

## Tales of Herding Gods Chapter 351-355

### Chapter 351: The World Astonishing Sword

Village Chief blinked and probed, "Could his surname be Qin as well..."

Hermit Qing You sneered. "That's right, his surname is indeed Qin. Could Qin Chongming be an Overlord Body as well? Dao brother, you are making me slightly puzzled. Even we Little Jade Capital don't know about Overlord Body so how can you be so sure that there's such a thing as an Overlord Body in this world?"

Village Chief rose up and down. He didn't explain anything and just shook his head. "I wonder, why did a god from Carefree Village come to Little Jade Capital?"

"This senior is one of the founders of Little Jade Capital," Hermit Qing You explained. "I know from the records that he made a Pact of Earth Count with someone, but afterward, he decided to break it. There were some reasons because of which he had no choice but to do it, thus his primordial spirit was taken away by Earth Count while his body was left behind. Before he died, he transformed his divine treasures into seven divine halls. He gave a lot of thought to it, so that even after he died, he would leave seven divine halls to groom the future generations."

Village Chief looked at the Hall of Three Aeons and asked in suspicion, "Seven divine halls? Could there be Hall of Seven Stars, Hall of Celestial Being, Hall of Life and Death, and Hall of Divine Bridge besides the three halls? Why can't we see them?"

"The seven great divine treasures in the human body are one, so the seven divine halls are naturally one as well. All of the other halls are inside Hall of Three Aeons."

Hermit Qing You said, "You asked me to open Hall of Six Directions as well, since I had already opened the other two halls, but our Little Jade Capital actually doesn't have the ability to open Hall of Six Directions. The god from Carefree Village holds many secrets, and I can't be the judge if I can open Hall of Six Directions or not. We don't have enough manpower in Little Jade Capital, though now that Old Dao Master and Old Rulai are here, it might be enough. However, they just came to Little Jade Capital so they still need some time to familiarize themselves with Hall of Six Directions."

There were only over a dozen old immortals in Little Jade Capital and opening Hall of Six Directions required six top-notch practitioners. When it came to Hall of Seven Stars, they would need seven people of their level. For that, Little Jade Capital would be even more shorthanded.

"As I thought, even though you are stingy, there was no need to be this stingy to a person from Carefree Village. So that's the reason." Village Chief smiled.

Hermit Qing You snorted. "That god had cultivated everything to the god level. He had divine eyes, divine hands, divine legs, divine corporeal body, and not only that, his primordial spirit had also reached an extremely pure level. The density of his magic power was also at the level of a god. Same as his wisdom! Dao brother, if Human Emperor chose Three Aeons Breakthrough, I'm afraid he won't gain any benefit!"

Village Chief pondered over it, then said slowly, "His magic power is also at the level of a god? In that case, Mu'er has really met his opponent."

Hermit Qing You didn't understand what he meant.

"We, the geezers of Disabled Elderly Village, have our personal areas of expertise, and the nine of us have all reached the god realm in them. However, none of us reached the god realm in the area of magic power. However, Mu'er's vital qi is so dense that he has done so. Even though his cultivation realm hasn't caught up, the density of his magic power is something that others could never reach. If I was to say that there was someone in the world with a god-like magic power, then that person would not be Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor, but only be Mu'er!" Village Chief said indifferently.

Hermit Qing You also knew how strong Qin Mu's cultivation was and said, "You said that his sword skill was still full of flaws and when he met someone with greater knowledge than him, he wouldn't even know he died. I think he has already met that person."

Village Chief's heart trembled violently. "This god is also a sword god?"

Hermit Qing You nodded and seemed to be smiling yet not smiling. "Dao brother, can you now tell me about Overlord Body?"

Village Chief smiled and said leisurely, "Overlord Body is unique and surpasses the four great spirit bodies; it's the rarest constitution in the world. As long as there is one Overlord Body that has appeared in the world, there can never be a second Overlord Body. However, there will be pseudo Overlord Bodies appearing to fight over for the fate of the Overlord Body..."

In Hall of Three Aeons, Qin Mu widened his steps to chase after the young god. His footsteps were heavy, but his speed was extremely fast. With his feet landing on the ground, the soil flew into the air while the land trembled in waves.

The soil and shattered rocks that floated upwards were melted in an instant. Some of them transformed into pottery swords while others into stone swords. Some of the rocks had metal hidden inside them, which was smelted and formed into sharp flying swords!

Incorporating forging treasures into battle was Qin Mu's ultimate art which Mute had not taught him. Applying what he had learned was Qin Mu's expertise.

Since he couldn't use the spirit weapons he had brought, he could only make them on the spot!

When the two of them were about three hundred yards apart, Qin Mu had a hundred flying swords around him. At that moment, he executed his sword skill.

The move he used was Sword Treading Mountains and Rivers!

Qin Mu recited the name with heroism in his chest. Could the gods be cut down? Say: Can!

His sword light burst forth, and the flying swords attacked the young god. Sword lights flashed, but since a hundred flying swords were too few, more sword lights burst forth from Qin Mu's body to make up for the lack.

He rushed forward at a quick speed, and Sword Treading Mountains and Rivers laid out mountains and rivers into the distance like a scroll unfurling. This sword skill used all kinds of stuff—Qin Mu's own comprehension, Village Chief's teaching, Imperial Preceptor's enlightenment, and Qin Hanzhen's guidance. He had incorporated everything he had learned into his sword!

The power of the sword light increased drastically.

This was Qin Mu's most powerful move. Even the second move, Sword of Founding Emperor Sea of Blood couldn't be compared to it in terms of power. This was because Qin Mu had put all his heart and mind into Sword Treading Mountains and Rivers, improving this move the most.

Compared to the Sword Treading Mountains and Rivers Village Chief had taught him, the power of this move had already increased by several times!

While he used his sword skill, there were also sword lights bursting forth from the palm of the young god. Countless sword lights flew over, and Qin Mu was slightly stunned. He immediately saw the mysterious principles behind the sword lights.

'Carefree Village's sword skills! He is from Carefree Village!'

Qin Mu didn't have time to think about it. The two sword skills collided, and countless sword lights drowned out both of them. The power contained in the majestic mountains and rivers was released, and the power of the sword skill from Carefree Sword also increased drastically!

The three aeons elders stood on top of the sun, moon, and high mountain, looking down. They saw the instant the mountains and rivers broke down, the boundless energy exploding like two snow-white ball expanding rapidly outwards.

"Remarkable," Heaven Aeon Spiritual Master who was in the sun exclaimed in admiration.

The power of the two moves exploded until nothing was left. Qin Mu and the god flew back and crashed onto the ground. Their bodies continued to tumble backward and rolled down the hills like ragdolls as they flailed their limbs helplessly.

Pak!

Qin Mu smashed onto the cliff with sword wounds all over his body, painting blossom markings on the cliff with fresh blood.

"My sword skills..." Qin Mu coughed up blood and slid down from the cliff. He sat on the ground with a thud, unable to wipe away the astonishment on his face. "I've lost..."

It was the first time he had executed his refined sword skill and had cleanly lost after that. His sword skill had been broken by the opponent.

The young god smashed into a mountain with a bang as well, unsettling huge chunks of rock that fell to the ground. There were no sword wounds on the man, but the power of Qin Mu's move was too great, surpassing the limit he could withstand.

Purely on sword skills, his sword skills were indeed above those of Qin Mu. Even though Qin Mu had controlled around a hundred swords and several hundred sword lights with Sword Treading Mountains and Rivers, none of them had hit him.

Yet the massive power from Qin Mu's move had heavily injured him. When the power of the sword skill exploded, the terrifying energy overwhelmed him. Even though it didn't hit him directly, the crack of his ribs still could be heard.

The young god didn't seem to be able to feel any pain. He shook his arms and broke free from the mountain rock. He then slid several dozen yards forward and landed on the ground steadily.

