

## Tales of Herding Gods Chapter 33-36

### Chapter 33: Sword Pellet

It was quite difficult to walk around with pools of water and swords everywhere in the village. The corpses lying around also gave off an eerie and strange feeling.

Village Chief took a look at the situation and frowned, "Cripple, go clear the bodies and place them in the coffins. Don't let their bodies rot in the wild and send them down the river. Also, burn the paper boats, cranes, and offerings for them."

Cripple went forward while limping and took a glance at Blind while chuckling, "Frivolous geezer reciting his poetry yet it was a load of crap."

Blind flew into a fury as his mustache flew upwards from his breath, "You can't even if you want to recite. You don't even know how to read!"

Granny Si immediately reminded Cripple, "Cripple, remember to keep the good stuff when packing their bodies. Don't put them into the coffins as well. We still need to have something valuable so we can sell them to buy ingredients and seasonings!"

"Alrighty!"

In Great Ruins, the most valuable items were not jewelry but seasonings and fabrics instead. These items couldn't be found in Great Ruins and could only be delivered to Border Dragon City from the outside world. After that, the residents of Great Ruins would then use treasures and beast skins to trade for them. That was why one could say salt was even valuable than gold.

Every time Granny Si had to pull a cart of treasures and a few livestock to Border Dragon City just to exchange them for a few seasonings.

Apothecary came forward and applied medicine on Qin Mu's hands before binding up his wound. He shook his head and said, "Your vital qi isn't strong enough to catch swords with your bare hands. Don't try to show off next time."

Qin Mu felt a cooling sensation on his palm and couldn't feel the pain anymore, "My sword control techniques still aren't there yet. I still can't be as nimble as that person from Li Jiang Sect. I feel that there's this power in my body which I can't unleash."

"That's very normal. Butcher's sword control technique is too lousy, thus he's not suitable to teach you."

Apothecary grinned, "There's someone who knows profound sword control techniques but it's a pity he doesn't want to teach you."

Village Chief's face turned slightly blacker and said stiffly, "Apothecary, there's too much water here. Send me back inside!"

Apothecary smiled, "In that case, Village Chief would have to wait a moment as I'm still bandaging Qin Mu's hands."

After his wounds were bandaged, Qin Mu saw Mute the Blacksmith picking up a sword on the ground and gave it a gentle shake. In that instant, thousands of swords came flying over automatically and collided with the sword in Mute's hand. The other swords all vanished as they fused into a sword, making Qin Mu marvel at it.

Qin Mu also went forward and picked up a sword to shake it but nothing happened.

Mute gave a wide grin and made a few sounds. He then rubbed the sword in his hands and the sword actually became smaller the more he rubbed it. In a blink of an eye, the sword had become a tiny silver pellet with the size of a thumb.

Qin Mu looked at the sword in his hand and felt like rubbing it as well to see if it would become a tiny silver pellet. Apothecary seeing this, immediately warned, "Don't rub it. I have just bandaged your wounds! Stop teasing him Mute, otherwise, I will poison you to death!"

Mute couldn't stop laughing and grabbed the flying sword from Qin Mu's hands before stuffing the silver pellet into his hands.

Snap.

Qin Mu heard a snap from his shoulders as he sprawled to the ground from the weight of the silver pellet. Mute jumped in shock and slapped himself on the forehead. He had forgotten that thousands of swords were fused inside this silver pellet. How heavy would the pellet be when it was the combined weight of thousands of swords?

With Qin Mu being caught unaware, the weight naturally dislocated his shoulders, causing him to sprawl to the ground.

Just as Mute was about to set Qin Mu's shoulders back, Granny Si suddenly came over and kicked him out of the village to God-knows-where. Yells came from the sky outside the village and went further and further.

With a black face, Granny Si set Qin Mu's shoulder back in place and grumbled angrily, "Those that can't talk are always the most mischievous. They are always full of mischievous tricks! Mu'er, these swords are the mother and children swords. Among thousands of swords, there is a mother sword while the rest are children swords. As long as you find the mother sword, you can recall back all the children swords. However, Li River Sect's sword pellet is extremely heavy so that it is impossible for you to lift it now."

She picked up a sword and gave it a gentle shake like Mute. Instantly, thousands of swords came flying over and fused into the mother sword.

Granny Si smiled and continued, "To change the sword back into a sword pellet, you don't need to rub it. Mute was only teasing you. You only have to make your vital qi compatible with the mother sword

and it would shrink back into a sword pellet. Similarly, you can use this method to release the children swords in the mother sword.”

Qin Mu sized up the sword pellet in her palm and blinked his eyes in bewilderment, “Granny, it seems that you have many such silver pellets in your room!”

“Is there?” Granny blinked while squinting puzzledly.

“There is!”

