

Tales of Herding Gods Chapter 266-270

Chapter 266: Killing The Emperor!

As they got closer and closer to the capital city, the scouts on the way also gradually increased in number. Even though there was a natural disaster outside, the places closer to the capital were still celebrating peace with songs and dance. Numerous trees were tied with red silk and there were many envoys from numerous countries hurrying to the capital.

The ascension of a new emperor was naturally no small matter. It was especially so when the new emperor had shown himself to be different from the previous ruler before he even ascended the throne. He was kind to foreign countries and was willing to form alliances with them.

During the previous dynasty, Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor liked to mobilize his army to swallow surrounding countries. He would press the other big countries against the ground to beat them and seize their territories. Either that or he would force the other side to submit to him and offer tribute; he was truly rampant.

Before Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor had mobilized his army to enter Great Ruins, that was when Eternal Peace Empire had been at its strongest. It could battle against five big countries at the same time, but after Imperial Preceptor got injured by assassins, the momentum of Eternal Peace Empire expansion started to slow down.

The new emperor, however, was cultured and refined, very polite and treated all sects of Eternal Peace kindly. He was also courteous to the envoys of the foreign countries. Not only did he return the lands that the fiendish Imperial Preceptor had conquered back to their respective owners, but even promised to pay reparations and was willing to repair the relations with those countries.

The rule of foreign countries having to submit to Eternal Peace was also abolished by the new emperor, so they were all very happy and praised him endlessly. They said that the new emperor Ling Yuxia was a wise ruler that was rare to see in the past one thousand and five hundred years.

Other than that, the new emperor that had yet to ascend the throne invited members of various sects to attend the ascension ceremony. There were rumors saying that the new emperor planned to write down a decree of his crimes and would take on the wrath of Heaven for the past years of reform. He would seek forgiveness from Heaven and pray it would punish him and let off the people of Eternal Peace Empire.

"This move is the most ruthless." Qin Mu was exclaiming endlessly in admiration. He told Imperial Preceptor and the emperor, "You guys tried to painstakingly reform for two hundred years in order to change the profane notions, to push paths, skills, and divine arts to develop. You guys brought upon yourselves countless black names and spent endless blood and sweat. In your days, many people bled for the cause and finally formed Eternal Peace Empire to what it is today. Yet the new emperor pleading guilty will just wipe away all those two hundred years of your hard work, those two hundred years of soldiers sacrificing their lives again and again. This move is ruthless, truly ruthless!"

Emperor Yanfeng gave a dull grunt and a tearing pain seared his chest. He wanted to cry, but there were no tears as he said astringently, "Yuxia, my good son, consider this a knife stabbed in my heart..."

Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor remained expressionless when he said, "After entering the capital, I can contact our old troops. Most of the ministers of the imperial court will also support Your Majesty. With the Dragon Guards Forbidden Army hidden in the nine dragon veins, we can attack the capital city anytime! The only problem is that Great Thunderclap Monastery and Dao Sect had left so many monks and Daoists in the houses of kings, dukes, and ministers to supervise them under the cover of begging. Cult Master Qin, I will have to use the power of Heavenly Devil Cult to send us into the city to meet them."

Qin Mu shook his head and said, "There's no need for so much trouble."

Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor was slightly stunned.

"The forces of Great Thunderclap Monastery and Dao Sect are too spread apart. They want to control the entire situation, but this leaves flaws everywhere."

Qin Mu stopped. They were currently in Marquis Town, just a few hundred miles away from the capital and in front of a fried pancake stall. Qin Mu went to buy breakfast while he said, "It's like this fried pancake, once it's too spread out, it will collapse at the first blow. The bigger their pancake is, the thinner it will get. When the crown prince ascends to the throne, there won't be enough power to guard him. The monks and Daoists that were left in the houses of kings, dukes, and ministers will then be controlled by those kings, dukes and minister instead. Those people won't be able to go to the Imperial City to provide support."

The fried pancake was done, and the stall owner used oil paper to roll it up. Qin Mu took it from him and gave it to Imperial Preceptor's wife first.

She took a bite and looked around with bright eyes. She asked in a low voice, "Aren't you afraid that walls have ears? There were quite a lot of scouts of the crown prince on the way here!"

"I'm not." Qin Mu smiled lightly.

Suddenly, the passers-by, merchants, vegetable sellers and buyers, butchers, and hawkers in the market all quietened down and turned their heads over in unison. Their gazes all landed on the group.

"Cult master!" those people said in unison.

Qin Mu waved his hand and smiled. "Continue doing what you were doing, don't disturb us."

Imperial Preceptor's wife jumped in shock and Emperor Yanfeng sighed. "Strict enforcement of rules and prohibitions leads to the rise of a king. Cult Master Qin, you have scared me, your Heavenly Saint Cult has scared me."

Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor said, "Strict enforcement of rules and prohibitions, to move as one, this is the scene of the rise of a king, an emperor. Your Majesty should really worry. However, ever since

Heavenly Saint Cult was founded twenty thousand years ago, there had never been a cult master who referred to themselves as an emperor. Your Majesty can be at ease.”

Emperor Yanfeng said angrily, “You are all part of Heavenly Saint Cult, even you husband and wife are also part of Heavenly Saint Cult, a heavenly king and an incense master. Only I’m the outsider here; don’t try to mislead me!”

Qin Mu immediately asked, “Does Your Majesty want to join our cult?”

...

“How do we enter the capital?”

When they came close to the city, Emperor Yanfeng looked at the city gates and saw that they were heavily guarded. There were thorough inspections, so it was going to be as difficult as to climb up to the sky for them to get in. Today was the ascension of the crown prince, the day he would become the new emperor. Today, the new emperor would seek punishment from Heaven at the Temple of Heaven. All the envoys, cult masters, sect masters, heads of influential families, as well as civil and military officials would have to go forward to attend the ceremony, so there was a tight security.

Qin Mu shook his head and said, “No problem, let’s just go in directly.”

Emperor Yanfeng was slightly stunned. Qin Mu brought them to the city gates, and the soldiers there treated them like air and let them walk into the city.

“They are also part of Heavenly Saint Cult?” Imperial Preceptor’s wife was slightly stunned and said to Qin Mu in a low voice, “The emperor is around, so don’t be too flamboyant; otherwise, you will cause His Majesty to be suspicious and jealous. The emperor wants to create a country that’s above the sects and not a sect that’s above the countries, be cautious Cult Master.”

Qin Mu looked at Emperor Yanfeng, and he was indeed looking worried. This was very normal. If all the imperial guards guarding the city gates of the capital were people of Heavenly Devil Cult, how could he be at ease?

Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor said, “Now that we have entered the city, what should we do?”

Qin Mu took out two medicinal pills and handed them to Emperor Yanfeng and Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor respectively. He said, “We’ll go to Imperial City and the Temple of Heaven to see the ascension of the crown prince.”

In the Imperial City’s throne room, a greeting could be heard.

“Long live Your Majesty!

Eternal Peace Crown Prince Ling Yuxia sat on the Dragon Throne while donning the dragon robe. On one side of him stood a monk while on his other side, there was a Daoist. Below him were the civil and military officials that were paying their respects to the new emperor, which created a powerful and dynamic scene. There was an extremely huge number of civil and military officials, so the entire imperial

hall was filled with officials kneeling down. There were also others who were kneeling outside the hall, and some even at the steps.

In the hall, envoys from dozens of countries carried military banners from their countries to attend the ceremony. Near them, there were sect masters and cult masters from dozens of sects.

The ceremonial rites for the ascension of a new emperor were rather complicated, so when the ceremony ended, it was already close to the afternoon.

The sun of spring wasn't warm as Ling Yuxia walked in the front and led the civil and military officials out of the hall. The ceremonial weapon carriers followed him closely, and most of the people in the ceremonial weaponry were monks and Daoists who chanted buddhist and Daoist scriptures with resonating voices. Behind them was the crown prince's concubine leading a crowd of palace maids with the envoys following behind them. All the heads of the influential families and sects also followed them to Temple of Heaven, the scale of the crowd becoming greater and greater.

Behind Ling Yuxia were his Grand Protector, Grand Preceptor, and the rest of the first ranking high officials. They were the retainers of the imperial family, the arms of the crown prince, and had extremely high positions. Now that the emperor had 'died', Ling Yuxia naturally became the one to assume the throne. Since he knew that his foundation in the imperial court was still not stable, he had invited numerous monks and Daoists from Great Thunderclap Monastery and Dao Sect, making them officials while demoting those that weren't willing to heed his words.

Almost half of the civil and military officials of the imperial court were monks and Daoists, so the sight was rather peculiar as they chanted scriptures while heading to Temple of Heaven.