Under his armpits, the broken ribs had already pierced through his skin and the bones were exposed outside, yet he seemed to have no feeling at all. He raised his hand to pull out the broken bones, throwing them on the ground.

Below the cliff, Qin Mu stood up while swaying. He roared and circulated Human King Creation Technique to seal up the wounds on his body.

He didn't choose to use the dragon saliva to heal his wounds because the opponent's sword will was hidden in his wounds. Without removing it, the dragon saliva wouldn't be able to cure his injuries.

Besides, the opponent didn't heal himself either, and he would rather have a fair fight!

'Overlord Body is unrivaled in this world. If I can't win against you, I'm not working hard enough!'

Qin Mu executed Overlord Body Three Elixir Technique and suddenly transformed into a cow-headed human that stood on twin dragons. Bull's eyes grew out on his forehead and rolled around.

Flames blazed around his body, and the two dragons under his feet rushed toward the young god.

Using Sword Treading Mountains and Rivers had exhausted Qin Mu greatly, and if he continued to fight like that, he wouldn't be able to endure for much longer, thus he needed to change his style.

The body of the young god also transformed, but he chose the form of Venus Sovereign who was also standing on twin dragons. However, they were formed by gold qi while the dragons under Qin Mu's feet were formed by fire qi.

The twin dragons below their feet sprinted forward, and the two of them suddenly changed their directions to rush horizontally toward a mountain to the side. The huge dragons gripped their claws onto the cliff and moved as if they were flying to scale up the mountain. Meanwhile, on the dragons' backs, the two were in their transformed states. They unleashed their most powerful divine arts, attacking one another!

The huge mountain was extremely high, and it was the one on which Earth Aeon Spiritual Master was standing.

Even though it was three thousand yards high, Qin Mu and the young god fought their way up the mountain peak. The two of them changed their techniques over and over again, and the five great god transformation states of Five Elements Realm were all executed by the two of them. Sometimes they were the human-headed Jupiter Sovereign with the body of a bird while at other times they were the human-headed Saturn Sovereign with the body of a snake, or the scarlet-haired Mercury Sovereign as they fought each other with all their might.

Earth Aeon Spiritual Master raised his hands, and this huge mountain began to grow higher. The mountain range expanded to become larger and taller.

Qin Mu and the young god continued to go upwards as rocks to flew in all directions from their commotion.

‘His magic power isn’t any weaker than mine as well! He’s definitely an Overlord Body!’

Qin Mu’s was ineffably astonished. He had already subconsciously lost the upper hand and was only defending against the opponent’s attacks while smelting rocks and stones to make stone, iron, and copper swords, in an attempt to take advantage of having weapons.

However, since he was distracted, he was being suppressed. Even though the young god was below him, he was forced to retreat upwards. The flying swords that Qin Mu had made were struck away continuously, until one could see the path they had taken from broken swords pieces scattered everywhere.

The two figures were nearly as flat as the ground while they continued to sprint upwards, showing no signs of their momentum slowing down.

‘This mountain can’t go any higher, if it continues to rise, it will crumble.’

Earth Aeon Spiritual Master frowned and was about to leave the mountaintop to let them fight to their hearts’ content when Qin Mu suddenly mobilized all of his magic power.

“Human Emperor is still too young. He forged too many flying swords and exhausted quite a lot of magic power. Now that he’s fighting the young god with his brute force, he might not be able to win.”

As Earth Aeon Spiritual Master said this, the two were blown backward by the vibrations and left the mountain. Qin Mu was jolted high up while the young god was blown downwards.

Qin Mu tried to stop his body and the sores on his body instantly split open, spurting blood.

“The outcome is decided!” he shouted out and rushed downwards. Everywhere he passed by, the stone, iron, and copper swords would fly to attack the young god!

The whole mountain was filled with all kinds of swords he had forged, so at that moment, there were countless blades under Qin Mu’s control.

The blades were all attacking the young god who had no time to avoid, so his vital qi burst forth as he executed his sword skill. The concentrated sword lights that were like a storm collided with the flying swords. His sword skill was indeed profound, but he had still lost the favorable position, thus he gotten sent to the bottom of the mountain by the power from above!

Meanwhile on the cliff, even more stone, iron, and copper swords flew out to converge into a flood of swords. The speed of each blade was different, and the way they moved was also different. They were sometimes slow and sometimes fast, sometimes advancing and sometimes retreating!

What Qin Mu had executed was still Sword Treading Mountains and River, the move which possessed the strongest power. The sword light of the young god would break through the sword rain from time to time, landing more and more blows on the youth's body.

Qin Mu seemed to feel no pain as he used his sword skill to pressure the young god to smash him down.

The ground came closer and closer.

"You've lost!"

Qin Mu revealed a smile as countless swords smashed the young god ruthlessly onto the ground!

Boom!

The ground trembled violently, and wind swept chunks of mountain rocks which it threw in all directions. A huge and deep pit appeared on the ground, surrounded by broken blades.

Bang!

Qin Mu fell down as well and created a huge pit that was only slightly smaller. His feeble voice then came from there, "You are... a pseudo Overlord Body, heh, hehe..."

At that moment, movement could be heard from the other pit, and Qin Mu's blood ran cold, "You're still alive?"

## **Chapter 352: Tofu Heart**

Qin Mu struggled to get up when cracking sounds came from his legs. The bones there had fractured when he got smashed, and when he exerted force just then, they instantly broke.

His whole body convulsed from the pain, and his arms broke as well. Qin Mu then didn't dare to move anymore. Even twitching and taking in a deeper breath became something he didn't dare to do.

He was scared that more forceful inhale could shatter all his bones.

His magic power was completely exhausted, so he couldn't even retrieve the dragon saliva from his taotie sack to heal himself.

Pain flooded him, and beads of sweat continuously flowed out.

The sword-made wounds all over his body split open, and fresh blood flowed out. Qin Mu felt his body grow warmer, as if he was as scorching as lava; however, he knew this was actually an illusion. Because he had lost too much blood, his body gradually cooled down, creating an illusion in his brain.

He had learned about this from Apothecary.

If he continued to lose blood, he was bound to die.

An explosion came from the huge pit nearby, and Qin Mu felt decrepit. 'Could it be that I'm the pseudo Overlord Body... No, I'm just not working hard enough, I haven't unleashed all the abilities of the Overlord Body...'

He had bet almost his whole life to win by half a move, but this had exhausted him of all his battle power.

Suddenly, three streams of air currents burst forth from the huge pit and landed on Qin Mu like three long rainbows as they entered his body.

Qin Mu instantly felt his bones move and reconnect. The cracks sealed up while the wounds on his body recovered rapidly!

The few teeth he had lost from the fight earlier were also actually growing out!

Qin Mu was stunned, but then he heard a flood. The sound was coming from his body, and it originated from his surging vital qi. His cultivation was actually recovering rapidly!

His strength was also recovering, and the tears in his muscles repaired themselves. Soon, all of his injuries were more or less healed.

Not only that, he also felt the strange power coming from the three rainbows cause his Spirit Embryo Divine Treasure to undergo a drastic change. His vital qi seemed to liquify and embrace it, which made it look like the spirit embryo was soaking in a warm ocean that was incomparably comfortable.

'The last time I experienced such a comfortable feeling was probably when I was three years old or so. I had fallen asleep on granny's bed and tried so hard to find a latrine in my dreams. When I finally found it after much difficulty, I ended up wetting the whole bed. I was then lifted up by my leg and thrown into the snow by granny.'

Qin Mu blinked. What he felt had to be the so-called three aeons: heaven aeon, earth aeon, and water aeon.

The energy of the three aeons flooded over, and Spirit Embryo Divine Treasure underwent a huge change. It grew at a fast speed while the spirit platform under its feet became bigger as well. It was like a tiny land in the middle of the sea.

