

Tales of Herding Gods Chapter 511-515

Chapter 511: Youdu's Lu Li

Xing An opened his eyes to look around. There were still all kinds of limbs growing from his body. Not only that, there was also a monster that looked like an octopus stuck to his back. Its limbs were strong and strapped tightly to him while contracting non-stop.

He had fainted from that monster binding him.

"Who is talking?" he asked weakly.

"A human from the world of the living, an interesting life form. Xing An, after reaching such a state, do you still want to return to the world of the living?"

The owner of the voice circled around him. Sometimes it the words came from the left, and sometimes from the right. Sometimes it was above him, and sometimes it was below. It seemed like a fish swimming in the darkness.

"You are a saint that appears once every five hundred years yet you have landed in such a state. This truly makes me sigh in regret. How could you face the people of the world looking like this?"

The limbs on Xing An's body were held by the monster, and he couldn't move, so he could take a breather. Before, he'd been in unbelievable torture and suffered more than ever before in his life. He had never been so miserable and helpless before.

Yet now, he still wasn't at ease as he was in Youdu.

Only after he jumped into the river did he find out where he went, that it was a place where the dead sank.

He was in despair. Youdu was the place where Earth Count ruled, and he had never heard before anyone that could survive after entering Youdu.

He had barged into Fengdu and now he had barged into Youdu. Why was heaven treating him so horribly?

"What exactly are you? Why are you mocking me?"

Xing An let out a shaky breath. He wanted to struggle out of the monster's binding, but he couldn't muster any strength. Besides, even if he could break free, the other body parts would rebel and beat him up, cursing him.

He had no strength to escape from the monster. Even if he broke free from the limbs on his body, his lifespan wouldn't be long, and if it came to an end, he would die in Youdu.

“My name is Lu Li,” the voice said, no longer moving. “Xuan Ming is the left, and Han Lei the right. Lu Li is the front, and Jue Huang the back.”

Xing An gasped for breath. “Lu Li? Did you ask me if I wanted to return to the world of the living? I want to return to the world of the living!”

“You don’t know the meaning of this poem?” The tone of that voice was slightly disappointed as it sighed. “The top-notch practitioner of the world of the living is actually so ignorant, actually not knowing Xuan Ming, Han Lei, Lu Li, and Jue Huang. You guys have fallen that low? Oh well, I won’t bully your ignorance. I can let you return to the world of the living and solve the danger of your corporeal body. I can even erase your death record and let you have no more worries of dying from old age.”

Xing An’s expression loosened, and he asked, “What do I have to do?”

“It’s pleasant to talk with smart people,” Lu Li said. “Ten years ago, there was a child who was born in Youdu and absorbed the qi of Youdu before being brought away. He was sent out, and I need you to send him back. My corporeal body is too strong so I can’t pass through the barrier between Youdu and the world of the living, so I need you to walk there and do my work!”

“How should I find this child?” Xing An asked.

“Very simple. He has a jade pendant, and there’s a unique rune on it. There’s also the word Qin engraved on it, so you will recognize it when you see it,” Lu Li explained. “He should be around seventeen now, almost eighteen. I’ve already drawn his birth data and the shape of the jade pendant. He was born on the eight of the twelfth lunar month, first year of the sixty-year cycle, and the twelfth solar month.”

A picture flew over, and the eight tentacle monster holding Xing An suddenly left, vanishing into the darkness.

At the same time, the limbs on Xing An’s body started rotting, and numerous heads, arms, legs, and bodies fell off. Xing An’s heart trembled violently as he felt his body becoming his once again. He hurriedly grabbed the painting.

Lu Li’s voice rang beside his ear then. “Find this child. You can kill or capture him, but you cannot let his soul disperse. I need you to send his soul in perfect condition to Youdu! If even a hair is gone, you will die incomparably miserably!”

When it said the last word, the limbs suddenly grew back on Xing An’s body.

Lu Li’s chuckles floated around as Xing An’s body returned to normal. Cold sweat broke out on his forehead.

“I’ll pass you a mirror. After you find him, you can use this mirror to verify his identity.” A mirror suddenly appeared from the darkness and landed in Xing An’s hand. Lu Li then said with a laugh, “This mirror can reflect his identity, but you can’t aim the mirror at him while facing him, do you understand?”

“Can’t aim the mirror at him while facing him?” Xing An stared blankly at the floating object as he didn’t know what the creature meant.

“That’s right. Your back must face him while you use the mirror to observe him!” Lu Li’s tone suddenly became stern. “Remember, when facing him, you can never shine this mirror on him! Your back must face him!”

“I get it, you don’t need to repeat it so many times. Just a small matter...”

“This is definitely not a small matter!” Lu Li sneered. “If you shine it on him while facing him, you will cause a huge problem, a very huge problem! I can extend your life for thirty years, so you’ll have thirty years to do this for me. You can go now!”

“Hold it!” Xing An smiled and said leisurely, “We haven’t met before, but since this mirror can reflect a person, it should be able to reflect you too, right?” He flipped the mirror and pointed its face behind himself.

“You...”

He stared at the mirror and saw the reflection of a peerless beauty. Lu Li’s voice had clearly belonged to a man, yet the mirror reflected a woman!

The beauty flicked her finger, and Xing An started spinning as though he had fallen into a huge whirlpool. When he woke up, he realized he was lying on a long rock under an ancient pine tree as though he had fallen asleep and spent the night in the open there.

The surroundings had birdsong and fragrant flowers, as well as springs and waterfall. There were a few monkeys swinging to and fro among the forest before stopping to pluck some bananas. They peeled them and ate eagerly while looking at him with caution.

Stunned, Xing An looked around. How was he still not at the broken cliff of Great Ruins? There was an ocean in front of him!

“What is this place?” he couldn’t help asking bewilderedly.

“This is South Sea.” The monkey threw a banana peel that hit his head.

“South Sea?”

Xing An immediately got up, at a loss. He was now located at the southernmost part of Great Ruins which was some thirty-fourty thousand miles from where he had entered Fengdu!

“You are a strange beast in Great Ruins, but you can talk. It seems like you are a strange breed which awakened your intelligence.”

Xing An picked the banana peel and flicked it away. “Taking into account that you pointed out the location for me, I won’t kill you, but some suffering is inevitable.”

The monkey jumped up. When it landed, a banana peel appeared under its feet, causing it to slip and fall. The monkey was furious, but when it climbed up, wanting to take revenge on Xing An, he had already disappeared without a trace.

“How petty!” The monkey was furious and jumped onto a tree, but to its surprise, what it grabbed was another banana peel, and so it came crashing down from the tree.

The banana peel seemed to have gotten stuck to the monkey. As long as it jumped up, it would automatically fly to its hands or legs, causing it to slip and fall badly.

The monkey was furious and picked up a stone to tear the banana peel to pieces.

By then, Xing An had already left and was mumbling to himself. “Even though Lu Li is remarkable, she can’t enter the world of the living. How can I, Xing An, be manipulated by her? She gave me a lifespan of thirty years and she wants to control me with that? Not so easy! Divine Physician Qin said that he has already established the space algebra model of the divine bridge and spread it around. I shall go to Eternal Peace, and with my comprehension and aptitude, I can become a god in one or two years and break free from her control!”

Suddenly, Lu Li’s voice rang out beside his ears. “Rascal, I’ll take away fifteen years from your lifespan.”

Xing An’s heart trembled violently, and he hurriedly looked around. However, he couldn’t find any traces of Lu Li.

