

## Tales of Herding Gods Chapter 441-445

### Chapter 441: Flaming Desert

Qin Mu was the grand chancellor of Heavenly Saint Academy, so before he left, he handed over his duties to another person. Most of the scholars of Heavenly Saint Academy were from Heavenly Devil Cult as well as numerous directorates. Even if Qin Mu wasn't there, there would be no problem, so he had no worries.

He passed Dragon Rearing Scriptures to Si Yunxiang to find people to take care of the flood dragons.

"They only eat spirit pills, but different breeds want different kinds of spirit pills," Qin Mu instructed. "I have written down the types and the amount needed, Saintess, don't forget, if they don't listen to you, find Ling'er. She can subdue these flood dragons."

Si Yunxiang smiled. "With Dragon Rearing Scriptures, how can I be inferior to the little fox? Aren't you going to bring a few flood dragons to protect yourself? Isn't the little fox following you too?"

"Ling'er went to learn spells from Fox Immortal so she won't be going with me. I'm just going to West Earth to scout the land so there won't be any danger."

Qin Mu gave a few more instructions and took leave from Granny Si and the rest. Just as he was prepared to have the dragon qilin start on the journey, he saw a five to six years old girl sitting beside it.

"Sister Qi'er, aren't you going to West Earth with Nai Kui?" Qin Mu asked with puzzlement.

Xiong Qi'er shook her head. "Mother told me to follow you. She said that she doesn't really trust Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor, that he doesn't have a human touch. He can sacrifice everything just to achieve his goal, and he made it hard for her to trust him."

"Your mother sure is thoughtful. It's good to follow me as well. Imperial Preceptor and her objective this time are quite great, so it'll be much safer for you to follow me instead."

Qin Mu picked Xiong Qi'er up and jumped onto the dragon qilin's back. "Fatty Dragon, set off!"

The dragon qilin immediately sprung forward and rose into the air with the fire clouds. "Cult Master, I keep feeling that the taste of Scarlet Fire Spirit Pills is wrong these days. Did you change them?"

Qin Mu shook his head. "Fatty Dragon, stop being paranoid. If I changed the spirit pills, could you not taste the difference?"

The dragon qilin was skeptical while Xiong Qi'er said in astonishment, "Fatty Dragon is much faster compared to last time. Your tummy isn't as big as before too."

Her suspicion increased the suspicion in the dragon qilin's heart. Although he had peeled open the spirit pills every time he ate them to see if Qin Mu had done something, he hadn't found anything out of the ordinary.

Qin Mu smiled. He had improved Scarlet Fire Spirit Pills and Fire Element Divine Vitality Pills. The taste was almost the same as that of Scarlet Fire Spirit Pills, just a little bit spicier. The dragon qilin could taste something wrong, but he couldn't tell what it was. ( Updated by BOX NOVEL.COM)

The dragon qilin's speed was much faster than it was in the past, and his endurance was much greater as well. After two-three days, they reached Great Ruins. Qin Mu found Moon Ship according to his memory and Village Chief's stone statue was not far from it.

Qin Mu couldn't help being astonished when he saw two families actually having built themselves homes there. The two families had to have noticed the stone statue that could withstand the darkness and had come to live by its side.

When they saw Qin Mu riding a monster that looked like a dragon but was not a dragon, a qilin that was not a qilin, they couldn't help becoming nervous. Two young hunters took up military pitchforks and stood guard outside the door while their young wives looked out from behind them.

Qin Mu stopped and brought Xiong Qi'er off the dragon qilin's back. He greeted the two people and the two hunters returned it. "Are you a mountain bandit or a robber?"

"I'm just a passerby, coming to see my old friend. Don't worry, I mean no harm." Qin Mu came to stand in front of Village Chief's stone statue and placed a livestock offering. "This is the elder of my family and I'm here to pay my respects to him. If he saw that his broken body could still protect you guys, he would definitely be very happy."

He paid his respects and executed Soul Guide. The clouds instantly turned dark and gloomy while the darkness surged. Soul Guide worked for a moment and numerous skeletons appeared outside the village, but Village Chief's stone statue did not come to life.

Not long later, Qin Mu's magic power was nearly exhausted. He was about to disperse Soul Guide when Village Chief's stone statue suddenly moved and spat out a few gold coins while speaking, "Mu'er, on Ghost Festival, the night of the full moon, I'll be waiting for you at the Gates of Hell!" When he finished talking, he returned back to stone.

Qin Mu picked up the golden coins which were eight Fengdu coins.

The villagers in the surroundings were bewildered.

Qin Mu turned around to thank the people and left them some money. "May everyone here help me clean the stone statue frequently so it wouldn't get dirty." When he was done, he turned around to leave.

The people looked at his back, and a young woman suddenly woke up from her daze. She suddenly cried out, "Look at the appearance of that youth, doesn't he look like that heavenly god who drove the ship that night?"

"He indeed looks alike! When that huge ship passed by our village that night, I saw that heavenly god on the ship, and it looked exactly like him!" another woman cried out in astonishment.

"Don't talk nonsense! He's merely a youth and is even younger than us so how could he be the heavenly god of that ship?" a hunter said.

...

Qin Mu brought Xiong Qi'er to the dragon qilin and they rode to the west, resting only during night time.

They passed by the basin of West Heaven Palace and observed its ruins before leaving. After ten or so, they finally came to the most western part of Great Ruins. There was also a mountain range, its snowy white peaks cutting off Great Ruins, in that direction.

"There's also a God Broken Mountain Range here?"

Qin Mu rode the dragon qilin to one peak, and a thick arrow that was like a beam suddenly came from a Mysterious Pearl Crossbow, raising the wind and snow in a split second. The dragon qilin raised his claws and caught that arrow. At that, he couldn't help jumping in shock and crying out, "Cult Master, I've become stronger!"

Qin Mu looked at the surroundings and saw huge Mysterious Pearl Crossbows operating automatically, adjusting their direction. He then immediately shouted, "Fatty Dragon, run quickly!"

Twang!

The power of the Mysterious Pearl Crossbows burst forth, and heavy snow came incessantly along with the bolts. The dragon qilin immediately leaped as though he was flying, sprinting to the other side of the mountain.

Incomparably thick bolts whizzed behind them and transformed into pillars of ice while more of them came shooting over. The dragon qilin gave a loud roar and the flames behind him overflowed into the sky. With the dense fire clouds, the flames burned the bolts. However, there were still numerous ice bolts that had not melted and rushed straight for them!

While clutching a sword technique in his hand, Qin Mu jolted, and eight thousand swords flew into the sky, slicing countless ice bolts apart.

The dragon qilin sprinted down the mountain, and bolts behind him were like the rain. Only when he rushed down the mountain did the onslaught stop.

Qin Mu let out a sigh of relief before heat waves assaulted him in the face. He looked forward and saw a vast desert which went as far as his eyes could see. The flames in the desert were blazing, burning the sky till it turned fire-red.

Qin Mu turned back, seeing the snowy mountains behind himself.

“After crossing this flaming desert, we will reach West Earth,” Xiong Qi’er said in a loud and clear voice. “West Earth is right behind it.”

Qin Mu was puzzled. “Why is there such a flaming desert between West Earth and Great Ruins? Where does the fire come from?”