The vital qi breathed out from the spirit embryo's nose rose into the air and surging vital qi gathered alongside it, forming a bright red ball that hung in midair.

It didn't look like a sun.

The liquified vital qi gathered together into what seemed like a ball of water, but not the moon. His Spirit Embryo Divine Treasure still couldn't be compared to that of a god.

Qin Mu tried to executed Overlord Body Three Elixir Technique and felt that it was still difficult to circulate it. There had to be some hidden injuries that hadn't yet healed.

"Congratulations Human Emperor for succeeding in Three Aeons Breakthrough."

Suddenly, the mountains vanished and the sun and moon in the sky also disappeared without a trace. Qin Mu lay in a huge hall, ice cold floor beneath him.

He struggled to get up and saw five elders sitting in five positions. They were high on top and looked as ancient as three aeons elders.

He looked around, but it wasn't the Hall of Three Aeons that he saw. The place looked like another huge hall. The appearances of the five elders were also different from those of the three aeons elders.

Qin Mu composed himself as his muscles continued to ache and his arms and muscles shook, unable to stop.

"Where are the three old immortals from earlier?" Qin Mu asked in a trembling voice.

"Three aeons elders are not here."

One of the old wanderers may have been short, but his voice was extremely loud and clear. "We are Five Elements Wanderers, and this is Hall of Five Qi. We saw Human Emperor achieving Three Aeons Breakthrough from Hall of Five Qi and we really admire you. After Human Emperor broke through, you were sent to our Hall of Five Qi to face the test of five qi."

"I achieved Three Aeons Breakthrough?"

Qin Mu was surprised and delighted. However, his legs didn't listen to him and couldn't stop shaking.

"He's indeed the pseudo Overlord Body, while I'm the true Overlord Body!" The youth was pleased with himself.

Five Elements Wanderers heard what he said and were confused. They revealed expressions of doubt as they didn't know what was Overlord Body and its pseudo version.

Qin Mu tried his best to stand steadily, but his legs kept shaking badly. His arms also didn't listen to him.

One of the old wanderers frowned and said, "Human Emperor is the second person who has passed Three Aeons Breakthrough. Do you plan to challenge Five Qi Breakthrough?"



Qin Mu just sat down on the ground so that he wouldn't embarrass himself for not standing steadily. He asked, "How is Five Qi Breakthrough compared to Three Aeon Breakthrough?"

"It's slightly more difficult."

"When Human Emperor achieved Three Aeons Breakthrough, your foundation became even more firm, so Five Qi Breakthrough shouldn't be too difficult for you," an old woman said with a pleasant face.

"It's still slightly more difficult?" Qin Mu was frightened and shook his head. "Five seniors, could you get around the regulations and allow me to challenge another day?"

He was simply too weak to challenge Five Qi Breakthrough right then.

Even though he had achieved three aeons by defeating the young god and his injuries had mostly healed, the soreness in his corporeal body wasn't even close to fading away. Furthermore, the last strike when going down from the mountain that was several thousand yards high left an impact on him that was too large for his heart to withstand. Not only was his corporeal body trembling, his soul was also swaying to and fro, almost leaving his body.

The five wanderers could see that his condition wasn't good so they looked one another in the eyes. One of the elders said, "Our Little Jade Capital has never had this happen before. If someone passes the test of three aeons, they can enter our Hall of Five Qi and leave when they are defeated. Taking a break midway has never happened before."

An old woman then spoke up. "However, Three Aeons Breakthrough is too rare. The last person to break through is from seven thousand years ago. Since Human Emperor was able to reach this step, it would be truly too much if we didn't agree to let him challenge the hall another day."

The five elders discussed it for a time, then the elder in the lead said, "Since Human Emperor has asked, our Little Jade Capital is not that stubborn. When Human Emperor recovers, he can come and challenge our Hall of Five Qi."

"Many thanks!" Qin Mu struggled to get up and thank the five elders.

When he straightened his back, the sight in front of him changed and he appeared outside Hall of Three Aeons. The three aeons elders were talking to Hermit Qing You who had an expression of astonishment while Village Chief had an unpretentious look of pride.

"Human Emperor." The three aeons elders greeted him, and Heaven Aeon Spiritual Master asked in astonishment, "Why has Human Emperor come out before taking the test of five qi?"

Qin Mu's legs were still shaking, so he said, "Five Elements Wanderers knew that my condition wasn't good so they allowed me to come back later for the challenge. Immortal Qing You, can I get a few days before the test at Hall of Five Qi?"

Hermit Qing You's expression softened and he said firmly, "Human Emperor's condition now is indeed not suitable to continue fighting. There's Hall of Six Directions after Hall of Five Qi and Old Dao Master

and Old Rulai still need some time to familiarize themselves with it. Oh well, Human Emperor can come to our Little Jade Capital another day to break through both halls.”

Qin Mu probed, “In that case, about inviting the experts of Little Jade Capital to come down the mountain...”

Hermit Qing You smiled. “I had promised to come with you if you defeated the three disciples of my Little Jade Capital. Now that you achieved Three Aeons Breakthrough as well, you have already exceeded my expectation. Since I have promised you, I naturally can’t go back on my word.”

Qin Mu was astonished. Hermit Qing You didn’t show him a single pleasant expression since he had come up the mountain, scorning him from the start, yet he was suddenly so easy to talk to?

Hermit Qing You looked at the three aeons elders and said, “Three senior brothers, I shall follow Human Emperor down the mountain to settle some worldly affairs. May senior brothers help me look after my duties during these days that I will not be on the mountain.”

Water Aeon Spiritual Master said, “The worldly affairs are full of distractions and the hearts of immortals can be hard to calm. Be careful of disturbing your clear heart when you go down the mountain.”

Hermit Qing You smiled. “I have already underwent an experience in the mortal world so my mortal heart is long dead. Don’t worry, I’ll definitely return.”

He called Wang Muran, Mu Qingdai, and Long Yu over and said, “I’ll be going down the mountain with Human Emperor, so come with me. There’s no need to stay in Little Jade Capital for your entire lives, I know there’s little joy in accompanying us old men and women.”

The three were surprised and delighted. They had wanted to go down the mountain for a long time, but what could they do when Little Jade Capital had strict rules. Hermit Qing You would never allow them to go down the mountain under normal circumstances.

Hermit Qing You excused himself from Old Dao Master and Old Rulai, and the two elders smiled. “We have just freed ourselves from the worldly affairs and came to Little Jade Capital for peace. Yet now you are jumping into the mortal world. Immortal Qing You, I’m afraid you won’t be able to jump up once you are tainted!”

“You guys are worrying too much. I’m just going down to keep my promise, and I’ll return once I fulfill it. The worldly affairs won’t hold me back,” Hermit Qing You said solemnly.

“I sure hope so.”

Hermit Qing You then invited two more old immortals over. “You Yun, You He, both of you senior brothers are proficient in algebra. Will you follow me down?”

The two old immortals smiled and said, “It’s good to go down for a stroll.”

Wang Muran rode a buck which was Wanderer Zhen's mount. This master had died under Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor's hand, but his mount had been kept by Wang Muran.

That buck was no inferior to the dragon qilin, and because the dragon qilin was fat, the buck seemed more muscular in comparison. He looked at the dragon qilin from the corner of its eyes and was full of disdain for the fat cat.

The dragon qilin was long used to it and didn't pay any attention. Yet Xiong Qi'er whispered to him, "Fatty Dragon, the buck is looking down on you."

"Even if he spits in my face, it will dry off by itself, even without wiping it away." The dragon qilin seemed to have long achieved enlightenment. "Let him think what he wants, it's merely a cool breeze brushing past a mountain."