‘This is the world of the living, and she can’t come here! It must be a hallucination!’

Just as he thought that, he suddenly came to a realization and quickly opened his Life and Death Divine Treasure. He saw that it was connected to Youdu which was dark and hazy. A pair of eyes were glowing in the darkness there, staring at him.

Xing An’s blood went cold. He knew he could never break free. Even if he became a god, it would be hard for him to escape from that woman’s control!

‘Who exactly is this person that’s born in Youdu?’

Xing An frowned. There were many seventeen years old, so where was he going to find such a person?

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“Fatty Dragon, faster! The sky is almost dark!” Qin Mu hurried. “We need to find a ruin or a village before the night comes!”

The darkness flooded over from the west as Qin Mu brought the dragon qilin and the chest to a ruin full of strange beasts of Great Ruins. They all stayed together in harmony.

The chest took the time to dug out a broken stone tablet from underground and planned to stuff it into its stomach, but it was too huge and didn’t fit inside.

Qin Mu went over to sweep the dust off the stone tablet and read—Big Dipper’s Dark and Light True Purity Heaven Lady Mother of the Chariot. ‘This is the celestial heavens of Founding Emperor Era, the place where Big Dipper’s Lady Mother of the Chariot resided? This Lady Mother of the Chariot should be a powerful goddess, but it’s a pity that even this place has turned into ruin...’

He stood up and went to the entrance of Palace of Lady Mother of the Chariot and looked at the darkness outside.

The darkness seemed like it was blocked by a screen of light at the palace’s entrance. There was a clear separation between light and dark.

Qin Mu hesitated for a moment before stretching out his thumb, his nail slowly getting closer to the darkness.”

“Cult Master, don’t die—”

The dragon qilin pounced over and bit his leg to drag him back. It resulted in him collecting a lot of dust, and Qin Mu rose to beat the dragon qilin up when he jumped back to his feet.

Roar!

A commotion suddenly broke out in the ruin. Numerous strange beasts and territorial beasts were furious, and they roared all at once while closing in on Qin Mu.

His forehead broke out in sweat, and he slowly stepped back. He looked at the thousands of strange beasts that were closing in on him and tried to explain, “Everyone, listen to me, I’m not breaking the rules of Great Ruins on purpose. It was this Fatty Dragon who made a move first...”

He retreated to the door and leaned against a stone pillar. Some of the huge beasts beat their chests while some snarled and showed their teeth. Some were sharpening their claws and some were preparing their divine arts, ready to kill the fellow who had broken the rules of Great Ruins,

Qin Mu gritted his teeth and suddenly turned. With a headlong dash, he pushed his head into the darkness.

Most of the strange beasts were dumbfounded. The dragon qilin wailed loudly and bit onto Qin Mu’s pants to pull him back. The other strange beasts covered their faces as they knew a skeleton without flesh would be pulled out. Either that or the neck would have been severed cleanly and be all bloody!

“Fatty Dragon, go away.” Qin Mu gave a kick, and the hairs of all strange beasts stood up on ends. Their blood ran cold!

“M—m—moving...” a territorial strange beast stuttered before its voice rose in a shout. “Moving corpse!”

At that moment, Qin Mu entered the darkness with a pop. Before the strange beasts could let out a sigh of relief though, a head suddenly popped back in from the darkness.

Thump!

A strange beast collapsed, having fainted from fright.

Chapter 512: Girl in the Darkness

Qin Mu shrunk his head back and looked around. If he had not broken the rules of Great Ruins and been forced out by the strange beasts, he would not have barged into the darkness.

He had never thought before that the day would come when he could step into the darkness by himself. It was completely different from relying on the protection of the stone statues or the chest.

He felt as if he blended into the darkness like a fish in water. It was like he was part of the darkness.

In his eyes, it was no longer pure black, but similar to fog.

‘This isn’t truly darkness, but a special kind of substance.’

Qin Mu was astonished. He was always curious about the darkness in Great Ruins, but his cultivation had been too low to enter the darkness. But even with enough power to enter the darkness, he reckoned he wouldn’t be able to discover the marvel of the darkness because strong practitioners like Village Chief and Xing An were forcing it back and not letting it get close to them.

Forcing the darkness back made it difficult to discover the truth about it.

Qin Mu was, however, blending in with the darkness, so it was much easier for him to see it.

Village Chief had once guessed that the darkness of Great Ruins wasn’t truly darkness. Instead, it was a world that overlapped with Great Ruins, and he named it the dark realm.

It was later that Village Chief discovered that there wasn’t only one dark realm in Great Ruins but several.

He had also called Fengdu a dark realm.

However, as Qin Mu’s understanding of Fengdu increased, he discovered another secret. Fengdu could be called a dark realm, but it was only a corner of it, one which belonged to none other than Youdu.

That place was one of the dark realms in Great Ruins.

Youdu and Fengdu were moving and changing their locations continuously, so they didn’t cover the entire Great Ruins. The one that did it should be another dark realm.

When Qin Mu stepped into the darkness, he discovered another truth of Great Ruins—the darkness was some kind of strange substance.

‘When I entered another world through the broken cliff and realized that the day and night of that world were the opposite of those in Great Ruins, I had a daring guess.’

Qin Mu's gaze flickered. He remembered what he had seen and guessed in the golden desert.

That world was the Great Ruins of High Emperor Era, where he had gone to avoid Xing An. There was also day and night there, and they were opposite to the day and night in Great Ruins.

Because of that, Qin Mu guessed that the darkness flooded over from the Great Ruins of High Emperor Era. When the sun set, the darkness flowed out through the cracks and went to the Great Ruins of Founding Emperor from the Great Ruins of High Emperor. When High Emperor Great Ruins started a new day, Founding Emperor Great Ruins went to night. When the sun rose, the darkness returned to High Emperor Great Ruins.

The two Great Ruins formed an hourglass, and the darkness was the sand inside, flowing to and fro.

This was Qin Mu's guess.

However, he had been running from Xing An back then, and there was only Pangong Tso nearby, so he hadn't voiced his guess to anyone.

When in the darkness now, he discovered that it was some strange substance, and it affirmed his guess.

'If the cracks on the broken cliff stretching from north to south were blocked, could we lock the darkness in High Emperor Great Ruins? From then on, would there be no more invasions of darkness at night?'

Qin Mu blinked, finding this reasoning realistic. However, he didn't know if it would succeed or not.

Besides, the broken cliff was very large and had numerous cracks, so it would be connected to more than one world. How to block the cracks was also another problem.

'Blocking isn't the best method to solve the problem. The best way to do it is to familiarize myself with the characteristics of the darkness that can swallow people.'

Qin Mu studied the dark substance which was like fog in detail. Black specks had shape, but not physical substance as they could pass through the skin.

'Strange substance!'

Qin Mu was astonished. He mobilized a strand of vital qi and used it to fix a portion of the black substance in place. His palm passed through it without feeling any obstruction. He also didn't feel like he had touched anything.

'What substance is this exactly? What qualities does it have?'

Qin Mu was thinking about it when the dragon qilin's nervous voice suddenly came from the ruin. "Cult Master, are you still alive?"

The sound seemed to have come from very far away, as though it had passed through a thick wall. "Don't worry, I'm still alive. I'll feed you tomorrow morning," Qin Mu called back.

"Okay." The dragon qilin made a sound of acknowledgment, then began to argue. "I wasn't worried about food but Cult Master's safety. But since Cult Master is fine, I can sleep now. Cult Master, come back once you're done playing. We have a long day tomorrow."