As for Duke Wei, King of Mount Tai, Pillars of State, General of Heavenly Strategies, and the rest, Ling Yuxia had permitted them to retire because of their 'old age'. They would be staying in the capital city for the moment and return to their hometowns after the ceremony.

In the imperial court, almost half of the officials had to return home due to old age even though some of them were still very young. It was quite a strange incident.

Ling Yuxia didn't feel certain about these officials that were told to retire, so he didn't dare to let them out of the capital in fear of them rebelling. Because of that, they were all held captive in their respective manors, with monks and Daoists guarding them. Meanwhile, King of Mount Tai, General of Heavenly Strategies, and the rest were locked up in the prison.

They reached Temple of Heaven and the officials flooded out. The monks and Daoists stood on the left and right sides of the steps respectively, while Ling Yuxia dragged his dragon robe and climbed up the steps by himself, acting reverent and respectful. Meanwhile, his concubine and those alongside her knelt down at the bottom of the stairs.

The stairs were very long, with nine hundred and ninety-nine stone steps. When Ling Yuxia reached the top of the Temple of Heaven and wanted to kneel down respectfully, a solemn voice suddenly rang out. "Buddha Rulai of Great Thunderclap Monastery has passed down his decree, may Your Majesty receive the decree."

A monk walked out with a solemn expression, and the buddha rays behind him formed a wheel. In his hand was Rulai's decree.

Ling Yuxia immediately knelt down to receive the decree and said respectfully, "This guilty subject will receive the decree of Revered One of the World."

Below, the ministers of the old dynasty frowned and lowered their heads without a word. The other officials that were monks chanted loudly in unison with their buddha voices, and buddha aura soared with ten thousand fathoms, resulting in a magnificent sight.

There was a deluge of heavenly flowers in mid-air, and the apparitions of gods and buddha appeared. With the brilliant and varied visions, it seemed like gods and buddhas were blessing this ceremony.

The monk read out Rulai's decree and said mainly that Emperor Yanfeng was a tyrant, because of which the people had to suffer Heaven's wrath. Rulai encouraged the new emperor to be cautious and conscientious, to scrupulously abide by his duty, so the gods and buddhas would bless him with prosperity and longevity, and so on.

The crown prince received the decree.

A Daoist came out then, and in his hands was a decree from Dao Master. "Dao Master of Dao Sect has passed down his decree, may Your Majesty receive the decree."

Ling Yuxia knelt down once again. "This guilty subject will receive the decree of Dao Master."

The Daoists among the civil and military officials were not to be outdone. They played around with their vital qi and created auspicious visions of dragons and phoenixes dancing in the sky.

Dao Master's decree also contained nothing more than encouragement for the new emperor to treat his citizens sincerely, to look after the office, and to not to mess around with things like reforms and so on.

The crown prince received the decree and rose. After tidying his robe, he was about to kneel down and seek forgiveness from Heaven, but at that moment, a loud and clear voice came from afar. "The cult master sacred teacher of Heavenly Devil Cult passes down his decree personally, may Your Majesty receive the decree!"

When this sentence was heard by everyone, a commotion broke out under the Temple of Heaven as the people all looked towards the source of the voice.

With a couple of steps, Ling Yuxia came to the stairs of the Temple of Heaven and looked down. From his position high above, he saw a youth bringing along two monks and a Daoist nun towards the Temple of Heaven. The footsteps of the two monks seemed to be weak and unstable, while the Daoist nun seemed to be pregnant and so inconvenienced by her body.

Qin Mu smiled and walked towards Temple of Heaven while saying leisurely, "Great Thunderclap Monastery is a sacred ground, Dao Sect is a sacred ground, my Heavenly Devil Cult is also a sacred

ground. Ling Yuxia, Rulai and Dao Master didn't come yet you still knelt down for their decree. Now that I have come personally, aren't you going to kneel to welcome me?"

"Heavenly Devil Cult Master!"

Suddenly, a sect master from an influential family sprung forward, wishing to land a killing blow on Qin Mu. At this moment, a huge flag appeared out of thin air beside Qin Mu and rolled up to block an attack from that sect master. When that huge flag was unfolded, a formidable man carrying a sword case showed up. A sword light then flew out and severed the head of the rash sect master.

The man that was carrying the sword case swept up his huge flag and disappeared along with the head of his victim. Among the people attending the ceremony, a headless corpse swayed and collapsed to the ground.

Qin Mu acted as if nothing had happened and continued to walk forward. When there were guards who wanted to make a move, huge flags appeared at the very instant they moved, and hall masters, elders, supervisors, and heavenly kings of Heavenly Devil Cult appeared. As the huge flags fluttered in the air, they materialized and vanished all around the place. When they were finally gone, dozens of headless corpses were on the ground.

Qin Mu brought Imperial Preceptor and the emperor forward. Around them, flags kept materializing and vanishing from time to time. Those who tried to attack him were all assassinated in a violent manner.

A trail of corpses was left behind on the path Qin Mu took, and all the bodies were missing heads.

Qin Mu walked to the front of the Temple of Heaven and was about to walk up when the crown prince's concubine that was kneeling below suddenly made a move. The moment she did that, she became a corpse on the ground.

The hair of the envoys, sect masters, cult masters, and heads of the influential families stood up on ends, and they dared not make another move. Heavenly Devil Cult was the number one sacred cult of the devil path. The crowd had long heard of their reputation, but only now saw it for themselves.

"Wife, don't look," Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor told his wife.

Qin Mu began walking up the steps of the Temple of Heaven, and an eminent monk suddenly shouted out, "Heavenly Devil Cult Master, we have been waiting quite some time for you! Fellow Dao friends, encircle and annihilate Heavenly Devil Cult Master to subdue the devil!"

The monks ripped off their official robes while Daoists took out their sword pellets. In an instant, murderous aura rushed toward the sky in the Temple of Heaven.

Qin Mu continued to walk forward.

Woosh, woosh, woosh.

Over three hundred huge flags appeared, and three hundred and sixty hall master materialized together. The twelve cult protector elders, two great cult heavenly kings, and the eight great supervisors also showed up.

Sounds of slaughter rang out in the Temple of Heaven. The eight great supervisors didn't make their moves, but instead circled around Qin Mu.

Murderous spirit filled the heaven over the Temple of Heaven as cult master level existences, great experts of Life and Death Realm, and Celestial Being Realm waged, causing heaven to fall and earth to crack. The loud booms nearly crumbled all the palaces that surrounded the Temple of Heaven.

Imperial City was in a state of chaos, and the guards hurried over. The capital city was also alarmed, and influential families that were lying low exploded with world-shaking powers. The monks and Daoists that wanted to provide support to Imperial City were all trapped and killed on the spot by those influential families.

In the prison where General of Heavenly Strategies Qin Jian, High Official Su Yunzhi, and others were sitting, the gates suddenly opened. A prison head smiled and said, "His Majesty is back, he's at the Temple of Heaven."

General of Heavenly Strategies and the rest were surprised and delighted. They immediately rushed out of prison and toward Temple of Heaven.

"Where's Heavenly King Wei?" Heavenly King Yu shouted out loudly.

"Heavenly King Wei is right here!"

A thunderous voice spread through the entire capital, and Duke Wei leaped from Duke's Manor and crashed onto the Temple of Heaven. He was completely suited up and had a fierce expression. "Who wants to die?"

Qin Mu walked leisurely toward the top of the Temple of Heaven. The grand preceptor of the crown prince and the rest rushed forward to kill him but were stopped by Qin Jian and the rest who had rushed out of prison. No one could interrupt Qin Mu's footsteps.

On the top of the Temple of Heaven, Ling Yuxia revealed a look of panic and looked toward the monk and Daoist on his left and right. These two people immediately pounced forward, but before their feet could even touch the floor, they were slaughtered by the eight great supervisors, their blood spattering the ground.

"Civil and military officials, I'm the emperor!" Ling Yuxia shouted out sternly. "Do you plan on rebelling with these devil path practitioners and ignore my orders?"

"Emperor?" Emperor Yanfeng snorted and consumed the medicinal pill that Qin Mu had given him. His hair immediately grew out, and he wiped away the knife scar on his face. In a solemn voice, he said, "Take a look at who I am?"

Ling Yuxia's complexion changed drastically. Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor also consumed the medicinal pill, and his hair also grew back. Wiping away the green birthmark on his face, he turned around.

The civil and military officials had planned to make a move when they heard the new emperor's order, but when they saw Emperor Yanfeng and Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor, they all knelt down and worshiped them.

Ling Yuxia rushed towards Emperor Yanfeng and Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor in a crazed state while shouting "I'm the Son of Heaven!"

The eight great supervisors moved and gave a blow each to Ling Yuxia. The man vomited blood, and his body suddenly transformed into a dragon, soaring into the sky to escape. The eight great supervisors lifted their clothes up and vanished. The next instant, Ling Yuxia was detained by the eight of them and knelt down at the center of the Temple of Heaven.