Everyone left Little Jade Capital, and Hermit Qing You turned back to take a look. He sighed ruefully and said to Village Chief, "Many years ago, I had left this place with you. My heart was full of ambition and wanted to achieved a world-shaking feat with you. When I came back, my will was low and my great ambition was cleanly erased. I thought I would never leave again and never did I expect to be invited out of Little Jade Capital by your disciple. Fate truly makes a fool out of people."

"It's not Mu'er who invited you, but actually your heart that has moved," Village Chief said meaningfully. "Is it the wind moving or the banner moving? It's just the humane heart that's moving."

Hermit Qing You laughed. "You're wrong, my mortal heart is already dead. It won't come back to life!"

Village Chief shook his head with a smile. "Your mouth is like a blade, but your heart is like tofu. Mu'er, don't look at how this old fellow is always fierce with you, for he's actually the softest. If you make him sad, his tofu heart will cover the whole floor and no one will be able to piece it back together!"

Hermit Qing You sneered and said, "My heart can't be pieced back together? You were still sprawling on the floor and crying just moments ago!"

Village Chief was furious. "When Fairy Xue Qi left you back then, who was the one sprawling on the ground and bawling his eyes out?"

"You cried so miserably just now, needing Human Emperor to hug you."

"When you shamelessly cried for reconciliation, did you think how I would use it to scorn you now?"

"You even wiped your snot on Human Emperor's chest!"

...

Qin Mu stared with his eyes wide open. The two old men were almost one thousand and six hundred years old added together, yet they still fought non-stop, exposing the faults of each other and digging out the ugly past.

'They are becoming younger and younger, they're like old children.'

Qin Mu shook his head and thought to himself, 'Where has Grandpa Cripple gone to? If the experts of Dao Sect didn't catch up to him, he should have entered Little Jade Capital long ago. I was delayed for two-three days here, so it should have been enough for Grandpa Cripple to rummage through Little Jade Capital several times. Also, I wonder how's the battle on the prairie, did Imperial Preceptor reach Rolan's Golden Palace?'

On the large snow mountain outside Rolan's Golden Palace was a massacre.

Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor had his hands behind his back, standing expressionless. His gaze moved to the majestic palace that was decorated with gold and jade in glorious splendor. Behind him, the army of Eternal Peace Army of tens of thousands of men was arranged in neat rows. The soldiers didn't make any sound, and even the strange beasts of the army were silent.

A general came forth and said as he bowed, "Imperial Preceptor, Khan Ruandi has come to surrender!"

### **Chapter 353: Four Sovereigns of High Heavens**

"Let him come up," Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor said indifferently.

Khan Ruandi was tightly wound in chains while a few soldiers followed behind him, pushing him forward.

"Criminal Ruandi..."

Khan Ruandi was about to kneel down when Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor held him up. With a smile that was not a smile, he said, "Senior Brother Ruandi wants to frame me for being corrupt?"

Khan Ruandi took the chance to get up and smiled. "If I could spoil the friendship between you and Emperor Yanfeng, I might get a chance for a comeback."

Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor shook his head. "You can't spoil it. Even if you pay your respects to me in front of the whole army, the emperor will still not suspect me. It's just that the contrarians will make my head ache. If I can have one less trouble, it's better. Senior Brother Ruandi, take off the chains, I won't accept your surrender. You shall surrender yourself to the emperor personally when we come back to the capital."

Khan Ruandi shook himself, and the chains on his body broke off inch by inch. The soldiers were all astonished and took a step forward. However, Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor raised his hand to have them fall back. "There's no need to be on guard."

Khan Ruandi's gaze flickered. "I've heard that Imperial Preceptor had fought with a god and suffered heavy injuries. Even though you had Little Poison King and Little Divine Physician healing you, your current cultivation is still yet to recover to its peak. Aren't you afraid of me suddenly springing into action and killing you?"

“I’m not,” said Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor. “I might have been a month ago, but since I comprehended the sword path, there’s no need for me to be scared even with my injuries. If you attack, you will die.”

Khan Ruandi was terrified.

Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor raised his head to look at Rolan’s Golden Palace that was in front of them while saying leisurely, “Senior Brother Ruandi, please take a look. Rolan’s Golden Palace is well fortified, with great shamans and shaman kings guarding it. It’s easy to defend and hard to invade, so if I force this invasion, my army will definitely suffer heavy casualties. I can even feel terrifying auras hidden inside the palace which must come from the previous bodies of Grandmaster. I can feel eighteen auras that are like gods, and that’s why I’m still stationed here and am yet to make a move.”

“These eighteen corporeal bodies that are like gods, devils, and buddhas are the corporeal bodies of Grandmaster’s past eighteen lifetimes. They are extremely terrifying and are the strongest power that guards Rolan’s Golden Palace. Other than Grandmaster’s eighteen bodies, there are also twelve cult master level existences which had cultivated to Divine Bridge Realm. The strongest one is none other than Grandmaster himself. His ability is no inferior to mine,” said Khan Ruandi.

“How many experts on Life and Death Realm are there?” asked Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor.

Khan Ruandi smiled and said, “How would I know?”

“You are imitating Emperor Yanfeng so you should know.” Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor took a look at him and said softly, “For example, the names, abilities, and spirit weapons of all the experts in Heavenly Saint Cult, Dao Sect, and Great Thunderclap Monastery are all in my hands. The empire is above and no sacred ground is allowed to ride roughshod over people. You are the emperor of the prairie, so you should naturally not let Rolan’s Golden Palace ride on your head. You have to know it.”

“I can’t win against Emperor Yanfeng because he has Imperial Preceptor assisting him. If I had a helper such as you, how would I need to surrender? I have already prepared a name list of the strong practitioners of Celestial Being Realm and Life and Death Realm. This is an offer to Imperial Preceptor,” Khan Ruandi said. When he finished speaking, he took out a booklet.

Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor handed the name list to Duke Wei who was behind him and said, “Let the soldiers browse through it and search for their opponents, prepare to kill the enemies.”

Duke Wei summoned all the famed generals in the army of Celestial Being Realm and Life and Death Realm and gathered everyone to study the name list.

Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor then said, “Rolan’s Golden Palace has formations to protect it, both restricting and killing ones which had been placed by the previous grandmasters and grand shamans. Now, every single one of them has been activated to defend against my army. If Khan Ruandi has the heart to overthrow Rolan’s Golden Palace, you must have a plan, a method to take down this stronghold.”

Khan Ruandi didn’t reply but asked back instead, “Why won’t Imperial Preceptor ask me why I surrender? You have seen me come to surrender yet you still trust me as such without putting up any

guard. You even ask me how to take down Rolan's Golden Palace. Aren't you afraid I'm just acting and will provide you with faulty information which will wipe out your entire army?"

Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor shook his head and said, "You surrendered because of the shaman poison."

Khan Ruandi fell silent.

"Grandmaster ordered all the great shamans and shaman kings to poison the water, which resulted in nine out of ten houses in the prairie becoming deserted. The tribesmen are only left with ten percent of their population, with only the people in your big cities yet to die.

"You are the emperor of the prairie, but so many of your people were slaughtered. Who are you supposed to take revenge at? It can only be at Rolan's Golden Palace. Therefore I believe you, there's no need to doubt your words."

Khan Ruandi was silent for a time, then let out a shaky breath. "Civilians shouldn't be killed in the war between two empires. If I were to invade Eternal Peace Empire, the civilians of Eternal Peace Empire would become my people, so I wouldn't hurt them. If Emperor Yanfeng invaded the prairie, the people of the prairie would become Emperor Yanfeng's people, so he wouldn't hurt them. Yet Rolan's Golden Palace eradicated my people; I can't take that lying down. Imperial Preceptor, I will tell you all of Rolan's Golden Palace's weaknesses, not hiding the smallest detail."

Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor revealed a smile. "Do you know how long I have been waiting for you here? Now that you have come, there will be one less sacred ground in this world!"

Khan Ruandi was completely won over. "As long as Imperial Preceptor is around, Ruandi will never rebel! If I break my oath, my eyes should be pecked away by gyrfalcons and my heart dug out by eagles! And all my descendants will become slaves!"