Qin Mu studied his surroundings for a while, but couldn't understand what the dark substance was. At the moment he was about to head back, he saw a monster.

Whispers came from his surroundings. There were numerous monsters hidden in the darkness, shadows of rocks, and the forest watching him quietly. Scuttling sounds could be heard from time to time as black shadows moved around like phantoms, jumping from one patch of darkness to another at an extremely fast speed. Qin Mu found it hard to see their movements even when he activated his divine eyes.

Suddenly, he faintly saw real shadows walking through the darkness.

These figures seemed to be located between the void and reality, and they weren't monsters but humans!

They were shadows of humans!

'Why are there people in the darkness?'

Qin Mu's heart trembled slightly, and he hurriedly rushed forward. Other than him, the only people that could walk in the darkness were existences that had the abilities of gods, for example, Village Chief, Xing An. Or it could also be some things that could give off divine light, for example, Xing An's chest which was made from taotie's divine bones and skin.

When they entered the darkness, they would give off divine light and force the darkness back.

But the shadows in the darkness didn't force the darkness back. They were like Qin Mu, blending with it. What was even weirder about them was that they seemed to be formed from the darkness!

Qin Mu went after a shadow which seemed to be just as curious about him. It stopped and seemed to be waiting for him to come.

Qin Mu rushed over and examined the black shadow in front of him curiously. It had two long braids hanging down its shoulders as it examined him as well.

Before him was a girl. Even though he could only see her silhouette, he could guess that she wasn't too old.

She stretched out her palm in what seemed like an attempt to touch him, and Qin Mu stretched out his hand as well. However, their palms passed through each other like there was nothing there.

The girl in the shadow seemed astonished and said something. However, her words were whispers beside Qin Mu's ears that he couldn't make out.

'So strange!' Qin Mu was puzzled and scratched his head. "Can you hear what am I saying?"

The girl seemed to be unable to hear what he was saying; their voices were warped by a strange power. Suddenly, the girl squatted down, her braids bouncing from the motion. She stretched out her hand and wrote something on the ground.

Qin Mu lowered his head to look, but he could only see black light flowing below. There was nothing written on the ground.

He also wrote a sentence, but the shadow girl shook her head, expressing that she couldn't see what he was writing either.

An idea flashed in Qin Mu's head. Pulling his sword out, he executed Sword Treading Mountains and Rivers, but the girl still shook her head, expressing that she didn't understand what he was doing.

Qin Mu was out of ideas.

Suddenly, the black shadow girl ran forward and stopped after a few steps to beckon him over.

Qin Mu followed after her, and the two of them ran for a while. After some time, the black shadow girl stopped, but Qin Mu couldn't stop himself and passed straight through her. His motion pushed him to an overhanging cliff that was thirty thousand yards high.

The girl tried to grab his hand, but she couldn't get hold of him. Luckily, Qin Mu managed to stabilize himself and didn't drop down the cliff.

The girl pointed forward, and Qin Mu's mind trembled violently at the sight. Down the cliff stood a magnificent city that possessed a foreign mood to it. Qin Mu had never seen such a vast and majestic construction in Great Ruins before!

'Strange, this city doesn't exist in Great Ruins, so could it really be the dark realm overlapping with Great Ruins...'

Qin Mu frowned slightly. If the dark substance could flow between Founding Emperor Great Ruins and High Emperor Great Ruins, wouldn't this dark realm also exist in the ruins of High Emperor Great Ruins?

Could he really block a world by blocking the cracks in the broken cliff?

'The darkness of Great Ruins is much more complicated than I imagined. I'm afraid it can't be blocked...'

Just as he thought that, that shadow girl leaped down from the mountain cliff. She sprinted diagonally down the air as though she was walking on flat ground as she descended into the city below.

Qin Mu also leaped as though he was flying and followed in her footsteps. After a moment, the two of them came to the city, and Qin Mu looked around. The place around him was flourishing, and there were many people bustling to and fro. However, in his eyes, they were all lumps of shadow.

If they were changed into true humans, then he would be visiting an incomparably flourishing city.

He also saw gods and devils in the darkness that were standing on tall buildings while looking around in alert.

Qin Mu was stunned. He felt that there was something wrong.

He had seen a similar sight before.

In Hundred Prosperities City from forty thousand years back in time, the gods and devils had looked around in alert just like this. However, the gods and devils back then had been guarding against the darkness outside the city!

In that case, what was this city in the darkness guarding against?

The shadow girl brought Qin Mu around the city, and all the black shadows in the streets turned their heads to look at them. In their eyes, Qin Mu's form should have been very strange, for they couldn't help casting sidelong glances at him.

The two of them passed through many alleys before coming to a mansion built with an extraordinary style. There, an incomparably towering figure slowly rose and opened up its four arms to protect the building. Qin Mu's arrival seemed to have been what roused the god protecting this mansion.

The shadow girl leaped up onto the palm of that god. She jumped around as though she was flying until she came to the shoulder of the god and said something to him.

The god tilted his head and examined Qin Mu. He opened his mouth to speak, but his words were just whispers in Qin Mu's ears. He couldn't understand any of them.

After a moment, the god lowered his palm and signaled for Qin Mu to stand on it. Qin Mu hesitated for a while, but when he came over, he couldn't step onto anything. He almost fell when trying to, and he hurriedly executed his divine art to float over the palm.

Thee dark god was astonished, and he raised another hand to poke Qin Mu with a finger. It passed right through as if there was nothing there.

The dark god scratched his head, not knowing what was happening.

'This is too strange!' Qin Mu's heart trembled violently. 'Even an almighty god can't touch me!'

Suddenly, the city burst into a commotion, and the dark god placed down the shadow girl. He immediately rose into the sky and rushed toward the city gate.

Qin Mu hurriedly followed the shadow girl toward a high place. The space outside the city trembled as black holes suddenly appeared. Grotesque gods and devils crawled out from them, bringing countless soldiers to rush at the magnificent city.

A large scale battle erupted.

Not long later, the city was invaded, and countless devils flooded through the streets where everyone began fighting.

Qin Mu followed the shadow girl to hide while the city was in chaos. Divine arts and spirit weapons bursting forth with power flashed everywhere, and houses and palaces crumbled all around.

It was an extremely long night until the crow of a rooster rang through the air. Qin Mu's heart trembled slightly at that moment. The darkness surged along with the city. The devil gods retreated back frantically with the monsters, retreating into space holes that vanished without a trace.

Qin Mu's figure swayed from the moving darkness. He was about to grab the shadow girl beside him when she vanished along with the city!

A ray of sunlight shone down and lighted up the surroundings. Qin Mu looked around and saw towering mountains and precipitous ridges without any sign of a city having existed in their place.

"Cult Master! Cult Master!"

The dragon qilin's cries came from a distance. Qin Mu looked toward the source of the sound and saw the ruin where they had been resting the day before. The dragon qilin held his basin as he rushed over to place it down. While wagging his tail, he said with a laugh, "Cult Master, it's time to eat. You know it's quite late already..."

Qin Mu looked around, feeling like the night's events had been just a dream.

'Great Ruins is too strange. Did I really enter another world last night?'

Chapter 513: The Theory and Analysis of Sacrifice

After the long journey during the day, it was night time again, but this time, Qin Mu didn't find a ruin to rest on the way. Instead, he had the chest carry the dragon qilin throughout the night while he walked in the darkness after it.

