

## Tales of Herding Gods Chapter 41-45

### Chapter 41: Pushing The Knife

When Qin Mu sprinted wildly, he had raised a gust of wind. Granny Si and Blind had sat on the cusp of that very gust to travel. Cusp of the gust was similar to the cusp of the waves. Wave is created by the motion of water and the wave of wind that was raised by Qin Mu was the cusp of the gust.

The young man on Qin Mu's back immediately got down and brought the three people towards his house as he hurried, "Quickly, quickly!"

Qin Mu put aside the cusp of the gust in his mind and walked to the courtyard of this manor to have a look. This village was much bigger than Disabled Elderly Village, housing over a hundred families. The houses here were also simple and crude.

There was a huge tree in the courtyard which crown covered half of the house. The woman in childbirth was in the house under the tree crown.

A village woman stuck her head out of the room and shouted, "Her water has broke, quickly bring some hot water! Oh, this is great, the midwife from Disabled Elderly Village is here! Now both the mother and child would definitely be safe!"

Granny Si looked around and immediately understood what was happening, "Mu'er, awaken your eyes to look around for any oddity. If there's something odd, you can settle it yourself. I'll be going in to deliver the baby. Blind, be careful not to get schemed against as well."

"Heaven's Eyes, Awaken!"

Qin Mu opened his Heaven's Eyes and took a look at the surroundings. Suddenly his gaze landed on the dense tree crown and his blood ran cold while he almost let out a cry.

There was a very thick branch on the tree. But when he took a closer look at it, it was actually a huge snake as thick as a barrel!

The huge snake was hidden in the tree crown with half of its body hidden inside the tree trunk. There were huge knots protruding out from the tree occasionally which was the body of the snake that was left out in the open!

Only from the size of the snake body, Qin Mu guessed that it was a long snake he had never seen before. The other half of its body was probably buried in the soil with the roots of the tree. This snake was bigger than the Green Dragon Snake that Old Ma and the rest had caught!

The entire tree, including the tree crown, was emanating thick black gases that were surrounding this house!

At this moment, the huge snake was spitting out its scarlet red tongue as it lowered its head towards the room where the woman was in. Qin Mu didn't know what it was about to do!

Qin Mu was afraid he had made a mistake and closed his Heaven's Eyes to see with his naked eyes. The tree was still a tree and not a huge snake. However, when he awakened his Heaven's Eyes once again, the huge snake was still coiled around in the tree crown and waiting to eat the soul of the baby that was about to come out!

It was apparent that the huge snake had eaten the souls of the babies that this woman had given birth to during the past few years!

Fury ignited in his heart and he asked solemnly, "Grandpa Blind..."

Blind who was around him, replied him leisurely, "Granny had told us to leave it to you, therefore do what you have to do. This will be your first hunting. Hurry up, the baby is about to come out."

Qin Mu composed himself and walked to the bottom of the tree as he gently breathed in and out.

His vital qi moved from a standstill and with the fury in his heart, his vital qi became boundless as it circulated faster and faster!

As the vital qi in his body surged forth, his fury blazed even furiously!

Shink—

Suddenly, the Pig Slaughtering Knife resonated with the vital qi in his body and flew out from his back to the top of his head with a hum.

Raising his hands to grab the knife, his rampaging vital qi surged wildly into the Pig Slaughtering Knife as he gave a swing!

Swinging his knife with all his strength!

Unleashing all his vital qi and fury in that unrestrained slash!

Slash!

The Pig Slaughtering Knife in his hand whistled as it tore apart the air and landed a devastating cut of the trunk of the huge tree!

Clank—

A huge sound rang out as Qin Mu slashed his knife into the tree trunk and embedded it halfway into the snake body that was hidden in the tree. The snake's skin and flesh had been cultivated extremely sturdy that even Pig Slaughtering Knife, a weapon that Mute had made which surpassed normal spirit weapons, was unable to cut the huge snake into two halves!

Placing his hand on the back of his knife, he executed Cripple's leg skills.

Cripple once said that legs are the wind, the earth, the root of all strength!

Planting his legs into the earth, he exerted his strength and the ground around his leg sank downwards. With all his momentum, he pushed onto the back of his knife with his hand while his other hand grabbed tightly onto the knife's handle as he pushed the knife!

A scraping sound rang out. The huge snake got severed in half along with the tree!

Qin Mu stabilized his footing and brandished the Pig Slaughtering in front of him. The blood on his knife continued dripping and his muscles tensed up on his back while twitching uncontrollably.

Behind, the towering tree slanted and collapsed.

Crash—!

The huge tree collapsed in the courtyard and raised clouds of dust. Suddenly, the huge tree that had collapse came to life!

The huge snake which was slice apart into two was actually still alive. The upper half of the snake body thrashed around and shattered the tree trunk where its body was hidden in, shooting the barks in all directions. Some of the barks were even lodged into the wall!

The splattering barks and pieces of woods were even scarier than spears as they shot through the air with a huge force.

Midnight Battle Across Stormy Cities!

The Pig Slaughtering Knife in Qin Mu's hand flashed as he swung it. His previous move had been extremely heavy as he gathered all his strength into his knife whereas now his knife skills had become unusually fast!

There was only one secret to Butcher's knife skill and that was fast, faster, fastest.

Clank clank clank clank—!

The violent blows rained down as numerous barks and woods collided onto Qin Mu's Pig Slaughtering Knife, making his arms sore from blocking.

The snake's ability was higher than him, however, it was focused on the woman giving childbirth as it wanted to instantly suck the soul away from the baby once it had come out.

When babies were born, their umbilical cords were connected to their mothers' placentas, thus their pneumas were precelestial and once they were born, their pneumas would become postcelestial. When they were still in the womb, their pneumas weren't complete, so the huge snake chose to snatch the soul the instant the baby was born.