Qin Mu recalled seeing such silver pellets in Granny Si’s room and there were quite a number of them. Some of them were strewn under the bed while some were hidden in unworn shoes as well as the corners of the room.

When he was young, he even used the silver pellets as marbles and flicked them around.

He even saw Granny Si using these silver pellets as chicken feed to raise the old hens!

He felt pretty scary thinking about it now. It would definitely be a gruesome sight if the silver pellets were to burst into thousands of swords inside the old hen’s stomach.

Luckily such an incident didn’t happen.

Granny Si’s gaze flickered, “If you were able to pick them when you were young, then they are naturally normal silver pellets and not sword pellets.”

Qin Mu didn’t quite believe her and continued, “I had also seen a huge chest in Grandpa Mute’s workshop. Inside the chest was filled to the brim with such silver pellets.”

Granny Si blinked her eye even more innocently than Qin Mu and grinned, “Do you think Mute is so rich?”

Qin Mu was at a loss from her words. Mute really didn’t look like a wealthy person. He was clearly someone who only knew how to do blacksmithing to make ends meet.

Granny smiled, “Don’t think too much. We are all normal people in the village. We are all so poor that we are struggling to make ends meet. In addition, we are all disabled elderly, thus everything is normal in our ordinary village. If you suspect that Mute’s chest is full of sword pellets, you might as well suspect that the water cauldron at that corner is also a treasure!”

Qin Mu looked at the water cauldron that she talked about. The cauldron was placed under the roof of the workshop to collect the rainwater, however, the weird thing was that Qin Mu had never seen the water cauldron being filled to the brim before. No matter how big the rain was, the water cauldron was always half full!

Furthermore, the water in the cauldron had never run out as well much less being completely empty. Mute used buckets and buckets of water during blacksmithing and yet the water in the cauldron remained the same!

Granny Si saw the doubt in his eyes and felt that her example was wrong, and immediately corrected herself, "You wouldn't think that the broken pots outside Apothecary's door are also treasures right?"

Qin Mu looked at the broken pots outside Apothecary's door. Unknown herbs were planted in the broken pots, along with some little insects like spiders, silkworms, and centipedes.

When the village was flooded just now, some water had gotten into the pots causing a few bugs to crawl out and started fighting on the pot. Suddenly a black spider flew into a fury and its body lit up on flames. The spider then grew into a size of a table and started spewing fire at the other little bugs. Amidst the flames, a few golden silkworms grew wings and became a foot long. They then flew out of the flames and started biting the spider's body.

Apothecary stuck out his head and chided, causing the bugs to immediately shrink back to their tiny bodies and stay well behaved in the pot.

Qin Mu suspicion grew as Granny Si gave a force smiled and mumbled, "These are all normal occurrences, and nothing unordinary about it..."

Qin Mu tried to probe further, "Granny, could the people outside also fly like Grandpa Blind?"

Granny Si nodded her head, "The people outside all can fly."

Qin Mu asked, "Are the people outside all Spirit Bodies like the people in our village?"

"They are all Spirit Bodies!"

"Are the people outside as powerful as the people in our village?"

"Very powerful! Otherwise, granny and the rest wouldn't have been forced to hide in Great Ruins! Don't always think of running outside and take care not to lose your life! The people outside are much fiercer than Blind!"

...

Qin Mu was skeptical about granny's words. If the people outside Great Ruins were as powerful as Granny Si said, wasn't there nothing they couldn't do?

Beside the river, Cripple cleaned up the bodies and prepared them for the coffins. Hammering the wooden wedges to secure the coffin lids, he pushed the coffins into the river, letting the river bring them downstream.

With the rapid currents and the submerged reef downstream, These coffins would have a hard time flowing into the river. In the middle of their journey, the coffins would probably have shattered, turning the corpses into fish feed.

"Li River Sect may be erased from the southern border."

Cripple looked at the coffins floating further away and faintly said, "The sect leader is dead, and the experts in the sects are also dead. It's hard for this sect to continue surviving."

"What I'm thinking about now isn't this matter."

Old Ma shook his head as he looked into the distance, "I'm thinking about the number one man below gods. Since Mu Beifeng is the head governor of Five Sprouts Prefecture in the southern border and was recruited by the Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor personally, would it alarm him since both he and the Li River's Five Elders are dead?"

Cripple shook his head and affirmed his guess, "He will definitely be alarmed! But he will not dare to enter Great Ruins!"

Old Ma gave him a look, "Don't forget, an Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor may be unable to do anything about Great Ruins but he has the entire Eternal Peace Empire behind him! Eternal Peace Empire is a sect disguised as an empire! How could such a colossus not have their eyes on Great Ruins? This is the place where countless of treasures rest!"

### **Chapter 34: Grandma Temple**

Cripple's heart slightly jolted.