He saw many strange things during the night. With the appearance of the darkness, numerous cities and countless lifeforms suddenly appeared. There were large scale battles, which was something he hadn't seen when he followed Village Chief into the darkness of Great Ruins.

Every time he got close to the light of the chest, he wouldn't be able to see what was truly happening in the darkness. The divine light of the chest brought him back to his original world.

What was strange was that he couldn't feel the world barrier.

This was something that was impossible.

Any two worlds would have world barriers so traveling through them would cause people to suffer from the squeezing of the two different worlds. The stronger the traveler's strength was, the stronger the squeeze would be.

Yet there was no barrier between the dark realm and reality, which was weird.

Qin Mu walked into the light of the chest and went into a daze when he sat down on it. In a bit, his eyes lit up, and he smiled. 'I know an expert in this field, so wouldn't it be a good idea to call him out?'

Full of excitement, he had the chest stop. He jumped off and took out a white bone sacrificial altar from his taotie sack. On the altar, he placed a four-headed and eight-armed devil god statue.

Qin Mu took out a cinnabar brush and drew all kinds of runes on the devil god statue. He then used his vital qi to activate the runes to cast a spell, executing Ghost Transferring God Dispatching Runes Command.

After a moment, his spell was finished, but the devil god statue didn't move at all.

It made Qin Mu suspicious. He executed the spell once more, but the devil god statue still had no reaction.

"Big Brother Dutian, little brother is summoning you in fear and trepidation, offering up meat and delicacies. May big brother grace me with your presence," Qin Mu prayed. "If Big Brother Dutian doesn't come, brother will pray a hundred times a day until big brother descends. Brother..."

"Shut up! Who is your big brother?"

The devil god statue suddenly opened its eyes on one face, its eyeballs rotating rapidly. Only when Dutian discovered that he hadn't been schemed against did he send a strand of his consciousness down. The other three faces instantly woke up, and he opened his mouth to speak.

"I didn't become sworn brothers with you, so don't speak of us being kin. We aren't familiar! If you prayed a hundred times a day to me, I'd be annoyed to death by you! Cult Master Qin, what have you summon me for?"

Qin Mu let out a sigh of relief and said with a smile, "I have a thing that I don't understand." He explained what he'd seen in the darkness and asked, "Why when two worlds overlap there's no world barrier or rejection when passing through them?"

The wooden devil god statue stood up from the sacrificial altar and plucked a white bone to eat it as if it was sugarcane. "I thought you summoned me with some scheme in mind, but it's just this kind of small matter."

Qin Mu did the disciple rites and asked, "May Big Brother Dutian enlighten me?"

Dutian Devil King felt his blood run cold and immediately said, "Don't be so polite! When you are so polite, I can't help suspecting that you're going to create trouble for me! What you say actually involves the energy of the world which is always fixed. The birth, cultivation, and death of a person won't change the structure of the world's energy. It is the most basic law!"

Qin Mu thought about it before saying, "The birth, cultivation, and death of a person won't change the energy structure even if they became god or devil, turning into an undying being?"

"Even if one becomes a god or devil, it won't change the fixed energy in this world. It won't make the energy of this world become more and it won't reduce it," Dutian Devil King said. "The energy of a world is constant and the changes to it are limited. When a person travels to another world from this world, the world will lose the energy of a person while the other world will gain the energy of a person. This results in encountering two times of one's own energy affecting one's body, so traveling into another world is very hard and requires blood sacrifice."

Qin Mu found everything suddenly made sense. "The principle of blood sacrifice is to sacrifice the lifeforms in this world to the other world, becoming the energy of the other world!"

Dutian Devil King nodded. "Meanwhile, the gods and devils who were offered the sacrifice would be the other offering, descending into the new world from their own, replacing the energy lost in the sacrifice and so preserving the balance of the energy between the two worlds. For example, this sacrificial altar of yours. The energy in the bones have been sacrificed by you and went to my Dutian World. As an exchange, I descended into this treacherous world of yours."

Qin Mu's eyes lit up and he said, "I see. Now, what did you mean by being able to change the limit of the energy?"

"Blood sacrifice builds a bridge that passes through both worlds. I can steal a portion of energy and import it through the bridge which won't abide by the balance of energy." Dutian Devil King smile. "Last time you summoned me, the sacrificial energy was insubstantial, so I had to mobilize a huge amount of energy to descend into this world. That was equivalent to forcefully squeezing myself through. However, the energy to squeeze myself in required me to withstand the pressure from the two worlds, so the energy I could squeeze in was still limited. It soon surpassed my limits. Power that is smuggled over is dependant on the offerer's abilities."

Enlightened, Qin Mu frowned. "However, in the darkness of Great Ruins, the world barrier doesn't exist when the two worlds overlap. How do you explain this?"

Dutian Devil King chuckled. "What if the energy that's being squeezed in surpasses the limit that this world can withstand?"

Qin Mu's heart trembled violently. "What you mean is..."

"A large scale blood sacrifice which constructed hundreds of thousands of bridges for hundreds of thousand gods and devils to smuggle and pour their energy into that world!" Dutian Devil King gave a sinister smile. "It would burst apart the barrier of that world! Once the world barrier is gone, there will be no barrier anymore, and other worlds can launch a massacre without any obstruction anymore!"

Qin Mu's blood ran cold, and he shuddered a few times. Disbelief colored his face, and he cried out, "What you mean is that world in the darkness of Great Ruins is a world whose barrier had been burst apart?"

“It might not be that world in the darkness that had its barrier burst open,” Dutian Devil King said while beaming at him. “Don’t you think your world could be the world without the world barrier?”

Qin Mu shook his head. “If this world was the one without it, you could have long descended. That world I saw in the darkness had a lot of space holes opened up by countless devil gods who led their people to attack. It’s clearly a world that had its world barrier burst apart.”

Dutian Devil King sat down on the chest and yawned. Swinging his legs, he said, “Your description of the world in the darkness overlapping with this treacherous world reminds me of a terrifying possibility— world sacrifice!”

Incomparably sinister smiles appeared on the four faces, and the statue almost jumped up in excitement. “World sacrifice is the sacrifice of an entire world. With this terrifying energy that crashes against another world, a million gods and devils can descend together and destroy that world! This is the grandest of plans!”

“There are going to destroy that world?” Qin Mu asked in bewilderment.

The wooden devil god statue creaked as the heads turned. All four pairs of eyes landed on the youth.

Qin Mu’s hair stood up on ends, and he cried out, “You are saying that after the hundreds of thousands of devil gods that burst apart the world barrier of that world in the darkness plan to sacrifice that world to descend here?”

Dutian Devil King’s heads rotated around their necks a few times as he clapped his hands in praise. “Smart! When Great Ruins overlaps with that world, they will sacrifice that world. The resulting energy would be so enormous that it will allow the world filled with devils to descend onto Great Ruins! When that time comes, the terrifying sight of two worlds colliding will be seen, and billions of lifeforms will perish. I’m excited just thinking about it!”

Qin Mu had a blank expression. He suddenly shook his head and said, “Impossible, that’s impossible! The darkness has existed for twenty thousand years. Doesn’t it mean that the fight in that world has already lasted for some twenty thousand years? How could a war last so long? Impossible!”

Dutian Devil King jumped down from the chest and said, “If I were you, I would have long emigrated to another world. A wise man foresees and mitigates risks. When the nest is overturned, there will be no eggs left unbroken. This world is too dangerous, so I’m going back now! Also, don’t annoy me frequently. I’m scared of you!”