It wasn't known how it had sneaked its way into the village and hid from everyone in the village while cultivating here. It had been hiding in this tree for the last several years without being discovered and

had eaten a few infant's souls to boost its own cultivation. It had thought everything would go smoothly like the previous few times and didn't notice Qin Mu, allowing him to sever it in half.

However, despite being severed in half, it wasn't that easy for it to just die.

The huge snake erupted in a fury knowing that its body had severed and would be hard to stay alive for long, thus it immediately reacted by opening its wide jaws and bit towards Qin Mu!

Violent gusts blew furiously into Qin Mu's face, making him face twitched tremendously and his eyes unable to open.

Without thinking, the knife in Qin Mu's hand slashed forward like a raging storm. However, an unimaginable powerful strength came towards him and knocked him back with a grunt. With a loud crash, there was a large human-shaped hole created in the wall of the courtyard!

Before Qin Mu could get up, he saw the two gates of the courtyard being blown away like paper cards. The huge snake had crashed through the gate and slithered straight for him as it gave off a bloodthirsty aura. Its ferocious mouth and long teeth terrified Qin Mu and he dared not face off with the huge snake as he sneaked a pleading glance at Blind.

In the distance behind the snake, Blind just stood there calmly and paid no attention to what was happening.

Qin Mu's heart stirred, "Could it be Grandpa Blind think that I'm able to handle this snake? Since he thinks that I'm able to handle it, I will be able to do it! Heaven's Eyes, Awaken!"

His vital qi circulated vigorously and entered his eyes to form layers of magnificent vital qi formations, forming a complicated pupil marking in his eyes.

When he had awakened his Heaven's Eyes, he immediately felt that the world in front of him had been restructured. The dim village, the stray houses, the snake pouncing at him, had all become several times clearer. Every action the snake made, he could easily catch them.

Changing his footsteps, Qin Mu evaded the huge snake pounce by barely an inch and sliced his Pig Slaughtering Knife on the eyes of the huge snake that had flown past him.

Leaping upwards, he once again dodged the sweep of the huge snake by barely an inch.

Every movement of the snake became extremely clear in his eyes. From the muscles contractions under the snake's skin and the angle of the exertion of strength, he could clearly know the next movement of the snake and dodge it accordingly.

All of this happened as if it was natural for Qin Mu. There was no need for him to predict its movement.

Heaven's Eyes, the first heaven of Nine Heavens Eye Awakening Skill could not only see through facade but could also raise his senses by leaps and bounds!

With its left eye sliced open by Qin Mu's knife, the snake screeched in pain and immediately pounced towards Qin Mu who had just landed on the ground. Following which, everything also suddenly turned dark before the other eye of the snake as it got sliced apart by Qin Mu.

The huge snake suddenly quietened down and stopped moving. Qin Mu also stood still without making a sound. The human and snake were just a few yards away from each other.

At the sides of the village's pavements, several villagers had come out to have a look, only to be stunned at the sight of an eleven to twelve years old boy fighting against a huge snake.

Night had already fallen in this small village and the light from the old lamps shone dimly out from the windows, barely lighting up the pavements.

Almost everyone had held their breaths and were afraid to make even the slightest sound.

Everyone except the little girl who had suddenly cried out from being scared.

The huge snake instantly moved and slithered toward the little girl. With its huge mouth wide opened, it pounced towards the family of three that had been scared frozen.

#### **Chapter 42: Phantom Of The Night**

The instant where the huge snake moved, Qin Mu leaped forward as well. With his Pig Slaughtering Knife like the storm, he frantically cut down on the frail spot between the snake's head and the snake's body!

Pig Slaughtering Knife Skill, Sun On East Sea Thousand Layer Waves!

This move of Butcher had to have the grandeur of a huge sun rising along with the thousand layers of waves overlapping each other. Using the matchless knife power to cut down and shatter every power in its way!

There was only one thought in Qin Mu's mind. Chop! Chop! Chop! Chop! Chop!

I must behead it!

Chii—

The blood of the snake splattered out. The triangular head of the snake which was as wide as a table was separated from its body but continued to fly towards the family of three with no idea that it was already dead.

Looking at the head of the huge snake that was about to reach the family of three, Qin Mu leaped above the head of the snake and forcefully kicked downwards, closing the snake's mouth.

The youth dropped straight down along with the snake's head and crashed in front of the family of three that had been scared shitless.

The three of them stared blankly at the youth in front of them.

Qin Mu bent down and gave the little girl a smile, revealing his white teeth, "Everything's fine now, little girl."

Suddenly, the cries of a baby resonated out and a woman rushed out from the house that had been partially destroyed by the huge snake while smiling, "Congratulations! Both the mother and child are safe!"

Qin Mu immediately returned the Pig Slaughtering Knife back into the cowskin sheath and ran back into the courtyard. The young man had already rushed excitedly into the house while Granny Si came out to washed her hands and took a glance back at the loving family behind her.

"Are you satisfied, Mu'er?" Granny Si smiled.

Qin Mu looked at the sight of the loving family of three and nodded his head gently. His hand subconsciously rose up to hold onto the jade pendant on his chest.

Granny Si looked at his hand and gave a sigh in her heart.

Blind stepped forward and gave a yawn, "The matter here is settled so it's time for us to sleep. Granny, they don't have much room here so how about we squeeze..."

Granny turned her head back with a scary gaze. Blind shivered uncontrollably and jabbed his bamboo cane into the ground, turning away, "Nowadays, even the blinds also have to get fiercely stared at. People today have sadly degenerated. I shall sleep on the street..."

"Granny, how come no one in the village had noticed this huge snake all this time?" Qin Mu asked puzzledly as he saw the villagers dragging the snake's tail out from the tree trunk.

He had lived in Disabled Elderly Village since young and all the villagers were disabled. Even Granny Si was a hunchback. However, the elders in the village to him were all capable of anything.

The villagers in this village were mostly ordinary humans. Even though there were practitioners, their cultivation and strengths weren't very high, thus he had some doubts.