Emperor Yanfeng looked at the civil and military officials and shouted, "Why aren't you guys quelling the rebellion? Why aren't you guys killing all these Daoists and monks that have rebelled? Are you waiting for me to make a move myself?"

The civil and military officials immediately sprung into action and slaughtered the monks and Daoists of Great Thunderclap Monastery and Dao Sect. Even the imperial guards that were rushing over also landed killing blows on them.

When Qin Mu came to the top of the Temple of Heaven, Ling Yuxia was kneeling on the floor from the pressure, unable to break free.

Qin Mu stooped down and leaned into his ear to say in a low voice, "Your Highness, I didn't do this to help the emperor. This is all for Heavenly King Qian and Heavenly King Lu of my sacred cult."

Ling Yuxia was stunned and raised his head to look up, his eyes filled with disbelief. "You..."

Qin Mu pulled out Junior Protector Sword and beheaded him with a single strike!

Emperor Yanfeng and Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor came to the top of the Temple of Heaven the moment the sword sliced down and Ling Yuxia's head went flying high up into the sky.

Emperor Yanfeng's heart trembled violently when he looked at the back of the youth before him. The sight of that youth shaking off the blood on the sword and returning it to its sheath struck fear into his heart.

Chapter 267: Just for Cultivation

Imperial Preceptor's wife had also come to the Temple of Heaven. As she watched Qin Mu return the sword to its sheath and Emperor Yanfeng focus on his back, worry crossed his young woman's brow.

The bloody battle was soon pacified. Those monks and Daoists of Great Thunderclap Monastery and Dao Sect that could escape had escaped while the rest had been killed. The majority of them had died here, and their blood dyed the Temple of Heaven red.

Blood trickled down from the nine hundred and ninety-ninth step all the way to the first step, then flowed to the feet of all the envoys, cult masters, and sect masters.

Temple of Heaven, this place in which tributes were offered to Heaven, had been dyed the red of blood.

It was impossible to say who was the first to suddenly kneel down and shout out, "Long live, Your Majesty!"

Whoosh!

At the bottom of the Temple of Heaven, no matter if they were officials, envoys, sect masters or cult masters, they all knelt down on one knee and shouted in unison, "Long live, Your Majesty!"

Emperor Yanfeng turned around while standing at the top of the stairs. He spread his arms and faced the worship of these subjects. After a moment, he raised his hands weakly and said, "Rise."

Imperial Preceptor's wife looked at Emperor Yanfeng. Behind him, Qin Mu and the eight great supervisors were also standing on top of the Temple of Heaven and didn't kneel down.

"Husband, it might not be a good thing for Cult Master Qin to show off his ability," she whispered to Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor.

He took a glance at Qin Mu and shook his head. "To him, Eternal Peace Empire is just a place to learn through experience, so killing the crown prince is also merely an experience. He doesn't have much to worry about, and the emperor does need his support in many places."

Imperial Preceptor's wife was astonished. "Experience?"

Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor nodded. "Experience."

The crown prince colluded with Dao Sect and Great Thunderclap Monastery to plan a rebellion, conspiring to murder the emperor and seize the throne. The consequences of these actions were no small matter.

Yet in the records of the scribes, there would only be an ordinary sentence which said, "On the eighteenth of the second month, Crown Prince Yuxia conspired to rebel. Sixth of the third month, executed."

It was this simple. The details regarding this were not for outsiders to know. That's why most of the stories would only appear in history as popular legends. However, most of them were distorted truths so they couldn't be trusted.

After the rebellion came a bloody purge. The officials of the crown princes had their properties seized and families executed. The Daoists and monks from Dao Sect and Great Thunderclap Monastery were detained in custody and sent to the execution grounds.

Executions were carried out in the food market all the way from the seventh of the third month to the first of the fourth month. Only then did the executions end.

Some incidents also happened in the meantime; for example, the crown prince's head was not found.

It had vanished without a trace, and no matter how everyone searched the surroundings of the Temple of Heaven, the head couldn't be found. In the end, Emperor Yanfeng never ordered anyone to dig into it.

The emperor instead passed down his decree to rid Crown Prince Ling Yuxia's name from the Imperial Family's genealogical record. The crown prince's birth mother, the previous empress who was already deceased, was also demoted to an imperial concubine.

Emperor Yanfeng then replaced the officials and selected a few younger imperial scholars from Imperial College to promote. He also selected capable people from each and every army to replenish the empty official positions.

A few days later, the emperor summoned Second Prince Ling Yushu back from the borders to talk about his duties. After a few more days, the emperor felt his body slightly ill and conferred Ling Yushu as the crown prince, to supervise the empire and manage all the politics.

Emperor Yanfeng summoned Crown Prince Ling Yushi and asked him. "Yushi, now that you're managing the politics, what's the first thing you have to do?"

He didn't view highly this second son of his. Ling Yushu wasn't considered outstanding among his children. Among all of them, he wasn't the one with the greatest resolution and his aptitude wasn't the most outstanding, either. For those two things, he had admired Ling Yuxia very much. That child had had the resolution, courage, and aptitude; however, he was too bold and too resolute.

Meanwhile, his other elder sons had died too early while waiting for him to step away.

Ling Yushu pondered for a moment. He had just returned from the battlefield and the few months of experience had given him a pressing heroic spirit and some decisiveness.

Because he was not in the capital city when Ling Yuxia had colluded with Great Thunderclap Monastery and Dao Sect to rebel, he had escaped unscathed.

Ling Yushi said solemnly, "Son will abolish big brother's..."

Emperor Yanfeng's expression sunk. "You're the eldest son now, I don't have a son like him."

Ling Yushu paused for a while, then said, "Son will abolish the treaties he had signed with the foreign countries and take back the land we have given away. I'll then purge those sects that had tried to swallow the lands during the chaos. Seeing how Dao Sect and Great Thunderclap Monastery have

suffered such a defeat and lost a great number of experts, I will take back more than half of the lands that belong to Dao Sect and Great Thunderclap Monastery.”

Emperor Yanfeng’s expression softened, and he asked, “Then?”

“I will help father send disaster relief, but before that, I will first write down a decree of my crimes...”

Emperor Yanfeng suddenly burst in anger and shouted out, “Say it once more!”

Ling Yushu bowed and said solemnly, “I will first write down a decree of my crimes and pray for Heaven to not send any more disasters to appease the hearts of the citizens.”

Emperor Yanfeng’s face was still grim when he said coldly, “Who taught you that?”

Ling Yushu was slightly stunned. “I...”

“I asked, who taught you that!” Emperor Yanfeng rose, unable to restrain his anger. As he walked to and fro, he shouted loudly, “You are my son, I know you inside out, and you are unable to say such things! These words aren’t what the second prince would be considering, but something that could only be understood by standing at the position of the emperor. Say, who taught you that?”

Cold sweat broke out on Ling Yushu’s forehead, and he suddenly gritted his teeth to say honestly, “When I returned to the capital, I went to visit Imperial Preceptor and coincidentally met Palace Grandee treating Imperial Preceptor’s injuries. This son discussed with them about how father would enquire me about politics to test me, thus I asked them for ideas...”

Emperor Yanfeng’s anger subsided, and he asked calmly, “Who was the one who suggests writing a decree of your crimes?”

“Both Imperial Preceptor and Palace Grandee said it. They said this calamity was the act of heavenly gods so why don’t we go according to their will and plan slowly. If we go against them directly, we will only be defeated. For me to write a decree on my crimes is better than father writing it himself. If father writes a decree, it will mean you that deny the reform, but this son is the crown prince, so I can feign civility.”

Emperor Yanfeng’s expression softened and he sat down. “I know your abilities and wisdom, your courage and insight, so I know you wouldn’t have thought about such things yet, that’s why there was definitely someone who had taught you that, and that’s why I acted angry. Even if I’m asking you about politics, there’s no need to follow what they taught you, you have to say your own understanding as well.”

Ling Yushu acknowledged.

Emperor Yanfeng sighed. “I’m not worried about Imperial Preceptor, but Palace Grandee. I’m afraid that when a day comes when Imperial Preceptor and I are no longer around, you won’t be able to outdo him. Now that my cultivation is lost and my divine treasures are destroyed, it’s hard for me to train my cultivation back, so I made you supervise this empire, manage all the politics. You should be cautious and conscientious. If I can’t regain my cultivation back, my lifespan will at most be some fifty years.

When that time comes, you will be the emperor. Broaden your horizons and also broaden your breadth of mind, think more by yourself.”

And at this moment, on Saint Arrival Mountain of Heavenly Devil Cult, Qin Mu led all the hall masters, elders, and the rest of the cult to the graves of Heavenly King Qian and Heavenly King Lu. The latter had only left behind a pile of ashes while the former’s body hadn’t been found, so were buried in the grave were the clothes they had worn when they were alive.