Before jumping into the darkness so his soul could return to Dutian World, he shouted out, “When the world in the darkness is destroyed, it will be the day when your world will collide with the devil gods’ world, and that will be your doomsday as well!”

He then rushed into the darkness and was instantly invaded. Qin Mu hurriedly sprinted after him, but only saw the wooden statue shattering into pieces.

He frowned and returned back to the side of the chest. The energy in the white bone altar was also exhausted, so they shattered.

'Can the words of Dutian Devil King be trusted? That guy doesn't look trustworthy, and now he describes something that's so terrifying...'

Qin Mu composed himself. The words of Dutian Devil King were simply too terrifying, so how much could he trust them?

However, when he thought about it, Dutian Devil King's nature was to take joy in calamity and delight in disaster. He wished for the whole world to be in chaos, so there was no need for him to scare him.

'Eternal Peace is too weak.' Qin Mu let out a shaky breath and thought to himself. 'However, the world in the darkness has already been fighting the devil race for twenty thousand years and has lasted until now. They wouldn't just be defeated now and get sacrificed by the other party, right? That's why Eternal Peace still has a lot of time before it'll have to face the devil world, so there's no need to worry too much... Hehehe, I had almost wet my pants from Dutian scaring me. Groundless fear, this must be just groundless fear!'

After a few days, Qin Mu finally walked out of Great Ruins and returned back to Eternal Peace. He immediately took a fast ship from Secret Waters Pass to head toward the capital. He wrote a memorial to the emperor and offered up the Black Tortoise Bead that Xiong Xiyu had given him as a tribute. He also talked about the matter regarding paving roads.

Emperor Yanfeng gathered all the civil and military officials to discuss, and Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor was also among them. Many of the officials were against paving the roads, but Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor argued with them, standing his ground against the opinions of the masses. Only when Emperor Yanfeng said he was going to execute those who were against the idea with a smile that the matter regarding paving the roads was settled.

Emperor Yanfeng then handed this matter over to the Ministry of Works and let Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor manage it. Qin Mu found him later and said, "The divine arts of West Earth are very suitable for our cult. Heavenly King can bright a few of our elders and hall masters to recruit some talents."

Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor was puzzled. "Cult Master Qin, isn't this inappropriate for me to handle?"

"You are one of the four great heavenly kings of our sacred cult, so of course you will be the one in charge."

Veins popped out on Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor's forehead as he said stiffly, "What about Cult Master?"

Qin Mu smiled and said, "I'm going to find friends and relatives to do business and earn more money."

Chapter 514: The First Primordial Spirit Assembly

Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor pondered over it. After he was forced by Qin Mu to become the heavenly king of Heavenly Saint Cult, he didn't seem to have done anything much with his new role. It was always Qin Mu and Heavenly Saint Cult helping him without holding back.

Heavenly Saint Cult's ideology and his didn't clash. Since he had received its grace, he naturally had to repay the favor.

"Alright, I'll head to West Earth with a few elders, heavenly kings, and hall masters to recruit more talents for the sacred cult." Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor sent him out of his manor, but stopped him right after. "Cult Master Qin, as the cult master sacred teacher, you still haven't spent much time with the cult. You are always fooling outside and don't even have time to cultivate."

"Remember not to hold back your advancement in cultivation. In the era of great changes, the paths, skills, and divine arts are changing and seeing rapid developments. When I returned to Eternal Peace not long ago, I was also learning the new paths, skills and divine arts that appeared here. Cultivation is a boat going against the current, and you will fall behind if you don't learn. Cult Master, take note."

Qin Mu's heart moved slightly, and he asked, "You are already a god, but you still have to learn the new paths, skills, and divine arts?"

Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor nodded. "Among the young experts in Cult Master's generation, there is no lack of people with ideas. For sword skills, I have already imparted the three basic sword skills I ad founded, and as for Cult Master's eighteenth sword form, I also imparted it,

"Just these four new basic sword skills were enough to create countless new sword moves. After the cultivation method of Six Directions Primordial Spirit was released, there were even more changes to the paths, skills, and divine arts. The new basic sword skills could only change the sword skills while the change in the cultivation system was much greater."

Qin Mu deeply agreed with him. Founding a sword skill was difficult, but it was even more difficult to change the foundation. When it was changed, countless people would gain a chance to create something new, and it was a great opportunity for them.

Qin Mu and Ling Yuxiu had founded Primordial Spirit Guide which changed the foundation of cultivation. When it was changed, there appeared countless new possibilities, and many people put their knowledge to work on this new foundation, making the paths, skills and divine arts take the leap forward. Like that, numerous great masters would be born!

However, Qin Mu also had to learn the new paths, skills, and divine arts.

"I suggest you go to Imperial College and the four big academies. Stay in each academy for a period of time and exchange pointers with the young people there." Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor sighed ruefully. "The paths, skills, and divine arts see rapid developments daily, and the ideas of the youths are really endless."

"In just a few months' time, I've already grown old and fallen behind times, needing to learn from those youths. In the future, there will definitely be many more of the younger generation who can cultivate to the god realm!"

"Two days before you came to the capital, Dao Master Lin Xuan led a bunch of young disciples to Imperial College to exchange pointers regarding paths, skills, and divine arts where I had also learned."

When talking with him, I had quite a lot of thoughts and feelings. Yesterday, Rulai Ma had also brought numerous monks and demons over to debate in Imperial College. However, I didn't have the time to go."

"Old Ma is also in the capital?" Qin Mu was delighted. He then asked, "Imperial Preceptor, how many gods are there in Eternal Peace Empire?"

Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor was slightly stunned. "Why are you asking this?"

Qin Mu told him about what he had seen in Great Ruins and shared Dutian Devil King's guess. "The collision with the other world may happen tens of thousands of years later, but it could also happen tomorrow, so we have to make preparations. The more gods there are in Eternal Peace Empire, the better it will be. Or else, we won't be able to defend against the opponent!"

Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor muttered to himself irresolutely before asking suspiciously, "You were able to enter the darkness?"

Qin Mu hesitated for a moment before telling him the truth. "I was born in Youdu. King Yama said that I can enter the darkness of Great Ruins and not get hurt. I guess what he meant was that I may be a half-devil from Youdu."

Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor didn't think much of it and said, "If heaven wants to wipe out my Eternal Peace, there's nothing I can do. As of now, the emperor has crossed the divine bridge, and there are over ten gods in the borders.

"I told the emperor that all the gods must be recorded. He has already done that, but to fight against the devil world as dangerous as that, Eternal Peace won't have the strength even in dozens of years. If that day really comes..." He smiled and said calmly, "I'll pass all my responsibility to you."

Qin Mu's heart trembled, for he knew when he heard the determination of sacrificing one's life for the empire. "The devils have been attacking that world in the darkness for over twenty thousand years, so there's no reason that they would win against it tomorrow. Imperial Preceptor doesn't have to worry about it. Paving the roads is more important."

The two people bade farewell.

Qin Mu brought the dragon qilin and the chest to Imperial College which was much more bustling than before. There were quite a number of divine arts practitioners from all the lands, even the prairie and the ice plains.

Emperor Yanfeng had ordered the four big academies to split the pressure on Imperial College so River Tomb Academy, Surging River Academy, Li River Academy, and Heavenly Saint Academy were also flourishing. They had a lot of scholars, but compared to Imperial College, they still lacked some experience.

"Cult Master Qin!"

"Grand Chancellor Qin!"