The capital was the place where the nine dragons gathered. Nine mountain ranges that were like dragons converged there and gathered the qi, making that place the imperial capital.

"Only by coming down to the mortal world this time and seeing Eternal Peace Empire invading the prairie could we find out that the army of Eternal Peace Empire is looking more and more like the heavenly army. They are starting to resemble the army of gods and devils from Founding Emperor Era."

In the sky above the capital, a roughly built shelter which was about six ares wide floated in the sky. On the cloud under it, a couple extraordinary looking men and women were sitting at the top of the cloud. With the shelter covering the sun above, they looked below at the destiny of Eternal Peace Empire.

Those men and women were all very handsome and pretty, and none of them look old, but their cultivations were terrifyingly high, like those of gods and buddhas.

One of them was Star Sovereign Qiao who had Yu Liu and the rest of the girls serving him at the side. Xu Shenghua was also around, but he was standing beside another young man who was his master, Jade Sovereign.

They were not the only ones that had come out. There were four leaders in High Heavens and other than Star Sovereign Qiao and Jade Sovereign, there was also Flower Sovereign and Star Sovereign Yan.

Because Village Chief had left Great Ruins, the four leaders of High Heavens had actually all went out.

The four of them were looking down with startled expressions.

“I didn’t examine them in detail when I came to send disaster the previous time,” Jade Sovereign mumbled. “Back then I only roughly looked at the nine dragon veins of the capital and which had allowed Eternal Peace Empire to become a major power.”

Flower Sovereign was a beautiful woman and her voice was as melodious as the chirping of the yellow oriole. She said, “These nine dragon veins are the Yellow Dragon Mountain Range, but besides them, there are also four river dragon veins—Mud River, Gold River, Surging River, and Li River.”

Her palm gently stroked the air, and her vital qi transformed into a mirror which revealed the underground layer of Eternal Peace Empire.

That mirror could actually penetrate to the depth of over ten miles and show three huge dragons. They were the magma rivers beneath the city.

“Including these three fire dragon veins that are hidden underground, there are already sixteen dragon veins in Eternal Peace Empire,” said Jade Sovereign.

Star Sovereign Qiao shook his head. “Not only that. Look at the shore of Eternal Peace Empire. The mountain ranges near there are going up and down irregularly, like two dragons coiling around each other—they’re two more dragon veins, even if I’m not sure what they’re called. With eighteen dragon veins, it’s no wonder Eternal Peace Empire is full of talents and achieving meteoric success.”

“The prairie being annexed by Eternal Peace is just a matter of time. Imperial Preceptor should already have reached Rolan’s Golden Palace by now. How many dragon veins are on the prairie?” Star Sovereign Qiao asked solemnly.

The other three sovereigns’ hearts trembled slightly.

“And also the snow plains in the north, in Wolf Store Country, how many dragon veins are there?”

“The number of Eternal Peace Empire’s dragon veins surpasses my expectations. It would be fine if it was just one dragon vein, it would be hard to change the situation then. However, if all the dragons are to ascend to heaven, this would be stealing the fate of heaven and earth! I feel that killing Old Human Emperor is a small matter when compared to finding the main dragon vein in Eternal Peace Empire and taking it away or changing it. We have to make the other dragons lose their leader,” said Star Sovereign Qiao.

Jade Sovereign mumbled to himself for a bit, then said, “If the main dragon vein is gone, the dragons will have no leader and the fate will fall apart. All the heroes in the world will rise and shatter Eternal Peace Empire. This is indeed a good idea. Which dragon vein is then the main in Eternal Peace Empire?”

Everyone looked around and searched for a moment, but they still couldn't see which was the main vein.

"In that case, let's invite Dragon Rearing Sovereign to look for the main vein. He rears the dragon race so he should be able to differentiate the different types of dragon. He's also good at working with the terrain."

"Qing Ying, Yao Hua, go back to High Heavens and invite Dragon Rearing Sovereign down to examine the dragon veins of Eternal Peace Empire to locate the main vein," said Star Sovereign Qiao.

Qing Ying and Yao Hua acknowledged before leaving in a hurry.

Jade Sovereign smiled. "For Sword God to not appear until now, what a downer. I thought he would come straight away when we released our aura, but he's actually acting scared. This had never happened before, so it looks like Sword God has truly grown old."

"This is the sorrow of a mortal body." Flower Sovereign smiled and said, "No matter how strong they are in their prime, their qi and blood will still wither and fail when reaching old age. Calculating it, his time is up in two years from now. To live out these two years, he had chosen to avoid the battle, how pathetic. Xu Shenghua, have you found the new human emperor?"

"Disciple had met the person by chance but did not recognize him so missed the chance. However, I gave him a bag of tea and he invited me to the capital of Eternal Peace Empire for a drink. I think I can meet him again if I go there."

Jade Sovereign was interested. "How are the abilities of this new human emperor?"

"Very high." Xu Shenghua recalled when he had clashed with Qin Mu and said, "His magic power at that time was extremely dense, and his vital qi cultivation was even denser than mine. However, his moves and divine arts were inferior to mine, and his comprehension of divine art was also weaker than mine."

"Cultivation even denser than yours?"

The four sovereigns of High Heavens revealed expressions of astonishment. Xu Shenghua's cultivation overwhelmed the entire High Heavens, and even the cultivations of the four sovereigns were inferior to his. Yet there was actually someone whose cultivation actually surpassed his!

"However, I have gone to Little Jade Capital and patched up the shortcomings in my cultivation," Xu Shenghua said. "If he didn't receive the same opportunity, my cultivation will be stronger than his."

Jade Sovereign revealed a smile and said, "Go to the capital, kill him, and return to High Heavens as soon as possible. The human world is a tainted place, so it isn't good to stay here for long. We shall find a place to wait for Dragon Rearing Sovereign and check the dragon veins. It would naturally be good if Sword God dared to accept the challenge, but if he doesn't, we will return after taking away the main vein."

Xu Shenghua acknowledged his words.



“I shall let Jing Yan and Yu Liu follow you so that other rats won’t lay their hands on you,” said Star Sovereign Qiao.

Yu Liu and Jing Yan were secretly delighted. Yu Liu carried a jade vase while Jing Yan hugged a pipa in her arms as they followed Xu Shenghua to the capital.

The four sovereigns of High Heavens saw that the sky was becoming dark, so they lowered the cloud. They came to a serene place, and the shelter landed on the ground.

This place had verdant hills and limpid water, with no villages in the surroundings, yet there was a house in front of them. When the door to the house opened, an elegant woman walked out. She carried a small and delicate wooden bucket to fetch water. The four sovereigns of High Heavens blushed at the sight of her, and their hearts pounded violently.

Even Flower Sovereign, the most beautiful goddess in High Heavens, became slightly ashamed of herself and felt inferior. Yet at the same time, she was infatuated with this woman.

“This is a true beauty that makes even gods envious!”

While the four sovereigns stabilized their hearts, the woman noticed the shelter that had appeared out of nowhere. She looked at the group and greeted the four of them. “Four esteemed guests, the sky is turning dark, and you should not go out at night.”

Adoration was born in Jade Sovereign’s heart and he smiled. “Fairy, this place isn’t Great Ruins so why can’t we go out at night? Even if it were Great Ruins, we could do as we will.”

Adoration was also born in the hearts of Star Sovereign Qiao and Star Sovereign Yan. They wanted to get closer to the woman, so they smiled from ear to ear. “Charming time, beautiful scenery, and a beauty for a neighbor—this is truly a sacred ground.”

Flower Sovereign felt a pang of sourness and jealousy, but when she saw the beauty of the woman again, her jealousy vanished without a trace.