Qin Mu went forward and placed Crown Prince Ling Yuxia’s head in front of the graves, and everyone offered incense and paid their respects.

“Two heavenly kings, if your spirits can hear me, you can rest in peace now,” Heavenly King Yu prayed. “Now that Heaven is sending disasters on us, troubled times and calamities are inevitable. Two heavenly king senior brothers, do protect our sacred cult.”

After everyone paid their respects, they dispersed.

Heavenly King Yu came to Qin Mu’s side and hesitated before asking, “Cult Master is still returning to Eternal Peace?”

Qin Mu nodded.

Heavenly King Yu was puzzled. “This time our sacred cult took Imperial Preceptor and killed the fake emperor as well as numerous strong practitioners of Dao Sect and Great Thunderclap Monastery, so I’m afraid that the emperor will be guarding against us. Isn’t Cult Master worried about going back?”

Qin Mu looked at the gravestones of the two heavenly kings and said with a peaceful expression, “Dao Sect and Great Thunderclap Monastery are still around, so the most important thing for the emperor is to get rid of these two big sacred grounds. Without getting rid of them first, he won’t lay a hand on our Heavenly Saint Cult. Only once he cleans up those will we need to be careful. As for now, there’s no need to worry.”

Heavenly King Yu thought over it and realized that it was indeed logical.

Qin Mu walked towards the sacred tree and gently touched its grain. Lifting his head up to look at the crown, he said, “The path of the saint is none other than the everyday use of common people. Heavenly King Yu, do you really think we can change the Great Dao of Heaven and Earth?”

Heavenly King Yu walked forward and said, “I’m naturally dumb and the question Cult Master asked is too profound, I’m afraid I’m unable to answer it. However, I know that there were no roads in the past, but as more people started walking, a road was formed. People then disliked having to walk in the mud when it started raining, and so they covered the roads with slabs of stone. The roads then became much easier to walk on. After that, people found walking slow, so they created wheels and vehicles, that’s how horse carriages started to sprint through the roads. I think there was never a road for horse carriages, but after humans created it, there became a new addition to the Great Dao of Heaven and Earth.”

Qin Mu was stunned.

Heavenly King Yu continued, "After that, people found horse carriages slow and created ships that could fly in the sky. They didn't have copper and gold, so they extracted them out from ores. Some letters were too far to be delivered, so they created flying mail. I think, as more and more things get created by the humans, the Great Dao of Heaven and Earth gradually increases as well."

Qin Mu was slightly in a daze. He saw that the sacred tree only had one trunk, but it branched out, and those branches had even more branches. While faced with that sight, he couldn't help revealing a smile.

"In the past, when winter came to the north, it was hard for them to eat fresh fruits and vegetables, but now that there are flying ships, the fruits and vegetables from the south can be transported to the north in a matter of days. In the past, there were inhospitable natural environments where demons roamed, now we can cast spells to change the terrain, transforming barren hills and wild rivers into verdant hills and limpid water. In the past, the lands were infertile and not many crops could be produced, but now we can transform infertile land into fertile land," Heavenly King Yu said.

"In the past, wind, rain, thunder, and lightning were meteorological phenomenon, but now people can control these things. Cult Master, have we changed the Great Dao of Heaven and Earth?"

Qin Mu nodded and smiled, "I think we have."

"Cult Master, I'm naturally dumb..."

"You aren't dumb at all!" Qin Mu broke him off and smiled. "Heavenly King Yu, you're a capable person, there's no need to always be so humble. What did you want to ask just now?"

"Cult Master said earlier that the emperor might make a move on our Heavenly Saint Cult after he eradicates the two big sacred grounds. I wonder if Cult Master has any countermeasures? Maybe Cult Master can also be an emperor..."

Qin Mu shook his head and said, "I won't. As long as what the emperor is doing is similar to our goals, it doesn't matter if I'm the emperor or not. Furthermore, Imperial Preceptor is now the fourth heavenly king of our sacred cult. If he doesn't meet with an accident, how would the emperor make a move on us? In addition, I'm afraid it won't be that easy to eradicate Dao Sect and Great Thunderclap Monastery. Don't think too much, I've come to Eternal Peace just for experience and cultivation."

Chapter 268: Beauty and the Painting

Qin Mu left Saint Arrival Mountain and returned to Imperial College. Gu Linuan immediately ran over and held a banquet to welcome him back.

Qin Mu stared with eyes wide open, torn between laughter and tears. He smiled and asked, "Lord Gu, is there a need for this?"

Gu Linuan smiled and said, "As fellow practitioners of the devil path, we naturally have to support one another. Cult Master Qin, is Junior Protector Sword still to your liking?"

"It is. I'm not returning it," Qin Mu explained. "The rules of our Great Ruins..."

"I know!" Gu Linuan laughed loudly. "I stayed in Great Ruins for two hundred years and I know its rules—things that got scammed with one's abilities are never returned! You see? Aren't you regarding me as an outsider again? Hahahaha! I've stayed in Great Ruins for two hundred years so Great Ruins can be considered to be partly my homeland, we're half fellow countryman! Now that Cult Master Qin has returned from our homeland, how can I not treat you to a meal to relieve the feeling of homesickness?"

Qin Mu was flabbergasted and sighed. "Lord Gu's realm is too high, this little brother admires you."

"I dare not, I dare not! Cult Master Qin is the talented youth, born a hero."

After they flattered each other, Gu Linuan sighed ruefully. "When I first saw you in Great Ruins, I instantly knew you weren't any mediocre talent, but bound to achieve meteoric success in your career, yet never would have I expect this day to come so fast. Cult Master Qin... Sigh, ain't I regarding you as an outsider by calling you Cult Master Qin? Cult Master, due to unforeseen circumstances, there are quite a lot of empty positions among the first and second ranking officials in the imperial court, could cult master help to pull some strings?"

Qin Mu didn't know whether to laugh or cry and said, "Lord Gu, I'm just a fifth ranking little official..."

"If Cult Master doesn't regard me as an outsider, you can call me Linuan."

Qin Mu composed himself and said, "I'm merely a fifth ranking palace grandee without any real power in hand, where do I have the rights to ask questions regarding the promotions of first and second ranking officials? Truth be told, the sword that killed the crown prince was this Junior Protector Sword that I scammed from Lord Gu. The emperor is actually bearing a grudge in his heart and has some worries towards my Heavenly Saint Cult. If I tried to put in a word to raise the rank of Lord Gu, I would actually be harming you."

Gu Linuan's smiled. "That's indeed the case, Cult Master is wise. Let me propose a toast to you."

He was an understanding man, and the motive behind his invitation to the banquet wasn't to make Qin Mu put in a word to the emperor for him to rise in ranks. It was to make friends with Qin Mu and resolve their earlier grudges.

No matter if Qin Mu was or wasn't the emperor's favorite person now, he had to make friends with him.

The devil cult master of Heavenly Devil Cult was an existence on the same level as Rulai and Dao Master. Building a good relationship with Qin Mu was equivalent to building a good relationship with Rulai or Dao Master, and if that could be done with just a banquet, it was naturally a profitable bargain.

After the banquet, Gu Linuan personally sent Qin Mu back to Scholar's Residence. On their way back, Qin Mu was bewildered when he noticed some foreigners at Imperial College.

"After the rebellion, the new crown prince abolished the treaty the renegade had signed and took back the lands. Some of the foreign countries were terrified, so they sent over peaceful envoys to learn the culture of Eternal Peace."

Gu Linuan could see his suspicions and said, "The crown prince permitted it. He permitted foreigners to seek knowledge in Eternal Peace while some descendants of aristocrats would be learning in Imperial College."

Qin Mu nodded, then suddenly saw a familiar face and was slightly stunned. He smiled towards a youth and called out, "Pangong Tso!"

That youth who was from the barbarian race in the prairie turned back to look at Qin Mu, with puzzlement in his eyes. There were numerous retainers from his foreign country following behind him, and two of them were great shamans of Rolan's Golden Palace.

Pangong Tso asked the person beside him in a low voice, and a great shaman immediately said something to him in a low voice. Pangong Tso suddenly understood and returned a greeting to Qin Mu indifferently. "So it's Heavenly Devil Cult Master. What's the matter, Cult Master?"

Qin Mu was stunned again and just shook his head. "Nothing."

Pangong Tso and the rest walked away.

Qin Mu frowned slightly, and Gu Linuan caught it. He asked, "Cult Master, you recognize this Pangong Tso?"

"He's the youngest son of Barbarian Di Empire's Khan. I once saw him practicing his punches at the border and his fist skills have a unique bearing, which should stem from a unique constitution."

