

Tales of Herding Gods Chapter 246-250

Chapter 246: Seemed Real yet Resembled Fantasy

Qin Mu looked at that Green Dragon Crescent Blade in the hands of the heaven king's god statue and noticed that this blade was real and not made of stone.

When they had just come into the temple, Qin Mu had surveyed his surroundings. He clearly remembered that there was no blade in the hands of the heavenly king's god statue, let alone such a huge one as Green Dragon Crescent Blade.

What was even more astonishing, the blade actually had some blood stains.

When Qin Mu stretched his hand out to check if it was really fresh blood, Blind's cane lifted his wrist up, moving it to the side. With a bright smile on his face, Blind said, "Mu'er, don't be so curious, you'll die."

Qin Mu was frightened and suddenly remembered what he and Village Chief had encountered when walking in the darkness. A droplet of devil blood had caused all the plants within a radius of hundred yards to wither instantly.

If it was real blood on the Green Dragon Crescent Blade, then the weird things that had happened last night would have also been real. This would mean that the heavenly king's god statue had really slain East Sea Dragon King, and it would be his blood on the blade.

Blind seemed to know Qing Mu's thoughts and said softly, "Divine blades are psychic, don't provoke them recklessly."

Qin Mu smiled. "I'm not Grandpa Cripple and won't commit such an outrageous act like stealing the divine blade of the heavenly king. I only want to take the blood on the blade. This is the blood of the dragon king of divine dragons, so it can probably be used to refine medicine."

Blind praised, "Mu'er is still the thrifty one in the household, knowing how to accumulate wealth."

Qin Mu took out a jade bottle and carefully took that drop of dragon king's blood on the Green Dragon Crescent Blade into his bottle, then screwed it tightly shut.

In the courtyard of the heavenly king's temple, a huge dragon's head made out of stone had created a huge pit in the ground. On the shattered pieces, there were some bloodstains which shone bright red.

Qin Mu fetched a box and transformed his vital qi tread into sword qi. He then carefully controlled it to scrape the blood stains into the box.

When he came to the neck of the dragon's head, he saw that it had been cleanly cut off. It looked like it had been separated from its body by an incredibly sharp knife. From the cross-section, Qin Mu could imagine how overbearing and quick that sharp knife had been!

Even though the dragon's head was from a stone statue, he could still feel the abundant and matchless desire within the knife, its realm.

'If I sat here and observed this section of the dragon's head, I could comprehend an extremely overbearing knife skill that wouldn't be inferior to Grandpa Butcher's Pig Slaughtering Knife Skill. However, there's no time, we should be hurrying.'

Qin Mu felt that it was a pity. If he could comprehend the god realm contained in this knife skill, knife desire, and knife realm, just the aura alone could scare a bunch of people to death.

Old Ma hurried him, "Mu'er, it's time to go!"

Qin Mu caught up with the others and called the dragon qilin over to get on him. The dragon qilin had been used like a steed by the heavenly king the whole night, so its body was weak and aching all over. The moment Qin Mu jumped onto him, he squealed like a pig being slaughtered.

Qin Mu immediately jumped off, and the dragon qilin said, "I must have been possessed, having been ridden by a stone statue the entire night. Elder Blind, you know fortune telling, so can you do exorcism as well?"

Blind shook his head. "I'm not a professional in this field, I only do fortune telling and exorcisms once in a while. I can't exorcise you, but you don't have to worry, you'll be better after resting for a night."

The dragon qilin was only half-convinced.

After walking a few thousand miles north, the terrain became lower. Qin Mu turned his head back and saw that they had walked down from a few mountain ranges, which left him bewildered.

Granny Si said, "This place is like a basin, so it looks like there are huge mountains all around it. But in truth, out there are the plains from which we entered. This basin is actually quite large."

Everyone looked around, checking out the majestic mountains, thick forests, ravines, and chasms all over the basin. The geography here was quite different from the places in Great Ruins.

This basin was extremely vast, and when Qin Mu and the rest had walked past a foothill, they could see some red corals branching out. They were very mesmerizing, like rubies.

Granny Si plucked a red coral, planning to make it into a hairpin when a strange beast suddenly jumped out at them. It looked like a huge lobster, but its body was three yards long and had eight legs as well as pincers that it kept swinging at everyone.

"Lunch is settled!" Blind was elated.

During lunch, Qin Mu roasted the strange beast, and its fragrance assaulted their nostrils. Grease flowed out from golden yellow tomalley which heightened everyone's appetite. Old Ma had fasted for a long time, so this time he also ate to his heart's content, leaving only the lobster's shell on the ground.

Qin Mu was bewildered. "Why was this type of strange beast here? There is no water around here."

As he was saying that, the mooing of cows came from the distance, and the forest shook. A couple fish monsters had smelled the fragrance and walked out of the forest. They had fish-like upper bodies that were twenty yards long, while their lower half had six sturdy legs. This group of strange beasts then mooed like cows.

Qin Mu looked over in the direction of the noise and saw the fish monsters sprinting as if they were flying. Their legs seemed to have evolved from their fins and had huge scales which were incomparably hard. When they walked, the thousands of scales were like mirrors which reflected the sunlight that was shining on them.

“There’s no need for unnecessary killing once we filled our stomachs.” Old Ma released his aura and scared the fish monsters away.

His aura was astonishing. It not only scared away the cow-like fish monsters, but also the ‘birds’ in the forest. When Qin Mu raised his head, he saw a swarm of fish that had grown wings flying into the distance.

He opened his Green Heaven’s Eyes to have a look and saw black figures moving around on the mountain peaks far away. A couple huge octopi with eight tentacles shrunk their huge heads and retreated into their own territory, not daring to provoke them.

One of the octopus was startled enough to spew out a puff of black smoke which shrouded an area of seven hectares, turning the air there pitch black.

The four people then continued on their way and met a few fishermen who had fish heads and human bodies and were holding onto pitchforks for hunting.

“What a strange place,” Blind muttered.

Qin Mu had lived in Great Ruins ever since he was young. He had seen such strange living beings since he was young, so he thought that fish and prawns should be like this, running around everywhere. At first, he had been surprised a bit, but he didn’t put it to heart.

However, Blind and Granny Si hadn’t always lived around here, so they knew what fish and prawns were like outside, so they found it strange.

Granny Si looked around and muttered, “This place should have been a huge sea that had magical creations. Once the sea disappeared, the living beings in it could only move onto the dry land and change their habits and abilities. However, aren’t these changes a little too much...”

Blind also felt that it was outrageous, but the dragon qilin was the first to speak. He suddenly said, “I seemed to have come here before...”

Qin Mu was bewildered, but he still smiled. “You and Patriarch came here before?”

Dragon qilin shook his head. “No. What I meant was that the god had ridden me here last night.”

In time, they saw a village full of the abandoned people of Great Ruins. They all looked as if they didn't know what to do next.

Qin Mu went forward to inquire about it, and an elder said, "Countless dragon king temples in the radius of hundreds of miles were destroyed last night. Many of the dragon kings that were worshiped in the temples actually had their heads cut off! We usually go to the dragon kings' temples to give our offerings and pray for good weather, but now that they've been destroyed, everyone is at a loss..."

Qin Mu was greatly shocked and immediately asked for more details.