"In Great Ruins, there's only one Disabled Elderly Village."

Granny Si had a peaceful gaze, "Most of the people here are ordinary humans who were too late to escape the Great Ruin's catastrophe. There are also some people who were unable to continue living in the outside world and forced to escape here to hide from the pressure of exorbitant taxations of the landlords, seeking to survive here."

"The outside world?" Qin Mu's eyes sparkled.

"The outside world is much more dangerous than Great Ruins!"

Granny Si gave a cold hump, "Otherwise granny and the rest wouldn't be forced to hide here in the Great Ruins! Don't always think about going to the outside world!"

Qin Mu scratched his head, having no idea why Granny Si who was always affable had suddenly blown her temper.

Granny Si lowered her voice and whispered, "There's something strange going on with this snake. Strange beasts are normally unable to enter villages yet this huge snake could hide in the manor and for several years even. I'm afraid this huge snake could only be purposely let in by someone... This kind of breeding method seems to be a method of the devil cult. Hehe, something interesting might just happen tonight..."

The snake was purposely let into the village to harm the villagers?"

Qin Mu's heart turned cold. How vile could the person be?

The snake had obviously eaten the souls of a few newborn babies! What good is it to him to feed infants to a snake?

"Mu'er, something weird might happen to you tonight but don't you move or make a sound even when you see it. In the morning, the outcome would be revealed."

Granny Si chuckled, revealing the bits and pieces of teeth left in her mouth, "He used the snake to suck the infant's pneuma and souls before sucking the essence from the snake to reverse his precelestial pneuma. He should have been cultivating for many years and should have an extraordinary ability. This method of cultivation would definitely cause him to be chased down by people against devils outside thus he could only stir up havoc here in Great Ruins. You can't deal with the person coming tonight, Mu'er. Just look."

Qin Mu nodded his head as uneasiness welled up inside of him.

This family was pretty excited for quite a long time, laughing and crying before they remembered to arrange a place for Granny Si and Qin Mu to settle down. The couple gave out their central and inner room for Granny Si and Qin Mu to rest. Qin Mu felt it was inappropriate but Granny Si didn't reject and made Qin Mu sleep in the central room while she slept in the inner room.

Not long later, both of them fell asleep. Qin Mu had originally tried to keep himself awake but as time went by, his eyelids drooped and gradually closed. In the middle of the night when all was quiet and still, Qin Mu suddenly shivered uncontrollably and immediately opened his eyes only to find out he couldn't move!

The door to the central room creaked open and dim light shone in through the door crack. A long shadow then appeared on the ground.

Qin Mu opened his mouth yet he wasn't able to make any sound to warn Granny Si!

The shadow on the ground flickered and started to move, climbing onto the wall. The shadow on the wall distorted and revealed sharp teeth and claws, making it seem even more menacing.

Cold sweats broke out on Qin Mu's forehead and the shadow climbed its way to the ceiling before hanging straight down to stare at him.

Qin Mu stared back with his eyes wide open. It was a real shadow that was hanging down at him. It was flat yet incredibly flexible as if it were a practitioner skilled in contortion!

However, it was clearly just a shadow. How was the shadow able to move freely? Where could the owner of the shadow be?

Whoosh—

A gust of wind blew in from the door crack and brought a small triangular white banner along with it which was caught in the hands of the shadow as it waved it towards Qin Mu.

At this moment, the door of the room which Granny Si was sleeping in suddenly creaked open and a silver bead flew out. It was like the silver pellets that Qin Mu had seen in Granny Si's room. The bead stopped at the heart of Qin Mu's brow and remained spinning on the spot without letting out a sound. Hair-like swords that almost couldn't be seen continuously flew out from the silver bead.

The black shadow on the ceiling waved the white banner around as it floated around in the room. The white banner was as fast as lightning as it repeatedly attacked Qin Mu who was laying on the bed. At this moment, the bead moved too and clashed silently with the white banner, blocking all its attacks.

No matter how much the two strange objects clashed together, no sounds were emitted and no items were destroyed throughout the eerily quiet showdown.

After some time, the shadow trembled and spat out blood from its mouth. The white banner fluttered away while the black shadow flowed out of the house like water and vanished.

The silver colored bead stopped spinning and returned back into the room without a trace.

Only now could Qin Mu feel that he was able to move once again as he gasped for his breath. He didn't understand what had just happened but the bloodstains on the ground proved that everything he had witnessed had really happened.

Outside the house, no sound could be heard except the beating of the gong. It was the night watchman announcing the period of the night, to prevent the villagers from waking up early and getting swallowed by the darkness outside of the village.

The night watchman beat the gong thrice and kept his gong to go home. When he reached the front of his house, he saw a blind man walking by with his bamboo cane.

"Old brother, find a place to take a rest!" The night watchman quickly stopped Blind and smiled, "It's already so late, be careful not to walk out of the village and get eaten by the monsters!"



Blind gave a smile and tapped his bamboo cane on the night watchman's shadow, "Thanks for the warning." After saying his thanks, Blind tapped his way forward with his bamboo cane and slowly walked away.

Pop pop—!

Two bloody holes exploded in the night watchman chest as his body swayed and collapsed to the ground.

What a fast spear to be able to break through my spell! Keke, I know who you are. You may be blind now but you are even stronger than before..."

The night watchman took his last breath and died.

From above, a triangular white banner floated down and covered his face.

### **Chapter 43: The Demon Rushing Home**

The next day, Qin Mu was awakened by the commotion made by the villagers and went to ask around. Only then did he know that the night watchman had died last night, scaring the villagers.

They had already been frightened once by the huge snake that had come out from the tree Qin Mu had chopped. Never did they expect the night watchman to die such a gruesome death in the dead of night, causing them to panic.

The couple from yesterday brought a plate which had a red cloth laid on it. On the top of the red cloth were some gifts, "Midwife, little brother, we are a poor family and have nothing much to offer. You must accept this."