Qin Mu looked at the back of Pangong Tso and pondered over it. "He once challenged Chancellor Ba Shan and said he will definitely defeat Chancellor Ba Shan in the future, giving me a deep impression of him. Why does it seem like he just met me for the first time..."

Gu Linuan smiled and said, "With the nature of a youth, he must have forgotten."

Qin Mu returned to Scholar's Residence, where the dragon qilin lay outside the house. When he came into the room, he felt that it was lonely and somehow wrong

"If only Ling'er was here." He sighed to himself.

If Hu Ling'er was here, she would definitely tidy up the room so this place wouldn't so messy. The entire room would also be arranged comfortably.

Suddenly, the low and muffled voice of the dragon qilin came from outside. "Young lady, who are you looking for?"

"Is your Cult Master Qin around?" a pleasant voice asked.

"He is."

"I'm going in."

“Okay.”

Qin Mu immediately walked out of the room and saw Ling Yuxiu pushing the door. This young lady was charming as she smiled with her red lips and white teeth. She wore a gown with a red overlap and collar. When she walked into the courtyard, an air brimming with youthfulness bombarded Qin Mu and made his heart race slightly.

“The one who herds cows!” The girl’s eyes were shining brightly as she walked over with a smile. “The big dog at your door is quite easy to talk to!”

“I’m going to put him on the table for the next New Year’s dinner, he can’t even guard a door properly!” Qin Mu said ruthlessly.

The dragon qilin’s voice came from outside, “Cult Master, I heard everything.”

“I wanted you to hear it! You only know how to eat besides sleeping!”

Qin Mu examined this princess in detail and saw that she was becoming more and more beautiful, even if her face still had the childish nature of an infant. However, she was still taller than Qin Mu and was a big young lady. Her spring gown couldn’t hide her alluring figure, the two melons that were about to burst out, making it hard for him to move his gaze away from her body.

Qin Mu had also started to grow taller recently, and he was doing it as frantically as the weeds in a desolate land once spring came.

The last time they’ve met, this princess was still a wild lass who wore male clothing was very free and at ease.

Ling Yuxiu came to the front of the yellow pear tree in the courtyard and only saw small buds. However, the blossoms needed to open up first and the stamens to pop their heads from the tender petals.

Ling Yuxiu stretched her slender jade hands to fiddle with the flowers and smiled. “You’re pretty interesting, to plant a pear tree on a jade mountain. When the pear blossoms, I must definitely come to admire...”

“Don’t move!” Qin Mu’s eyes lighted up, and he said, “Stay in this posture. Give me a second!”

He quickly took out his brush, ink, paper, and inkstone to paint. Ling Yuxiu was a little impatient and said, “Are you done yet? My arm is already aching.”

“Right away.”

Qin Mu was about to finish the painting, but he stopped at the last stroke, taking out his seal to stamp on the painting before placing down the last stroke with a smile. “It’s done.”

Ling Yuxiu came over and looked at his painting. She saw that she looked slightly shy in the painting, and it was evident that Qin Mu had managed to capture the bashfulness that had poured out from her heart.

“Such likeness,” Ling Yuxiu exclaimed in admiration. “Why did you have to stamp your seal first before drawing the last stroke?”

“My painting skill is too good. If I finish the last stroke first, you will walk down from the painting and run away. This stamp is also called a seal. Take a look at the picture on the seal, it isn’t my surname but a kind of sealing rune instead,” Qin Mu explained.

Ling Yuxiu went up to take a look at the seal and the two of them huddled together. Qin Mu’s gaze shifted toward the face of the girl and saw the soft redness on her fair cheek as well as her bright and clear eyes. While she looked at the seal seriously, her fair neck was very moving and her serious attitude made his heart race.

“It’s really sealing runes!” Ling Yuxiu was astonished and said curiously, “If this seal is wiped away, can I really walk out of the painting?”

Qin Mu nodded and said, “What I use is Bestowing Soul Skill and Bestowing the Divine Soul with a Dot Using Mutual Sensitivity. However, I only succeeded once and I don’t know if it would have worked this time. Still, it’s best to seal the painting in case you run away.”

Ling Yuxiu looked at him shyly and immediately rolled up the painting. “This painting is mine, don’t steal it from me! That’s right, I’ve almost forgotten about the task at hand. Father has summoned you into the palace, he said it’s for diagnosing his injuries. I met the eunuch sending the decree and took his job.”

Qin Mu tidied up his clothes and said, “Are you coming along with me?”

“Alright! We haven’t met for quite a while and I have things I want to tell you.”

The young man and young woman walked out of the room, and the dragon qilin raised his head. “Cult Master, I’ll guard the door and definitely not let anyone in.”

“Got it,” Qin Mu said. “Perform well and I won’t put you on the table for New Year. And also, train more, remember all the muscles on the green bull’s body. How can you defeat him like this?”

The two people walked out of Scholar’s Residence and saw many scholars greeting them with smiles on the way. However, most of them looked terrified, so it was evident that they had heard that Qin Mu was the devil cult master of Heavenly Devil Cult, a fellow of savage nature. He had chopped off Ling Yuxia’s head in front of the emperor and was truly fiendish.

Outside Scholar’s Residence, Chancellor Ba Shan walked over with long strides and behind him were two scholars. One of them was Wei Yong and the other was Yue Qinghong. These two people had great improvements in their cultivation, so it was obvious that they had received quite a lot of benefits from cultivating with Chancellor Ba Shan.

Behind them came a big green bull that was incomparably robust. He walked on the road with two legs and lumps of muscle covered his entire body. Fire spewed out from his nostrils, and he looked extremely fiendish with a peony in his mouth.

Chancellor Ba Shan stopped and smiled. "Cult Master Qin, are you two eloping?"

"We're not," Ling Yuxiu said angrily. "Don't speak nonsense, Teacher Ba Shan, father has summoned him to the palace!"

Chancellor Ba Shan laughed loudly and said to Qin Mu, "I met that Pangong Tso brat of Barbarian Di Empire just now, and he has become very strange. Even though he recognizes me, he's no longer that Pangong Tso."

Qin Mu nodded and said, "I also have this feeling. Pangong Tso didn't recognize me, and he seemed like a different person."

"His abilities are very strong; no weaker than yours," Chancellor Ba Shan said.

Qin Mu's blinked and asked in doubt, "No weaker than mine? I'm very strong."

Chancellor Ba Shan gave him a look. "His Six Directions Divine Treasure is about to break through, and I can also feel a kind of terrifying power hiding in his body. You might not be able to beat him! Could this barbarian brat have had a miraculous encounter? Yet it doesn't seem like a miraculous encounter, but more like spirit possession... Go and meet the emperor first, I'll come and find you later."

Qin Mu came to the palace with Ling Yuxiu to see that both the emperor and Imperial Preceptor were there. Beside them was also an ugly man whose face was covered in warts, and he was diagnosing their injuries.

Qin Mu walked in, and Emperor Yanfeng raised his head to reveal a smile. "Palace Grandee is here."

The man whose face was covered in warts looked at Qin Mu and his mouth broke into a grin. He was like a huge toad that had transformed into a spirit, and his smile looked like a crying face. "Junior Brother, is Teacher, that old man, still doing well?"

Qin Mu stopped in his footsteps and stretched his hand out to block Ling Yuxiu's way. "Little Poison King?"

Chapter 269: Battle of the Divine Physicians

"Junior brother seems to be pretty wary of me!" Little Poison King smiled. "Even though we are senior and junior brothers, we have never met before, we should have been closer."

Qin Mu lowered his arms. He had heard rumors about this Little Poison King and heard Empress Dowager mention him before. The reason why Grandpa Apothecary had sliced off his face and went to hide in Great Ruins was also because of this person.

Little Poison King was Apothecary's proudest disciple yet he had betrayed Apothecary and leaked the news that Jade Face Playboy was none other than Poison King.

Jade Face Playboy and Poison King had been two people in the martial world. One of them was a free and romantic man that was exceptionally handsome. He was tall, attractive, heroic, and treated

everyone politely like the spring wind, leaving lovers everywhere. He didn't need to womanize for women would come to him by themselves. Everyone adored and admired him, so even though men were usually envious of him, they couldn't bring themselves to hate him.

Poison King, however, was ferocious-looking and his methods were ruthless, his infamy spreading far and wide. He had once killed countless experts and even eradicated a sect of the righteous path, poisoning everyone in it. Not one person was left alive in it.

Even Dao Sect and Great Thunderclap Monastery had many monks and Daoists dead from his poison.

Poison King's cultivation wasn't high, but his abilities were extremely formidable. No matter if it was poison or venomous insects, his attainments had reached the peak. Numerous ambushes to catch him had been set up by both the righteous and devil path and even a few cult master level existences were mobilized, but none of them had managed to take him down. All of them instead died of poison.