News of Qin Mu's arrival immediately spread throughout the Imperial College, and Dao Master Lin Xuan brought numerous Daoists over. Old Ma also brought his monks while Gu Linuan brought imperial scholars to welcome him. His friends in Imperial College also came forth to welcome him. Qin Mu hurriedly greeted all of them in the bustling Imperial College.

"Grand Chancellor Qin was a scholar of our Imperial College's Scholar's Residence, and even then I've known that he was definitely going to be extraordinary and soar like a true dragon!" Gu Linuan's face glowed as he smiled. "Who would have thought that Scholar Qin would become the grand chancellor of Heavenly Saint Academy? Come to think of it, I'm honored as well!"

Qin Mu laughed loudly. "Lord Gu, I've come to seek knowledge once again so I'm still your little scholar!"

Gu Linuan was greatly moved. "Lord Qin, don't say it like this! Come to think of it, we are old friends. Back when I met you at Surging River Dragon Palace, I already knew you were extraordinary; otherwise, I wouldn't have given you my Junior Protector Sword. That's what people call having a sharp eye for recognizing pearls, gifting the treasured sword to the hero. The fate between me and Lord Qin has started from Surging River Dragon Palace! Hahahaha!"

Everyone was lively, and Qin Mu paid his respects to Rulai Ma and Lin Xuan before exchanging conventional greetings with Wei Yong, Chen Wanyun, Yue Qinghong, and the rest. The devil ape was also among them so it was naturally incomparably lively.

Wei Yong, Chen Wanyun, and the rest had gone to train in the army during the past two years, and their cultivations had also improved rapidly. They had grown into people who could take charge of a section, and Qin Mu was happy for them.

There were also other experts in Imperial College that had long found success and went to other places to become officials.

The devil ape appearing in Imperial College was, however, out of Qin Mu's expectation.

When Xing An had created a ruckus in Little Thunderclap Monastery, Little Rulai couldn't take a worship from Shaman God Kui and his soul had scattered. Devil Ape Zhan Kong then led the monks of Little Thunderclap Monastery to Great Thunderclap Monastery as per Little Rulai's instructions. The journey there had been arduous.

When they came to Great Thunderclap Monastery, the arrival of so many demon monks naturally invoked quite a commotion.

As Little Rulai's disciple, Devil Ape Zhan Kong was on the same seniority as Old Ma. A human and a demon discussed buddhism on the golden peak of Mount Meru with countless monks standing below.

The devil ape's words were few, but every word he said was like a pearl. He only had three to five words in a sentence, but each one was shocking and made the men reflect deeply. He made the eminent monks on Mount Meru speechless to the point that they could no longer debate.

This lasted for three days until all the monks fell back in defeat. Luckily, a bearded general of Eternal Peace came up the mountain. When he went to the golden peak and took off his armor, he called himself Monk Ming Xin and debated with the devil ape for a few more days. Only then did Great Thunderclap Monastery gain back some face.

Monk Ming Xin didn't have many words, and all he talked about was about the life of people. He didn't talk about any classics nor any buddhist teachings. However, his words held deep meaning and made everyone feel that what he said was buddhism which was really brilliant and varied.

Their debate had shocked the world.

Old Ma praised the two of them for their eloquence and unfettered debate, then took the demon buddhist scriptures from the devil ape and recognized the demon monks as part of Great Thunderclap Monastery. The two houses merged into one.

This incident was a huge matter in Eternal Peace Empire and spread throughout all the sacred grounds and academies. It was known as the Dao Debate on Golden Peak and grew to be very famous as an anecdote for a period of time.

During that time, Qin Mu had been running from Xing An, so he hadn't managed to witness the happenings on Mount Meru. As for whether or not they were true to the legend, he didn't know.

This time, Old Ma bringing the devil ape and Monk Ming Xing, as well as a bunch of other monks over, was also a huge matter that shook the city. With Dao Master Lin Xuan bringing numerous Daoists as well, it could be said to be a grand occasion!

After the commotion, everyone sat down in Hall of Supreme Learning. When Qin Mu said he was there to seek knowledge, everyone couldn't help being astonished, and Gu Linuan had also thought that he had only said it out of courtesy before. Never would he have expected that Qin Mu was really there to seek knowledge.

Gu Linuan then immediately invited the divine arts practitioners from all halls in Imperial Preceptor to talk about their comprehensions. The Daoists and monks of Dao Sect and Great Thunderclap Monastery also came forward to talk about their own attainments. For a period of time, all kinds of never before seen divine arts, paths, and skills flooded the room, and even Qin Mu couldn't help exclaiming endlessly in admiration. He was in awe at the creativity of these divine arts practitioners.

After two days, Ling Yuxiu and Ling Yushu came to the capital for debriefing. When they heard about what was happening in the Imperial College, they joined in to discuss the reform and new developments in the paths, skills, and divine arts.

After a few more days, the younger generations from the other four big academies had also hurried over. The scholars of Heavenly Saint Academy were led by Si Yunxiang. The scholars of River Tomb Academy followed Qin Feiyu who was the disciple of Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor, the directorate of River Tomb Academy.

Yuyuan Chuyu brought the scholars of Surging River Academy, and as for Li River Academy, its grand chancellor was Ba Shan. Li River was the farthest away, and a talented person was needed to build the academy up, so the emperor had appointed Ba Shan with that position.

The younger generation of the four big academies gathered in Imperial College, and it grew even more bustling. To everyone's surprise, Wang Muran, Mu Qingdai, and Long Yu of Little Jade Capital hurried over after a few more days as well.

Before they could even be seated, they heard laughter. "The moment I heard Cult Master has come to Imperial College, I hurried over, but I still seem to be late!"

Qin Mu hurriedly rose to welcome the newcomer with a smile. "Brother Xu, I hope you were well since the parting at Little Thunderclap Monastery?"

Xu Shenghua brought Jing Yan over. "I didn't hear news of Cult Master for a long time and seeing you well finally puts me at ease."

Everyone was seated, and Imperial College was extraordinary bustling. The divine arts practitioners of all the factions talked about their skills and paths, their cultivations and primordial spirits. All kinds of strange thoughts and wonderful ideas were voiced. They alarmed Emperor Yanfeng and the court officials so much that they came to listen as well.

Qin Mu, Ling Yuxiu, Si Yunxiang, Daoist Lin Xuan, Devil Ape Zhan Kong, Ming Xing, Xu Shenghua, and Wang Muran were all invited up to the stage to talk about their paths, skills, and divine arts. The collision of different types of thoughts and ideas intoxicated the audience listening below.

They all had unique attainments in primordial spirit, and by voicing all the strange thoughts and marvelous ideas, they provoked even more creativity.

"I've had a thought!" Qin Mu suddenly said with a smile. "Eternal Peace is becoming bigger and bigger, which makes it hard to communicate when we are located in the north, south, east, or west. However, primordial spirit can travel fast and move millions of miles in an instant. If we could communicate with primordial spirits, wouldn't that save us all that time of journeying around to meet up?"

His suggestion was instantly met with numerous approvals from the youths in the audience. All of them started to rack their brains to think of ways for different primordial spirits to communicate and voiced them without restraint.

Emperor Yanfeng and Duke Wei looked at each other in dismay. Duke Wei said, "They were still talking normally earlier, but now they've begun to talk nonsense. The primordial spirit moves too fast, crossing millions of miles in an instant, so it's hard to gather it together. It's hard to control the primordial spirit and even know where it has gone, so what talk could there be about communication in a specific place with it?"

Emperor Yanfeng smiled and said, "Let's look and see."