Could the Imperial Preceptor and the Eternal Peace Empire really be so daring and want to set foot into such a strange and terrifying place like the Great Ruins?

However Old Ma was partially right, Eternal Peace Empire was indeed a sect disguised as an empire!

Eternal Peace Empire built an empire of martial arts and governed it with martial arts. The officials had nine ranks and eighteen grades. From the upper first rank Imperial Preceptor to the lower ninth rank court academicians was all births from martial arts. Others would either be sect masters, clan leaders or cult leaders.

As for the soldiers of this empire, they were all martial arts practitioners that were good in battle. Externally, they could attack cities and conquer territories, while they were also able to suppress revolts internally. They were definitely a force not to be reckoned with.

When a sect disguised itself as an empire and used the methods of an empire to govern their territories, all the resources would be consolidated as one while all the other sects, martial arts practitioners, divine arts practitioners in the empire that had yielded would also be governed and had to render their services to the empire. In this way, how strong and terrifying would the empire become?

In the last few years, Eternal Peace Empire continued to expand their territories, growing bigger and bigger. They had annexed sects like Li River Sect and also various small countries.

And today, the territory of Eternal Peace Empire had expanded to the borders of Great Ruins, with their advancement being held to a stop by Great Ruins.

What had stopped this empire was the peculiar darkness in Great Ruins. Every time the night fell, the strange darkness would invade and whoever entered the darkness was bound to die, making Eternal Peace Empire to not dare to enter Great Ruins.

Furthermore, that wasn't the only danger in Great Ruins. There were extremely large amounts of strange beasts and weird occurrences, making everywhere ominous. If the Imperial Preceptor and Eternal Peace Empire wanted to move their troops into Great Ruins, it wouldn't be that simple.

However, the dangers in Great Ruins wasn't enough to scare Imperial Preceptor away. Cripple knew this man and his personality very well, after all, it was him who had severed his legs.

There was nothing so terrifying that could scare him or any danger which could stop this man in his tracks!

He would definitely enter Great Ruins!

Maybe that man had already set his eyes on the vast and treacherous Great Ruins!

The village soon resumed its tranquility. The water from the small scaled Li River was quickly absorbed by the soil. The second day, the ground had been dried up by the blazing sun and became very hard.

This time, Qin Mu received a sword pouch that belonged to the Li River Sect's disciple, Qian Qiu. The sword pouch was six foot long and not very big. It was made from a little crocodile skin and had a girdle to secured around his waist. There were also two shoulder straps for him to carry it on his back.

Directing one's vital qi into the sword pouch, the crocodile's mouth would open and spit out a scabbard and sword hilt.

When a martial arts practitioner managed to mold qi into thread and twine it around the sword hilt, he could be able to unsheathe the sword and use qi to manipulate sword.

After the first sword was unsheathed, a second sword hilt would appear in the scabbard. After the second sword was unsheathed, the third sword would appear. This was why it was called a sword pouch.

Li Jiang Sect was a sword sect of the southern border. They had a unique way of forging their swords. A mother sword was hidden inside the sword pouch and this mother sword couldn't be used as it had already fused with the little crocodile skin.

All the swords drawn from the sword pouch were children swords. Qin Mu gave it a try and could draw out twenty-eight children swords. There was a total of thirty-five swords including the seven that he had broken.

As for the secret of how the Li Jiang Sect had managed to hide the thirty-five swords in the small sword pouch, he had no clue at all.

Twenty-eight swords were not very heavy to Qin Mu. On his body had numerous iron weights that were even strapped around his chest and waist. Combined with the iron boots on his legs, they weighed over a hundred pounds, which was about the weight of the sword pouch.

Qin Mu treated carrying the sword pouch as a form of training, saving him from the iron weights and easier for him to move about. However, he was unable to use qi to manipulate sword. As Li River Sword Mastery was too meticulous and his sword control techniques hadn't reached that standard yet.

"If only I could learn Li River Sword Mastery."

Qin Mu sighed without a sound. Li River Sword Mastery was very intricate, especially their Sword Chain Technique that was marvelous beyond compare. Old Ma, Butcher, Cripple, Apothecary, Blind were clueless about sword skills. Mute had a chest of silver pellets and Granny Si also had something like silver pellets. If those silver pellets were sword pellets, they should be proficient in sword skills.

However, when Qin Mu asked Granny Si, she refused to teach him. Mute also waved his hands vigorously as if he was scared of something. Mute secretly told him through hand signs: Do not ask anyone to teach him sword skills now as someone better awaits him in the future. If he learned sword skills now, the person would not teach him in the future.

Qin Mu had no idea who that person was so he could only rest this matter aside.