Poison King wore a green mask with tusks, so no one knew his true appearance. It wasn't until his disciple Little Poison King leaked the truth that the people learned that Poison King was the dissolute Jade Face Playboy.

Once his identity was revealed, things became complicated. Some people wanted to kill him, while some women fought among themselves for him and even a powerful woman like Empress Dowager joined in the fight. This gave Apothecary no choice but to slice off his face and abandon all feelings. He then went to hide in Great Ruins,, not daring to step out of them for the next half of his lifetime.

However, Little Poison King's days weren't good as well. Empress Dowager and the rest of the women vented out their anger on his head and chased after his life everywhere. Little Poison King had also almost been forced into hiding in Great Ruins, but he was lucky since Imperial Preceptor took him in.

In regards to Apothecary's encounters, Qin Mu had only heard rumors and didn't know what had happened exactly. However, he knew Little Poison King had inherited Apothecary's teaching, and his attainments with poison were already catching up to those of Apothecary.

Emperor Yanfeng smiled and said, "Cult master, I have invited you and Little Poison King because both of you are disciples of Jade Face Poison King. One is proficient in using poison while the other is proficient in medical treatments. With both of you working together, you just might be able to cure Imperial Preceptor and me."

Qin Mu revealed a smile. "At Your Majesty's command. I would also like to see senior brother's trade."

Little Poison King checked the emperor's injuries and examined the effects of Qin Mu's treatments. The warts on his face became more and more terrifying as he smiled. "Your trade is not bad, solving Thousand Opportunities Poison in one night."

On the other hand, Qin Mu was examining Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor. After returning to the capital city, it was Little Poison King who has been treating Imperial Preceptor's injuries. He said indifferently, "You ain't bad as well, the way you used Thousand Opportunities Poison was marvelous."

A wart near the arm of Little Poison King suddenly burst open with a pop and some transparent little spiders came climbing out. These little spiders spewed out webs which hit the heart of Emperor Yanfeng's brows. They then climbed into the heart of Emperor Yanfeng's brows through the spider silks and tunneled into his Spirit Embryo Divine Treasure.

"I didn't want to poison her to death. With my skills, it isn't troublesome to poison a cult master," Little Poison King said leisurely. "No matter which cult master of which cult, poisoning them is no trouble for me."

Qin Mu didn't raise his eyebrows. Instead, two more heavens appeared in his eyes as he used Green Heaven's Eyes to examine Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor's injuries. "Even if you had poisoned her body to death, I could have still kept her soul and saved her after detoxing the poison. Furthermore, cult master ain't somebody you can poison at will. For a cult master, there's no need to even meet you to kill you. Especially for devil cults, they have a thousand ways to have a person die in an unfathomable way yet still as it should be by rights. When senior brother finds himself dead in a smelly sewer one day, he will understand."

"Is that so?" Little Poison King had a sinister expression and his smile was even uglier than a crying face.

"That's right," Qin Mu smiled like a flower.

The two of them looked each other in the eyes. Emperor Yanfeng and Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor's hearts were palpitating from fear. The moment the two people had met each other, they started fighting with words and their murderous intent was flourishing more and more.

Ling Yuxiu blinked, her gaze moving between the two people. She felt that the situation was going out of control, so she smiled and said, "Little Poison King, Cult Master Qin, the treatment is more important."

Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor gave a cough and Emperor Yanfeng gave a cough as well before saying, "Yuxiu, fall back first."

Ling Yuxiu understood and walked out of the hall.

The warts on Little Poison King's face burst open and insects that looked like fish flew out to tunnel into the other divine treasures of Emperor Yanfeng. After examining the injuries there, he said, "You are really not bad, getting rid of the hidden damages in His Majesty's divine treasures. The injuries on his corporeal body and soul are completely healed, but it's a pity your medical expertise is still lacking and can't treat the divine treasures."

Qin Mu looked at the remnants of the god's divine art in Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor's body and saw that Little Poison King had used poisonous substances which he transformed into technique dissolving spirit silks to coil around those remnants. He was trying to wear them down since the poison silks had the effect of dissolving techniques, divine arts, and even vital qi. However, the effects were minimal when against the divine arts of gods.

"Your poison technique has reached perfection, the realm of having both material form and internal spirit. These technique dissolving spirit silks were used marvelously, but they still can go up another level." Qin Mu smiled.

The gazes of the two people met once again.

Emperor Yanfeng and Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor's scalps turned numb. If these two people were to battle, they would probably use poison and medicine on their bodies!

Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor said, "Both of you are divine physicians and come from the same teacher, do you have any solutions?"

Little Poison King immediately said, "I am already quite confident in treating His Majesty's injuries. Since His Majesty's divine treasures are destroyed, I can fetch the divine treasures of a living human to transfer them over."

Emperor Yanfeng frowned. "How certain are you?"

"This..." Little Poison King hesitated and took a glance at Qin Mu. "I'm proficient in using poison so I can't really say how certain I am."

Qin Mu said, "Imperial Preceptor's injuries can't be solved with just technique dissolving spirit silks, for the problem still lies in the remnants of the divine arts left behind by the god being too strong. What I think is we should do is find a few dozen strong practitioners of the cult master level to suppress those remnants, which would allow Imperial Preceptor to utilize his own cultivation to refine them."

Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor shook his head and said, "There are indeed a few dozen strong practitioners of cult master level within the borders of Eternal Peace Empire, but it'd be hard to gather everyone to help me. Two divine physicians, since one of you use poison and one of you use medicine, you guys just might be able to complement each other."

Qin Mu took a look at Little Poison King and Little Poison King also looked at him.

"My master Jade Face Poison King is matchless in his poison and medicine, he can use medicine to boost poison and poison to boost medicine," said Little Poison King. "How many times can you boost my poison?"

Qin Mu replied coldly, "We'll have to see how intense senior brother's toxicity is. I can use medicine to greatly supplement His Majesty's vital qi and raise his life force, allowing His Majesty's life force and vital qi to cure the injuries in his divine treasures. How intense is your poison, can it raise the vital qi and life force of my medicine by thirty to fifty times?"

"As intense as you want!" Little Poison King sneered. "I'm afraid your tonic can't handle my toxins! To refine the remnants of the divine arts in Imperial Preceptor, I need the toxicity of technique dissolving spirit silks to be raised by thirty to fifty times. With such high toxicity, even gods can be poisoned to death and dissolve into skeletons. Do you have the ability?"

Qin Mu gritted his teeth. "I can try!"

Venomous insects climbed out from Emperor Yanfeng's body and tunneled back into the warts on Little Poison King's hands and face.

“If you can’t refine such a tonic, I’ll poison you to death.” He chuckled.

Qin Mu’s expression was indifferent. “If you use the wrong toxin, I will ensure your life so I can bring you back to Great Ruins.”

Little Poison King’s expression changed drastically, and he let out a cold snort. With a raise of his brush, he wrote down a list of toxic herbs.

Qin Mu also wrote down a prescription.

“Your Majesty, send people to grab the herbs!” Both of them threw down their brushes and sat down silently.

Emperor Yanfeng and Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor looked at each other in dismay. These two had a big temper and didn’t look like they planned to treat their injuries. On the contrary, they looked like they were going to take their lives.

Emperor Yanfeng coughed and summoned the imperial physicians waiting outside the hall. “Grab the herbs quickly.”

The imperial physicians immediately took the prescriptions and hurried on their way.

“Your tonic is quite intense.” Little Poison King smiled in a sinister manner.

Qin Mu ignored him, and after some time, the imperial physicians finally brought over all the toxic and healing herbs that they required. Qin Mu immediately made his move and extracted the medicinal energy. He executed his Overlord Body Three Elixir Technique and transformed into the cow-headed human-bodied Mars Sovereign and the tiger-headed human-bodied Venus Sovereign from time to time. He also transformed into Mercury Sovereign, Jupiter Sovereign, and Saturn Sovereign, transforming his form and vital qi to extract out all kinds of medicinal energies.

Meanwhile, Little Poison King used the toxic herbs to raise his insects. He let them eat the poisonous substances before refining the little creatures into poisonous pills, which he used to feed other venomous insects. Repeating this several times, he finally raised a huge pitch black spider with red eyes. Poisonous gas actually congealed around it and didn’t show any sign of dispersing.

On Qin Mu’s side, he took a few seeds and started planting flowers in the hall. He planted the seeds in the spirit pills that he had refined and used Earth Aeon Creation Technique so the flowers would absorb the medicinal energies of the spirit pills. Not long later, the flowers bloomed and bore fruits.

He then plucked the spirit fruits that he required and refined them again. After repeating this for a few more times, the herbs that had piled up into a mountain were refined into seven spirit pills and one red pellet.

Qin Mu picked up them all up and looked at Little Poison King.