Qin Mu was about to reject when Blind cut in, "Accept them, Mu'er. Don't keep them feeling that they owe you."

Qin Mu properly kept the few items and bid goodbye to the couple. The man smiled, "With such exceptional ability, little brother would definitely become a dragon or phoenix in the world!"

"What's so great about dragon and phoenix?" Granny Si said. "Dragon's liver and phoenix's gall are merely delicacies on the table. Don't become a dragon or phoenix. Become one who will devour a dragon or phoenix in this world."

The couple looked at each other speechlessly. Granny Si waved towards them, "Go back. Mu'er, Blind, we'll continue with the temple fair!"

Qin Mu quickly caught up to the Granny Si and asked curiously, "Granny, what was going on last night? Was the method of breeding from the night watchman? How did he die? Also, what was the silver pellet floating above my forehead last night? Didn't you also say everyone was ordinary in our village? How come I feel the people in our village aren't as ordinary as people from other villages?"

“Where did all the questions come from?” Granny Si’s head started to ache and pleadingly looked towards Blind. Blind chuckled as he walked forward, knocking into a tree with a bump and fainted.

Granny Si gave a few steps on Blind’s face yet he remained unconscious.

Qin Mu immediately carried Blind on his back and looked hopefully at Granny Si. Granny Si then took out a needle from her basket and stab it into Blind’s butt. Even with the blood spurting out, he still remained unconscious.

Left without a choice, Granny Si blinked her eyes and said, “The night watchman was indeed the expert from the devil path that had bred the snake. His ability wasn’t weak as well. He used the Phantom Illusion Technique, which is one of the very powerful divine arts of Heavenly Devil Cult. I used Shadow Assassination Skill to injure his shadow and used his shadow to injure his true body. However, being haunted by the devil in my heart, I had once promised someone to never harm a Heavenly Devil Cult’s disciple so I could only force him to retreat. The one who killed him wasn’t me and was Blind.”

Qin Mu blinked his eyes and asked again, “Then what was the silver pellet? Was it a sword pellet? Is granny skilled in sword technique?”

Granny Si also blinked her eyes back at Qin Mu. Both of them blinked and blinked at each other until their eyes were sore. Gritting her teeth, Granny Si stabbed another needle into Blind’s butt but he still remained unconscious.

“Silver pellet? Ehem, did you mean this?”

Granny Si flipped over her palm and there it was, a silver pellet. Qin Mu immediately nodded his head, “Teach me sword technique, granny!”

Granny Si gave a sigh, “It’s not that I don’t want to teach you. I can’t. My sword technique may be one of the greatest but it would never be considered the best in the world. If you learn my sword technique, the person would be unwilling to teach you, therefore I wouldn’t teach you even if it costs me my life.”

Qin Mu became disappointed but his spirit immediately lifted again, “The best sword technique in the world? Is he from our village?”

“Stop guessing blindly.”

Granny Si warned him, “If you go beg him, more so he won’t teach you. Only when he had come to terms with himself would he teach you! There are many ultimate arts that you had learned and you haven’t truly mastered any of them. When the day comes you can beat the elders in the village, you shall then think about training your sword technique! Even if he doesn’t teach you then, we’ll force him to teach!”

Blind gave a yawn and said calmly, “He’s the most knowledgeable and has the densest cultivation. He’s gotten more and more terrifying these few years and we might not even beat him together.”

“You’re finally willing to wake up?” Granny Si erupted in anger and stabbed another needle on his butt.

Blind climbed down from Qin Mu's back and propped himself up with his bamboo cane, "Some things are better explained by you than me. I can explain how I killed the night watchman though. The Phantom Illusion Technique of the night watchman was very powerful, to be able to swap himself between his true body and his shadow. His shadow was his true body instead of his body. If one was to only attack his body in a fight, they would be killed by his shadow. When he wanted to kill me, I use my bamboo cane and jab his shadow twice on the ground to kill him."

Qin Mu thought for a while then continued, "Then what about him rearing a snake to absorb infant's precelestial pneuma and soul for cultivation?"

Blind replied, "Granny, you'll explain since you're better versed in the devil techniques."

"This technique is called the Precelestial Freedom Technique." Granny Si explained. "This technique is used by Heavenly Devil Cult to achieve precelestial from postcelestial. However, it's not known where he had obtained an incomplete technique and to actually use unborn babies for cultivation. The true Precelestial Freedom Technique may be a devil technique but it's upright and would never stoop so low to use this kind of despicable method for cultivation, instead, they would absorb the energy of heaven and earth, the essence of sun and moon to cultivate."

A worried expression appeared on her face as she muttered to herself, "For a person of the Heavenly Devil Cult to be near, it seems there won't be peace in the Great Ruins anymore. These fellows tend to appear in a hive..."

The three people returned back to Grandma Temple and continued with the temple fair. When late afternoon came, people from various villages started to leave to return back to their village and Qin Mu once again drove the cow cart back to Disabled Elderly Village.

"Mu'er, you can now go hunting on your own." Old Ma suddenly declared as he sat on the cow cart, his body moving up and down with the irregular road. "You've grown up."

Qin Mu felt warmth in his heart and smiled as he turned back. The cowherd boy of Disabled Elderly Village had a smile as radiant as the morning sun.

"However you are only to hunt strange beast and not challenge the territorial strange beast." Granny Si warned. "And you are to herd the cows every evening and made them eat more grass."

The cowherd boy's face immediately turned black and the two sturdy cows which were pulling the cart silently mooded in anger. Tears welled up in their eyes, making them seem exceptionally wronged.

Seeing what happened, Qin Mu asked suspiciously, "Granny, are these two cows human as well?"

"Try guessing." Granny Si chuckled.

Qin Mu didn't want to guess.

Suddenly a gust of wind blew from behind and the youth who was enjoying the breeze suddenly took a step forward and leaped off from the cow cart to chase the wind. He wanted to catch up to the wind and to travel in the sky while stepping on the cusp of gust!