“My mother said that these flames were lit up by gods to block the abandoned people of Great Ruins from running out.” Xiong Qi’er suddenly jumped into the flames, shocking Qin Mu. She ran around them with a smile. “The flames here won’t hurt me, for they will only burn the abandoned people of Great Ruins. To us, the flames aren’t hot at all; however, to the abandoned people of Great Ruins, the fire is extremely dangerous!

“I’ve heard my mother say that if the abandoned people of Great Ruins were to enter the desert, flame markings would appear on the heart of their brows, showing their identity as an abandoned person. The higher the status of the abandoned person, the more flames would show up.”

Qin Mu stretched out his hand to touch the flames and he felt a sharp pain. He immediately pulled his hand back, but his fingertips were still burning.

He hurriedly extinguished the fire and frowned.

The flaming desert was indeed an incomparably dangerous place to the people of Great Ruins. If they went in, they would definitely be burned to death.

“Qi’er, come up!” Qin Mu’s vital qi flew out and swept up the girl which was running around, throwing her onto the dragon qilin’s back. “Imperial Preceptor and Palace Master left a few days earlier than us so we can’t stay around here for long, Fatty Dragon—”

“Big brother, what happened to your face?” Xiong Qi’er suddenly asked.

Qin Mu looked at her with bewilderment. “What’s wrong with my face?”

“There are many markings on your face!” Xiong Qi’er cried out in astonishment. “The markings are even wiggling and more and more of them are coming out! Are you sick? That’s right, big brother is an abandoned person of Great Ruins, but there are just too many flame markings on your face!”

In disbelief, Qin Mu located the mirror Apothecary had given to him in a hurry. He took a look at and saw that there were indeed numerous green and red markings on his face. They were twisted but distributed evenly across his face!

He ripped open his collar and saw numerous green and red markings on his chest as well!

He stretched out his palm and saw that the markings were even on his wrist, slowly spreading to the back and front of his palm.

Qin Mu threw open his shirt and more mirrors flew out from his taotie sack. He looked at them and saw numerous markings spreading all over him. His whole body was covered in green and red flames!

Xiong Qi'er looked at him in a daze, staring at his bare torso as he stood on the back of the dragon qilin. The flames had nearly covered his whole body!

'Mother said that the higher the status of the abandoned person, the more flames will appear on their body. Normal abandoned people will only receive one flame marking at the heart of their brows, but big brother has flame markings all over his body.' The little girl was stunned. 'What is his status...'

"Could this be the effect of the fire?" Qin Mu pondered over it and said, "I touched the flames just now and they had entered my body to form these strange markings... Fatty Dragon, retreat back to the snowy mountains!"

The dragon qilin didn't understand what he meant, but he still carefully retreated out of the flaming desert. Back under the snowy mountains, Qin Mu looked at the mirrors and saw that the markings were gradually dimming. When he reached the foot of one mountain, the markings vanished completely.

While keeping the mirrors at hand, he put on his shirt back. He said indifferently, "Fatty Dragon, continue on your way. It's fine. These markings should be just to identify abandoned people."

The dragon qilin immediately rushed into the flaming desert, and the markings on Qin Mu's body started to appear again. They grew frantically, but the youth didn't pay attention to them.

The sight of the flaming desert was unique. There were flaming tornadoes everywhere, and they whooshed as they swept by the group. The dragon qilin's nature was that of fire so he loved to control fire the most and often rushed happily into the tornadoes. However, Qin Mu was nearly burned to death once and ordered for him to stop.

The dragon qilin saw his face turning black from the burns and jumped back in shock. Only then did he obediently start to hurry to their destination. The fire had no effect on him, but it possessed lethal power against Qin Mu.

"Big brother, there's an oasis in front!" Xiong Qi'er said excitedly. "There's water there!"

Astonished, Qin Mu cried out. "There is water in such a place?"

He then saw the oasis in the flaming desert. Numerous olive trees were growing beside a beautiful lake, and there were also a few snow white goatskin tents beside it.

The dragon qilin immediately ran over to the side of the lake. Qin Mu jumped down and said, "Visitors have come from afar, sorry for disturbing everyone."

One of the goatskin tents opened up and a youth walked out with a smile, "You're not disturbing. I'm currently cultivating unique spells and need someone as a sacrifice... It's you, brat!"

The expression of the youth changed drastically, and Qin Mu pulled out his sword without any explanation. Eight thousand swords flew up together and drowned out the youth!

## Chapter 442: Roaming Dragons in the Desert

That youth's reaction was extremely fast. He moved back the instant Qin Mu executed his swords, falling back into the goatskin tent.

It was cut to pieces when countless sword lights shot out into it from all directions. Suddenly, they paused and tunneled into the ground like a long dragon, for the youth had escaped into the ground after falling back into the tent.

Bang!

About a mile away in the flaming desert, eight thousand flying swords flew out of the underground cave, chasing after the figure of the youth.

He leaped into midair and opened up his arms. Two golden wings spread out on his back and flapped frantically, causing countless yellow golden feather swords to face Qin Mu's sword lights. With the continuous collisions and sparks in midair, flying swords flew in all directions.

Qin Mu's hand grabbed forward, and the randomly flying swords suddenly paused in midair. They converged towards the center and clanked as they collided, transforming into a three yards metal ball that was whirling non-stop.

It was none other than Qin Mu's sword pellet!

It was huge and whirled non-stop in midair. The feel of metal was abundant.

A fire tornado swept over and swept up the youth, swallowing him whole. Yet the next moment, he appeared above that tornado and stood there while laughing. "Cult Master Qin! Human Emperor Qin! You really can't stop haunting me! Do you think I'll be afraid of your body covered whole by a tattoo? Receive one of my bow—"

That youth was none other than Pangong Tso, and he stood atop the tornado, paying his respects by bowing towards Qin Mu.

When he bowed, a sinister sacrificial altar appeared behind him and a devil god showed up on it, ready to bow and pay his respects as well!

Qin Mu's five fingers spread open and he pressed down with them. The ground under the fire tornado instantly warped, the sand and rocks swirling and swallowing everything above them into the ground.

Pangong Tso's footing became unstable and his bow became misshapen. When he raised his head, he saw that the sword pellet had separated at some point and the eight thousand swords were spinning crazily. They were like a huge mouth that was covered with sword tips that came with an open mouth toward him.

It was Spiral Sword Form.

“Stabilizing Mountains and Rivers with a Finger!”

Four continuous explosions rang out within Pangong Tso’s body as his divine treasures opened and his magic power rose exponentially. When his left hand pointed toward the ground, a fire lotus bloomed underground, stabilizing it.

His right hand pointed toward the huge mouth that was going to swallow him and flaming lotuses instantly appeared in it as well. Those flaming lotuses collided with the spiraling swords and blocked Qin Mu’s move.

Pangong Tso revealed a scornful look. “Cult Master Qin, I’m already on Seven Stars Realm. I’m a realm higher, which might as well be a heaven higher, I can totally overwhelm you! Do you feel my magic power making you despair?”

Suddenly, the fire lotuses shattered and Pangong Tso was astonished. ‘His magic power doesn’t lose out to mine at all! I’m already on Seven Stars Realm... How could he have polished his magic power to such a level?’

As an existence that had reincarnated over ten times, Pangong Tso might not dare to say he was number one in polishing his magic power on the same realm, but he was certainly one of the best in the world. There were not many people who could surpass the density of his magic power in the same realm. Even when Qin Mu did it, he hadn’t surpassed him by much.