He still hadn't completely mastered vital qi circulation, for example, Old Ma's fist skill. He still hadn't achieved making a full circulation throughout his entire body when executing an attack.

Circulating vital qi throughout the whole body could raise the limits of the body to its maximum potential and push one's strength, agility, and reaction to the extreme!

Once Thunderclap Eight Strikes were cultivated to its profound realm, every strike from palm and fist would give off the sound and power of thunder. He could only rely on Devil God Mighty Force Mudra to achieve thunder in palm and not by Thunderclap Eight Strikes.

If he could manage to reach this step, he could be able to receive swords barehanded without any palm injure when facing practitioners like Qian Qiu in the future.

"You lack actual combat experience."

Old Ma came to Qin Mu side and faintly said, "Your cultivation is way higher than the Li River Sect's disciple. Your fist skill, leg skill, knife skill, staff skill were all stronger than his Li River Sword Mastery. However, the movements of your limbs were restricted when fighting him thus you weren't able to execute them properly."

Qin Mu nodded his head repeatedly in agreement. He had also felt Qian Qiu's sword skills to be intricate and even his sword techniques were out of his expectation. On the other hand, his reaction was just barely satisfactory for catching the sword.

Thinking about it now, Qian Qiu was not as strong as he originally thought. Slicing apart seven swords using one knife and pulling his soul into his palm using Devil Freedom Mudra showed that Qin Mu's vital qi cultivation was much stronger than Qian Qiu!

Old Ma continued, "Without experience in actual combat, it would be hard for you to unleash your full power. This is the reason why Li River's Five Elders had brought their disciples into Great Ruins for training. One can never be an expert if he only painstakingly cultivates in seclusion, therefore..."

Qin Mu revealed an expression of anticipation. He had been waiting for Old Ma and Granny Si's approval for him to go out hunting by himself for a long time and now the chance was finally here!

"Therefore me, granny, Blind and the rest had come to a decision after some discussion."

Old Ma solemnly said, "You can come to the temple fair with us."

"Going to the temple fair?"

Qin Mu revealed a disappointed expression and mumbled, "Can't I go hunting?"

Old Ma revealed a smile and patted him on his little shoulder, "Going to the fair is also a test. If you pass the test, you can go out hunting alone. So do your best!"

Qin Mu didn't know whether to laugh or cry. The temple fair was a huge gathering in the neighboring village. He had heard Granny Si bring it up before, the temple fair was always on the first and fifteenth day of the lunar month. The neighboring villages within a hundred miles would all attend the gathering and bring out all their goods to trade.

Whenever it was the day for the temple fair, Old Ma, Butcher, Blind, Mute, Granny Si, Deaf, and Apothecary would go to the Grandma Temple that was seven miles away. However, they had never allowed Qin Mu to attend the temple fair at Grandma Temple and made him stay back to accompany Village Chief and Cripple.

Cripple had it worse than him. Granny Si said Cripple had a thieving hand and forbade him from attending the temple fair as she was afraid he would wipe the entire temple fair clean.

Compared to attending the temple fair, Qin Mu would actually love to go hunting more.

There was still two days away from the temple fair so Qin Mu continued to cultivate and sometimes go over to Doom Suppression Palace to fight with devil ape. When he was free, he would help out in Apothecary's workshop and learn how to create Vitality Reinforcement Pills. Apothecary had also raised a few birds who were covered in flames and would fly in from outside the window to help out in brewing medicine.

After spoiling dozen of spiritual medicines, Apothecary's face had started to turn green. Luckily Qin Mu had concocted a furnace of spiritual medicine, easing Apothecary's expression.

Qin Mu immediately brought this furnace of Vitality Reinforcement Pills which could improve the Green Dragon Vital Qi and rushed toward Doom Suppression Palace in excitement. Apothecary had wanted to



remind him to check if the Vitality Reinforcement Pill was safe to consume but after some thoughts, he didn't say anything.

"I had also forgotten to check if the medicinal energy was safe for him to consume the previous time..."

Apothecary thought to himself, "Since the devil ape is a big fella, he won't die even if he eats them... It should be okay... let him be. However, each pill that Mu'er had made was almost as big as a fist, would the devil ape really not die from eating them?"

### **Chapter 35: Temple Fair**

"Eat, strong!"

At Doom Suppression Palace in the valley, Qin Mu took out the Vitality Reinforcement Pills that he had concocted. Shaking the fist-sized pills at devil ape, he said, "Strong, buff!"

Devil ape scratched its head and took a Vitality Reinforcement Pill into its hand. After it swallowed it down, there wasn't any reaction so it was puzzled, "Strong?"

Suddenly, the devil turned crazy and the hair on its entire body started to grow at an insane speed. A tree sprout also grew on its head and became a huge tree fork—

—which should have been from a seed that had landed into devil ape's hair and gotten stimulated by the Vitality Reinforcement Pill.