His speed was extremely fast as he leaped up the forest and sprinted to the top of the trees. His speed increased even faster and finally caught up to the tip of the wind. Leaping into the sky, even though he was in midair, there was a strange force beneath his feet pushing him upwards.

The youth cheered in excitement as his feet stepped continuously on the cusp of gust to travel in the sky.

The few people on the cow cart looked up and Blind calmly asked, "Will he drop down?"

Apothecary grabbed a handful of wind and took a sniff before laughing, "He will drop down. This is a demonic wind created by a demon rushing home. When the demon discovers him, it would definitely stop. Who will be the one to catch him?"

Qin Mu's footstep grew faster along with the wind and ended up sprinting several miles without him noticing. Just as he was being excited, he suddenly saw a pure snow white fox sitting on a huge banana leaf with its front paws straighten out and its back paws in a sitting position.

As he stared blankly at the white fox, it also stared back blankly.

The human and fox screamed in unison and Qin Mu immediately felt the whistling wind came to a rest, causing him to wave his limbs helplessly as he fell from the sky. Meanwhile, the fox was still sitting on the banana leaf while pointing its front paw at him, screaming from being startled.

"Crap!"

Qin Mu's feet immediately changed as he tried to execute Heaven Pilfering Leg Skill, "As long as I run fast enough, I can even run in the sky..."

However, only now did he realized that he wasn't fast enough. He simply couldn't step on the air and continued to fall towards the ground!

Qin Mu looked down and his scalp turned numb. Below was a mountainous region and there wasn't even a tree in sight. There were only numerous scattered rocks and if he landed on any one of them, he would probably die horribly!

At this moment, the screaming white fox in the sky came back to its sense and flew down in an instant on its banana leaf. Qin Mu immediately felt wind growing beneath his feet and he could once again step on the cusp of the gust. His feet moved quickly to stop the momentum of his fall and just before he landed on the ground, he managed to leap up using the cusp of gust and travel on the wind!

Letting out a sigh of relief, he saw the fox catching up to him while sitting on the banana leaf. Looking at each other, the fox suddenly spoke with a sweet voice in human language. However, its body reeked of alcohol as it asked curiously in a drunk manner, "What are you doing? Why did you come into my wind?"

Qin Mu was astonished and replied, "I was trying to see if I could catch up to the cusp of gust in order to travel on the wind. I didn't know this was your wind. You can fly? And also talk as well?"

"I used spells to harness the wind so I can manipulate the wind to travel." The white fox explained. "I had just returned from a banquet and am rushing back home as the sky is almost dark. I'll be heading off now and won't be sending you off. If fate allows it, we'll meet each other again!" Once it finished saying its words, it vanished with the gale.

Qin Mu felt the energy of the wind becoming weaker and immediately sprinted down from the sky. When he had landed, Disabled Elderly Village was just a short distance in front of him. Lifting his head up, the fox had already vanished without a trace.

"Returning from a banquet?" Qin Mu was full of questions. "How interesting, this talking fox knows spells and also attends banquets. When I meet it next time, I definitely need to ask it clearly..."

Two days later, an old and a young monk covered in dust came by Zhang Manor. As they walked into the village, the elder asked, "Is there any kind person willing to provide us a bowl of water? We monks, are always outside and have a bad stomach so we would like a bowl of warm water."

The villagers poured two bowls of water for the elder and youth, who thanked them for their kindness. With a pleasant looking face, the elder smiled, "We, master and disciple had been wandering everywhere and know some spells. I can feel a demonic aura in your village, is there a need for us to help you get rid of the demon?"

The villager smiled, "The demon has already been gotten rid of. It was a huge snake hidden in the trunk of a tree. It was killed by a youth from a neighboring village!"

The elder asked in astonishment, "Why do I still feel a demonic aura here? Did someone pass away in the village recently?"

#### **Chapter 44: Heavenly Devil Patriarch**

The villagers of Zhang Manor crowded around and one of them immediately said, "The night watchman had just died!"

The elder pondered for a minute and asked, "Was the night watchman's body buried? He is most likely a demon and his body may turn into a zombie."

The villagers in Zhang Manor jumped in shock and immediately brought the two people to the grave of the night watchman, "We just buried him yesterday, two venerables..."

The elder pointed his finger forward and the dirt on the grave separated to two sides. A thin coffin rose up from the pit and floated in front of everyone.

Pop pop pop—

The coffin nails automatically popped out one by one and the cover of the coffin was lifted up. As the coffin fell back into the pit, the body of the night watchman continued floating in midair, his face getting covered by a white banner.

Retrieving the white banner for inspection, the old and the young monk took a look at each other and nodded their heads silently. The elder chanted an incantation and pointed his finger at the body once again, causing the night watchman body to instantly burst into flames, turning into ashes before long.

The villagers immediately gave their thanks, offering gold and silver as a reward. The youth immediately shook his hand but the elder said, "We don't deserve the reward for doing nothing, but if we did a meritorious deed we'll have to receive the reward. Accept it."

The youth then kept the reward. The elder then asked, "Where does the youth that killed the huge snake stay? Who were the ones around him?"

"They're from Disabled Elderly Village. With him are Blind and Granny Si. Following the river upstream, you can find the village about fourteen miles from here."

The elder said his thanks and they left Zhang Manor to travel upstream.

After walking a few miles, the elder gave a sigh, "Death is like an extinguished lamp. Hall Master Mo's lamp has been extinguished. That night watchman was our Hall Master Mo. He had gone down the wrong path while cultivating Freedom Precelestial Technique and used infants for cultivation. Even though he deserved death, he was still a hall master of our sacred cult. The one who killed him seemed to be Spear God, who had nailed his soul and body to death. On the white banner are sword marks, which meant before Hall Master Mo met Spear God, he had met her as well, the Cult Mistress."

The youth listened silently.