"Yesterday, the storm was heavy and everyone in the village was rudely awoken. When we went outside, we saw that it was pitch black, and there was water above everyone's houses. That water just floated above, however, not landing down."

Qin Mu was stunned. Water floating above the roofs?

"The sound of waves was very loud, and there was light coming from the water above. Many people even saw dragons! It was like a huge sea was hanging in the sky, with slaughter happening within it. I saw bolts of lightning streaking through all the time, only stopping when dawn came.

"After daybreak, the water in the sky vanished. Only the trees looked like they had been rained on the whole night; the tree crowns filled with water. We then discovered that quite a number of temples had been destroyed, and the people that live in the temples said that they saw the stone statues of the divine dragons flying out."

Qin Mu stared with wide eyes. Stone statues of divine dragons flying out?

"A monk that lives in Divine Dragon Valley says that he saw a heavenly king carrying a blade and riding a plump monster. He barged in and slew the divine dragon king in Divine Dragon Valley, leaving with the head..."

After Qin Mu finished scouting out the information, he came back to tell Blind, Old Ma, and Granny Si. All of them looked at one another in dismay.

This incident was really too weird.

What happened yesterday night seemed real yet resembled fantasy—stone statues handing down decrees in the darkness, heavenly king's god statue wielding a blade to kill dragons kings, and the dragon qilin being a steed for the entire night. The abandoned people of Great Ruins even talked about a sea hanging in the sky and the heads of the dragon kings and dragon god being severed.

If one linked these incidents together, then what happened last night had to be real.

"That stone statue that handed out the decree last night said His Majesty had sent his decree from Carefree Village, the main problem lies here," an ancient voice said from Granny Si's mouth. "I think..."

"Amitabha!"

Old Ma transformed into a huge buddha to suppress Granny Si's heart. On the other side, Blind made a move to bind Granny Si in place. The two of them were nervous, but in the end they suppressed the devil nature of Granny Si.

Qin Mu also wiped away his cold sweat and hurried them, "Let's go, let's go. We should reach Great Thunderclap Monastery as soon as possible to prevent Cult Master Li from coming out to create havoc!"

As they hurried forward, they soon saw Divine Dragon Valley. There were countless sculptures of divine dragons that were surrounding a huge lake, and in the center of it was a sculpture of a dragon king.

Many of the divine dragon statues had collapsed, and all them seemed to have been severed by a single strike, from which they tumbled down to the ground. The divine dragon king's sculpture in the center of the lake also stood with a severed neck, but its head was nowhere to be seen.

"My god..." Granny Si gradually woke up and moaned when she saw this sight. "This part of Great Ruins is so mysterious. Are these stone statues just god statues or have they transformed living gods? I really don't understand..."

"Amitabha!"

Buddha rays shone brightly around Old Ma, and a white robe monk flew out from the heart of his brows and entered the heart of Granny Si's brows in a flash, suppressing her.

With a grim face, Old Ma said, "No time to delay, I won't be able to suppress him for much longer! Cult Master Li's primordial spirit is fusing at an incredible speed with Granny Si, and her cultivation has already broken through to Life and Death Realm! If we delay any longer, I'm afraid it won't be long before they will fuse completely and Cult Master Li will be able to finally take over the nest and become the owner of this body!"

Blind asked solemnly, "How long can you suppress him for?"

Old Ma shook his head. "I can still suppress him for now, but I might injure granny's mind if I exert too much force."

Blind said resolutely, "Hurry!"

Chapter 247: Twenty Heavens

Qin Mu, Old Ma, and the rest increased their speed, but Old Ma had to suppress Granny Si's heart, so it was becoming increasingly more tiring for him, which in turn slowed them down.

Cult Master Li was growing rapidly, and Granny Si's cultivation was becoming stronger and stronger. However, Old Ma didn't dare to exert his full force in fear of harming Granny Si's mind. Because of this, their journey had quite a lot of unstable variables.

Granny Si was waking up less and less, while Cult Master Li was waking up more and more. Qin Mu was burning with anxiety, but he was helpless.

This basin had originally been a sea and was probably the East Sea which the heavenly king's god statue had mentioned. The terrain here was incomparably complicated, with the ravines and chasms being thousands of yards deep and the mountain ranges being as sharp as blades.

The East Sea had lost its seawater and turned into normal land. Qin Mu felt that there was something strange about this when he listened to the villagers about the sea in the sky last night, but the seawater had disappeared when day came.

Yet where had it went?

The farther they went, the stranger and stronger the living beings became. There were even glowing jellyfish flying in the sky which hid in the temples when night descended. At that time, they were like colorful lanterns.

On their way, the group even met living flood dragons. Some of them lived in deep mountain streams while others lived in volcanoes, ruling over their territories.

As long as they weren't provoked, these flood dragons rarely left their caves. A couple times Qin Mu saw them flying out to catch humans to eat, but whenever they passed by their group, the flood dragons could see that they were very strong and didn't dare to be impudent and just flew past them.

After walking out of this basin, Mount Meru was only two days away.

During them, Qin Mu and the rest didn't dare to relax even when they were sleeping, always ready to suppress Cult Master Li, which was really tiring for them. Only the dragon qilin had enough sleep and was well fed, so his skin, scales, and fur were all bright and glossy.

Qin Mu and the rest simply jumped on the dragon qilin's back and let this behemoth carry them to Mount Meru.

Gradually, more and more villages they passed believed in buddhism. Every household worshiped a statue of buddha, while some even placed a buddha statue among the stone statues in the village, worshiping god and buddha together.

Qin Mu enquired about this and found out that some monks had come forth to preach and cured the sickness of the villagers, so they had won their hearts.

"Buddhism seems to have followers in Great Ruins as well." Blind smiled. "By saving the abandoned people of Great Ruins, Great Thunderclap Monastery do treat all living things equally, but isn't it really an opportune shortcut, borrowing the reputation of the stone statues to accumulate merit."

The closer they got to Great Thunderclap Monastery, the more buddhist temples were around. Some of these temples had flourishing incense burning in front of them and worshiped buddha statues of different forms. However, when it came to night time, the people and strange beasts of Great Ruins wouldn't hide in these buddhist temples but would come to places that had stone statues and god statues.

Qin Mu thought to himself, 'Old Rulai has put in much effort, but it's hard to compete against the gods of Great Ruins. Buddhism can cure sickness, but it can't save lives from the darkness.'

The mountains nearby gradually grew larger, and there were monasteries of all sizes standing on it in numbers. Qin Mu passed by a few of them and decided to stay in one since the sky was getting dark.

There was a lot of incense burning in front of that monastery, and a couple hundred monks in it didn't seem afraid of the night. They still continued to chant their buddhist scriptures.

'Could these monks have great divine arts that are able to defend against the darkness?' Qin Mu thought with astonishment.

To his surprise, most of the buddha statues gave off a faint divine light which blocked the darkness away. Qin Mu went to the front of one of them, and his face turned black.

The monks in this monastery had actually plastered a layer of pottery clay on the stone statues of Great Ruins and baked the clay into the appearance of buddha. They then pasted golden leaves on the outside and disguised the god statues as golden buddhas. When night fell and the stone statues shielded the place from the darkness, it would look like the buddha statues were exhibiting their buddha might to protect all living things.