The woman revealed a look of astonishment and said, “So the four of you are all immortal-like people that are able to go in and out of the darkness of Great Ruins. Sorry, it’s me who seems to have overthought the matter.” When she finished speaking, she went to fetch the water for which she had come out.

When night came, the three sovereigns of High Heavens looked at the house in front of them. Flower Sovereign was also full of anticipation. She smiled. “Since your hearts are moved, why not invite her over to take a seat?”

As she was saying that, the door of the house opened. A laugh that could make a person’s blood boil and run quicker sounded out. “Four esteemed guests have come from afar yet as the owner of this place, I have come late.”

The four sovereigns of High Heavens looked over under the hazy moonlight, and they all exclaimed in unison, “This is truly a peerless beauty for which even immortals will fall!”

## Chapter 354: Little Demon Fox

“Those gods from High Heavens didn’t hide their auras, and it seems like they went to Granny Si’s place.”

Butcher and Blind were staying in Relax Prefecture that was a thousand miles away, but Blind still seemed to be able to see what he wanted. He had a weird expression when he said, “It’s night time now, Old Devil Li has come out again.”

“Meeting Old Devil Li with the appearance of Granny Si, they are probably going to die,” Butcher said in astonishment.

Blind’s expression became weirder and weirder. “Old Devil Li is chatting with them.”

“Then they really are going to die. When Old Devil Li was in the village, who wasn’t smitten? Even Village Chief didn’t dare to look at him and only you could disregard granny’s beauty. When do you think those four sovereigns will fall out with one another and start fighting?” Butcher said.

Blind shook his head. “They are gods after all, how would they fight over a woman? I think... Eh, they have really started fighting!”

Blind ‘looked’ for a moment and let out a sigh of relief. He said, “They are just competing with one another, but their competitive spirits are very strong, they are not far from fighting. Granny Si really is a troublemaker!”

Butcher shook his head. “Granny is not a troublemaker, but Cult Master Li is Granny Si is very kind and would never harm us. Yet once Cult Master Li came out, the village was almost separated. That’s right, have you seen Deaf and Mute during your journey? They are usually never away from each other.”

“I haven’t seen them.” Blind smiled, “Mute ran away chasing a ship and Deaf went to chase him, but he was most likely unable to catch up. Mute’s speed is very fast, only slightly inferior to that of Cripple. When do you think these four gods will become enemies?”

Butcher chuckled. “That would depend on how long Cult Master Li wants to play with them. There’s no need to worry about these four gods from High Heavens now. We don’t need to go too close. We can check out the situation after Cult Master Li has had his fun.”

On the dragon qilin’s back, Qin Mu suddenly recalled something and asked Hermit Qing You about it. “Hermit Qing You, when Xu Shenghua entered Hall of Three Aeons, what breakthrough did he choose?”

“He didn’t say but Three Aeons Elders knew and told me about it, it was Heaven Aeon Breakthrough. He had an easy time breaking through and said that he regretted not choosing Three Aeons Breakthrough,” Hermit Qing You said.

“What breakthrough did he choose in Hall of Five Elements then?” asked Qin Mu again.

“Earth Element Breakthrough in Hall of Five Element. Among the five elements, the earth element is the strongest.”

Qin Mu nodded. Xu Shenghua was indeed very strong. His abilities in the past were no weaker than his own, and even though his cultivation had been slightly weaker, his divine art was much more intricate.

Since Xu Shenghua had broken through Hall of Three Aeons and Hall of Five Qi, his shortcomings in cultivation should have been patched. Qin Mu achieving Three Aeons Breakthrough had patched the foundation of his Spirit Embryo Divine Treasure. He also had gotten both Heaven Aeon Breakthrough and Earth Element Breakthrough whose element was the foundation of Five Elements Divine Treasure.

Yet it was still hard to say if Qin Mu’s magic power could suppress the other.

‘Before, I didn’t know he was a disciple of High Heavens and even asked some tea from him. I even owe him a drink.’

Qin Mu pondered it for a moment. Xu Shenghua was still quite a nice person and had a nice bearing. He was a rare opponent, and Qin Mu very much wanted to meet him again. However, he also didn’t want to meet him.

“Village Chief, what kind of place is High Heavens?”

“It’s the place of hounds, the place where the real gods rear dogs,” Village Chief said. “It’s at West Earth and is very mysterious, but I have never gone there, so I don’t know where it is exactly. I only know that some people can scale the divine mountain in West Earth and offer incense to reach High Heavens. However, I don’t have the right kind of incense, since it should be a specially made one. If I had it, I would have long fought my way up.”

Qin Mu didn’t know whether to laugh or cry. Village Chief and the strong practitioners of High Heavens had probably fought their entire lives, so he didn’t really like that sacred ground.

“Has Palace Master heard of High Heavens before?” Qin Mu asked Xiong Xiyu.

“High Heavens is indeed in my West Earth, and the people of True Heaven Palace have seen people of High Heavens before. However, that sacred ground is very mysterious, even more so than Little Jade Capital.”

Xiong Xiyu’s gaze flickered and she said softly, “The incense that Village Chief mentioned is called divine incense, and True Heaven Palace has three sticks. If Cult Master Qin could assist me in taking back the position of the palace master, I could give them to him.”

Qin Mu blinked and didn’t reply to her. He pondered over the matter and said, “I wonder if Rolan’s Golden Palace has any of these divine incense. Pangong Tso, this brat, has lived through so many lifetimes so there must be an extremely large amount of treasures he collected, and one of them might even be this. Imperial Preceptor still owes me a hundred treasures... Come to think of it, why hasn’t Grandpa Cripple returned? Little Jade Capital should be looted clean by now, shouldn’t it?”

Xiong Xiyu sighed.

After coming to the capital, Qin Mu brought everyone to Imperial College where there were few scholars left. Most of them had gone to the frontlines.

“This is Eternal Peace Empire’s sacred ground, Imperial College?” Everyone looked around in curiosity.

Other than Qin Mu and the dragon qilin, the rest of the people had come here for the first time. Compared to the other sacred grounds, Imperial College was still very young. It was not as majestic as Great Thunderclap Monastery’s Mount Meru, not as serene as Dao Sect’s Kunlun Jade Void Mountain, and not as mysterious as Heavenly Devil Cult’s Saint Arrival Mountain. Of course, it couldn’t be compared to Little Jade Capital that had a profound and long-lasting foundation.

Purely on appearance, Imperial College couldn’t be compared even to West Earth’s True Heaven Palace.

Yet such a place had produced countless famed generals and officials, giving birth to countless experts!

Even though Imperial College was young, it had already shown its extraordinariness, surpassing other sects in various places!

Qin Mu came to Divine Arts Residence and found that his residence had been tidied up neatly. He was bewildered. ‘Could Ling’er have come to Imperial College?’

A voice suddenly came from outside. “The one who herds cows, you’re finally willing to come back? Did you know that Chancellor Ba Shan brought me and Saintess Si to follow my second brother to the north, to fight with Wolf Store Country unti—”

Qin Mu turned around and saw Ling Yuxiu rushing in from outside. When she saw the many people behind him, she was startled and didn’t dare to be loud. She immediately held her breath and her footsteps became more dainty. She walked in like a lady and stood beside Qin Mu like a little bird. “The one who herds cows, who are they?”

“This is my Grandpa Village Chief.”

Qin Mu moved the rocking chair down from the dragon qilin’s back. Village Chief didn’t rise from his rocking chair, but looked at Ling Yuxiu with a face full of smiles.

“These are the old immortals from Little Jade Capital: Immortal Qing You, Immortal You Yun, and Immortal You He.”

After introducing the three elders of Little Jade Capital, he said, “The three at the side are the senior brothers of Little Jade Capital: Wang Muran, Long Yu, and Mu Qingdai. Also, this pair of mother and daughter are West Earth’s True Heaven Palace’s Palace Master Xiong Xiyu and Little Princess Xiong Qi’er.”