He had fought with Qin Mu numerous times in the past. The first time, both of their realms were the same. They were both on Six Directions Realm and their magic power had been nearly the same.

Qin Mu relied on the transformation of paths, skills, and divine arts to lead him along the way, adapting accordingly. This let him take the decisive opportunity which was why Pangong Tso had lost.

However, when they had faced off the second time, he had raised his cultivation realm faster than Qin Mu, and his magic power had also surpassed him by much. Qin Mu had then relied on his sickeningly huge sword pellet and eight thousand swords to be a match for him.

Yet now, he was already a divine arts practitioner of Seven Stars Realm while Qin Mu was still on Six Directions Realm. By right, Qin Mu should have been overwhelmed by his magic power, unable to even come close to breaking his divine art!

Even though it was just their first face-off right then, Qin Mu’s flying swords had still destroyed Pangong Tso’s divine art. He might have relied on the sharpness of his flying swords, but it also meant that Qin Mu’s magic power wasn’t much inferior to his.

When Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor had attacked Rolan’s Golden Palace, Pangong Tso had known that it was finished when Khan Ruandi surrendered. That was why he hadn’t waited for Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor to attack and escaped, leaving behind all the great shamans, shaman kings, and even the Grand Shaman who didn’t know he had escaped under the cover of the night.

Rolan’s Golden Palace was wiped out and Grand Shaman was also slain by Imperial Preceptor. Pangong Tso pondered about the painful experience and knew that he could no longer stay in the prairie. Eternal

Peace Imperial Preceptor would definitely order his subordinates to search everywhere for his trail, so he decided to hide in the flaming desert.

He was a reincarnated person so his cultivation advanced at a crazy speed. He had an advantage that no other divine arts practitioner could rival, and by hiding in the oasis, he could capture the people of West Earth at night and bring them over for cultivation. Like that, in just half a year, he broke through into Seven Stars Realm.

He planned to recover the cultivation of his previous lives and fight his way back to Eternal Peace to take revenge. When that time came, who would be able to block his bow?

Yet meeting Qin Mu made him somewhat flustered. He had raised his cultivation to Seven Stars Realm and should have overwhelmed him, but the other's abilities seemed to have advanced by leaps and bounds as well. He actually didn't manage to gain any advantage!

"Pangong Tso, you have already fallen behind times!"

Qin Mu suddenly rushed out of the oasis into the flaming desert and his body moved horizontally as he crossed a mile. It looked like he was controlling the wind. The muscles on his body moved like flood dragons coiling and his corporeal body was incomparably powerful.

"You've been hiding here so you might not know. After your Rolan's Golden Palace was wiped out, the paths, skills, and divine arts have advanced rapidly. We can already cultivate the primordial spirit on the Six Directions Realm so aside from a divine treasure in Seven Stars Realm, there's literally no difference. In terms of cultivation realm, you aren't any higher than me!"

Pangong Tso's body, which was like a golden buddha, collided with Qin Mu. Dragon roars and buddha voices rang out endlessly, and Pangong Tso's face instantly turned snow-white. His arm cracked and broke as he flew backward.

"You, this isn't Nine Dragons Monarch Technique!" he shouted fiercely.

Nine Dragon Monarch Technique had extremely high attainments of the corporeal body and was the ultimate art of Emperor Yanfeng. Even though Pangong Tso had not received it, he had exchanged blows with Qin Mu who used Nine Dragons Monarch Technique.

Even though it had been powerful then, there was still quite a number of divine techniques that could rival it, so Pangong Tso wasn't the slightest bit afraid of it.

However, he suffered a huge loss at that 'Nine Dragons Monarch Technique' right then. The moves Qin Mu had executed were extremely overbearing. The strength of his corporeal body was incomparably powerful as though he was a human-shaped true dragon. When its strength burst forth, his muscles, tendons, and bones were like brute dragons exerting their strength all at once!

Facing such brute strength, Pangong Tso's golden buddha body crumbled and his arm broke. A bone shard stuck out of his elbow.

"Sword explosion!"



Qin Mu pressed his palm downwards. Swoosh, swoosh, swoosh. Countless flying swords fell from midair like rain, and sword lights fell forward like a tidal wave raised by an explosion, drowning out Pangong Tso.

He endured the sharp pain, and his body sank downwards, escaping into the desert before the sword light could touch him.

Eight thousand swords landed, and the desert nearly boiled. Between the particles of sand, fine sword lights were shuttling to and fro!

Qin Mu landed on the ground and his clothes fluttered. He raised a huge wind to forcefully suppress the flames of the desert. The tip of his foot tapped on the ground, then he raised again. Everywhere he passed, the flames would automatically split to two sides.

Several miles away, the desert was boiling. Countless sword lights rushed into the sky, and Qin Mu let out a roar while his vital qi went berserk, rushing forward while staying close to the red colored sand and rocks. Instantly, there were trails of red sand dragons in the desert.

Dozens of them were shuttling to and fro in the red sand, popping in and out. In no time, they came to where the sword light was overflowing into the sky. The power of his divine art suddenly exploded, resulting in a powerful dragon roar which reverberated through the air and sand being blasted into the air!

In the sandstorm, flying swords were flashing while Pangong Tso's figure could be faintly discerned as well. He stood on a huge cauldron which was trembling. Its soundwaves materialized and flicked the flying swords away.

The huge cauldron suddenly escaped into the ground and left through the sand.

Qin Mu quickly gave chase and shouted, "Qingqing, go fetch some water and hurry over with Fatty Dragon!"

Bewildered, Xiong Qi'er said to the dragon qilin, "Big brother is muddle-headed. He called me Qingqing."

The dragon qilin shook his head. "You don't know the ability of that Pangong Tso. If he knows your name, he can kill you by paying his respects to you from a thousand mile away, so Cult Master didn't call out your real name.

"It should be because Cult Master doesn't have absolute confidence in killing him, so he asked us to fetch some water and follow after him. Cult Master is an abandoned person so he can't stay long in the flaming desert. There's also no water vapor in the flaming desert so he can't use water attribute divine arts as well. Let's quickly fetch some water and hurry after him!"

Xiong Qi'er understood his words and was about to fetch the water from the lake when she cried out in astonishment.

The dragon qilin immediately went over and saw that there were white bones all over the lake's bottom. It was hard to count how many corpses had been thrown inside it!

Pangong Tso relied on the spirit and soul of other people to cultivate. For that, he had killed countless experts of West Earth and thrown their corpses in the lake.

"Do we still fetch water?" Xiong Qi'er's face was pale white.

The dragon qilin bit his tongue and spat a small mouthful of blood into the lake. Its surface instantly churned. Countless soul bugs splashed around the lake, fighting over the blood.

The dragon qilin immediately bit onto Xiong Qi'er's collar to lift her up and retreated, preventing any water from touching either of them both.

"This lake has been poisoned and can't be drunk." The dragon qilin placed the little girl down a bit farther away and said, "Climb to the tip of my tail, sit down properly, and lean back."

He lowered his tail, and Xiong Qi'er immediately climbed on. She sat down properly, not forgetting to lean back.

The dragon qilin raised his tail and Xiong Qi'er slid down from the tip to his back. The little girl squealed in delight. "One more time!"