Its body was also growing wildly as its muscles continued to bulge. Its bones also became thicker, causing the devil ape to howl from being expanded. As it began to smash everything, Qin Mu went forward to stop it but was smashed into the ground by it. The devil ape's second punch on the ground rebounded Qin Mu upwards from the dirt and he was given another punch.

In the midst of devil ape's howls, Qin Mu rushed back again and the both of them started trading blows, shattering the rocks all around them.

After consuming the Vitality Reinforcement Pill that Qin Mu had made, the devil ape's physique had gotten bigger and stronger. Its strength had also increased by a huge chunk, making Qin Mu to be overwhelmed by its strength, having no contest at all.

Qin Mu was then forced to change his vital qi into fire attribute. As his boiling vital qi circulated throughout his body, a huge dragon marking appeared on his back. The dragon's four limbs were connected to his four limbs with the dragon's claws situated right on his palm, matching up with his fingers.

Five claws flame dragon!

Fire attribute vital qi was classified as Vermillion Bird Vital Qi, however, Qin Mu didn't have a Vermillion Bird Spirit Embryo and had a human-shaped spirit embryo instead. The dragon marking that had appeared on his back was not because of his vital qi but was the effect from the Thunderclap Eight Strikes that Old Ma had imparted to him.

The vital qi circulation of Old Ma's Thunderclap Eight Strikes was extremely profound as its path formed a dragon marking that spread throughout the entire body. If Thunderclap Eight Strikes was executed by Old Ma with the Green Dragon Spirit Body, the vital qi with the wood and lightning attributes would turn the dragon marking on the back green in color with lightning interweaving.

However, since Qin Mu had not yet trained out his Green Dragon Vital Qi, he could only use Vermillion Bird Vital Qi thus the dragon marking on his back had clouds of fire.

Only when he executed Thunderclap Eight Strikes, the clouds of fire would then appear on his body. As long as he stopped executing it, this peculiar marking would gradually fade and vanish.

Qin Mu's vital qi circulation raised his strength by a large amount and he was finally able to contest with devil ape. However, since the devil ape had gone insane, all his attacks were illogical and even when it meant it was going to get hurt, it still had to beat up Qin Mu. It was when both were covered in bruises and gasping for breaths while lying motionlessly on the ground did the fighting stop.

The huge tree fork on devil ape's head had already grown as thick as a water barrel and had red fruits growing on it. The tree didn't grow any further when the medicinal energy of the Vitality Reinforcement Pill was depleted.

There was really a problem with the Vitality Reinforcement Pill that Qin Mu had made. The medicinal energy was too strong and harsh, instead of being mild and gentle. The devil ape survived the impact of the medicinal energy only due to the sturdiness of its body. For all the other Spirit Embryo Realm practitioners, they would probably have died by body explosion.

Now that the medicinal energy was depleted, devil ape's body gradually shrunk but it was still taller and stronger than before. This made Qin Mu feel that the Vitality Reinforcement Pill he made had some problems.

However from devil ape's performance, the problem shouldn't be quite huge. Even if there was a problem it was a positive one.

He plucked a fruit from the fruit tree on devil ape's head and ate it after peeling the skin. The fruit was sweet and refreshing with a hint of medicinal fragrance.

Devil ape sat up and plucked down the huge tree on its head. The roots of the tree had grown all over its face, and after plucking it down, it grabbed a bunch of leaves and fruits to eat slowly.

Qin Mu handed over the remaining Vitality Reinforcement Pills and warned it, "You can only eat one pill at a time and never more. Also, if you want to fight, go find other strange beasts to fight and don't destroy the Doom Suppression Palace."

Devil ape's eyes sparkled and immediately kept the Vitality Reinforcement Pills while nodding its head.

The Vitality Reinforcement Pill that Qin Mu had made was too big. The pills that Apothecary made were only the size of a thumb while his were the size of a fist due to his inexperience. Hence, there were just over twenty pills in this batch.

Qin Mu left while feeling reassured. The devil ape waited for him to leave and then immediately took an unbelievably huge Vitality Reinforcement Pill and rushed excitedly to the nearest strange beast's territory to seek revenge.

The strange beast next door was his enemy. It used to invade the ape's territory frequently and snatch the wild beasts to fill its stomach. It stopped invading the ape's territory recently only because it had been beaten by the ape several times and had seen the handprint of Qin Mu marked onto the cliff, knowing that there was one more owner here.

Devil ape rushed to his enemy's territory and swallowed the pill down before rushing towards its enemy while bellowing.