Ling Yuxiu greeted them one by one and everyone returned her greeting.

“My place is not big enough for so many people to stay. Does sister have extra rooms?” Qin Mu asked.

Ling Yuxiu smiled and said, "The girls can stay at my place. I stay right next door."

Qin Mu thanked her and said, "Sister, thanks for tidying up my room when I wasn't around these days."

Ling Yuxiu shook her head and said, "It's not me, it was done by your little fox."

"Ling'er is really here?" Qin Mu was surprised and delighted. He missed Hu Ling'er very much.

"She had run out to listen to lessons not long ago and hasn't returned yet." Ling Yuxiu smiled with reservation. "That little girl sure knows how to curry favor. During these days when you weren't around, she eagerly attended lessons and the directorates all like her very much."

'Little girl?'

Qin Mu was stunned, but he didn't think much about it and arranged accommodations for Immortal Qing You and the rest. His courtyard wasn't small and there was also quite a number of rooms. Everyone had their own rooms, while as for Xiong Xiyu, Xiong Qi'er, and Mu Qingdai, they would stay in the opposite house.

Qin Mu arranged everything well, and Ling Yuxiu whispered, "A bunch of Daoists came to Imperial College a few days ago in search of you. Gu Linuan is busy attending to them, his face all pale from fright. He hasn't looked well for a day."

Qin Mu smiled. "The algebra experts of Dao Sect have arrived."

"My father sent down a decree to promote you as Supervisor of Divine Weapons. He said to let you be in charge of forging some divine cannon. The imperial decree is kept by your little fox."

"Father dispatched the algebra experts of Imperial College and the imperial court and the five big manufacturing factories to listen to your orders. Also, Heavenly King Yu and Heavenly King Shi of the sacred cult couldn't find you in Ghost Valley so they almost went mad from searching!"

Qin Mu's head started to ache. Ever since he returned to the capital, he had to settle so many things that he didn't have time to rest.

"That's right, there's also a person called Xu Shenghua. He brought two girls and came to find you two days ago, saying he's waiting for you to treat him to a drink."

Ling Yuxiu gave it some thought before adding, "Imperial Preceptor's wife has given birth and sent over an invitation. She says she wants to invite Great Cult Master Qin to be the godfather."

Astonished, Qin Mu asked, "Imperial Preceptor has a child already? Is it a boy or a girl?"

"It's a boy."

Qin Mu smiled. "Me to be a godfather? Imperial Preceptor's wife is playing around. I'm still a child, so how can I be a godfather?"

Village Chief looked at Ling Yuxiu and gave a cough. He said, "Mu'er, you aren't young, you can give birth to a kid already."

Qin Mu's face turned red, and he muttered, "Why do you suddenly talk about giving birth, I'm still not ready... Village Chief, I'm only fifteen this year!"

Ling Yuxiu snickered. "Fifteen isn't young anymore. My mother and Empress Dowager always hurry me to choose a consort. Furthermore, my father is also easy to talk to, as long as someone talks to him about it, he will agree..."

She was pretty gutsy, blinking her eyes as she waited for Qin Mu's reply.

"The emperor is so casual?" Qin Mu shook his head. "They are not doing it right. How can marriage be so casual?"

Ling Yuxiu stared at him, for that youth didn't understand. He rose and went to Hall of Supreme Learning. When Gu Linuan saw him, only then was he relieved of his burden. "Cult Master, come quickly and take the Daoists away from my house. I won't be able to thank you enough!"

The numerous Daoists of Dao Sect all stayed with him and made him really nervous these few days.

Dao Sect was the head of the righteous path and he was a great master of the devil path. He kept on worrying that the Daoists would get rid of the devil at some point.

Qin Mu was in no hurry to meet the experts of Dao Sect so he sat down with a smile. "How's Grand Chancellor's algebra?"

Gu Linuan smiled and said, "I'm an authority in the devil path, so how can my attainments in algebra be weak?"

"Good! With Lord Gu and the experts of Dao Sect, I can take a breather."

Gu Linuan's expression turned ashen. "I will still have to be with the people of Dao Sect?"

"The emperor has ordered me to forge Sunshot Divine Cannon to target gods. The people of Dao Sect know their place and won't lay their hands on you," he consoled.

Gu Linuan still couldn't sit at ease. He kept feeling unsafe around those Daoists since his reputation was quite stinky.

Qin Mu went to meet Dao Master Lin Xuan to exchange basic greetings. "Once I'm done with the arrangements, I will need to trouble all of you. Please wait for my news."

"All's good."

Qin Mu left, and as he passed by Hall of Array Element, the school coincidentally ended. Over a dozen scholars came out from the hall, and among them was a seven to eight years old girl. She looked clever

and adorable as she hopped about, using a gust of demon wind to carry books which were neatly arranged behind her.

That little girl was short yet there were three long and furry snow white tails swaying at her back.

'Is that Ling'er? But she was illiterate...' Qin Mu stopped in his tracks.

### **Chapter 355: Deaf Selling His Paintings**

Qin Mu wasn't too sure. There were some scholars from the demon race in Imperial College, since in comparison to the other sects, Imperial College didn't stick to a single pattern when recruiting disciples. As long as the person passed the test, they could become an imperial scholar.

Because of that, there were quite a lot of women in Imperial College, taking up almost half of the placings. They would usually become officials in the various parts of Eternal Peace, while some would go to the army to become generals.

However, the books behind the adorable little girl were all arranged neatly, which was usually Hu Ling'er's style.

Yet she couldn't read a single letter, so it was impossible for her to be bringing a bunch of books everywhere she went. It wasn't the style of the little demon fox.

The little girl didn't see Qin Mu and parted ways with the other scholars. She didn't walk towards Divine Arts Residence, but instead went down the mountain. Qin Mu waited outside Hall of Array Elements for a few moments more, but no one else walked out from inside.

'Yuxiu said Ling'er was listening to a lecture in Hall of Array Elements, but there are no more people in the hall, she must have been that little girl earlier. She changed shape?'

Qin Mu was stunned. 'The Great Demon King of Great Ruins really deserves death. Ling'er is so young and yet he wanted to marry her.'

He went down the mountain with puzzlement in his heart. 'If she is Ling'er, where is she going if she's not returning to Divine Arts Residence?'

He followed up secretly and saw that the little girl with three tails skipped down the mountain. Then she suddenly sprawled onto the ground with an "Aiya!" and crawled forward two steps with her hands and legs. Shaking her three tails, she stood up after a bit. She tried to take a step and sprawled onto the ground again.

Qin Mu didn't know whether to laugh or cry. He saw the little girl glancing around, and when she saw no one around, she began running with her hands and feet. She went skipping and swaying her tails to and fro, pleased and proud of herself.

She had to have morphed not long ago and still wasn't accustomed to walking on two legs, thus she would trip once in a while when walking like a human.

After morphing, she looked like a little girl but was still more agile when running with her arms and legs instead of two legs.

Hu Ling'er walked out of Imperial College and went toward the city. However, since there were people walking around, she stood up again and skipped, her three tails behind her swaying around to keep her balance.

Bathump.

Qin Mu saw the little girl plunging face first into the ground again, her tails rising straight up. Her tails then twitched and drooped downward.

"It really isn't fun being a human..."

The little girl pouted and crawled up. She sneakily went behind an old tree, and a small snow white fox came out in a bit. It ran forward like a wisp of smoke with her three long and furry tails.

Her speed was much faster than before, and she soon came to the Garden of Rare Treasures in the capital. On her way, she bought some food and weighed some fruits.

Garden of Rare Treasures was a fair for secondhand goods. It sold antiques and cultural relics as well as rare treasures and even spirit weapons. Scholars that were down and out would sell stuff like calligraphy and ancient books.