The elder continued, Cult Mistress was always mysterious and elusive. After hiding away in the Great Ruins, experts from our sacred cult had been tracking her down to no avail. Never would I expect Hall Master Mo to meet her here. Patriarch, we have not wasted our time here."

The youth opened his mouth and an extremely old but powerful voice sounded out, "After Cult Mistress had killed Cult Master and stolen Great Educational Heavenly Devil Scriptures, the holy bible of our cult, she disappeared for forty years. Pity us that we had to search around for her for the past forty years, we have finally found her."

The next morning in Disabled Elderly Village, Apothecary brought Village Chief to the village's entrance after breakfast and brewed up a pot of tea before he heard the clucks of the hen dragon in the village.

"The hen has laid its egg, Mu'er, go grab the egg from the coop."

Granny Si hurried Mu'er to go grab the egg and just as Qin Mu entered the coop, he got chased out by the hen dragon after getting his face pecked bloody.

The hen dragon was extremely fierce and could spit out a fire snake that was several yards long. Its feathers were as sharp as blades and its claws could knead metal like mud. Sparring a few rounds with the hen, Qin Mu realized he wasn't its opponent and ran away.

"Mu'er, you don't even have the strength to subdue a hen?" Butcher saw Qin Mu getting chased around the entire village by the hen dragon and roared with laughter.

Granny Si took the chance to snatch the egg and when the hen dragon couldn't catch up to Qin Mu, it went back into its coop arrogantly only to find out its egg was gone. Flying into a rage, it went after the youth again to beat him up.

After the commotion, Qin Mu raised his spirit and swept away all depression gained from being defeated by the Hen Dragon. Strapping the Pig Slaughtering Knife on his back, he then put on a sword sheath, a huge iron hammer, his khakkhara staff and stuffed a few Vitality Reinforcement Pill in his pockets before leaving the village enthusiastically.

This was his first time going out to hunt alone and Qin Mu had been waiting forever for this day. However, he was a little depressed after being beaten by the Hen Dragon.

Walking out of the village, he saw a youth and an elder walking towards the village like two wandering devotees.

The youth and the elder came to the village's gate, paying their respects to Village Chief and Apothecary who were drinking tea there, asking, "May we request for a cup of tea?"

Village Chief raised his eyebrows and replied, "How can we neglect our visitors from afar?"

Apothecary poured two cups of tea for the youth and the elder as they both sat down. The youth sat in front of Village Chief while the elder sat at the side.

"This was the youth that had slaughtered the snake?" The elder looked pleasantly at Qin Mu and smiled.

Qin Mu was about to say something when Village Chief cut in, "Mu'er, it's none of your business being here. Go do your own stuff."

Qin Mu nodded and walked towards the forest.

When Qin Mu had gone far away, the youth in front of Village Chief opened his mouth and spoke with an extremely old voice, "We have met before, am I right?"

Village Chief nodded his head, "Yes we have."

The youth revealed a smile, "There aren't many people left from our generation. I'm very glad to be able to meet you."

"I could say the same." Village Chief said insipidly.

The youth smiled, "I'm here to see Granny Si. Our cult hasn't had a cult master for the past forty years. Granny Si will have to give us an answer."

Village Chief shook his head, "Once in the village, we have no ties with the outside world."

The youth's gaze wavered, "I shall not go in then. Could you ask her out for me? I have questions to ask her."

Village Chief shook his head again, "She had gone out."

The elder couldn't restrain himself and was about to say something when the youth raised his hand to stop him, "We have already waited forty years, there's no rush now. Elder of Discipline, since Cult Mistress isn't here, call the strong workers over to build a village. We're going to stay here for the night."

The elder bowed in agreement and a devilish qi shot up into the sky to form a giant "decree" word.

The youth slowly enjoyed his tea and after two hours, the villagers in Disabled Elderly Village put down the work on hand and walked out of the village, raising their heads to have a look.

From the forest, huge giants with bulging muscles walked through the forest, pushing down all the tree in their paths. Every four giants carried a stone statue with them and there was a total of four statues. Walking over as they gasped for breath, the rocks and mountains were flattened like mud under their feet!

The sixteen giant's faces were flushed as the stone statues were obviously incomparably heavy. Even strong workers like they weren't able to handle them.

The sixteen giants carefully placed down the four statues on the north, south, east, and west corners right beside the Disabled Elderly Village.

Not long later, another ship with several decks sailed by and stopped beside the river. Over a hundred carpenters came down from the ship and started cutting down the trees beside Disabled Elderly Village and built the houses. An hour later, wooden houses were soon built, with all the pieces of furniture that were needed. The carpenters then went back to the ship and brought down all the gold, silver, household utensils, and cutleries. They then boarded the ship again and sailed away.

Following that, another ship sailed in and some painters came down to paint the houses and the pieces of furniture, leaving after they were finished.

Another ship of stonemasons arrived and started to extract stones from the mountain to carve into stone statues and stone slabs to make pavements in the village, leaving after they were finished as well.

After some time, a burly man with a curly mustache hurried over while covered in dust and bowed, "Patriarch! Senior Brother of Discipline."

The elder replied, "Left Guardian, the village is ready. Find yourself a room."

The burly man with curly mustache entered the newly built village beside Disabled Elderly Village and settled down in one of the rooms, not making a sound.

Sometime later, an old woman in shabby clothes came by and paid her respects to the youth and the elder before settling down in one of the rooms. Moments later, another fisherman came sailing down on a skiff made from a piece of leaf. Anchoring his skiff at the side of the river, he settled down in the village with his fishing basket and rod.



Not long later, more and more strange people started to enter the village. Some of them were moneybags and some of them were merchants, others looked like scholars, teachers, and even prostitutes. There were various people from all kinds of professions.

Old Ma's expression turned grave and lowered his voice, "There are three hundred and sixty professions in Heavenly Devil Cult which formed three hundred and sixty halls and hall masters. They were all extremely mysterious and were hidden throughout the whole world. Who would have thought all three hundred and sixty hall masters had entered the Great Ruins for the past forty years to look for the Cult Mistress. I'm afraid they would all come stay here beside us!"