After a moment, Duke Wei and the rest stared with their eyes wide open, dumbfounded. In front of Hall of Supreme Learning, as everyone discussed how to draw various primordial spirits together, all kinds of

techniques were easily created. This made Duke Wei, Emperor Yanfeng, and the rest of the older generation exclaim endlessly in admiration.

Qin Mu in the meantime was tidying up the ideas, and after a long time, he finally created a new technique on the foundation of Primordial Spirit Guide.

He imparted the technique to everyone which filled them with excitement. They immediately reconstructed Hall of Supreme Learning and added all kinds of rune markings in its interior.

“Everyone, let’s go a thousand miles north, south, east, and west to hold a primordial spirit assembly!” Qin Mu said excitedly.

The ten million scholars in Hall of Supreme Learning rose with an uproar and left into the distance. The Imperial College instantly emptied out. Only the emperor and the officials were left, looking at the empty hall.

After two hours, Qin Mu’s primordial spirit suddenly appeared, its body gigantic. His consciousness shook slightly as he stated, “The first primordial spirit assembly begins!”

Bang, bang, bang!

Primordial spirits instantly appeared in Hall of Supreme Learning, gathering altogether.

Ten million primordial spirits sat down in the void.

Outside, Emperor Yanfeng and the rest were speechless for a long time, staring blankly before themselves.

Chapter 515: Sharing a Cooked Fish Dragon, Visit of a Star at Night

“A change in the art of war is imminent!” Duke Wei suddenly sighed ruefully.

Grand General of Heavenly Strategies and the rest nodded when they heard his words.

Qin Mu and the ten thousand scholars as well as the divine arts practitioners of the sacred grounds had messed around and made a primordial spirit assembly. They were having fun and felt that it was something interesting, but the shock it brought to the generals that led the army was incomparably huge.

Since ancient times, the battlefield changed in a matter of seconds. The communications between the army, its reinforcements, supply train, and the emperor posed a huge problem. In the past, Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor had forged flying ships to soar through the sky. He also forged land ships and paved roads everywhere to make traveling faster.

Besides making it more convenient for people to meet, it allowed for news to travel faster. And because of using both the land and sky, more places were covered.

Yet as the territory of Eternal Peace Empire expanded, the time taken for news to travel from one place to another kept on growing. The time taken for the army to move to the border also increased.

Even though the pill furnace that Qin Mu had improved could increase the speed, the number of medicinal stones burned in just one trip was extremely great.

If a flying ship set off from the capital and headed for True Heaven Palace in West Earth, it would take several days, and the medicinal stones burned would be enough to fight a small-scale battle.

If it was a large scale operation to move soldiers, they would require strange beasts as a mode of transport to help the foot soldiers advance. Relying on flying ships to transport soldiers was too costly.

But with the primordial spirit assembly, they would be able to send news and be in control of a battle that was even two hundred miles away.

In the hands of a general, something like that could literally decide the fate of the battle!

“Your Majesty, Chancellor Qin used the word assembly. He has the heart to rebel!” An old minister knelt onto the floor and said loudly, “Assembly is always a court assembly, and this so-called assembly is meant to collect the civil and military officials in court. Chancellor Qin’s usage of the word assembly shows his ambitious heart! May Your Majesty order his execution!”

Emperor Yanfeng was speechless, and the generals scolded that old minister angrily. The old minister then kowtowed and banged his head against the ground loudly to show his loyalty.

After a moment, Emperor Yanfeng waved his hand and said calmly. “Assembly isn’t just used by the imperial court. Elder Yu Ge is lacking in knowledge. Attending the court can mean entering a court assembly, but it can also be used in other ways.

“Back in the day, Heaven Knife had written a poem which he started with words assembly with friends at Wei River. Heaven Knife is a literary hero, and his knowledge surpasses yours by a hundred times, his writings eulogized even until now. He isn’t the emperor, but I don’t see anyone saying he’s trying to rebel by using the word assembly.”

The emperor helped Elder Yu Ge up and told him with a pleasant expression. “Elder Yu Ge, you are old, so I won’t execute you. I permit you to return to your hometown.”

The other ministers were puzzled. ‘His Majesty seems to be in a good mood today. He actually didn’t behead him. Elder Yu Ge only lost his official position but not his head; he’s so fortunate!’

“Everyone, stop talking, be quiet now!” Qin Mu’s voice rang loudly. “Let me first ensure that we can communicate between primordial spirits! Can you guys hear me talking?”

In Hall of Supreme Learning, countless people spoke up. “Can! We can hear you clearly!”

“Execute your techniques, and see if you feel discomfort in your primordial spirit?” he then ordered them.

Numerous primordial spirits made a racket in Hall of Supreme Learning. Suddenly, one person's primordial spirit vanished with a pop before reappearing after a moment. It was pretty scary.

There were also some primordial spirits that were fading out from time to time while another group of people was floating around. Laughter echoed through the Hall of Supreme Learning that was in turmoil. Everyone was getting headaches from that noise.

Qin Mu recorded everything that happened and clapped. "Alright, dismissed!"

Everyone pulled their primordial spirits back and vanished from Hall of Supreme Learning. The first ever primordial spirit assembly had ended like that.

Emperor Yanfeng turned his head and looked at the scribe behind him. "Have you noted it down?"

That scribe carrying a thick scroll hesitated. "Your Majesty, this primordial spirit assembly was only Lord Qin fooling around with a bunch of scholars. They only said a few sentences in total and most of them were nonsense. Do I have to write them down as well?"

Emperor Yanfeng sighed and tapped heavily on the scroll he used to record all the huge incidents in the imperial court. He then said sincerely and earnestly, "If thousands of years later the future generation of Eternal Peace searches through all the historical records and doesn't find the record of the first primordial spirit assembly, they are going to jab at your spine and scold you! Not only must you record it, you even have to paint it, this primordial spirit assembly!"

Cold sweat broke out of the forehead of that scribe. He hurriedly recorded the event of the first primordial spirit meeting and the few sentences that Qin Mu and the rest had said. He felt extremely grieved in his heart as he did so. 'These words are clearly nonsense, so why would the future generations scold me because of this little thing? However, if I don't record them, His Majesty is going to behead me...'

Two more hours passed, and Qin Mu returned from a thousand miles away. The other scholars also came back to Imperial College. They started a racket as they did so, making the place incomparably lively. Qin Mu gathered experts skilled in algebra and calculated the lacking points in the technique from the abnormal sights he had recorded.

Not long later, the technique approached perfection, and there were no more signs of primordial spirits bouncing all over the place.

Qin Mu climbed onto the Hall of Supreme Learning to fix the wrong rune markings, and after half a day of work, they quickly ran out again to make another test. This time, there were no more abnormal sights from the primordial spirits.

Emperor Yanfeng never left, quietly watching the proceedings until nightfall. With the emperor not moving, the civil and military officials didn't dare to leave as well, so they all stood there.

After Qin Mu was done, he let the secretaries of Floor of Heavenly Records to record the technique and the rune markings. Only then did Emperor Yanfeng went forward and said, "Chancellor Qin has done merit to the country, so how should I reward you?"

Qin Mu stretched his back and said with a smile, "If Your Majesty wants to reward me, then reward everyone in Imperial College with a dinner. This technique wasn't founded by me, but by gathering the wisdom of everyone here."

"Alright!" Emperor Yanfeng then instructed, "Invite all the chefs from the imperial kitchen and let them bring the ingredients as well. I want to reward all the scholars as well as these Daoists and monks that are in Imperial College with food and drinks! If there's a lack of manpower, officials, invite all the chefs in your respective families as well! I'm going to dine here and eat with them too!"