When Qin Mu used his third eye, he saw that the gods who were protecting Great Ruins were giving off divine rays of ten thousand fathoms, not any buddha statue.

There were also some fierce and abnormal strange beasts that never left the temples even in the morning. The monks were used to this sight and the strange beasts were not tied up, but were free to roam around the monastery.

What was the most astonishing was that the carnivorous strange beasts in the monastery were well-behaved and seemed to have become vegetarian which was different from their fierce nature. They also prayed to Buddha. Some people of Great Ruins who sought shelter here said it was the power of Buddhism.

However, Qin Mu saw monks secretly feeding the strange beasts large chunks of meat which had the smell of anesthetic.

Qin Mu was astonished, and a frown came onto his face.

"Mu'er, don't bother too much," Blind said softly. "Great Thunderclap Monastery is close, so if we smash this monastery, Great Thunderclap Monastery will receive news about it and give us trouble. They might not save Granny Si then."

"Hypocrites!" Granny Si sneered. "This is the hypocrisy of Buddhism. There clearly have no great divine art of their own, so they took one from other people and call it their own, bragging that it's the power of Buddhism. Blind, Old Ma, you guys are hypocrites as well. You require Old Rulai's help, so you don't dare to expose the act of these bald donkeys!"

Qin Mu said, "Whether they have great divine arts or not, won't Cult Master Li know when we reach Great Thunderclap Monastery and meet Old Rulai?"

Granny Si chuckled. "Cult Master Qin, you are worthy to be the sacred cult master of our sacred cult. You are the cult master of Heavenly Saint Cult yet you have to beg Old Rulai of the enemy sect to help you. You're a disgrace to the reputation of our Heavenly Saint Cult! The awe-inspiring authority of our Heavenly Saint Cult is going to be spoiled by you! When I recover completely and return to the sacred cult once more, I'll reorganize it and show you what the sacred cult master should be doing!"

Qin Mu remained unmoved and asked, "What should the sacred cult master do?"

"Tear down the facade of these bald donkeys, smashing their buddha statues and revealing the god statues behind them!" Granny Si stated.

"Remove the anesthetics from the strange beasts and let them eat humans, so their true nature can be revealed and they will massacre all the bald donkeys here, cleaning out the entire monastery! Let the foolish people see all the bullshit! Buddhism looks impressive but it's worthless! Hehe, the so-called righteous path is actually dogshit, so bring that dog shit into the light, don't let them wrap their clay idols with a layer of gold! These are the teachings of our Heavenly Saint Cult, to have a pure understanding of nature!"

Qin Mu felt that the words were very logical, but the actions were too extreme. He also wanted to undo the anesthetics in the strange beasts' bodies, but after thinking that they would eat humans after regaining their senses, he could only drop the thought.

Finally, Great Thunderclap Monastery was in sight, and they could see a majestic mountain standing tall in the center of God Broken Mountain Range. The other mountain ranges were all sliced apart by a mighty force that had formed sheer cliffs and precipitous rock faces that were hard to cross even for birds. All the mountains were blanketed by snow, but this one. It alone stood surrounded by others, protected in their center.

It was weird to say it, but it looked like the mountain peaks formed stairs. Three thousand mountain peaks formed a circle which was the lowest layer of stairs. The second layer had nine hundred and ninety-nine mountain peaks and was followed by ninety-nine mountain peaks and nine mountain peaks. One layer was higher than the other layer, and they all surrounded the main peak in the middle.

Monasteries of all sizes stood in number among the mountain peaks, and they were all worshipping majestic buddha statues. Some mountain peaks were sculpted into a huge buddha, some monasteries were built on the buddha's palm while others in the heart.

"Really luxurious in style," Blind praised. "Old Ma, why do you buddhists like to wear gold and silver? Such glorious splendor, such luxury, wouldn't it be better used for disaster relief? To monks, the four elements are vanity, but the pockets can never be empty."

Old Ma said indifferently, "Who would worship and give offerings if we weren't luxurious?"

Granny Si sneered, "Hypocrite..."

Qin Mu shouted, "Shut up! Old Rulai will refine you to death later!"

"Rascal, you even dare to scold me!" Granny Si became furious.

Qin Mu was flustered and muttered, "Oh, it's granny. Granny, don't take it to heart, I thought it was Cult Master Li who had run out again."

Granny Si sneered, "Old Ma, I'm not saying you're one, but these bald donkeys are clearly hypocrites. Take a look around, see which monastery isn't grand and luxurious, indulging in a life of pleasure? Which buddha statue isn't wearing silver or gold? Among all the monasteries, only those of bald donkeys are this luxurious! These monks don't do anything productive, don't pay taxes, and complain when their benefits are being touched. In the meantime, they nurture their monk weapons, rebel, and want to control the general situation in this world."

"Shut up, demon!" someone shouted from mid-air, and Qin Mu raised his head to see a monk with buddha rays above them. He looked dignified, but it was obvious that he was furious after hearing Granny Si's words.

That monk then saw Old Ma. There was astonishment on his face for a moment, then he ran away while shouting, "This is bad, this is bad! Ma Wangshen is coming back up the mountain!"

In the monasteries on the mountain peaks, all the monks went into an uproar and flew up to form a formation in mid-air as if they were facing a great enemy.

Ma Wangshen said indifferently, "When I came back to retrieve my arm before, I created a small commotion. Let us go up the mountain."

Fire clouds grew under the dragon qilin's soles as he sprinted towards the main peak in the center.

That place was above the sea of clouds, so sunlight could shine on it, basking it in brilliant gold which was why it was called the golden peak. If they wanted to fly up to it, it would take some time even for the dragon qilin.

On their journey, they passed by thousands of temples and monasteries and most of them were filled with senior monks that had attainments in their cultivation and possessed remarkable abilities. None of them dared to come forward to stop them, but they weren't resigned to just let them barge into the golden peak of Mount Meru without any opposition.

More and more monks flew out while riding all kinds of strange beasts and surrounded the golden peak in a formation. There were layers and layers of monks densely packed together to subdue demons and devils..

Qin Mu couldn't help admiring Old Ma. 'The last time Grandpa Ma came here, he must have fought his way up and barged straight into the main peak.'

Old Ma made the dragon qilin stop in front of the tens of thousands of monks forming an impenetrable defense to protect the golden peak. He said, "I'm here to see Old Rulai, I have a request to make."

His voice vibrated, and various visions instantly filled the mountains—golden springs erupted from the ground; a lotus descended from the sky; the apparitions of eight races of demi-gods and semi-devils appeared high above as well as those of gods of the twenty heavens. The events repeated themselves with magnificent rays shining in all directions as they recited the many names of Buddha in unison.

This mastery of incantation dominated countless monks.

At this moment, an old voice laughed from the golden peak. “Ma Wangshen’s cultivation has improved since back in the day. I’m guessing you must have cultivated to the twentieth heaven of Rulai’s Mahayana Sutra, Brahma realm. Another step further and you’ll be a rulai. Monks, you may retreat and let him come up. I’ve been waiting a long time for him.”

“Twenty heavens?” Qin Mu was slightly stunned and looked towards Old Ma.