"We can't play anymore. Grab tight onto the mane around my neck. I'm going to chase after Cult Master," the dragon qilin instructed.

Xiong Qi'er climbed over to his long long mane, and her tiny hands grabbed tightly onto two tufts. Suddenly, a dragon's scale rose on the side and covered her. The dragon qilin did it since he was afraid it would be easy for her to slip off if he ran too fast.

Before, there was Qin Mu protecting Xiong Qi'er so the dragon qilin didn't need to worry, but when Qin Mu wasn't around, he had to care for Xiong Qi'er himself.

The dragon qilin also used magic power to form a barrier around Xiong Qi'er and gave her a warning to be careful before taking the first step to rush after Qin Mu. His speed gradually grew faster as he didn't dare to suddenly increase his speed. He ran faster and faster, soon surpassing the speed of sound. The flaming dunes passed by them like flickering lights and shadows.

"Fatty Dragon, your speed is even faster than last time!" Xiong Qi'er cried out. "Why didn't you run so fast in front of big brother?"

"What does a little girl like you know? If you want a horse to run faster, you need to feed the horse well." The dragon qilin was pleased with himself and smiled. "I purposely run slower so Cult Master will give me better spirit pills in hopes of me getting faster from good food. If I slowly increase my speed, he will know it's the effect of the better spirit pills, in that way he will work harder to improve the spirit pills."

“On top of that, he will still take care of how the pills feel in my mouth. If I suddenly raise my speed drastically, he won’t improve the spirit pills and will just feed me the substandard product of Fire Element Divine Vitality Pills. Don’t tell Cult Master that though, or he will become lazy.”

Xiong Qi’er didn’t understand what he was saying, but she still nodded repeatedly.

The dragon qilin ran for a long while, but he still didn’t catch up to Qin Mu. On the way, he was aghast when he saw the sight of the exploded dunes. It was evident that Qin Mu and Pangong Tso had clashed nearby.

Not long later, the dragon qilin saw a dune in the distance transforming into a red sand giant which punched the ground ruthlessly.

“That’s the technique of my West Earth’s True Heaven Palace!” Xiong Qi’er cried out in astonishment. “Is that big brother?”

The dragon qilin shook his head, a little worried. “Cult Master doesn’t have magic power that is that dense. Let’s take a detour.”/ [boxnovel.com](http://boxnovel.com)

He took a roundabout way and couldn’t help being stunned when he saw the sand giant.

#### **Chapter 443: Treacherous West Earth**

There was a ruin in the desert. More than half of the earth yellow palaces had collapsed and only some crumbling fences and dilapidated walls were left. Flames were burning a bit more furiously over there than in other places.

The space that the ruins occupied was very vast, the size of several thousand fields. Flames blazed around the sand giant, and its body was scarlet from them. The giant had no legs, but it could still travel extremely fast along the great streets and small alleys of the ruin.

Below the body of the sand giant was violent sand that kept spinning upwards, thus even though it had no legs, its speed was still very fast.

At that moment, the sand giant was chasing after Qin Mu and Pangong Tso. The two of them were being attacked often, and loud thumps rang out continuously. Every strike from the sand dune giant was incomparably heavy, and when they landed on the desert, sandstone would shoot out like swords!

Yet the sand giant didn’t damage the ruin at all. When it encountered broken fences and dilapidated walls, it would flood over. After it flowed past, the ruin would be left perfectly fine.

The divine arts of West Earth was different from those of Eternal Peace, and the path they took was that of all things having soul. Even sandstone could be changed into a giant to fight, and one strike from a sand giant could split mountains. Its power was unblockable.

If Qin Mu and Pangong Tso got struck, just the terrifying energy alone would be enough to heavily injure the two of them!

Even so, they were still trying to kill each other while doing their best to avoid the attacks of the sand giant.

Pangong Tso's broken arm impaired his movements. Qin Mu could control eight thousand swords, but no matter how intricate his sword skill was, it was still hard for him to injure the sand giant. Even if he sliced one of its arms into pieces, this giant would return back to normal in a few moments, retaining no injury.

Its body technique was extraordinary, and the attacks of the sand giant were incomparably overbearing. However, since it only used its fists to attack and not spells or divine arts, it wasn't much of a threat to them.

However, what was weird was that the sand giant seemed to only be attacking Qin Mu. It paid no attention to Pangong Tso.

"Spell of True Heaven Palace!" The dragon qilin looked around and asked, "Where is the spellcaster hiding?"

"That's a guardian of the desert. It's not a divine art." Xiong Qi'er climbed onto his head while pulling on his mane. She took a look at the situation and said, "My mom said that there are many ancient ruins in the desert, and they are places where the gods who guarded the desert lived. When they had to go, they left behind some guardians to look after the desert. Any person from Great Ruins will be attacked by the guardians.

Suddenly, red sand churned in the ruin and another sand giant stood up, rushing quickly at the youth.

Qin Mu stretched his hands out and numerous scarlet red sand dragons whizzed forward, rushing at the sand giants. While chasing after Pangong Tso, his vital qi had been circulating more and more furiously, and the power of his divine art becoming stronger and stronger. At that moment, his battle power was at its strongest!

The dozens of scarlet sand dragons tore apart the sand giants.

"Eh?"

Qin Mu was astonished, for he felt the magic power in his divine art being absorbed. When the sand dragons passed through the bodies of the sand giants, the magic power inside them completely vanished!

Pangong Tso saw a good moment and rushed over with the huge cauldron on his head. The two sand giants behind him who had absorbed the magic power the divine art as well as the dozens of sand dragons grew drastically and attacked Qin Mu as well.

Qin Mu formed fists and straightened his thumb, using a punch to fight against Pangong Tso's punch. Pangong Tso immediately felt that his attack had no power, but that there was a concaving power in the fist that was pulling him in.

The straightened thumb made Pangong Tso shudder.

'The power in that punch of his lies in that thumb!'

He struggled to break free, having just realized that Qin Mu's move was not a fist skill at all. Instead, it was a sword skill in which his thumb was the sword. If Pangong Tso didn't break free and the thumb pressed down on him, the sword power would definitely slice him in half!

'How did this fellow's battle technique improve so fast and become so terrifying? It hasn't even been a year since the last time we fought, so how did his abilities improve so fast?'

Pangong Tso used all his strength to break free from Qin Mu's fist. The moment he did so, the sword light in Qin Mu's thumb increased exponentially. His vital qi transformed into a thread which was like fine swords coiling together. The sword light sliced down when Qin Mu pressed his thumb down!

Pangong Tso suddenly changed into a black shadow which fell and stuck to the sandy ground. He then quickly left into the distance.

Qin Mu raised his hand and pressed down, causing a huge handprint to appear on the ground. Pangong Tso let out a sigh of relief. 'This guy missed.'

Yet the next moment, the sword lights that were hiding in the sky and covering the earth hummed and shot down altogether. The area they covered was extremely vast and made it impossible for him to avoid them.

Suddenly, a third sand giant stood up from beneath Qin Mu's feet, and the sword rain falling from midair grew disordered. Pangong Tso broke out from his shadow and transformed into a human to leap out from the desert. He flashed along the way to avoid the sword lights, escaping out of the ruin.

He turned back to take a look, only to see Qin Mu being drowned out by the three sand giants. His life and death could not be determined.