The lamps in Imperial College shone so bright that it seemed like day, and all the chefs in the capital were probably invited to Imperial College to cook up their best dishes. All kinds of culinary techniques were executed and it was a dazzling sight like all the different kinds of divine arts coming together.

The fragrance of the food drew out the glutton in everyone, and the emperor ordered people to bring over fine wine from the palace.

"Does this technique of yours have a name?" Emperor Yanfeng turned to ask in the banquet.

Qin Mu shook his head, and Emperor Yanfeng smiled. "The path produces one, one produces two, two produce three, and three produce all things. Why don't we call it Secrets of Three Primordial Spirit Assembly? What's Minister Qin's opinion?"

Before Qin Mu could even reply, Gu Linuan brought a bunch of ministers to praise the idea. "Your Majesty is of great talent, and this small official prostrates himself in admiration!"

Emperor Yanfeng laughed loudly, now certain about the name of the technique. He then asked, "Minister Qin, what are those runes that you marked inside Hall of Supreme Learning for?"

"Your Majesty, the runes are a guide for the primordial spirits. Their speed is too fast, able to travel ten thousand miles in an instant. With these runes, we are able to guide the primordial spirit to an exact location."

Emperor Yanfeng frowned. "Wouldn't these kinds of runes that can attract primordial spirits be used by the enemy? If they use them and guide the primordial spirits of my Eternal Peace's generals to catch them in one fell swoop, wouldn't my Eternal Peace be completely wiped out?"

The civil and military officials felt fear in their hearts and nodded together.

Xu Shenghua came over and said, "Your Majesty, you might not know this, but the runes we designed can be interchangeable. There are different ways to line up the runes for them to remain compatible with Secrets of Three Primordial Spirit Assembly. There are a billion more combinations than there are people, so this kind of complicated rune arrangement is impossible to solve."

Emperor Yanfeng sighed ruefully.

A Daoist ran over and took a glance at Qin Mu, then braved himself to say, “Your Majesty, there’s a fox with a huge pig and a large chest down near the lake. They’ve caught two red dragon carp kings and are currently roasting them. How maddening!”

“This style is familiar to my ears.” Emperor Yanfeng looked at Qin Mu and said with a smile, “Minister Qin, yours?”

Qin Mu’s face turned slightly red, and he hurriedly said, “Your Majesty, let me hurry over and punish them severely! Truly fooling around!” After he said that, he got up and left.

When he came to the lake, Hu Ling’er was scolding the chest. “You see, the waves you churned were too big and alarmed the Daoist guarding the lake! You’ll eat the fish bones later! Fatty Dragon, lower the fire, don’t burn it...”

Qin Mu walked over and said with a smile, “Leave some for me.”

Hu Ling’er cheered at him and immediately lowered her voice. “Young master, I know you like to eat this kind of fish so I got Fatty Dragon to catch two more. However, the chest was a disappointment. When it was about to hide the fish in its stomach, it was discovered by the Daoist who guards the lake.”

Qin Mu rubbed his hands and said with a smile, “I had long wanted to eat a few more, but I didn’t have the face to steal.”

When the fish was cooked, Hu Ling’er controlled her wind blades to slice the meat. She gave the dragon qilin one portion, Qin Mu another, and one more for herself. The chest lay on the side and waited for them to finish eating so it could collect the fish bones.

Suddenly, laughter rang out. “How fragrant! This is much more fragrant than the imperial cooking! Cult Master Qin is truly a professional in the eating path. Leave some for me!”

Qin Mu turned back to look and saw a devil ape and a young monk. That monk was none other than Monk Ming Xin whose appetite had been wetted when he smelled the fragrance.

Hu Ling’er gave him a chunk of fish, and Qin Mu asked in bewilderment when he saw Ming Xin wolfing it down, “Monk also eats fish?”

Ming Xin didn’t raise his head. “After leaving Cult Master then, in the natural and man-made disaster, I have even gnawed on tree bark, much less fish. I even grabbed worms to eat. When I was starving, I even sliced my own flesh to feed myself...”

He lifted up his robes and showed a scar on his chest. He smiled then. “From then on, I comprehended my own scripture. All living things don’t mean human and demons only, but also includes plants and worms. However, all living things are just a reincarnation. I eat them and after I die, they will eat me—it’s merely that. When a person is struggling in the sea of bitterness, what they seek isn’t buddha but the other shore in one’s heart, and I have already seen the other shore.”

Qin Mu nodded to his words and said with a smile, “Excellent, your frame of mind is very brilliant now.”

Hu Ling'er sliced another chunk of fish for the devil ape who shook its head. "Vegetarian, strong!"

"He doesn't want it, but I'll take it." A hand stretched out from the side and took the fish.

Dao Master Lin Xuan sat down beside the devil ape and said with a smile, "This fish is even more fragrant than the imperial cooking!"

Qin Mu smiled. "You are also a Daoist monk yet you can eat non-vegetarian food too?"

Dao Master Lin Xuan ate the fish in big mouthfuls while saying in a muffled voice, "Even the sky is fake so how is a monk real?"

"The one that herds cows, you are eating my father's fish again!"

A gust of fragrance assaulted their nostrils as Ling Yuxiu squeezed past Hu Ling'er who was beside Qin Mu and sat down. She patted her hands and tore a chunk of fish before biting into it without a care for scalding her mouth. She sucked in a few quick breaths and praised, "Delicious, truly delicious!"

"Princess Xiu, wait for me!"

Si Yunxiang also ran over and sat down beside the bonfire. She wanted to push Hu Ling'er to the side too, but the fox transformed into a six to seven years old girl with a puff and crossed her arms in front of her chest. She sat angrily between the two girls and didn't get up no matter what. Si Yunxiang was too embarrassed to push her away and could only let her sit there.

Everyone was talking and laughing while sharing the red dragon carp king. Not long later, Wang Muran, Mu Qingdai, Long Yu, and Xu Shenghua also found their way over. Wang Muran said with a smile, "You guys won't be able to finish two carp kings of this size so let us help you. No need to thank me!"

Qin Mu looked around and said with a smile, "It's rare for the heads of Heaven Alliance to meet up so let's not go home until we are drunk!"

"What Heaven Alliance?" Ling Yuxiu was puzzled and hurriedly asked, "Is it an alliance to overthrow my father? If it is, count me in!"

Xu Shenghua, Lin Xuan, and Wang Muran hesitated for a moment, not knowing if they should explain it.

Qin Mu then said, "There are no outsiders here so let's just speak the truth. However, once we say it, you will all become members of my Heaven Alliance. Is there anyone who doesn't want to listen?"

The dragon qilin immediately got up and bit the chest, dragging it away before it could pick up the fish bones.

"The less we know, the longer we will live!" Fatty Dragon taunted the chest.

Suddenly the bonfire flickered, and opposite Qin Mu a youth stretched out his hand to tear a chunk of fish. He then said leisurely, "I would like to know about this Heaven Alliance as well. May Great Divine Physician Qin enlighten me?"

Qin Mu's blood ran cold, and he hurriedly looked toward the mountaintop of Imperial College.

"The whole imperial court can be a match for me. Your emperor isn't weak and I reckon he has already cultivated his divine bridge," the youth said indifferently. "However, before they could hurry over, you guys would all be corpses. Great Divine Physician Qin, don't be reckless. Come, tell me about Heaven Alliance."