The impenetrable defense formed by the monks in front of them dispersed, and Old Ma let the dragon qilin go up the mountain while saying, “They are twenty realms in Rulai’s Mahayana Sutra. Once a person cultivates all twenty realms of heavens, they will become a rulai. When I left Great Thunderclap Monastery back then, I had already cultivated to the nineteenth realm, Sakra realm. At that time, I was already a first-class practitioner in the world.”

Chapter 248: Returning to the Normal Life

“If one cultivates all twenty realms, they will become rulai?”

Qin Mu’s eyes lit up. Great Thunderclap Monastery was no doubt the greatest sacred grounds of Buddhism. Rulai’s Mahayana Sutra also deserved to be a sect’s legacy ultimate art which was on par with Great Educational Heavenly Devil Scriptures and Fourteen Writings of Dao Sword.

The three biggest sacred grounds were indeed not for show.

Now that Eternal Peace Empire was having a snow disaster, the four seasons here were like summer. Many immigrants from Eternal Peace Empire had escaped to this place and stayed in the monasteries, many of them converting to Buddhism.

Qin Mu looked at the monasteries on the mountain peaks and said softly, “What Great Thunderclap Monastery is doing seems to be taking advantage of people when they’re down.”

Blind shook his head. “Mu’er, no matter what their intentions are, you have to look at what they are doing. Great Thunderclap Monastery has saved the lives of these people and that is a good deed. No matter if they are using this act to promote the teachings of Buddhism, what they are doing is good. If you only magnify Great Thunderclap Monastery’s intentions and don’t look at what else is being achieved, you won’t be any different from Cult Master Li.”

Qin Mu was astonished and nodded in acknowledgment.

One’s life was nothing more than a cultivation path, and it was easy to be led astray by an extreme way of thinking. Anyone who didn’t have a mature reflection and unmovable thoughts would easily be led astray by their own heart.

Being with Cult Master Li these few days, Qin Mu had been influenced by him without even noticing it.

The previous cult master of Heavenly Devil Cult had a devil nature and his mentality was of the extreme kind. However, he was a grandmaster and his words were very logical, so any incautiousness would end up with a person subconsciously absorbing his philosophy and way of thinking.

The dragon qilin came to the golden peak, and the fire clouds under his feet grew smaller as he descended onto the ground. The golden peak stemmed out from the clouds which were the same color as the white jade laid down on the ground.

This place was like a paradise.

Qin Mu looked around and exclaimed in admiration. Rolan's Golden Palace was luxurious and had the feeling of a nouveau riche. Great Thunderclap Monastery was also luxurious, but they were much more solemn and everywhere was the dignity and culture of Buddhism.

On the golden peak, pagodas stood in numbers, and one of them was especially grand. Monks with long eyebrows sat there as well as on the eaves of the pagoda, reciting scriptures continuously with their reverberating buddha voice.

'Could this be the Thousand Buddhas Pagoda?' Qin Mu thought to himself.

A female bodhisattva in white who was carrying a white vase came forward and bowed. "Heavenly Devil Cult Master, Ma Wangshen, Madam Si, and this old Dao friend, Rulai is already waiting for you, please follow me."

Qin Mu said, "Thanks for the trouble, big sister."

"Big sister?" The female bodhisattva laughed. "Cult Master Qin is joking. Please."

Qin Mu and the rest followed after her. On the golden peak, the buddha rays around the eminent monks shone brilliantly as they sat on the clouds. The golden rays behind them formed circular shapes that were very dazzling.

Old Rulai as the leader of all the monks sat on the highest point. His corporeal body was vast and beside him were left and right venerables. Sitting below were various bodhisattva, arhats, vajras, guardians, and some of Old Rulai's disciples who had extremely strong cultivations. There were even some monks with attainments in Dao that seemed to belong to a different race; they didn't look human.

Qin Mu and the rest came closer, and Qin Mu greeted, "Senior brother."

Old Rulai hurriedly got up and returned his greeting. "Senior brother."

The moment he got up, the other guardians, venerables, bodhisattvas, arhats and vajras all got up and said in unison, "Senior brother!"

After everyone was done with their greetings, Old Rulai raised his hand to invite Qin Mu to sit beside him. The seat was a praying mat and if he sat down there, he would be much lower than all the monks that were floating in the sky.

“Mu’er, just sit,” Old Ma said.

When Qin Mu sat down, he felt a gentle force coming over which lifted him and the praying mat onto the back of the dragon qilin, which was quite impressive.

Old Rulai looked at Old Ma and smiled. “Disciple, are you finally willing to let go of the mortal world and return to the mountain?”

“Return to the mountain? There’s a Mount Meru in my heart, but there’s no Buddha there anymore.”

Old Rulai smiled. “When Mount Meru in your heart no more, you’ll become rulai. Excellent, take out the wife and children from your heart and I’ll pass away in a few days time. This Great Thunderclap Monastery will be yours to lead.”

Old Ma shook his head. “If I was to lead this place, I’d kill all the damned baldies on the mountain.”

The expressions of all the guardians and arhats changed drastically, and they became instantly furious.

Old Rulai said, “You still obstinately persist in going about things the wrong way. I came back slightly faster last time you were back on the mountain, but I was still a step late. You should know that the two of us still have the relationship of master and disciple. You had cut off your arm and sent it over, but I believed that you would let go of the affairs of the mortal world and return to Great Thunderclap Monastery, so I had ordered the monks to place your arm in Thousand Buddhas Pagoda. That was because I wished for you to find your way back one day. You should understand my intentions.”

Old Ma said solemnly, “I know. But my wife and children died at the hands of Great Thunderclap Monastery, and this blood feud will have to be paid in blood.”

“Foolish disciple!” Old Rulai shouted out in his face. “Wife and children are just an illusion, just mortal flesh! If you have Buddha nature, you should know that the evil fruits of marriage all come to nothing.”

Furious, Old Ma shouted back, “Nothing my ass! I had already chopped off my arm, what are you still dissatisfied about? Why did you have to kill my wife and children? What about my wife and children being pink skeletons, demons that restraint me, so what if I like pink skeletons? Calling you master was giving you face because we need your help. Talk some more and I’ll overthrow you, bathe this golden peak in blood, and massacre all the bald donkeys on your mountain!”

The faces of all the monks on the mountain changed and none of them could sit still anymore.

Qin Mu had totally not expected for Old Ma to suddenly blow up like that. Old Ma was usually the calm and dependable one in the village, the person that Cripple respected the most. Because of this, Qin Mu had never expected that when Old Ma blew up, no one would be able to stop him.

On the golden peak, dark clouds gathered. It was breezy earlier with magical clouds and golden lights which were very auspicious; however, murderous intent now filled the air.

Qin Mu coughed loudly, then laughed. "Minor details obscure the main point, it's just minor details. Senior Brother Rulai, I have yet to introduce you to everyone: this is my Grandpa Ma, who people usually call Old Ma, and his seniority is twice higher than mine; this is Granny Si whose seniority is twice higher than mine as well; and the same goes for Grandpa Blind. Fellow Dao brothers, there's no need for formalities."