'When this guy gets severely injured, it would be the best time for me to kill him!' Just as Pangong Tso thought that, he saw the dragon qilin sprinting over and sneered. 'Even an animal like you dares to make a move on me?'

He then bowed and shouted sternly, "Fatty Dragon!" / update by box novel.com

A huge sacrificial altar appeared behind him and the devil god on the sacrificial also bowed.

The dragon qilin ignored him, and Pangong Tso grew slightly flustered. He bowed once more in a hurry. "Dragon Qilin!"

The dragon qilin was already near him, flames spreading out from his mouth.

Pangong Tso vomited blood. His injuries were not light, and the divine art which paid respect to the soul was extremely exhausting to his vitality. Paying his respects twice drained a lot of his vitality.

"Qingqing!" Pangong Tso gritted his teeth and paid his respects once more.

Xiong Qi'er grabbed the mane of the dragon qilin and climbed onto the head of the fat behemoth to look curiously at the youth before them.

Pangong Tso spat out a mouthful of blood as a beam of fire from the dragon qilin's mouth emanated with blazing flames, sweeping at him across a dozen miles. Everywhere the beam passed, the dunes were razed to the ground!

Pangong Tso hurriedly hid in the great cauldron and listened as the loud banging sounds went into the distance. The cauldron was then swept into the air and tumbled dozens of miles away.

The dragon qilin sprinted over where the cauldron had landed, but only saw a sand pit with bloodstains. It was obvious that Pangong Tso had escaped into the ground.

"My abilities actually couldn't stop him? Those who can live for ten thousand years are indeed all remarkable. His ability to escape is even superior to that of Cult Master!" the dragon qilin exclaimed in admiration.

A loud explosion suddenly came from the ruin, and the dragon qilin turned back to look. Over there, he saw a fourth sand giant rising from the ground. It was a hundred yards tall and comparable to Great Thunderclap Monastery's Ten Thousand Buddhas Pagoda. It moved incomparably fast and chased relentlessly after Qin Mu.

"I can't let Cult Master be harmed!"

The dragon qilin immediately sprinted over, and he saw Qin Mu's body suddenly vanish. The next moment, he appeared in front of him and floated in midair. His whole body was covered in strange flames and teleportation runes circulating rapidly.

Qin Mu hurriedly extinguished the flames on his body, his face already black from the burns. Luckily, his clothes were tailored by Yu Zhaoqing and other strong practitioners of Heavenly Feather Race, so they weren't destroyed in the flames.

Various sounds rang out behind him, and Qin Mu turned back to take a look. The sand giants actually flew out of the ruin and rushed over aggressively.

"Fatty Dragon, fall back!" Qin Mu waved his hand and stopped the dragon qilin who was rushing over.

The sand giants were extremely fast and soon rushed in front of Qin Mu. They then swayed and separated into two groups, launching a pincer attack on him from the right and left.

Just as they were about to pounce on him, the teleportation runes around Qin Mu's body lighted up and his body vanished once more!

The sand dune giants collided and sand filled the air. Soon though, they took shape once more and hurried back toward the ruin in a frantic rush. Before they could return, however, they suddenly crumbled and transformed back into dunes that piled one onto another.

The dragon qilin hurriedly ran over to where Qin Mu was floating in midair. Below him was a palace that was more than half collapsed. Inside it was a shrine with a wooden god statue that was covered in strange markings. Its head was on the floor.

Qin Mu raised his hand, and Carefree Sword flew into it. He looked at the head of the wooden god statue with a grim face.

When he had lured the sand giants out just then, he had returned back to the ruin and surveyed it with Cinnabar Heaven's Eyes. He discovered then that there were strange markings flowing continuously on the wooden god statue, so he had sliced off its head in one strike!

Once he did that, the markings which were originally glowing slowly dimmed.

A terrifying brainwave had rushed out from the god statue toward Qin Mu. However, it was blocked by the jade pendant hanging from his neck.

"How strange..." Qin Mu turned his head back and asked, "Qi'er, are there gods in your West Earth's West Heaven Palace?"

Xiong Qi'er shook her head and replied, "I've never heard about that before."

Qin Mu gripped the jade pendant and said in a low voice, "There's a consciousness hidden in this god statue, and it even attacked me when I cut off its head. The owner of this god statue should still be alive."

"Cult Master, Pangong Tso escaped," the dragon qilin said.

Qin Mu didn't mind it. "He has been escaping for ten thousand years and has long perfected the art of it, so it won't be easy to get rid of him in one go. Didn't he also escape when Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor surrounded Rolan's Golden Palace? What makes my heart throb is that there might be a living god in West Earth's True Heaven Palace..."

He raised his head to look to the west. The wooden statue could actually gather sand to form giants. This showed that it was using the ultimate art of True Heaven Palace.

It was called Ten Thousand Spirit Nature Technique and was suitable for women to cultivate. Even though Xiong Xiyu had imparted it to Qin Mu, his gains weren't great.

'Imperial Preceptor went to True Heaven Palace, so he's probably going to be out of luck. 'Qin Mu pulled away his gaze and thought to himself, 'I hope that god's ability isn't too great, for otherwise...'

He shook his head.

"What worries me even more is why did this god of True Heaven Palace leave behind this ruined palace? The sand giants are clearly for killing the abandoned people of Great Ruins. How exactly did True Heaven Palace look like originally?"

He jumped onto the dragon qilin's back who rushed toward the west. Soon, they covered over ten miles.

The ruin was silent, but after a moment, a rustling could be heard, and the markings on the two pieces of wood gradually lighted up. The head suddenly flew up and landed on the neck of the wooden statue.

Its markings grew brighter and brighter. The sculpture actually slowly began to change, its wooden body turning into flesh and blood!

What was even more terrifying was that the statue actually twisted its head to the back of its body. Its eyes slowly opened and looked in the direction of Qin Mu.

The wooden statue opened its mouth and spoke in a hoarse voice. "A noble of the abandoned people, I..."

Swoosh!

A sword light broke through the air after having stayed close to the ground, piercing the head of the wooden statue that was changing into flesh and blood. The sword light then flashed, slicing the wooden god statue into countless pieces!

Sometime later and twenty miles away, the sword light returned to Qin Mu's sheath.

"God, I've also killed some of your kind before." Qin Mu folded his arms as he stood on the dragon qilin's head. His body rose and lowered along with its movement.

#### **Chapter 444: Bane**

As the sun set in the west, the flaming desert was colored fiery red. Qin Mu rode on the dragon qilin's head, having transformed his vital qi into Vermillion Bird Vital Qi to refine each and every one of his flying swords. He was deepening the rune markings on them.

He lowered his head and saw that Xiong Qi'er had already fallen asleep in the dragon qilin's ear. There was no wind there, and the dragon qilin also used his ear to cover its inside to protect the little girl with utmost care.

'Fatty Dragon is really not bad,' Qin Mu praised in his heart. 'This fatty is actually quite meticulous. The taste of Scarlet Fire Spirit Pills and Fire Element Divine Vitality Pills is indeed not that good; I should improve it for him once we find a place to land.'

"Cult Master, there's an oasis ahead!" the dragon qilin suddenly said

Qin Mu looked ahead of them, and he indeed saw an oasis. "I wonder if there's water there. I can endure another day without water, but I'm afraid for Qi'er."