The smile on Cripple's face became even more radiant as he laughed, "Where's Granny Si? These people are all looking for her!"

Deaf replied, "I saw granny turning into a roe deer and left the village before Qin Mu did. I think she worried about Mu'er hunting alone, therefore, she's escorting him secretly. I'm afraid she still has no idea that the Devil Cult had found their way here. The Devil Cult almost moved their entire cult over to our side!"

...

Qin Mu walked deep into the forest and mountains and after a while, a roe deer ran by while looking around, unable to find any trace of Qin Mu. Just as the roe deer was bewildered, Qin Mu jumped down from the tree and smiled, "Granny, since I supposed to be hunting alone, do you mind going back? I'm able to take care of myself."

The roe deer got angry and scolded, "Rascal, be careful not to die outside!" She then wagged her little tail and ran off.

Qin Mu continued to move forward and saw a woolly mammoth drinking water beside a pond not long after. "Granny, I'm really able to take care of myself. There's no need for you to follow me."

The woolly mammoth flew into a rage and started trampling toward him. Qin Mu circulated his vital qi and drew his Pig Slaughter Knife out with a murderous intent, "Since you aren't granny, then die!"

The woolly mammoth immediately turned around and ran away while scolding him in human language, "You are going to even kill granny. Get ready for a beating when you go back!"

Qin Mu shooked his head and walked another two miles forward before helplessly raising his head at a huge bird in the sky, "Granny, there's really no need to follow me."

The huge bird glanced at him and remained unmoved while continuously circling on top of him.

Qin Mu gazed wavered and picked up a bunch of stones, flicking them into the sky. The stones in the sky were of different height, allowing Qin Mu to use their as stairs to leap upwards until he was beside the bird.

The huge bird suddenly spoke, "Alright, alright, I shan't follow you anymore!" When she finished saying, she flapped her wings and flew away.

Qin Mu landed back on the ground with a thud as both his legs sunk deep into the mud. Lifting up his head, the bird in the sky had vanished without a trace.

"Granny would probably still follow me."

Qin Mu took notice of his surroundings and didn't discover anything abnormal so he continued a few miles forward. In front of him was a waterfall with a good landscape. At the side of the waterfall was a straw hut and outside the hut was a slanted stone statue that was half buried in the ground.

Smoke could be seen rising from the straw hut which showed that someone was living here.

"How are there still people living here in such wilderness? Could it be an elderly expert hiding in seclusion here?"

Just as he thought about this, he saw a white fox walking out from the straw hut to grab a bamboo tube before returning back to the hut.

#### **Chapter 45: Surging River Dragon Palace**

Qin Mu went forward and saw the white fox holding onto the bamboo tube, puffing its cheeks as it blew air into the stove.

Qin Mu gently coughed and said, "Is there anyone home?"

The white fox in the grass hut jumped in shock and immediately hid the bamboo tube away while speaking in an old voice, "Who's the one making a fuss outside and disturbing my peace? I am an ancient demon and I shall turn you into ashes..."

Qin Mu broke out in laughter and the white fox immediately raised its head to look out the window. Seeing the youth outside, it let out a sigh of relief and its voice changed back to its normal sweet sounding voice, "So it was the youth who had borrowed my wind that day. I had been a little drunk from the banquet that day so pardon my impoliteness. Don't just stand outside. Come on in."

Qin Mu walked into the straw hut and took a look around. He was astonished as the straw hut was pretty tidy. There were even a bed, rice vat, pieces of furniture, curtains and even a dressing table.

The white fox stood upright like a human and bobbed a curtsy to Qin Mu, "This is my humble home. Please excuse the humility in my room."

Qin Mu returned the greeting and asked curiously, "You're making your meal?"

The white fox replied, "Yesterday it was my sisters' treat, therefore, I had drunk a few cups more. Had a migraine when I woke up today, therefore I'm making some soup to sober up. Please take a seat, young master."

Qin Mu was secretly amazed. This white fox was much smarter than devil ape. To know how to even make soup for itself. It's just that this fox was a drunkard and would get drunk every day.

Seeing a bookshelf at the side, he walked over to have a look. On the bookshelf were ancient books. He took down a book and it was about the skills on breathing exercises. There were also spells in the books but they weren't complete.

"Can young master read?"

The white fox finished cooking its soup and took a glimpse at Qin Mu who was enthralled in the books. Pleasantly surprised, it asked, "I don't understand the writings on the books and can only look at the pictures to cultivate. If young master understands the writings on the books, can you read them out to me?"

"Why can't I?"

Qin Mu sat down and the white fox wagged its tail. The wind floated the bowl of soup onto the table and the white fox sat in front of him. Its eyes were bright and full of expression.

Qin Mu flipped open the first page and read out, "Circulate the qi to your square inch mountain, stimulate your vital qi core, move the tiger to the bottom of your heart, vibrate the winter sea of qi..."

The white fox drank its soup and listen attentively when it suddenly asked, "Where's the square inch mountain?"

"The square inch mountain is at the heart of your brows." Qin Mu explained, "The heart of your brows is where your Spirit Embryo Divine Treasure is. To circulate your qi to your square inch mountain meant to circulate your vital qi to your heart of your brows. However, when your vital qi reaches the heart of your brows, there will be a god voice from the nine heavens above to cut off your vital qi."

The white fox tried it out and shook its head, "I can't hear any god voice."

Qin Mu frowned. In the past, there will always be a god voice cutting him off when he directed his vital qi to the heart of his brows. He had thought that the white fox would encounter the same situation as him but he didn't expect it to be not the case."

"Could it be that the structure of the Spirit Embryo Divine Treasure is different between a human and a fox?"