Two days later, it was finally the day of the temple fair. Granny Si brought rolls of cloths while Old Ma brought the new pieces of furniture he had made. Apothecary carried his medicine basket and Butcher loaded a strange beast that Cripple had captured yesterday onto the cart. Butcher should be butchering meat to sell while Cripple does the cashiering, clearly dividing up their works.

Mute also brought his furnace and smithing tools while Deaf brought his brush, ink, and paper. Calling Qin Mu over, everyone got on the cow cart and headed towards Grandma Temple.

The cow cart was stuffed with items as it wobbled towards Grandma Temple. Qin Mu wasn't in a good mood while driving the cow cart. Going to the temple fair was attractive to him when he was young, but now that he had more knowledge and experience, temple fair wasn't as interesting as it was before.

However when he reached Grandma Temple, Qin Mu was shocked. The temple fair was more bustling than he had thought. In the ruins around Grandma Temple was a bazaar that was three miles long and there were stalls everywhere. It was bustling with activities with people walking here and there.

These people weren't just from the few villages within three miles but from all the villages in a radius of a hundred miles. More than half of their villagers were all gathered here!

"On the map in Doom Suppression Palace, this place was called Sirius Palace and not Grandma Temple." Qin Mu was stumped at why this place would be called Grandma Temple.

As the cow cart drove into the bazaar, Qin Mu saw various rare and strange items being placed on the small stalls. There were even people kneading candies, cooking and doing a sideshow like spitting fire. There were others who were selling strange beasts, ores, jewelry, their daughters, et cetera.

"My daughter and I are from Cow Family Village and stopped by here. We don't covet titles or money. It's just that my daughter has reached a marriageable age and has no one in mind yet, so I would like to find a son-in-law through a martial arts competition and hope to find a good man with an outstanding martial skill..."

Qin Mu saw it was pretty lively in front and stopped the cow cart to take a look. It turned out that people were hosting martial arts competition to look for their future grooms. The men and women were fighting fiercely in the arena. Qin Mu lost interest after a few looks and continued forwards, only to see there was quite a few such kind of arenas in Grandma Temple.

These arenas were built on mud platforms and in the arenas were youths from the various villages which were all practitioners. Of course, there were also old and gray-haired men who jumped into the arena to participate but were thrown off while the audience hissed below.

“Some villages have lesser males therefore these martial arts competition are for them to look for a son-in-law to live with them.”

Granny Si warned Qin Mu, “Becoming their son-in-law means that you must live with them so you cannot go up!”

Qin Mu nodded his head but his hands were itching for a fight. Blind laughed, “It’s okay even if Qin Mu goes up. So long he defeats everyone in the arenas here, and marry a few dozens of maidens...”

Granny gave him a stare and Blind shut his mouth and dare not continued.

Disabled Elderly Village had a fixed location for their stalls in Grandma Temple. It wasn’t long before the cow cart had arrived before these stalls. Qin Mu helped butcher set up his butchery before helping Old Ma to move his furniture down. After he had finished moving, he then helped Mute set up his iron furnace and Granny Si set up her tailoring work table before helping Blind prepare his ink and hanging up his rhyming couplets.

After all the preparation were done, Qin Mu saw Blind sitting in front of a table with a banner hanging from his bamboo cane. On the banner were these few words “Six broken and solid lines of the eight divinatory trigrams, avoid calamities with fortune telling”. Qin Mu thought to himself, “Grandpa Blind also know how to tell fortunes?”

Apothecary also set up his medicine stall at the side while Butcher had already sliced open the belly of the strange beast and begun hanging its meat up. With the villagers shouting for business, they were just like any other ordinary people.

“Mu’er, there’s an empty arena at the side, hang this few words up.”

With a few swift strokes, Deaf had written a few words for Qin Mu and told him, “After you hang it there, don’t come down anymore and just stand on the arena. This is your business today. If you are still standing in the arena after the sun sets, we’ll consider that you have passed the test.”

Qin Mu looked at the set of words which read: The unrivaled one that splits the river, sweeping away all eight hundred villages in Great Ruins! There was still another horizontal scroll which wrote: Number one in Spirit Embryo Realm.

Qin Mu looked at the arena and there were two wooden pillars that were gleaming brightly. In the middle of the pillars was a horizontal tablet which was empty, it should be where he should paste the horizontal scrolls.

“Grandpa Deaf, would I be beaten to death?” Qin Mu turned to ask Deaf.

At this moment, he saw Deaf taking out another banner which wrote “Bet to make a fortune, once bet there’s no change”. Blind had apparently tried to make a fortune through his battles.

Meanwhile, Granny Si had already made a bet on Blind’s betting stall. Apothecary excitedly placed his medicines out on the stall as he waited for the injured practitioners to come down from the arena. Old Ma was making crutches and stretchers while Butcher was selling “flood dragon’s precious blood” which was a divine medicine for body strengthening!

