroundings of the heavenly king’s temple were very silent. There was no sound around, besides the dragon qilin’s snores.

Old Ma sat upright like a buddha, while Blind leaned on his bamboo cane as he sat against a wall, his head lowered in sleep. Unlike them, Qin Mu had used dried grass to prepare two beds, and Granny Si slept beside him.

In the dead of the night, the beating of gongs and drums suddenly resounded from outside. Everyone in the temple immediately became alert, and Qin Mu sat up to look around, but only saw darkness. The candles in the temple were still giving off a dim light, but the beatings of gongs and drums were very clear, coming closer and closer.

Blind and Old Ma immediately came to Qin Mu and Granny Si’s side, and Old Ma motioned them to stay quiet.

The beating of gongs and drums grew closer and closer until they came to the front of the temple. A few deep voices then called out.

“Silence!”

“Challenge!”

A couple of god statues came walking into the temple while wearing worn out armor. Even though the stone statues were dilapidated, they were like living gods, and Qin Mu even smelled the stench of rot from them.

These stone statues were majestic, and the hundred white skeletons behind them were soldiers holding onto broken weapons, lining up in a perfect manner. A few of the soldiers held gongs and drums in their bony hands, while a few others were carrying banners with words 'silence' and 'challenge'.

The stone statues walked into the temple while the white skeletons remained outside.

Qin Mu stared wide-eyed at such an absurd scene in front of him. The dragon qilin had also woken up and was yawning.

A human voice actually came from a god statue which said to the heavenly king's god statue in the temple, "Reporting to Sea Suppression Heavenly King, East Sea Dragon King Ao Zhen is using the natural disaster to rebel. His Majesty sent me orders from Carefree Village to come forth and assist Sea Suppression Heavenly King to slay the rebel!"

The dragon qilin was lying under the feet of the heavenly king's god statue, but he was still in a daze and didn't know what was happening.

At that moment, the tall and sturdy heavenly king's god statue moved. The eight flags behind it fluttered, and the stone statue trembled before standing up. With an abnormal awe-inspiring authority, it shouted out, "For twenty thousand years has this disaster plagued us, and this fellow still dares to rebel! Bring me my sword!"

The resounding sound of a sword coming out of its sheath came from the back of the heavenly king's temple. A Green Dragon Crescent Blade that was thirty yards long broke out from the dirt behind the temple and came whooshing over. The heavenly king's god statue grabbed onto the blade with his hand, and the sword hummed.

"Where's my steed?" that heavenly king's god statue shouted.

The dragon qilin finally came to his senses when he suddenly felt himself sinking down as the heavenly king's god statue sat down on him. The dragon's body rose uncontrollably and flew out of the temple.

The dragon qilin was indescribably appalled when it heard the booming voice of the heavenly king's god statue coming from his back. "You guys shall stay to guard this place, I'll return after I've slain him!"

After the orders were said, the dragon qilin turned into a trail of flames against his will and disappeared into the darkness while carrying the heavenly king's god statue.

Instead of saying he was carrying that god statue, it could be said that the heavenly king's god statue was bringing him along as he absolutely couldn't carry the heavenly king's god statue.

In the temple, Qin Mu, Granny Si, Blind, and Old Ma were dumbfounded, unable to speak a word for quite a while.

Later, they looked at one another in dismay. It was hard to say how much time had passed, but they reckoned that dawn was already coming. At that moment, a dragon's roar rang in the air. There was a huge crash, and a dragon's head fell down from the pitch black night sky, tumbling two rounds in the courtyard of the heavenly king's temple.

Qin Mu immediately looked over, but this dragon's head was sculpted from stone and not a real dragon's head.

The roars of dragons rang endlessly as the heavenly king's god statue flew back while riding on the dragon qilin. He jumped off and sat down on the lotus platform in the temple. After placing his Green Dragon Crescent Blade by his side, he said, "You guys can report back to His Majesty that by good luck this general was able to accomplish the mission and severed the head of the rebel."

Once the stone statues received their orders, they turned around to enter the darkness, bringing with them the army of white skeletons. As they disappeared into the darkness, the beating the gongs and drums also gradually faded away.

Some time later, the crowing of roosters could be heard, and the darkness retreated into the distance. The sun rose into the sky and shone into the heavenly king's temple.

Qin Mu shook his head. This night had been like an extremely weird dream.

He looked at the dragon qilin who was still in a daze and asked immediately, "Fatty Dragon, how are you?"

"I had a dream!" the muddle-headed dragon qilin said. "I dreamed that I carried a god king that gave off glorious flames. We slaughtered our way into a battlefield over a roaring sea as countless divine dragons attacked me. However, they were all slain by the blade of that god king on my back. I carried him into the sea, and we slaughtered our way through a bunch of dragon gods and severed the head of one of the dragon kings, then left after taking his head. This dream was so real..."

Qin Mu looked at Blind and Old Ma before asking softly, "Grandpa Blind, do you think what happened yesterday night was real?"

Blind and Old Ma shook their heads.

"Who can be sure about the incidents in Great Ruins? Let us hurry on our way, heading to Great Thunderclap Monastery is more important."

Qin Mu stared at the heavenly king's god statue in a daze, feeling something abnormal about everything here. He went forward and stretched his hand out to touch the stone statue, but it was ice cold and not made of flesh and blood.

"His Majesty sent his orders from Carefree Village, his orders from Carefree Village..." Qin Mu had a complicated expression as he muttered to himself, "Where exactly is Carefree Village..."