The flaming desert was incomparably scorching, and there was no moisture in the air. Qin Mu couldn't get any water even when he changed to Black Tortoise Vital Qi. He had never had to worry about the problem of water supply before, but now with Xiong Qi'er by his side, he couldn't ignore it anymore.



After a moment, the dragon qilin reached the oasis, and they saw a couple snow white goatskin tents built beside the lake. People wearing West Earth's clothing were raising fire to cook their meals. The dragon qilin looked around cautiously and said, "I wonder if Pangong Tso escaped here. Cult Master be careful. He's severely injured so he couldn't have run far."

Qin Mu jumped down and opened up the dragon qilin's ear, from which he took out the sleeping Xiong Qi'er with a smile. "Don't worry. Since I'm here, even if he's nearby, he won't dare to come out. If he decides to show up, it will just make it more convenient for me to get rid of him."

The tribesmen of West Earth wore embroidered headbands. When they saw the newcomers, their faces changed drastically, but they didn't dare to make a sound.

Qin Mu looked around and saw that there were a lot more men than women in the camp, and under the daily hardships, their faces were red from the sun. There were also some two-legged yellow gazelles in the oasis along with some commodities. The group was most likely traveling merchants.

Even though the speed of the two-legged gazelles was fast and their ability to carry weight was also great, riding them was a very bumpy experience. Because of that, only merchants chose to use this kind of strange beast.

Even it was bumpy riding the two-legged gazelles, they could deliver more goods.

Qin Mu came to an elderly merchant and said, "Elder, my little sister is asleep. Could I borrow a tent?"

The elderly merchant immediately nodded and said, "Help yourself."

Qin Mu gave his thanks and sent the girl into a tent. The night in the desert was very cold, so it was lucky to get a goatskin tent to keep her warm. On top of that, there were some thick goat fur blankets inside. Qin Mu tucked in Xiong Qi'er who was still in a daze. Her tiny hands grabbed onto the blanket and she smacked her lips twice. She had to be hungry, but she didn't wake up.

Qin Mu walked out of the tent to see that the sun had already set.

With the crackle of the bonfire beside him, he asked, "Elder, you guys are merchants from West Earth?"

Everyone looked at Qin Mu's face and didn't dare to speak. Only the elderly merchant in charge dared to open his mouth. "We are from West Earth and are going to Great Ruins to do business. Is big brother from Great Ruins?"

Qin Mu was speechless at first, then broke into laughter. Even though he had grown quite tall, it wasn't even close to him being worthy to be called big brother. The fearfulness of the merchants had to be because of the flame markings on his face.

From them, they could deduce that he came from Great Ruins.

"I'm indeed from Great Ruins and I plan to go to West Earth." Qin Mu took out some fresh beef and fruit from his taotie sack and gifted it to the other party with a smile. "Elder, thank you for letting my little sister have a place to rest. If elder doesn't mind, you can just call me Little Qin."

The elder couldn't reject and had to accept. "I don't dare to be called elder. The position of us men in West Earth is slightly lower, only senior women are deserved to be called elders. Brother Qin, you are a person of Great Ruins so it is not really good for you to go to West Earth. This flame desert stretches for tens of thousands of miles and there is blazing fire all along the way. Also, this fire poses numerous dangers to the people of Great Ruins, so it'd be best for you to return."

Qin Mu shook his head. "I've made a promise to go to West Earth so how can I break it? Women are the ones who call the shots in West Earth? Eternal Peace Empire also has women generals and officials. Back when Imperial Preceptor was pushing for equality between men and women, he met quite some opposition, so I would have never expected you guys to be even more open than Eternal Peace."

The old merchant's face changed and he immediately said, "Shush! You can't say equality between men and women or you will be executed! How can men and women be equal? Women can give birth, men can't give birth, so of course, the men are a class lower!"

Qin Mu was stunned.

The old merchant glanced around and said softly, "When you reach West Earth don't say this kind of muddle-headed words. Of course, that's if you can survive your journey there..."

Qin Mu didn't know whether to laugh or cry.

"When you reach West Earth, don't say you are from Great Ruins," the old merchant also added solemnly. "If you say you are from Great Ruins, you will soon be removed."

Qin Mu frowned and asked, "Why so?"

The old merchant wasn't willing to go into detail, and Qin Mu didn't force him. He continued to use his vital qi to refine his flying swords. When his cultivation got half-exhausted, he would consume a few spirit pills. The flying swords became smaller and smaller from his refinement.

"I'm still lacking compared to Grandpa Mute, able to refine swords into flowing water."

Qin Mu grabbed a flying sword and rubbed it with his hands. It became a small sword pellet, but there were still some protrusions. He executed Carefree Sword and eight thousand swords collided, transforming into a sword pellet. Even though it was much smaller than before, it was still a square of two feet.

Only when he refined the sword pellet to the size of a thumb could his refinement technique be considered improved. At that point, he could refine swords into flowing water.

Qin Mu dispersed his sword pellet and grabbed Carefree Sword. Nearly eight thousand flying swords came swooshing over one after another, fusing with the mother sword.

Carefree Sword became heavier and heavier, and when the last one fused into it, Qin Mu's hand trembled. The sword was way too heavy, but he could at least lift it.

He tried to swing it, and even though it moved very slowly, crackling sounds from an explosion and humming from tremors came from the sky. It was like the descent of a huge mountain!

The explosion noise came from the heaviness of the sword due to the compressed space!

Qin Mu swung Carefree Sword twice and his arms were already sore. He immediately dispersed the child swords and no longer tormented himself with it. 'Those dragon language writings on Emperor's Disk and the true dragon's nest are really not bad. The Nine Dragons Monarch Technique on them is improving my corporeal body at an extremely fast speed! I'd had no chance to lift this sword in the past! What a pity I still can't figure out many parts of the dragon language on them.'

In the last couple days, he'd been trying to fuse Nine Dragons Monarch Technique with Overlord Body Three Elixir Technique, and his corporeal body was improving at a godly speed. In the past, he had only cultivated the body refinement techniques in Great Educational Heavenly Devil Scriptures so just the pure power his corporeal body alone was stronger than the divine arts of most divine arts practitioners.

If he executed battle techniques like Thunderclap Eight Strikes and Pig Slaughter Knife, their power would be multiplied several times!

The power of the corporeal body had an extraordinary impact on battle techniques!

The merchants of West Earth went into their tents to sleep while Qin Mu sat beside the lake. The dragon qilin had shrunk his size and asked Qin Mu for Dragon Rearing Scriptures. He lay down beside him and used the flames of the desert to read.

'Fatty Dragon, this fellow has started to put in effort like Ling'er!' Qin Mu was glad.

The dragon qilin licked his claws and flipped open Dragon Rearing Scriptures to read through it carefully. He thought to himself, 'Dragon Rearing Sovereign wrote Dragon Rearing Scriptures so I also want to write my own Human Rearing Scriptures...'

Not long later, Qin Mu lay down on the dragon qilin and fell asleep. The dragon qilin also put his head down to rest. Even though the desert was filled with flames at night, the temperature was very low. The surface of the lake had frozen up, but the dragon qilin's body was very warm. Flames would puff out from his nostrils from time to time.

Near midnight, among the flames outside the oasis, Pangong Tso dug out from underground. He looked at the sleeping Qin Mu and hesitated for a moment. He wondered if he should close in to kill that fellow now.

Qin Mu breathed calmly, having no idea what was happening around him.