Old Rulai chuckled and the dark clouds in the sky disappeared. "Cult Master Qin, there's destiny between us. You received the khakkhara staff which was the staff that had accompanied me through the martial world. Since it landed in your hands, you and I had the destiny of becoming master and disciple. Old monk had decided to head to Great Ruins for a fated meeting with the old Dao friends of Disabled Elderly Village to take you under our Great Thunderclap Monastery, so I didn't expect for our destiny to be broken just like that. When we met again, you had already become the devil cult master of Heavenly Devil Cult. It just wasn't the time and destiny; fate makes fools out of all of us."

Qin Mu smiled slightly and said, "Rulai is joking. Little brother has come forth this time to request Rulai to subdue a devil. In Granny Si's body is a great expert which is the previous cult master of my sacred cult, Li Tianxing. He has transformed into a devil seedling and planted himself in Granny Si's Dao heart, thus little brother is here to request Rulai to subdue this devil, ridding the world of a public hazard."

A venerable said softly, "Revered One of the World, this Granny Si is the previous saintess of Heavenly Devil Cult, Si Youyou. On the night she married Li Tianxing, she murdered him; she's not a good person as well. She's a devil among the devils."

All of the guardians and arhats said, "These are the family matters of the devil cult, how could we interfere?"

Old Rulai raised his hand and smiled. "All living things are equal: buddhas are part of all living things, and devils are also part of all living things. Since Cult Master Qin has a request, old monk naturally should help."

The gaze of the other venerable flickered as he said in a soft voice, "When we give scriptures to people, we would accept some monetary offering. To help subdue the devil this time, could we..."

Old Rulai waved his hand to shut him up. "Cult mistress, can we see your true appearance?"

Qin Mu hesitated, then shook his head. "Rulai, I don't think it's necessary, right?"

Blind knocked his bamboo cane against the ground and said, "Old Rulai, there's no need to see granny's true appearance. It won't be good if the cultivation of your monks got spoiled."

"Disputes regarding affections are ephemeral, and incomparably beautiful women are merely pink skeletons. Dao friend, you underestimate the cultivation of the monks of my Great Thunderclap Monastery."

Old Rulai smiled. "It would be hard to lend a hand and enlighten Cult Master Li without seeing the true appearance of the cult mistress. For Cult Master Li, love stemmed from beauty, giving birth to the demon of temptation. Old Monk merely wants to take a look at this object of his love."

Granny Si giggled. "Blind, Old Ma, why don't you undo my seal? Cult Master Qin, take off this ugly skin off my body, I want to see these hypocritical monks, take a look at their determination!"

Blind frowned slightly and said in a low voice, "Old Ma, what's your opinion?"

Old Ma hesitated for a moment, then looked at the monks that filled the mountain. "Old Rulai's buddhism far surpasses mine and should have this ability. Mu'er, what do you think?"

Qin Mu pondered and said, "We'll just have to try even though it might not work. Grandpas, be on alert, we can't let Cult Master Li run away."

Granny Si chuckled. "I've fought with this old bald donkey for countless years so why would I run when there's such an interesting show here? I wouldn't run even if you chased me away!"

Old Ma sighed and took back the spirit buddha's primordial spirit from the heart of granny's brows as he nodded to Blind.

Blind stretched out his hand, and a silver-colored vital qi that was like a dragon flew out from Granny Si's body, returning to Blind.

Qin Mu went forward and gave a gentle cut. Granny Si's skin split open and a remarkably beautiful woman took a step out. Her hair was like a waterfall as she slowly raised her head up. Looking around with her bright eyes, she swept her gaze past the face of each and every monk.

The golden peak fell completely silent.

Even the buddha voice that was chanting the buddhist scriptures paused at that instant. All the eminent monks that had achieved Dao felt their throats go parched and their hearts throbbed violently while the prayer beads revolved quickly in their hands.

Suddenly, the buddha rays behind the head of one bodhisattva dispersed, and he dropped from the sky and fell into the valley below the clouds.

After some time, the loud thump of a heavy object landing on the ground could be heard.

Thump, thump.

More heavy objects hit the ground, which was some of the arhats and vajras.

The expression of Old Rulai changed slightly, and he looked around in a hurry. All the monks had their eyes fixed on the body of that remarkably beautiful woman as the prayer beads in their hands revolved faster and faster.

"Tut!"

Old Rulai was about to shout out when he heard another voice. An arhat shouted out angrily and rushed towards Granny Si. "This is a demoness that can bewitch all living things, a heavenly devil. From the first look at her, a devil spawned in my heart so I definitely have to kill her!"

"I shall kill this devil for the world!" Another vajra swung his devil subduing pestle, showing his three heads and six arms as he rushed towards Granny Si.

Suddenly, an old monk pushed his way to the front to block the arhat and vajra. He tore his buddhist robe off and pulled apart his prayer beads. He then laughed in a crazy manner. "I'm used to arson and murder, never having cultivated the righteous fruit. I feel I've wasted the first half of my life eating vegetarian and reciting scriptures! After seeing such a beautiful woman, I'm certain I've wasted the first half of my life! But now, I'll be returning to the normal life!"

A few more arhats rushed forward, and chaos broke out on the golden peak.

The yellow robe of Old Rulai trembled, and the buddha voice of Thousand Buddhas Pagoda suddenly resonated, reciting thousands of buddha scriptures at the same time to pull the monks fighting on the golden peak back to their senses. Everyone then sat down, deeply ashamed of themselves.

"Having to eat vegetarian and recite scriptures? What's the use of cultivating the righteous fruit? Isn't it better to enjoy without delay? I'm returning back to the normal life!" Suddenly, an old monk leaped off the golden peak and disappeared into the distance.

Chapter 249: Pink Skeleton

Silence filled the golden peak, so only the noise of the prayer beads revolving could be heard. Many buddha rays behind the monks' heads had dispersed when they had fallen from the sky.

Old Rulai looked around himself and saw the expressions of all the bodhisattvas, venerables, and arhats. Cult Master Li had used the beauty of Si Youyou to appear in front of all the monks, messing up their wisdom and damaging their buddha's heart, spawning impure thoughts.

Even Rulai had executed his dharma just then and activated the corporeal bodies of numerous Rulai in Thousand Buddhas Pagoda, he could only suppress the monks for a moment.

When the buddha rays behind their heads dispersed and they fell from the sky, it signaled that their buddha's heart had been destroyed. Buddhism paid attention to the religious practice of the heart. Once their buddha's heart was destroyed and their fruit of karma was tainted, their state of mind would crumble. The ones dropping down were no longer monks but were now ordinary people.

When they dropped from the sky, they would drop from the place high above the mortal world into the mortal world. Some of them would change their minds, repent, and be saved, but some would just leave Great Thunderclap Monastery and enter the mortal world to struggle and break free. However, with a secular heart, it would be hard for them to do so.

Si Youyou's beauty had made many of the higher-ups of Great Thunderclap Monastery fall, which was a great loss.

However, the monastery couldn't blame Qin Mu and the rest. After all, they had already warned them and it was Old Rulai who insisted on wanting to see the true appearance of Granny Si to test everyone's buddha's heart.

There were, of course, some buddha's hearts that were stable and unmoved. These eminent monks were of different races, so even though Granny Si was beautiful, they couldn't see it. Since they weren't human, they only saw her as mortal flesh.