He didn't think further and continued to read and explain the ancient texts to the white fox. Not long later, he had finished reading the entire book. On this ancient book, the method of cultivation had its unique ways of cultivating, however, it wasn't compatible with Qin Mu's Overlord Body, therefore, he can't use it to cultivate.

The white fox was intelligent and comprehended the content in the books. It smiled and said, "I had cultivated using the pictures in the past and thought I had learned the stuff recorded in the book. To

think I had still made many mistakes in my cultivation. Thank you young master for clearing my doubts. My name is Hu Ling'er. May I dare to ask your name?"

"My name is Qin Mu, a cowherd boy with the surname Qin and I'm not any young master." Qin Mu smiled. "I stay nearby and not far from here. Where did you get these ancient books?"

Hu Ling'er drank the soup and felt much better, "About twenty miles west from here, there's a ruin. Once I was too late to return home thus I hid from the darkness in the ruins. While I was there, I accidentally opened a stone chamber and found these few books inside. There was also a bottle of elixir and after drinking it, I had suddenly become intelligent and had a mind of my own. I felt the books were good stuff, therefore, I've brought them back with me. However, since I was unable to read, I could only look at the pictures. I have learned all my spells from the book."

"Twenty miles west?"

Qin Mu was astonished and pondered, "Could it be Surging River Dragon King's dragon palace?"

Hu Ling'er's eyes lighted up and said, "There are indeed many dragon sculptures there, however, it's very dangerous in there. There's something treacherous inside and I dare not go in so I just brought a few books back."

Qin Mu immediately asked, "Could you bring me there?"

The little white fox replied, "It's very treacherous inside and can't be ventured carelessly. When I just reached the door, I was scared..."

She became embarrassed and didn't continue, which probably meant that she had been scared shitless.

Qin Mu became excited, "Don't you want to take a look in the dragon palace? Maybe there's even a dragon king inside!"

"Don't want to."

Hu Ling'er gave it some time as her eyes blinked slyly, "If young master can come by here frequently to read these ancient books to me, I can bring you there. I'm not going to go in though."

"Deal!"

Qin Mu smiled and raised his palm. Hu Ling'er hesitated for a moment before raising her furry paw to strike with his palm. After that, she drank all her soup.

The human and the fox left the straw hut and went west.

"The banquet that you attended that day, whose banquet was it?" Qin Mu remembered what happened that day and asked.

"It was the banquet held by the Great Demon King, inviting all the greater demons from everywhere. After obtaining the ancient books from Surging River Dragon Palace, my wisdom had increased greatly

and had become a well known greater demon around here. However, I still can't beat those fellows with brute strength thus I still rank at the last among the greater demons."

Hu Ling'er jumped onto a banana leaf and executed her spell to raise up a demon wind. The demon wind blew up the banana leaf and she smiled, "The Great Demon King had cultivated its human body and is very powerful. Within a radius of thousand miles, all the greater demons will have to listen to his command no matter if they are territorial strange beast or not."

The demon wind blew the banana leaf, sending the white fox into the sky. Qin Mu leaped up and travel west on the cusp of the gust.

At this moment, a mile away from the straw hut was a huge taotie beast looking around bewilderedly, "Seeing the time, Mu'er should have reached already. Turning into a strange beast this time, he'll definitely not recognized me... This is weird, where did that rascal go? Hmm? There is a demon wind of a fox! The rascal got kidnapped by a vixen on his first hunting!"

On the river thirty miles from Disabled Elderly Village, a gust of wind was blowing onto a three yards long banana leaf. On the leaf was a fox and beside the fox was a youth running on the wind. They were Qin Mu and Hu Ling'er.

"With my magic power, I'm still unable to fly on my own. I can only use my spell to raise a demon wind and use it to make the banana leaf float in the sky. If I was to run on the wind like you, I would definitely drop down... the dragon palace is nearby!"

Hu Ling'er lowered her demon wind allowing Qin Mu and the banana leaf to gradually reach the ground. After some time, the human and fox landed on the ground.

Qin Mu looked around and saw the Surging River wound around a huge mountain. The azure water revolved around the green mountain and the melodious chirping of the birds resonated throughout the valleys. There were monkeys swinging from tree to tree, huge fishes and river beasts swimming in the water. Everything was peaceful and serene.

The white fox leaped around as if it was flying and Qin Mu quickly kept up. The direction in which Hu Ling'er was running was the mountain where the river was revolving around. Qin Mu couldn't help being puzzled. Could the dragon palace not be built in the river but on the mountain?

After a while, they had reached the top of the mountain. Looking at the ruins there, it was a dragon king temple. In front of the temple, there was a huge flood restraint stone that was thirty yards tall. It was like a stone tablet and below it was a sculpture of a huge stone tortoise carrying the flood restraint stone. The stone tortoise had its mouth open as if it was extremely tired and need to catch its breath.

The dragon king temple was rundown and had dilapidated walls. The king's palace had already collapsed as well. Looking around, there were no stone statues, therefore it was unable to withstand the darkness invasion.

Just as he was puzzled, Hu Ling'er had suddenly disappeared without a trace. Hu Ling'er's voice suddenly sounded out, "Come in quickly!"

Qin Mu looked towards the sound of the voice and saw the white fox in the mouth of the stone tortoise waving her paw at him. Qin Mu immediately went over. The stone tortoise was very huge, huge enough for a person to stand upright in it. Qin Mu followed the skipping white fox and reach a place where there was a set of stairs hidden in depth.

There was originally a stone door in front of the stairs. Qin Mu didn't know when had it collapsed, revealing the stairs that led downwards.

Qin Mu followed the white fox forward. As he moved deeper into the mountains, the stairs grew wider and wider. The mountain walls on the side were also clammy and overgrown with moss that was glowing. There were also strange creatures floating around like dandelion. They had little thin feelers growing below them and as they waved them, they could actually fly in the air.

The white fox jumped up to bite one of them before eating them down. She then kept hopping up and down to eat non stop, making them look very delicious.