Pangong Tso hesitated one last time before deciding to land a fatal blow when he saw dragon qi flying out from taotie sack as Qin Mu breathed. They were like fine slithering dragons around him.

Pangong Tso saw Qin Mu's hand in the taotie sack, and his heart trembled. He suddenly changed his mind and turned around to sink back into the ground.

“He noticed?”

Qin Mu opened one eye and looked around before shutting it again. He took out the hand he had placed in his taotie sack and continued to guide the dragon in the true dragon’s nest while he snored. This time he had really fallen asleep.

Traces of true dragon qi were absorbed by his body, improving his vital qi and raising his cultivation.

Qin Mu had relied on the true dragon’s nest and Emperor’s Disk to cultivate the last few months, because of which his cultivation had been able to raise that fast. Even Pangong Tso who had reincarnated over ten times couldn’t get ahead of him.

Of course, the most crucial point was still his frequent dual cultivation of primordial spirit with Ling Yuxiu and Si Yunxiang. It benefitted him a lot, and his cultivation didn’t fall behind that of Pangong Tso who had entered Seven Stars Realm.

When day broke, Xiong Qi’er woke up and whined that she was starving. Qin Mu used some minced lean meat and vegetables to cook her porridge. He also made some pastries before refining a few improve spirit pills for the dragon qilin.

‘My Human Rearing Scriptures will definitely succeed!’ The dragon qilin was full of confidence. “Cult Master thought he succeeded in cultivating Dragon Rearing Scriptures, but he has no idea that he’s in the grasp of my Human Rearing Scriptures!”

When the caravan was ready to set off, the old merchant bade farewell to Qin Mu and warned him again, “Brother Qin must never say that you are from Great Ruins; otherwise, there will be great trouble!”

Qin Mu thanked him and got on the dragon qilin’s forehead to rush towards the west. Behind him came the bells ringing on the gazelles’ necks as they carried the goods to toward Great Ruins in the east.

The dragon qilin’s speed was fast, but they still couldn’t reach West Earth even running all the way to the evening.

When they passed by a huge mountain, Qin Mu took a few glances at it, but the dragon qilin ran past it the next moment. Qin Mu then said, “Fatty Dragon, go back!”

The dragon qilin was puzzled, but immediately did as asked.

Qin Mu examined the mountain and saw that it was extremely majestic. There were no flames on it, so Qin Mu quickly went to its peak. It was vast and covered in broken fences and dilapidated walls. Qin Mu could imagine the majestic sight back when everything was still standing.

There were some dried up corpses buried in the sand, and Qin Mu examined them. They showed up to be giants that had abnormally tall and sturdy bodies.

He came to a pillar and touched it. Beside it lay some thick chains.

“Cult Master, what’s with this mountain?” The dragon qilin flew over on fire clouds.

Qin Mu raised his finger to point at the desert far away. “Look over there.”

The dragon qilin looked in the pointed direction and saw a pitch black ball which let the wind and sand caress it.

“It’s Sun Ship, a dead Sun Ship.” Qin Mu disembarked from the ship, expressionless. “Let’s go.”

The dragon qilin looked at his face and didn’t dare to say anything more. Instead, he continued to carry him to the west. Soon after, they encountered a second huge ship. It was a shattered Moon Ship.

After that, they encountered a third huge ship buried in the desert. That Moon Ship had suffered in an extremely fierce battle and was exceptionally ruined.

Qin Mu suddenly came to realization. “Ten Thousand Spirit Nature Technique is the bane of Sun Ship and Moon Ship!”

#### **Chapter 445: Night Attack**

When the meteorological phenomenon changed drastically at the end of Founding Emperor Era, Sun Ship and Moon Ship crafted by the gods of Founding Emperor Period were used to drive away the darkness. It allowed things to grow, and the people were able to survive.

However, the two types of ships were sharp weapons in battle as well. Sun Guardian of Sun Ship and Moon Guardian of Moon Ship could mobilize the energy of the majestic ship so that their own energy would reach the level of heavenly gods. They would gain the mighty force to change heaven and earth.

Qin Mu had once used Sun Ship and also borrowed Moon Ship, so he knew the powerful and extraordinary points of the two ships.

With Secrets of Dragon Control from Dragon Rearing Scriptures to borrow the power of the divine flood dragon king and the flood dragons, he could open his Divine Bridge so his primordial spirit would reach the celestial heavens. However, he could only enter the Southern Heavenly Gates and had no way to enter the depths of celestial heavens. In comparison, borrowing the power of Sun Ship or Moon Ship would allow him to reach Jade Pavilion which stood beside Jade Lake!

Yet Sun Ship and Moon Ship had their bane, and it was Ten Thousand Spirit Nature Technique.

Sun Ships lent power to Sun Guardians and Moon Ships lent power to Moon Guardians. That power came from the bodies of the two ships, not their wielders. The two ships possessed boundless terrifying energy, and with the sun or moon forged by gods as an energy source, they were able to drive away the darkness.

Ten Thousand Spirit Nature Technique had the ideology of all things having spirit and all things having soul. It relied on practitioners’ sense of nature to create spirits, awakening all things in heaven and earth, and calling them to fight.

A god who cultivated Ten Thousand Spirit Nature Technique could wake the spirit in Sun Ship and Moon Ship to fight for them.

In that case, what awaited Sun and Moon Guardians as well as the Sun Herders and Moon Herders would only be a bloody massacre and death. Even the guardians themselves wouldn't be able to escape!

"Many years ago, there must have been a terrifying battle here. Sun Ships and Moon Ships encountered a god that cultivated Ten Thousand Spirit Nature Technique, which resulted in them being destroyed, one by one. Meanwhile this..." Qin Mu looked to the west, and his gaze was like candlelight flickering in the wind. "West Earth's True Heaven Palace must have some relation with this."

He always felt that West Earth's True Heaven Palace was a sacred ground like Great Thunderclap Monastery and Dao Sect, but even though Palace Master had remarkable divine arts, she was merely a strong practitioner trapped in Divine Bridge Realm. Her sacred ground was no different from the other sacred grounds.

However, from the looks of it, West Earth's True Heaven Palace was probably hiding numerous secrets and even a terrifying existence!

Not only that, just the name True Heaven Palace gave rise to some possible considerations.

Heavenly Saint Cult got its name because of Woodcutter imparting his teachings being revered as a saint. Great Thunderclap Monastery was named that because of Mount Meru's height, its top being located at the layer of thunderclouds. When thunder and buddha voice resonated together, it was so loud that even the deaf could hear.

Dao Sect was famous because of Dao Sword and Kunlun Mountain while Little Jade Capital was a fragment of Founding Emperor Era's Jade Capital. The names of the sacred grounds revealed their origin in a way.

So what was the origin of True Heaven Palace?

Why did the god of True Heaven Palace destroy Sun and Moon Ships?

The ruin of the divine palace in the desert and the strange sand giants were probably the doing of that same god as well. The desert covered in strange flames which made flame markings appear on the abandoned people and attempted to burn them to death, was it also related to True Heaven Palace?

Why would flame markings appear on the abandoned people that stepped onto the land, though? Why would only the abandoned people of Great Ruins be burned to death while the others felt nothing when they touch the flames?

How many secrets were hidden in West Earth?