'Is Ling'er coming here to sell books?' Qin Mu was bewildered. He saw Hu Ling'er transforming back into a little girl when she came to the Garden of Rare Treasures and carefully weaved through the crowd. She used a spell to lift her books above the fair.

After coming to the Calligraphy and Painting Street, the little girl let out a sigh of relief and looked around. Suddenly, her eyes lit up and she sprinted toward one stall.

Behind it was an old scholar who was down and out. His face was covered by a beard while he squatted in a corner with his arms folded. His head was lowered, revealing two silver-colored iron ears.

Behind him were a couple paintings and some calligraphy while at the front of the stall there were a few scrolls laid out. The four corners of the stall were held down by rocks so that it wouldn't be blown away.

"Grandpa Deaf, how many paintings and calligraphy have you sold today?"

Hu Ling'er came to the back of the stall and placed down the food and the fruits.

Deaf immediately stuffed himself without raising his head. "I haven't met anyone who knows how to appreciate my painting. You have come at the right time, I'm starving."

"Grandpa Deaf should sell his paintings in front of Imperial Preceptor's manor, that man will definitely be willing to buy them at a high price."



When Hu Ling'er said this, she suddenly recalled something and became vexed. "Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor also has no money. His wife has just given birth to a son and ordered Elder Fu to send an invitation to young master, but since he wasn't around, I was the one that went there. Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor wasn't around as well, and the banquet was very unpresentable; there was only meager fare.

"The mother and son are going to starve until their faces turn pale. I heard it's because Imperial Preceptor is fighting a war, and since the treasury was almost depleted, he donated all his savings. My heart softened for a moment, and I gave madam a huge red packet, for which she began to bother me by wanting young master to be the godfather of their son... Only when the emperor heard of their situation did the mother and son were finally able to be satiated by the money scrimped and saved by the palace."

"A man can be poor, but his integrity can't be poor. Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor is truly my soul mate," Deaf said.

Hu Ling'er pouted at him.

Deaf took out some paper and said, "I have written some words with dotted lines, you just have to trace them."

The little girl placed the papers on the ground and planned to dip the brush in ink when Deaf said, "Don't use ink, just trace the brush over the dotted line. In that case, you can practice for a few times. Let me read your books first, I'll explain them to you later."

Hu Ling'er knelt on the ground and traced Deaf's writings very seriously.

"I would like to buy a painting."

Hu Ling'er heard a voice speak and couldn't help being surprised and delighted. She immediately raised her head to see a youth standing in front of the stall.

"Young Master!"

This little girl leaped to her feet and pounced into Qin Mu's embrace. Just as he caught her, the little girl transformed back into a white fox to wiggle out of his embrace and coil around his neck.

She was in a hurry when she jumped out and overturned the ink which tainted a few papers. Deaf immediately tidied them up, grumbling, "Ling'er, you're too naughty, these papers are also bought with money, but now they are dirtied..."

"Grandpa Deaf!"

Qin Mu laughed loudly and wrapped his arms around Deaf without any warning, hugging him forcefully. Deaf wasn't used to it and tried to break free while replying insipidly, "You've come."

"Grandpa Village Chief has also come!" Qin Mu said excitedly.

Deaf's face blackened and he snorted. "He is also out? Is he here to see me being a joke?"

Qin Mu knew his ego was strong and smiled. "Village Chief is in Imperial College. Pack your stall, Grandpa Deaf, follow me back."

Deaf shook his head. "I can make a living by selling my paintings, I don't need you to raise me. I shall prepare New Year goods in two months' time. I will draw paintings of door gods which will definitely sell."

Qin Mu didn't know whether to laugh or cry. He took down Hu Ling'er who was snuggling around his neck and stroked her head with a smile. "Ling'er is learning how to read from Grandpa Deaf? Do you recognize the words in the books?"

Hu Ling'er transformed back into a little girl and smiled sweetly. "I recognize them, it's just that I don't really know their meaning. I've been running here frequently to ask Grandpa Deaf to teach me."

Qin Mu put her down, his gaze bright. He said, "Grandpa Deaf can't sell his paintings like this, there are not many that know what they are worth after all. Besides, painting and calligraphy are valued in a flourishing period while gold is valued in troubled times. With the disasters in the past two years, there aren't many rich people. If you want to sell, you need to use some tricks."

He put away all of Deaf's painting and calligraphy, piling them at one side as he raised his brush to paint.

As he did so, butterflies flew out from the paper and flew around the stall. Sparrows then followed out and began to chirp around, attracting the passers-by who clicked their tongues in wonder.

Qin Mu continued painting, and more and more birds started to fly out from the paper. There were bramblings dancing in the sky, and even a huge swan which flapped its wings to fly out. Its wings were seven to eight feet long when spread out and made everyone exclaim in admiration.

Deaf sneered and said, "Show off! I'm not Blind, that frivolous fellow, I have no need to show off like this. Those who know worth will naturally know what's worthy, I won't sell to those that don't even if they beg me!"

Qin Mu ignored him and another rainbow-colored phoenix came flying out from the paper. It roamed around Calligraphy and Painting Street to attract even more people.

Qin Mu raised his brush to draw a door god, and it actually also jumped out from the painting. He had a tall and large body that inspired people with awe, causing everyone to have no choice but to move back!

"Your skill is not there yet!"

Deaf became angrier and angrier the more he saw and snatched the brush over. He raised it and also drew a door god, instantly, the awe of a god and a devil burst forth and caused everyone in the street to move back continuously as they saw a god of three hundred yards standing up. He had red phoenix eyes, dragon beard, as well as a divine blade at his waist that could vanquish all evil. It looked extraordinary mighty.

“This is a door god!”

Deaf raised his brush, and the door god instantly fell back down. It was still on the painting in vivid detail. Meanwhile all the butterflies, birds, phoenix, and door god that Qin Mu had drawn changed back into splotches of ink that fell on the ground.

Who had the higher skill and who had the lower skill was clearly shown.

Qin Mu exclaimed in admiration along with everyone in the surroundings. There were instantly people who came forward wanting to buy the door god. When they said their prices, they immediately blew Deaf’s mind. He had been selling paintings here for over two months, and if it wasn’t for Hu Ling’er who had found him, he would have starved to death. That’s why he didn’t expect for a single painting to be sold at such an astonishing price.

Hu Ling’er also jumped in shock and immediately went forward to haggle the price. Even if it was actually several times higher than that of the dragon saliva which had really made them speechless.

One painting from Deaf could earn enough for him to live out the rest of his life luxuriously.

Hu Ling’er sold the painting of the door god and took the money. She then immediately scrolled up the other paintings and Qin Mu opened his taotie sack for her to stuff them all inside.

The two of them looked at each other and blinked. Their hearts were thinking of the exact same thing.

Rare commodity was worth hoarding. If they sold too much, it would become worthless.

Qin Mu immediately pulled Deaf away and smiled. “Grandpa Deaf, now that we have money, let us buy some good quality fabric to make a few sets of new clothes for you before eating a good meal. We can meet Village Chief after that. One more thing, I met a painting path that was completely different from yours on the ship from Carefree Village. What you paint is the world which lets all things walk out of the painting while the painting path of Carefree Village is a world within the painting.”

Deaf was originally not willing to leave with Qin Mu, but when he heard what he said, he was instantly moved. He asked, “World within the painting? There’s actually such a painting path? Tell me about it in detail!”

Qin Mu went to buy good fabric in the cloth shop and tailored it personally to make a few sets of clothes for Deaf. He then took out Pig Slaughtering Knife to shave his beard and trim his hair, grooming the old man to be clean and tidy before bringing him back to Imperial College.

He then said, “Grandpa Deaf, if you could join your painting path with the world within the painting, you would definitely be able to take another step forward. Imperial Preceptor asked me to forge Sunshot Divine Cannon, and this also needs Grandpa Deaf’s brush. You will need to first paint the Sunshot Divine Cannon!”