Little Poison King had by then refined the huge spider to death and created a string of spirit silks that practically couldn't be seen and a small bottle of poisonous liquid.

The two of them looked each other in the eyes, and Qin Mu threw the red pellet to Little Poison King while Little Poison King threw the poisonous liquid to him.

Qin Mu squeezed out a smile and said gently, "Your Majesty, it's time for your medicine."

Emperor Yanfeng's heart began to pound and his body twitched as he looked at the seven spirit pills and the bottle of poisonous liquid Qin Mu was holding. "Minister, the toxicity..."

"It is very great." Qin Mu took a glance at Little Poison King. "If Your Majesty dies, I will take revenge for Your Majesty!"

Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor looked at the red pellet and spider silks in front of him with hesitation. Little Poison King said, "Don't worry Imperial Preceptor, you're fine, you're fine."

Qin Mu's figure transformed into a shadow and tunneled into Emperor Yanfeng's divine treasures. He placed the seven spirit pills into the seven realms. He poured a few droplets of poisonous liquid onto each of the spirit pills before withdrawing.

Little Poison King smacked the spirit silks into Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor's body and gave a pull with his hand to pull out a thread of spider silk from his patient's mouth. He wrapped the spider silk around the red pellet before stuffing it into Imperial Preceptor's mouth.

A world-shaking bang came from Emperor Yanfeng's body, and all the hair on his body suddenly began to grow frantically. His bones also did the same, and in an instant, they increased by a huge chunk, to the point that his pants could no longer cover him. His head had also grown larger. The beard grew outwards like weeds and the hair on his head stretched outwards in all directions.

His leg and chest hair had become incomparably thick, ripping even the dragon robe.

Not long after that, Emperor Yanfeng became a giant that was over thirty yards tall and laid on the ground, unable to move. Half of the hall was covered in hair and the emperor was drowned out in this dense thicket.

"Your poison is a little intense, eh, senior brother." The corners of Qin Mu's eyes twitched.

On the other side, transparent spider silks suddenly started pouring out from Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor's eyes, ears, mouth, and nose. Even the pores of his skin had quite a number of spider silks pouring out, coiling around him. He soon looked like a huge dumpling that was wrapped sturdily.

Little Poison King said looked over at him with a grave expression. "Isn't your tonic a little too nourishing?"

The two of them looked at each other before raising their brushes to write down prescriptions again. When they wanted to call the emperor to order people to grab the herbs, only then did they remember that the emperor was still drowned out by the hair.

The two of them could only give a cough and summon the imperial physicians outside the hall by themselves.

The imperial physicians that were waiting for orders trembled in fear when they saw the thick hair that was spreading from inside the hall and crawling down the steps.

Not long after that, the imperial physicians came back with the herbs and Qin Mu started refining once again. Little Poison King also hurried to raise his insects.

Qin Mu pulled out his two Pig Slaughtering Knives and chopped off countless hairs to find the emperor. It required quite some effort to send the medicine into him. On the other side, the warts on Little Poison King's face burst open and venomous insects brought the medicine that was refined into the cocoon, sending it into Imperial Preceptor's body.

"Crap!" The two of them observed the situation, and their complexions turned green. "It seems the poisons and the medicine are a little imbalanced..."

Even though the hair no longer grew on the emperor's sides, poison had started to pour from his orifices, while Imperial Preceptor's hairs started to grow.

The two of doctors picked up their brushes in a hurry and started to write prescriptions again.

Chapter 270: Twin Sisters

Qin Mu and the Little Poison King had changed the prescriptions seven to eight times, and they were getting slightly flustered. It was the first time they were working together, after all, so there would always be some places that weren't as they wanted, some places where they couldn't complement each other perfectly.

Furthermore, both of them wanted to outdo each other, so the tonic that Qin Mu gave Little Poison King wasn't just thirty to fifty times stronger but sixty times stronger instead. The bottle of poisonous liquid that Little Poison King had given Qin Mu also had a higher toxicity.

The two of them pitted their abilities against each other and the ones suffering were the emperor and Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor who got tortured endlessly. What's more, they couldn't even move, struggle, or call for help.

The emperor's body started shrinking, returning to its ordinary size before long; however, he didn't stop there and soon reached the size of a newborn baby.

'I should really have planted executioners in this hall to execute these two scoundrels of divine physicians...' thought the emperor who was drowning in his own hair.

On the other side, Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor's body was still swelling. And not only that, for he could feel something growing on his buttocks. It seemed like a furry tail.

His armpits felt itchy, and he felt a few more bones growing around his armpits. When they cracked and grew outwards, it seemed like he was growing two wings.

It would have been still fine if he had grown two huge wings, but the crux was that the wings stopped growing after reach a foot's length.

The bodies of the two patients were sometimes cold and sometimes warm. Sometimes they felt they had descended into hell and rolled on mountains of knives, while at other times they felt as if they were becoming immortals and felt incomparably comfortable. However, being comfortable was the most dangerous as that was their souls dissolving.

Sometimes, pain came flooding over from all parts of their body and was a hundred to thousand times more painful than extreme heartache. Sometimes, they felt as if there were tens of thousands of needles stabbing their bodies, and at other times, they felt as if they had been soaked in an unbearably acidic vinegar vat.

In the hall, Qin Mu sat on the hair that filled the ground, holding the brush in one hand and resting his chin on the other as he fell into a daze.

Not far away, Little Poison King's brows were tensed and he paced around anxiously. He kept on thinking about how he could continue the treatment.

Both of them were stumped with a difficult problem. Qin Mu had raised his brush several times but could never write anything down. Little Poison King had also raised his brush several times and placed it down again.

Ling Yuxiu at that moment popped her head into and saw the two troubled guys, so she asked softly, "The one that herds cows, how is it going?"

Before Qin Mu could answer, Little Poison King chuckled. "You are the sixth princess, right?"

Ling Yuxiu thought for a moment and said, "Now that my elder brother is the eldest prince, I'm indeed number six."

"Eldest prince is also the current Crown Prince Yushu." Little Poison King then added in a harsh tone, "Congratulations sixth princess, due to the quack's treatment, your brother will soon ascend the throne to be the emperor."

Ling Yuxiu jumped in shock and looked at Qin Mu anxiously. Almost sobbing, she stuttered, "T-the one that herds cows, are you going to cure father to death?"

"Don't be afraid, sister, he won't die." Qin Mu consoled her. He then sneered, "Before I cure the emperor to death, Imperial Preceptor will be treated to death by that idiot. Without the support of Imperial Preceptor, your brother will be overthrown in a matter of days even if he becomes the emperor!"

Ling Yuxiu was about to cry. "You guys are just scaring me, right?"

Little Poison King mocked, “Even if Imperial Preceptor would die in my hands, it would be because he was nourished to death by your tonic!”

Qin Mu then turned to ridicule him back. “The emperor may be treated to death by me, but he would have died under your poison, so you can forget about walking out of the palace alive!”

The two of them stared at each other, and anger blazed in their eyes as they wanted more than anything to poison each other to death.

Ling Yuxiu was furious and shouted out, “Both of you, if father and Imperial Preceptor die from your treatments, both of you can forget about leaving the palace alive! Where’re the executioners? Executioners!”

Emperor Yanfeng and Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor both let out a sigh of relief as they thought to themselves, ‘Yuxiu (Sixth princess) is still the sensible one; otherwise, if those two scoundrels continued to fight like this, we would end up dead or about to die.’

The imperial bodyguards of the palace swarmed over and came to stand guard outside the hall.

Ling Yuxiu looked at them with murder in her eyes as she put her hands on her waist to scold the two of them, “The executioners are right outside, so both of you have to listen to me! Since one of you can’t suppress the other’s tonic and the other can’t handle their poison, then both of you shall swap! That ugly one, you shall treat father, the one that herds cows, you shall treat Imperial Preceptor!”

Qin Mu rose to look at Little Poison King and said solemnly, “Swap patients!”

Little Poison King’s eyes lighted up, and he said, “If you treat Imperial Preceptor and I treat the emperor, a miracle might just happen!”

The two of them immediately swapped patients and examined their situations.

After it, they sighed in relief and looked each other in the eyes.

Moments before, Qin Mu had begun planning to take the dragon qilin and hide in Great Ruins, while Little Poison King had also planned to escape and lie low. As for the experts outside, it would be a stretch for them to hold these two divine doctors back; it was just a matter of a dosage of poison.

However, after they swapped patients, they discovered they could clean up the mess the other had made, and this way, they wouldn’t have to worry about escaping after causing the deaths of the emperor and Imperial Preceptor.

Qin Mu and Little Poison King raised their brushes to write down the prescriptions for the imperial physicians to grab the herbs.