Qin Mu face instantly turned black. These crooked old men and woman were too good at doing business!

“Deaf, write another notice: only Spirit Embryo Realm practitioners are allowed to go up.”

Granny Si gave it some thought, “What happens if a divine arts practitioner jumped up and just beat Mu’er to death?”

### **Chapter 36: Great Thunderclap Monastery**

“Mu’er, the temple fair is a good place to see the world.”

Old Ma finished a pair of crutches and placed them in front of the furniture and spoke to Qin Mu, “There are many villages in Great Ruins and some of the villagers are experts that could no longer mingle around in the outside world. They stayed here after being forced into Great Ruins and have also taken in disciples of their own. Only during the temple fair would these people and their disciples gather here. Only at the temple fair would you be able to see all the various techniques and skills in the world!”

Qin Mu didn’t really understand and gave it some thought, “I lack the experience of actual combat, therefore, it was hard for me to turn my cultivation into my actual prowess. Is that why Grandpa Ma wants me to grab this chance to spar with practitioners from various sects?”

Old Ma revealed an expression of affirmation, “That’s the reason.”

“But what about selling crutches?”

Qin Mu asked in puzzlement, “Why did Grandpa Blind set up a betting stall? Furthermore, the strange beast Grandpa Butcher is selling is clearly not a flood dragon, but why is he shouting that he is selling flood dragon’s precious blood? Why had Grandpa Apothecary prepared his medicine in advance?”

Old gave a few coughs, “This is adult’s business. You’re a kid so don’t ask so many questions. What are you waiting for?”

Qin Mu could only go up the arena and paste the words Blind had written onto the arena’s pillars.

Not long later, more and more villagers gathered under the arena. A boiling cauldron of voices made Qin Mu feel that Blind’s words were inappropriate as well but he was still stumped at the numbers of villagers those words had attracted.

“The unrivaled one that splits the river, sweeping away all eight hundred villages in Great Ruins! What a bold statement! You only look eleven or twelve year old and even if you had started cultivation in your mother’s womb, your cultivation would also only be not more than so-so!”

A righteous voice rang out, “Are you trying to challenge the villages in our Great Ruins by putting up these words? Who gave you the guts to?”

Qin Mu’s face turned red from embarrassment but he reacted and gave Blind an angry look. The voice was very familiar because wasn’t it Blind who had shouted?

Blind’s righteous voice had a hint of bewitchment as he continued, “Is there no real man in our Great Ruins? Are we letting this kid be arrogant up there? How could any of you hold yourself back listening to an eleven to twelve years old brat? Where’s the unyielding spirit of the man of Great Ruins?”

Once this was said, it caused a great commotion as over a dozen young men immediately jumped onto the arena, turning Qin Mu’s face green.

“However, our good men of Great Ruins shouldn’t look down on him.”

Blind’s voice was like a huge bell ringing in everyone’s eardrums, “Since he has set up his arena, we’ve to follow the rules. He has come here for a challenge and not a gang-fight. We have to take our turns. Since this youth is of the Spirit Embryo Realm, those that accept the challenge will have to be of the Spirit Embryo Realm as well so as not to lose faces of all the villages.”

As his voice fell silent, the dozen over young men walked down the arena, leaving only a young man on top.

Qin Mu let out a sigh of relief and said, “How may I address senior brother...”

“If you want a fight so be it! Who’s getting chummy with you?”

The young man suddenly fell on all fours and the vital qi in his body burst forth. Tiger stripes appeared on the back of his body, making him just like a fierce tiger!

Sharp claws made from vital qi appeared on his palms and feet. With a sudden jump, he pounced towards Qin Mu as fast as a fleeting shadow!

With this pounce, Qin Mu suddenly felt as if he was being targeted by an extremely savage strange beast. With the fierce wind in his face, it was like the roar of a tiger. This imposing aura was what he was lacking and could only be comprehended during a life and death experience!

“The martial arts practitioners in other villages all had their unique points!”

Dragon markings appeared on Qin Mu’s back and coiled around his limbs. His footsteps moved like the flowing river surging into the sea, with the waves sounding like thunder. He used water attributes from the Black Tortoise Vital Qi to execute the first form of Thunderclap Eight Strikes. Even though he still couldn’t achieve thunder in palms, he still managed to unleash the grandeur of a river surging down into the sea without restraint!

As both of them clashed, Qin Mu used this punch to take on his opponent. The might of the water attributes in Black Tortoise Vital Qi burst forth and actually formed the shape of a dragon head on his fist, surging forward violently!

The young man immediately felt astonished. His opponent's strength was extremely powerful. His vital qi got destroyed and he flew back from Qin Mu's attack.