"Your cultivation is not strong enough, to be so attached to the appearance of the skin and not see the tathata." Old Rulai looked around himself and guided the monks, "You saw her beauty and felt unable to restrain yourself, yet you don't know that the beauty you see is what you feel is beautiful and not true beauty. For example, Senior Brother Hai Kong, do you think she's beautiful?"

The person he mentioned was an eminent monk of a different race that had achieved Dao. He said, "She and I are of different races and I can't see her beauty."

Old Rulai smiled. "When a different race can't see the beauty, then it isn't true beauty, just skin. Beauty is in great truth, great thinking, and great wisdom. Cult Master Li, this skin that you're infatuated with isn't true beauty to every living being, it only lies in the human word. This clearly shows how narrow-minded you are."

All the monks seemed to be enlightened, and Qin Mu also felt that his words were very logical. As expected of Old Rulai, a person who had demonstrated great thinking. He might just be able to subdue Li Tianxing, this heart devil.

Why Li Tianxing wanted to become Granny Si was because Granny Si was extremely beautiful and messed up his Dao heart. This brought out his evil intentions and made him want to become Granny Si.

The old woman chuckled. "Old Rulai, there are ten thousand paths in this world, but all my Heavenly Saint Cult occupies is the human word. Your buddhism speaks of ten thousand paths, but can you take possession of all of them? Say no more, what ability do you have to subdue me?"

Old Rulai smiled and took out a bronze mirror which passed to a venerable beside him. "Pass it to him."

The venerable took the mirror and walked down the high platform to come to Granny Si. When he saw her appearance, his heart throbbed violently, and he immediately shut his eyes so he couldn't see.

Granny Si took the mirror into her hands and looked fondly at her reflection while giggling. "Truly, a remarkably beautiful woman, I still pity her."

Most of the monks saw her seductive appearance and found it hard to restrain themselves.

Old Rulai smiled. "Flip over the mirror."

Granny Si did as told and saw a white skeleton there; it was her appearance after she died.

“What does Cult Master Li think?” Old Rulai smiled. “Even if you’re a remarkably beautiful woman, you’ll be merely bones after your life ends. Do you think a skeleton is pretty?”

Granny Si threw the bronze mirror onto the floor and crushed it under her feet while saying nonchalantly, “This is merely a trick to fool the ordinary people, saying things like pink skeletons or whatever. Rulai, I know logic, but I don’t want to be like you, living in splendor in your afterlife, it’s enough if I live my current life to its fullest extent. Seeking for the afterlife is merely a cowardly behavior. Your little trick won’t be able to subdue me. If you think a mirror is able to enlighten me, why don’t I take a stroll around your Great Thunderclap Monastery to see if you will enlighten me first or if I’ll enlighten all the young and old monks in your sect. Why don’t you make a bet with me?”

Old Rulai frowned slightly and said, “You have no wisdom.”

Blind also saw that things were turning bad and said, “Dao brother, what wisdom, it’s all nonsense, why don’t we make a move on him directly and subdue him!”

Old Rulai muttered to himself for a moment, then said, “Cult Master Li is the devil cult master, so I shall bring him into Thousand Buddhas Pagoda to subdue him. Monks, your determination is still shallow and your cultivations aren’t there yet, all of you shall remain outside Thousand Buddhas Pagoda to aid.”

All of the monks acknowledged this and walked down the high platform to gather around Thousand Buddhas Pagoda. There were some monks that hurried out from inside, not daring to remain there.

Old Rulai smiled. “Cult Master Qin, you’re also the devil cult master and have a deep devil nature. Since the ancient times, buddhas and devils were always on separate sides, but since cult master is a guest who had come forth to seek help, I won’t subdue you. However, during the time I’ll be subduing Cult Master Li, I hope cult master will stay in Great Thunderclap Monastery to listen to the dharma and resolve the evil tendencies in cult master’s heart so you can make fewer sins in the future.”

Old Ma and Blind’s hearts were like a clear mirror—Old Rulai was trying to make them stay in Great Thunderclap Monastery. If he could enlighten them, it would naturally be the best, but if he couldn’t, he just wouldn’t let them leave.

Qin Mu was elated and smiled. “Senior brother is wise! In that case, we’ll have to trouble you. I hope senior brother can subdue Cult Master Li, this devil, as soon as possible. It’ll be a huge merit!”

Old Rulai smiled and instructed, “Let these few benefactors stay in the monastery.”

A venerable hesitated. “Revered One of the World, there are many places in the monastery that are the sacred grounds of our sect. If they barge into...”

“Let them be, there’s nothing Great Thunderclap Monastery has to hide,” said Old Rulai. “Imperial Preceptor came forward and I showed him Rulai’s Mahayana Sutra, so could the evil Heavenly Devil Cult Master be worse than Imperial Preceptor? Cult Master Qin is also one of all living things; there are no outsiders in Great Thunderclap Monastery.”

That venerable acknowledged this and came over to lead everyone.

Qin Mu smiled. "This senior brother, does the monastery have vegetarian food? I've been eating too much greasy stuff during New Years and would like to eat something light."

The venerable took a look at him and revolved his prayer beads, suppressing the thoughts to subdue the devil. "If cult master stays in Great Thunderclap Monastery, we can provide you with a lifetime of vegetarians food."

Qin Mu laughed out loud and said to Blind, "They aren't afraid of us eating them poor."

Blind snorted coldly and asked, "Old Ma, do you think Rulai can subdue Li Tianxing?"

Old Ma hesitated. "If one Rulai isn't enough, there are a thousand of them in Thousand Buddhas Pagoda. They are all clear-natured existences that had seen the tathata, so it's highly possible. However, they have all passed on and Cult Master Li is extremely extraordinary... What I'm afraid now is that Old Rulai will purposely not subdue Cult Master Li, but will trap Granny Si in the pagoda. If she gets trapped there, we'll also be trapped here."

The venerable brought them to the guest rooms and said, "Benefactors, feel free to stay here. The bookshelves have all the buddhist scriptures, so feel free to browse through them."

Qin Mu looked over and saw many scriptures as promised. Old Ma shook his head at him. "The buddhist scriptures here only have text and no divine arts, just browse through them."

The venerable said, "Divine arts are no match for karma. Does Ma Wangshen not know?"

Old Ma said indifferently, "Without divine arts, how can one ward off karma? You're Rulai's disciple? This means you're my junior brother. Your realm is too low, fall back, don't try to act clever in front of me."

The venerable was ashamed and embarrassed, so he turned to leave.

Blind sat down calmly. "I and Old Ma are already old, so it's fine if we stay here. But Mu'er, you're the cult master of Heavenly Devil Cult. If you get trapped here forever, won't you die of old age in this place? I'll find a chance to send you down the mountain."

Qin Mu shook his head and said, "We will wait until Granny Si is well. Grandpa Blind, Grandpa Ma, since it's rare to come to Great Thunderclap Monastery, let us take a walk around."

Old Ma revealed a smile. "Didn't you want to see the Hundred Dragons Portraits for a long time? I shall bring you to the place where the reliefs are."

Qin Mu was elated.

The three of them walked out of the guest room to see an old monk sitting outside the door and reciting scriptures to the dragon qilin. The fat monster had already fallen deep asleep and was snoring loudly.