The both of them diagnosed and treated their patients with great care, changing their prescriptions repeatedly. After close to three days, the hair on the emperor’s body dropped off and the cocoon on Imperial Preceptor’s body gradually vanished.

The injuries on Imperial Preceptor's body gradually lessened and the remnants of the god's divine arts weakened. Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor was also able to mobilize some cultivation.

Even though the emperor's divine treasures were still in ruins, Little Poison King had used countless venomous spiders to carry over vital qi and life force to rebuild them. With the powerful life force from Qin Mu's medicine used for restoration, there should be no more big problems.

Their injuries healing was just a matter of time.

Ling Yuxiu summoned a few eunuchs to clean up the palace. These eunuchs filled up several carts of hair, and while another was filled up with tails, wings, extra arms, and legs that had dropped off from Imperial Preceptor.

"There really aren't any more big problems."

Qin Mu looked at Little Poison King, and Little Poison King also looked over at him at that moment. They sneered at each other. Ling Yuxiu seemed to have met her greatest foes and immediately said nervously, "No more fighting!"

Qin Mu wrote down a prescription and made the imperial physicians grab the herbs. He stretched his body and smiled. "I won't fight with him. I'm tired after diagnosing and treating the emperor and Imperial Preceptor for the past few days, I'm going back to rest."

Little Poison King also said in a sinister manner, "I'm also tired so I have to return to sleep. You can leave the rest of the stuff to the quacks at the door."

Ling Yuxiu looked at Little Poison King, then turned to Qin Mu and said, "The one that herds cows, let me send you back to Imperial College."

Qin Mu hesitated, then shook his head. "No need, you also haven't rested for the past two days."

"I must!" the girl said firmly.

Qin Mu saw that she was insistent on sending him and could only nod in agreement. The two of them then waited a moment for the imperial physicians to come back with the herbs. Little Poison King sniffed the air for the smell of herbs, but since they had used numerous herbs these days, the smell in the hall was thick, and it was hard for him to differentiate.

Qin Mu took the herbs and Ling Yuxiu hurriedly went after him. Little Poison King also followed behind. When they passed by the Jade Band River in the palace, he suddenly jumped into the water with a plop and never came out after that.

Ling Yuxiu looked down with a cry of astonishment. "He escaped by the river. The one that herds cows, could he be afraid of you?"

Qin Mu shook his head. "He isn't afraid of me, he's afraid of Empress Dowager."

Just as he was saying that, Jade Band River suddenly rose into the sky, and the water floated in the sky like a huge silver-colored python. Two palace maids raised lanterns and walked over to shine into the river. Countless sword lights in the flames of the lanterns shot off and went into Jade Band River.

“Empress Dowager, that person is not in the river.” The two palace maids with lanterns saluted a tall building at the side.

Qin Mu and Ling Yuxiu immediately looked towards there and saw Empress Dowager standing on the balcony. She had lifted one of her hands before, and that moment, she gently placed it down.

The water of Jade Band River instantly whooshed downward and filled the canal.

Qin Mu saluted the balcony and Empress Dowager smiled. “Little divine physician, is the emperor cured?”

Qin Mu said, “He still needs to recuperate and will recover to his peak in a few years.”

Empress Dowager nodded and said, “Yuxiu, bring these two palace maids with you to send little divine physician off for me.”

Ling Yuxiu smiled. “I was just planning to return to Imperial College with him.”

Empress Dowager walked into the building, and the two palace maids carrying the lanterns followed behind Qin Mu and Ling Yuxiu.

Walking out of the palace, Qin Mu suddenly stopped and told the two palace maids, “Go back, I won’t need you for the journey ahead.”

The two palace maids were a pair of twins and they were alike in looks. They were both bright and quick-witted as they shook their heads in unison. “Empress Dowager has instructed us to send divine physician back to Imperial College.”

Qin Mu frowned slightly and said to Ling Yuxiu, “Sister, go back with them.”

Ling Yuxiu shook her head. “With me by your side, Little Poison King won’t dare to lay his hands on you.”

Qin Mu sighed. “To us apothecaries, there’s no one we don’t dare to poison to death. I originally just needed to protect myself, but now I will have to protect you as well, so I’m afraid it might be a bit strenuous.”

That two palace maids giggled. “What little divine physician said is truly interesting. You are still on Five Elements Realm while Little Poison King and us sisters are on Seven Stars Realm. Furthermore, Empress Dowager has granted us a treasure to deal with Little Poison King. With us sisters around, if Little Poison King dares to come, he will definitely be taken down by us!”

Qin Mu shook his head and didn’t persuade them to leave. “Apothecaries can kill people regardless of their realm. You two are too naive. Even for me, poisoning strong practitioners of Celestial Being Realm

isn't a problem, so what do you think it's like for Little Poison King? It's fine even if you want to follow me, but be more alert, I'm afraid I can't look after both of you."

The two palace maids giggled non-stop.

There were many people on the street, and the two palace maids carried a lantern in front and at the back. Carrying a lantern in the morning was very eye-catching, but since they were dressed in the outfits of the palace, no one came forward to inquire about it.

Imperial College was far from the palace, but after walking six to seven miles, they still hadn't seen anything. Qin Mu refined medicine on the way and finally finished refining the few packets of herbs he had been carrying. He then stretched his hand into his taotie sack, so only his arm and shoulder could be seen jerking gently. The hand technique that he executed and the medicine that was being refined in the taotie sack could not be seen.

The two palace maids were very alert, and any flies or spiders on the way were all slaughtered by the two women with sword lights. None of the insects could get close to them.

As they continued, a chilly wind blew over, and the two women immediately roused their vital qi. The light of the lanterns suddenly became brighter, and the lights formed two circular barriers to cover them, not allowing the wind to blow in.

One of the palace maids laughed. "Does Little Poison King only have these kinds of methods..." Just as she said that, her delicate face suddenly turned black and she collapsed. Her sister behind also collapsed with a thud, no longer able to move.

Ling Yuxiu was startled and looked around in a hurry before asking, "Why are we fine..."

Thud.

She collapsed with her face facing upwards.

After the three women collapsed, a few pitch-black tentacles covered in spikes crawled out from the ground. The lower legs of the women had been pricked by the tentacles, poisoning them.

Qin Mu flicked his finger, and those tentacles flailed and dissolved with a sizzle, turning into small puddles. The ground trembled, and it seemed like there was a huge creature which moving under the ground.

Qin Mu took out three spirit pills to suppress the toxicity of the poison so the trio would regain their consciousness.

Suddenly, a grunt came from afar. "You gave tonic to my baby?"

Boom!

The ground trembled and split open, causing the houses to collapse. From beneath, a weird insect that was about thirty yards tall and hundreds of yards long tunneled out. Its entire body was covered with tentacles, and it was the insect king that Little Poison King was raising!

Just as Little Poison King returned this insect king to his side, the insect king's body started swelling from Qin Mu's tonic. He wasn't able to suppress it even if he wanted.

At that moment, Little Poison King was pathetically sprawled on the back of the insect king.

"What are you waiting for?" Qin Mu asked the two palace maids beside him.

They were still groggy, but they poured their vital qi into the lanterns when they heard him. The lantern light shone towards the insect king like swords and pierced through the creature, turning it into a broken sieve!

Little Poison King suffered numerous sword wounds and vanished into a puff of smoke.

The two palace maids immediately shone down on the ground, and with the light from the lanterns, the ground actually became transparent. Their light could actually shine dozens of yards below the ground.

However, the poison in the two women hadn't yet detoxified; it had only been suppressed by Qin Mu. They quickly felt the toxicity in their bodies about to break out again, so they didn't dare to activate their magic powers.

Qin Mu said, "No need to chase him. He already suffered a defeat, and if you force him to the end of his rope, he could poison everyone in the capital city. Instead, I better cure the poison both of you received; otherwise, it will be too late."

Qin Mu extracted a tiny drop of fresh blood from the three of them and saw that their blood was already black. Even though they were all poisoned by the same venomous king, the amount of venom in their bodies was different, so he had to help them separately.

On the way, Qin Mu worked to identify the poison and cure them. By the time they reached Scholar's Residence, even though the poison within the three women had been detoxified, there were still some remnants left, which made them light-headed. Before they could even reach Qin Mu's room, they all collapsed onto the floor.

Qin Mu frowned and dragged them all into his residence. He threw Ling Yuxiu and the two palace maids onto the bed before going back to close the door.

At the door, the dragon qilin said, "Cult Master, don't worry, I will definitely not let anyone come in! I understand very well in my heart..."

"You have done well," Qin Mu praised him.

He was simply too exhausted for the past few days, so when he returned to his room, he laid down among the three women and fell asleep. As he slept, he suddenly felt a slight itch at his nose and guessed it was the hair from one of the girls. With a passing flip, he pushed one of them out of the bed.