Just at the instant where he flew backward, both his feet actually kicked towards Qin Mu's chest. His feet were extremely sharp like tiger's claws and tore apart Qin Mu's shirt, nearly slicing apart his belly!

In a hurry, Qin Mu placed one foot on the ground as he fell backward while his other leg kicked as fast as lightning. The other person tumbled in the air from the kick and landed several yards away from the arena.

The person flipped himself up and wanted to stand properly but a crisp cracking sound suddenly came from his leg as his leg has been broken from Qin Mu's kick.

Apothecary's voice lingered, "Top quality medicine which can mend broken bones in a day so as not to hold up your hunting."

Old Ma shouted as well, "A pair of crutches made from Dragon's Eye Wood, extremely sturdy."

Blind continued with a clear voice, "If your luck is bad, you can come to me to change your fate."

"A pair of fortune rhyming couplets to bring fortune to your household," Deaf said in a loud voice.

Qin Mu's face turned black and he stabilized himself. It had been an extremely dangerous situation earlier and all they could think about was whether or not they could sell their goods!

"However Grandpa Ma and the rest were right, I lack life and death experiences. The guy just now didn't have a cultivation higher than mine yet he could almost slice apart my belly in that instant where he got hit backward, almost turning defeat into victory!"

Qin Mu took a deep breath as his eyes sparkled, "I have too little experience in this area and the temple fair is a rare chance for me to fight with practitioners from the villagers around here. This is my chance to absorb their battle experiences! I must defend this arena all the way to the end!"

More and more people crowded below the arena, creating quite a commotion. When fighting with the young man earlier, everyone could see Qin Mu had a dense cultivation but lacked in experience.

To be able to survive in Great Ruins, every village basically would have martial arts practitioners and even divine arts practitioners. This was because the Great Ruins was simply too dangerous. All the villagers revered martial skills, having to be brave and be good at fighting.

Very soon, there was another person that had jumped into the arena. It was a girl with a unique kind of Black Tortoise Vital Qi but her attacks were ruthless. The moment they clashed, her vital qi was like a huge snake coiling around both of Qin Mu's legs, binding him tightly.

After binding his legs, the girl was like a female snake slithering on his body as she went for the killing blow.

Her vital qi was very queer as she transformed it into a huge snake to coil around Qin Mu. This kind of vital qi was different from the pure Black Tortoise Vital Qi but was classified as part of it.

Tortoise and snakes were classified as Black Tortoise, however, her spirit embryo should be a snake and not a tortoise, belonging to a branch of Black Tortoise, therefore the motion of her body was also strange.

Qin Mu used Thousand-Armed Buddha to defend against her strange attack and despite her body motion being weird, Qin Mu seemed to have grown a thousand arms as there were hands all around him. In just a short while, she received hundreds of punches and fainted.

Old Ma successfully sold a stretcher.

This was the first time Qin Mu had met such a strange body technique and had suffered little injuries, however, it was good that it wasn't serious.

On the arena, the battles continued and there were also many people coming forward to Blind's fortune telling table to bet on who would win. There was no fixed currency in Great Ruins so tradings were all done using goods. If one thought that the value was almost equal, they would do the trade. It was the same with betting. Any pieces of jewelry, ores, jades, livestock were just used for betting.

A pile of goods had already piled up behind Blind. There were all kinds of items like a multicolor feathered old hen that was as tall as a human. Inside its beak was filled with razor sharp teeth and it looked very menacing as it flapped its wings and scattered the sand away like a rain of arrows.

This was a hen dragon and not an ordinary old hen. It's the offspring of a dragon and a hen. Even though the dragon blood in its body wasn't much, the eggs it laid were considered treasures.

"Next match, this poor monk would bet on my disciple's win."

Suddenly, one of the many names of Buddha sounded out as an old monk squeezed to the front of the fortune-telling stall and placed his monk staff on the table, pushing the feet of the tables deep into the ground. The old monk sat in front of Blind and put his hands together, "This is the stake! Who dares to come wager with poor monk?"

Blind asked sternly, "Great Thunderclap Monastery?"

The old monk replied, "Great Thunderclap Monastery."

Blind looked back at Old Ma and said, "Old Ma, you handle this."

Old Ma put down the crutch in his hand and sat in front of the old monk. The old monk raised his head and looked expressionlessly at Old Ma, "Junior brother."



Old Ma replied with a blank face, "Senior brother."

"You had imparted out our Great Thunderclap Monastery's divine arts to others, breaking the rules of our Great Thunderclap Monastery."

The old monk's white eyebrow was drooping as he said softly, "Back then you severed your own arm and sent it to the monastery saying that you had returned our Great Thunderclap Monastery's divine arts back to us. Your arm is still within the Thousand Buddha Pagoda. Now, you had imparted away our Great Thunderclap Monastery's divine arts to that youth, going back on your words."