“They even want to enlighten Fatty Dragon?” Qin Mu didn’t know whether to laugh or cry. “Monk, this fatass needs to eat half a bucket of Scarlet Fire Spirit Pills every day, can you feed him after you enlighten him?”

That old monk stopped his recital and gave him a glance. “I can.”

Qin Mu was speechless. “How rich. Continue.”

Old Ma then led the way, down a layer of clouds until they reached the middle of the mountain. Pointing forward, he said, “That’s the Hundred Dragons Portraits.”

Qin Mu looked over and saw numerous huge pillars. On each one, there was a relief of a heavenly dragon. Under the pillars, there were hundreds of monks that were observing the sculptures to comprehend their own path, skills, and divine arts from them.

There was quite a number of monks that were trying out their divine arts, transforming their vital qi into forms of dragons that filled the sky. There were also buddha rays shining brilliantly, which looked very extraordinary.

Some monks were even exchanging blows, testing what they had just comprehended.

A few old monks saw them coming over and immediately greeted Old Ma. “Senior brother is here.”

Old Ma returned their greetings, not neglecting them.

An old monk said with delight, “Back then senior brother was in the limelight, and us here still remember senior brother’s dashing appearance at that time.”

Qin Mu walked up in front of a dragon pillar to examine it in detail, exclaiming endlessly in admiration to himself. There were a hundred forms of this heavenly dragon, and the stone carvings on this pillar had fully captured the posture of the majestic being.

Old Ma was proficient in carving and the sculptures he did with wood were vivid, so he should have imitated the carvings here before.

Hundred Dragons Portraits were indeed crucial to cultivating Thunderclap Eight Strikes, but what was even more important was still Rulai’s Mahayana Sutra. Without it, it was hard to cultivate Thunderclap Eight Strikes to its maximum.

However, Qin Mu had already comprehended Unity Technique and his attainments in Thunderclap Eight Strikes weren’t any weaker than if he had been cultivating Rulai’s Mahayana Sutra.

At this moment, he suddenly heard a voice aimed at him. “The one that herds cows!”

Qin Mu turned his head back and saw a monk in white looking at him in astonishment. This monk looked slightly familiar, and Qin Mu suddenly realized who he was. “So it’s Little Monk Ming Xin! We’ve met before in Great Ruins’ Grandma Temple!”

The little monk was a student of Old Monk Jing Ming who had brought him to find Old Ma and used the khakkhara staff as a bet. Ming Xin was defeated by Qin Mu and thus the khakkhara staff had landed into Qin Mu's hands, though he then gave it away to the devil ape.

Monk Ming Xin walked over with quick steps. He had grown quite a bit and was now slightly taller than Qin Mu.

Puberty had only started for Qin Mu in the last half a year, so he'd had a spurt in growth, but it wasn't enough yet.

Monk Ming Xin took a look at him and was eager to give a second try at a battle with him. "We haven't met for a few years and I wonder if your skills improved?"

Qin Mu sighed ruefully. "They have. Since I defeated you, times changed and I improved by leaps and bounds."

Chapter 250: Words Kill

When Qin Mu saw a familiar person, he couldn't help feeling affable. Since he was young, he had always mingled around with Blind and Cripple. From the moment he could remember things, he was always learning all kinds of knowledge from the nine elders of Disabled Elderly Village. It could be said that he didn't have any playmates during his childhood days, which made them dull and dry.

Even though he had only fought one match with Mong Ming Xin, they were of the same age, so it was natural to feel affable upon meeting him again.

Monk Ming Xin recited one of the many names of Buddha to suppress his own angry thoughts and smiled. "You defeated me back then but you might not defeat me today. After losing to you, I had pondered about the painful experience and fixed my weakness. Why don't do have another battle?"

"You changed the sutra?" Qin Mu asked in astonishment.

Pleased, Monk Ming said, "I was defeated when you struck my throat the previous time, so I will definitely not let you have your way this time!"

Qin Mu cried out, "Monk Ming Xin, how old are you, how could you change Rulai's Mahayana Sutra as you like? With your current horizons and knowledge, the more you change it, the more mistakes and flaws would take shape! Rather than carelessly changing it, wouldn't it have been better to ask Rulai and let Rulai teach you... Uhm, I also carelessly changed my technique and to the point it's beyond recognition, so I can't really say anything to you."

Qin Mu blushed with shame. He had also changed his technique, and Overlord Body Three Elixir Technique had been changed more than once. Great Educational Heavenly Devil Scriptures was even fused with his it, solving the flaw on the left shoulder.

Him saying something to Monk Ming Xin about carelessly changing his technique was like the pot calling the kettle black. Maybe the other had indeed erased the flaw on his throat.

Monk Ming Xin began to stir and said, "In that case, could you condescend to teach?"

Qin Mu was about to say something when an old monk said, "Disciple, don't be impudent, this is Cult Master Qin of Heavenly Devil Cult!"

Monk Ming Xin jumped in shock and cried out, "When have you become the old devil of Heavenly Devil Cult?"

Qin Mu sighed. "This is hard to explain. I didn't want to do it, but got pushed onto the seat of the cult master without the choice to refuse."

He looked toward the old monk and recognized him as Old Monk Jing Ming. This old monk was Ming Xin's master, and his personality was very much like his name, very shrewd. He had pointed out that Qin Mu was the devil cult master of Heavenly Devil Cult not to notify Ming Xin, but to tell all the monks that were present.

With the shout in his loud voice, all the monks that were studying Hundred Dragons Portraits looked towards Qin Mu and recited the many names of Buddha under their breath. It was evident that they all couldn't restrain themselves and suppress their thoughts of wanting to subdue the devil.

Monk Ming Xin immediately said, "In that case, you should quickly withdraw and not be the devil cult master anymore, since you're going to die! There are many eminent monks who hate evil with a passion and are used to killing devils. Every time they go out, they subdue a few devils to accumulate merit, and you will be killed! I shan't compete with you, you should quickly flee down the mountain."

Qin Mu shook his head. "Thank for your kind intentions, but I'm now a guest. Old Rulai is my senior brother and he said I should be allowed to say in the monastery. In this case, would they still subdue the devil?"

Ming Xin hesitated for a moment, then said, "This, I can't say for sure. They will most likely debate with you, advising you to turn over a new leaf. If they can't talk you into it, they will most like beat you to death."

Qin Mu was speechless. He indeed saw a few monks walking over to him.

"Amitabha!" A monk placed his palms together and raised a difficult question first, "Devil, do you dare to debate with me?"

Qin Mu asked, "Have you been completely indifferent to worldly temptations?"

That monk was slightly shaken. "Not yet."

"Then what's the debate for?" Qin Mu broke out into laughter. "You haven't even achieved your Dao. A half-baked, fake monk like you has only the ability to flaunt misunderstandings from gossip. Fall back."

That monk was tongue-tied and another monk beside him immediately said, "Devil, I shall talk to you about truth, compassion, and beauty—"

Qin Mu asked, "Are you Rulai?"

That monk's complexion turned beet red, and he replied, "I'm still not Rulai..."

"Then you haven't achieved the word 'truth'." Qin Mu smiled. "Rulai is the true state of things, receiving and achieving the word 'truth'. If you aren't the truth yourself, how can you want to talk about truth, compassion, and beauty? Fall back, don't embarrass yourself, we will talk when you achieved that height. Don't take what you can't do and force it on me. If you want people to do as you say, you have to set an example."