The flaming desert blazed furiously, feeling extremely scorching to Qin Mu. Suddenly, another ruin appeared in front of them, and before the dragon qilin could close in, they saw violent gusts of sand

gathering in there. A sand giant gradually took shape and another was also forming next to it. Violent sand was swirling all around their feet.

The dragon qilin was about to take a detour when Qin Mu said, "No need, continue on the way."

The dragon qilin could only rush toward the sand giants that were overflowing with murderous intent. Formation markings swirled in Qin Mu's eyes as he surveyed the ruin from afar.

The sand giants rushed over and came closer and closer. Suddenly there was a sword hum as Carefree Sword swooshed along the desert floor. It raised a whirlwind which swept up the sand!

The sand giants came to a hundred miles away from the dragon qilin before suddenly collapsing. Rolling sand surged forth, and the dragon qilin immediately gave a loud roar, dispersing the crumbling dunes.

Qin Mu called back Carefree Sword while the dragon qilin carried him into the ruin. There, he saw a god statue which was sliced into some eight pieces lying around the shrine.

The dragon qilin floated away.

"We should be able to enter West Earth by tomorrow afternoon."

On a broken Sun Ship, Qin Mu lighted a bonfire and let the dragon qilin and Xiong Qi'er rest. He could still endure, but the dragon qilin needed to rest after running for so long. It was also hard for Xiong Qi'er to endure the journey at a young age.

Qin Mu looked toward the west, and his gaze passed through the weird flames of the desert. In them, a figure appeared in the distance.

Qin Mu smiled and waved his hand. It startled the figure, and it hurriedly escaped.

"Grandmaster's guts are becoming smaller and smaller." Qin Mu burst out laughing.

Pangong Tso left the broken Sun Ship, his face was flickering between clear and dark. He had already reattached his broken arm, and the injuries he'd suffered were all basically healed. However, he still couldn't manage to sneak up on Qin Mu.

It was not that he had never thought of sneak attacking or even facing off with Qin Mu, just that when he realized that his chances of victory weren't high, he could only banish the thoughts.

He wanted to leave, but he suddenly saw sand flowing silently in the surroundings, and his heart couldn't help throbbing slightly. He hurriedly looked at the flames.

The desert at night wasn't in complete darkness. The flames lighted it up, but by a lot. In the distance, Pangong Tso saw a strange human figure which looked like a wooden puppet walking over. Its joints warped as it walked in a strange manner.

The flowing sand in the desert moved with the puppet's footsteps, and the strange thing was that the sand actually didn't make any sound.

Pangong Tso's heart leaped into his throat when he saw the figure of another wooden puppet followed by the third and the fourth...

When they got close, he realized that the strange figures were actually wooden god statues. But their eyes were actually real and not wood. At that moment, they were closing in on the Sun Ship silently.

As Pangong Tso's heart throbbed, one of the wooden god statues turned to look at him, revealing a peculiar smile. It stretched out a wooden finger and placed it by its mouth to make a shush action.

Pangong Tso blinked, but didn't move, watching the god statues moving toward the Sun Ship.

The flowing sand surged, carrying the wooden sculptures into the air. The sand mass beneath them became larger and larger.

Pangong Tso grew nervous, his hands forming into fists in a certain excitement. The surroundings of Sun Ship were already sealed off by sand giants. They raised their huge fists high up and prepared to smash down on the Sun Ship in which Qin Mu rested!

'That Qin brat is a goner!' Pangong Tso was so excited he nearly began shouting in joy.

At that moment, a silver sword light swooshed and pierced the head of a wooden god statue. It exploded and was then followed by a second, third, and fourth one.

After the explosions, the arms of the sand giants froze in midair before crumbling like flowing sand, burying half of the Sun Ship.

"Fight with me?" A sneer came from the ship.

Pangong Tso no longer hesitated and turned to leave. 'There's no chance to succeed when scheming against this brat! However, why is an abandoned person like him coming to West Earth? Is he seeking death? The owner of these wooden god statue, I know her, we've met once, but it wasn't something I like to recall. Hehe, Qin brat, even if I want to kill you, why would I need to make my move personally?'

He smiled. 'Then again, even if I didn't borrow her power, I still have a few old friends in West Earth, so killing you is simply too easy! Rascal, you dare to oppose me? After you die, I'll make your corpse grovel before me!'

The next afternoon, the dragon qilin finally walked out of the desert and the flame markings gradually faded from Qin Mu's body.

They came to the border town of West Earth where there were many men and women wearing embroidered headbands. Their clothes were gorgeous, full of gold and silver. Those with a higher status wore silver headdress that was sculpted as phoenixes and vermilion birds. The clothes on their bodies were usually red or black and looked dazzling to the eyes.

There was an extremely high number of pretty girls while the men looked somewhat plain and simple.



When the trio just entered the little town, Xiong Qi'er whined about wanting to eat sour fish, chili bones, rice-flour noodles and drink bug poop tea. She had left her hometown for more than half a year and couldn't hold back her excitement at the thought of being able to eat the delicacies of her hometown. She wanted to eat everything at once.

West Earth used gold and silver to settle payment so Qin Mu had brought some and let the girl eat to her content.

Qin Mu also got a taste. The food of West Earth tended to be more spicy and sour, having a different taste. However, he didn't dare to try bug poop tea. It was made from the feces of the bug which ate tea leaves so even though the tea was unusually fragrant, he was still slightly terrified.

'Grandpa Apothecary likes to drink tea so I should bring some for him to try,' Qin Mu thought to himself.

He then examined his surroundings. The architecture of West Earth was quite different from that of Eternal Peace. The local conditions and customs were all different, but the strangest things were the houses. They were constructed from wood and were circular. Many buildings had an inscribed board on which hung a god statue.

After inquiring about it, Qin Mu learned that those god statues were used to prevent people from using spells to awaken spirits.

Because the spells of West Earth took the path of all things having spirit and all things having soul, if a divine art practitioner executed a spell and a house suddenly stood up and ran away, wouldn't the whole family be left cold and hungry?

Only if a god statue was worshiped in the house would it not be summoned away by divine art practitioners.

Qin Mu blinked at such an explanation. The sight of a huge cluster of houses standing up to battle was truly something fresh.

However, could the god statue really prevent the houses from being taken away by divine arts practitioners?

"There are also numerous shrines on the mountains used to suppress the mountain spirits. There's also a divine shrine in every river to prevent divine arts practitioners from taking them away. However, those mountains and rivers all have owners," an elder explained.

Qin Mu looked around and clicked his tongue in wonder. When looking at the mountains stretching into the distance, he finally understood why the mountain range of West Earth was hadn't yet been razed to the ground. The land still had verdant hills and limpid water which was a pleasant scenery.

"Why do all the mountains and rivers here have owners?" Qin Mu asked. "Who are they?"

They, of course, belong to the masters of True Heaven Palace. There are also some that belong to divine arts practitioners of some place or some sect," the elder said. "Not only do the mountains and rivers

have owners, even flowers, grass, and trees all have owners. They can't be carelessly touched; otherwise, even selling oneself won't be enough to pay up!"

As he was saying that, the ground gently trembled, and the people around became flustered. They hurriedly dodged to the side, and Qin Mu looked toward the origin of the sound where he saw a tree walking over. On it stood a woman who was holding a painted scroll. She shouted loudly, "An escapee from Great Ruins entered our West Earth today. True Heaven Palace has ordered to capture this fugitive! Come, hang this portrait up!"