The monk was left speechless, and another one stretched out his hand out. Golden springs poured out from the earth, and a lotus bloomed. "Buddhism has anuttara-samyak-sambodhi, the highest perfect awakening, the supreme perfect wisdom..."

Qin Mu asked, "Have you achieved supreme perfect wisdom?"

"Fall back."

Another monk laughed loudly. "Devil cult master is an eloquent and fluent speaker. Since you won't respond if I talk to you about scriptures, I shall talk to you about the secular world."

Excited, Qin Mu came over to that monk and said, "Great Monk, don't speak first. Let me ask you, if everyone converted to Buddhism, didn't reproduce, didn't marry, had no children, wouldn't the human race be extinct a hundred years later? What grudge do the humans have with you? Why do you want to eradicate the human race?"

The monk was stunned for a time, then said, "What I want to talk to you about is that your Heavenly Devil Cult does too much evil and the magic in your cult is evil and sinister. It uses live people to cultivate—"

Qin Mu didn't give him time to say more. "What's that compared to eradicating the human race?"

The monk stared at him with wide eyes, barely holding back his anger. "This is different from what I want to debate with you!"

"In that case, let us talk about this. When I met a hall master of Heavenly Saint Cult who used infants to cultivate, he was slain. Just now, I saw a monastery raising strange beasts at the foot of Mount Meru by mixing anesthetics with bloody meat to lie to the people. Where did the meat come from, did they take the lives of living creatures? I dealt with the scum in my cult, it's your turn now. Go eradicate that monastery and kill all those monks."

The monk was furious. "This is different from what I'm debating with you! I'm going to talk about the teachings with you! Our Great Thunderclap Monastery has tens of thousands of buddhist scriptures, each and every one of them is passed down from generation to generation, teaching people to be compassionate!"

Qin Mu said in astonishment, "If your own Buddhism hides dirt to conceal corruption instead of cleaning it up and the monks in the monasteries aren't compassionate, how can you teach people to be

compassionate? The foolish like to lecture others, but they can't do it. Oh well, did you say teachings, I'll talk to you about teachings. The path of the saint is none other than the one that can be used by common people. Can your dharma be used by common people every day? If they can't use it, what's the point of just having it recorded in a book? If it's useless, won't it be better to just burn it?"

"You devil!" The monk was really furious now and wanted to pounce over. "Preposterous arguments and harmful teachings, burning scriptures and eradicating buddha, your devil nature is indeed very serious. I'll fight it out with you!"

"Hold it." Qin Mu raised his hand and smiled. "You want to kill me, but let me ask you, do the buddhist scriptures allow you to take the life of a living creature?"

The monk stopped in his tracks and suppressed his anger. "Buddhist scriptures advise people to be compassionate, to not take the life of a living creature. However, against devils, even Buddha will be angered and subdue them!"

Qin Mu asked, "Grass, is it life?"

"Naturally," the monk said angrily.

"Seedlings grow from grass and many of them turn into grains, which means that grains are also lives, so why do you eat them? You have been eating vegetarian and praying to Buddha, thinking about compassion, thinking about beauty, thinking about truth, but you don't even know how many lives were lost in a mouthful of your food!" Qin Mu said. "The older you get, the more lives you have eaten. What face do you have to talk about buddha's heart, to talk about compassion?"

He took out a flower seed from his taotie sack and held it in his hand. When he executed Earth Aeon Creation Technique, a soft shoot sprouted from the flower seedling and grew. Its roots broke out from their shell, and a spirit grass rose up in his hand. The plant was delicate, and a flower bud soon sprouted. It trembled gently, and a tender and lovely flower bloomed.

"Is it beautiful?" Qin Mu asked.

The monk was slightly infatuated and nodded in agreement. "Beautiful."

Qin Mu brought the flower to the monk and said, "This flower is the grains you eat, they are its fruits. They are a beautiful life, yet how many of them have you eaten? When are you going to pay them back? If they had spirit and cultivated into a demon, would they cry about how you ate millions and millions of their race? Do you ever think about the damned souls of countless flowers and grasses surrounding you, waiting for you to pay with your life day and night?"

The monk held the beautiful flower in both of his hands as his expression became more and more defeated. He felt the beauty of the tender flower becoming sinister and terrifying, demanding his life. Suddenly, the monk sat down in a lotus position with tears rolling down his face. "I've eaten countless people from your race and my grave sins are hard to resolve! I'm willing to turn into a pile of ashes to nourish you!"

When he was finished with his words, the fire of karma lit up around his body and burned him cleanly in an instant. But even though the fire burned him completely, it didn't harm the beautiful flower in the slightest. It landed softly onto the ashes, still tender and lovely.

"Ashes to ashes, dust to dust. Cultivating Buddhism still comes to naught at the end, only good enough to be used as fertilizer."

Qin Mu bent over and gathered the ashes together to plant the flower seedling. "Monk, you have been useless all your life, but you are finally useful after you died. This flower will grow well, and it will bear many seedlings which will grow into even more flowers. You will be gratified if you know this in the netherworld.

"Even though the flower isn't the common people, but by using your ashes as fertilizer, you have indeed achieved that goal of the everyday use of common people. Excellent, you and I are of the same path."

He stood up and looked around. Even though he was a youth, he had the air of a cult master about him as he said unhurriedly, "Which great monk still wants to debate with me?"

The surroundings were silent.

Qin Mu looked at the serious and solemn monks, but the other side immediately avoided his eyes, not daring to meet them.

Old Ma and Blind had been standing far away, chatting with some old monks. When they saw what happened, Blind smiled. "If Mu'er remains in Great Thunderclap Monastery and the monks don't immediately make a move to slay him... With just a few days' time, half of the monks in Great Thunderclap Monastery will return to the normal life, a small half will be possessed by the devil, while those who won't will all be fake monks. He's really even more powerful than Granny Si."

Suddenly, a monk shouted sternly, "He's the devil! He's a heavenly devil! Bewitching everyone with his demonic words!"

Another monk shouted out right after, "He used demonic words to kill Senior Brother Xin Kong! We can't let this devil live, kill him to get rid of the devil!"

In an instant, everyone was furious and shouted out their wish to subdue Qin Mu and kill the devil.

At that moment, the youth started laughing with merriment, his voice growing louder and louder. The commotion around him gradually vanished, but his laughter still continued on.

Once laughing subsided, Qin Mu said coldly, "You guys wanted to debate, so I debated with you. When you wanted to pull in the sect's teachings, I agreed to talk about the teachings. When you couldn't win against me, you guys talked about taking the life of a living creature. Fine with me, let's talk about taking the life of a living creature. When you couldn't succeed even in that, you guys actually want to kill me? What's the use of you cultivating Buddhism? Fall back, return to your normal life."

Some monks were at a loss and their hearts became empty. After a moment, some actually sighed and really turned away and went to pack their luggage to leave the mountain.

The rest of the monks didn't fall back but stood with unpleasant expressions.

Qin Mu shook his head and smiled. "So it still comes to fighting in the end? If that's how it is, why flaunt your inadequate knowledge first!" With a roused spirit, he looked around, and his eyes flashed like lightning. "Who's coming to die?"