

## Tales of Herding Gods Chapter 61-65

### Chapter 61: Ice Tide

“What you said is right but also wrong.”

General Qin smiled, “There’s no way to research the origins of Great Ruins. However, when we founded Eternal Peace Empire back then, we received an oracle. In the oracle, it stated that Great Ruins was a land abandoned by gods and wanted the people abandoned by gods to remain in Great Ruins and never come out. If any abandoned people came out, they were to be killed no matter what. From what I heard, other than Eternal Peace Empire, many other countries had also received similar oracles. However, there are not only aboriginals of Great Ruins living here, there are also vicious people who had no place left to go hiding inside Great Ruins. From what I see, these people are even more dangerous than the abandoned people!”

Seventh young master asked curiously, “I saw merchants entering Great Ruins at the border station, why does Eternal Peace Empire have to do business with the abandoned people of Great Ruins?”

“Young Master may not know this, but even though Great Ruins might be barren, their natural resources are plentiful. There are countless rare materials, precious treasure and valuable beast skins that can be exchanged with worthless items like seasonings. Why would we be against it?”

General Qin continued, “With the mutual exchange of assistance with Great Ruins at the border station, I don’t even know how much we earned over these years. Using this money to supplement military use, it allows our Eternal Peace Empire to have a well-trained and powerful army that far surpasses other countries.”

Seventh young master asked again, “What if there are abandoned people who try to sneak through the border, wouldn’t that be bad?”

“Along with the oracle back then, there were also a few treasures. They were called Inspection Mirrors and were hanged on top of the mountain passes leading to Eternal Peace Empire. As long as they are abandoned people of the Great Ruins, they would be shone upon by the Inspection Mirrors. Imperial Preceptor guessed that the abandoned people might have a different lineage from us but he couldn’t find anything different even after checking through their bodies.”

General Qin smiled, “Every year the few mountain passes would capture many of the devil people who are trying to escape to our Eternal Peace Empire. Some of them were executed on the spot while others were brought to mine ores. It would be considered lucky for them to survive one to two years.”

The ship gradually sailed away. On the cliff, Qin Mu exclaimed in admiration, “That person was very powerful. His eyesight was extremely strong, it’s no wonder he could become a general at such a young age! He’s trying to draft the topographic map of Surging River, could it be that the Eternal Peace Empire is moving their army into the Great Ruins?”

He was slightly puzzled. The Great Ruins was clearly a barren land filled with danger everywhere. Even after the sun sets, there would be the invasion of the darkness. He didn't think that it was a good idea for Eternal Peace Empire to move their army into the Great Ruins.

If the army of the Eternal Peace Empire that comes was too small, it wouldn't be enough to stuff the gap between the strange beasts' teeth. If it was too big, where would they hide when night falls?

It was because there was simply too much danger in the Great Ruins, which was why no one was able to rule the Great Ruins.

Not even Eternal Peace Empire.

If Eternal Peace Empire was to invade, they would take a hard fall!

Suddenly, Qin Mu remembered something and immediately requested, "Big fella, go back to Doom Suppression Palace immediately and destroy the map of the Great Ruins!"

Devil ape rose and grabbed onto dragon elephant. With a roar, it jumped onto dragon elephant and sprinted away.

"Since the Eternal Peace Empire is starting to draw the topographic map of Surging River, it would help them even more if they were to find the map in the Doom Suppression Palace." Qin Mu had an unsettled expression as he thought to himself.

It may be a pity to destroy the map but he had already memorized the Great Ruins' map deep in his mind and would never forget it.

Not long later, the river water suddenly became faintly red. Qin Mu was stumped as he looked upstream only to see the water becoming even redder!

"Young master, there are corpses in the river!" Hu Ling'er cried out in astonishment.

Qin Mu also saw the bodies but he didn't say anything. Looking upstream, more and more bodies floated down. There were huge fish and river beasts under the water as they churned up the water while taking the chance to eat these corpses, creating quite a commotion in the process.

Opening his Heaven's Eyes, Qin Mu saw the faces that were floating up and down in the water which made his body tremble. These corpses were the very same visitors that had hurried past Jade Cloud Valley just now!

With the churning river, the blood red became even more intense. Even the floating ice was dyed red.

This wasn't what a hundred corpses could do!

Surging River was very wide, with a width of three miles. With the rapid currents, the blood of a hundred people wouldn't be able to dye the river red.

Qin Mu's expression froze as he saw the tide of corpses that flowed down from upstream!

It's not just a tide of corpses, it was thousands of corpses being mixed with pieces of floating ice which formed an ice tide of corpses!

These people were the strong practitioners who were waiting to ambush the general. There was a huge amount of them, separated into batches, heading upstream and setting up a formation to ambush him. Yet they were all killed by the general!

To form an ice tide of corpses meant that these people had all died at the same time!

They had all died at the same time under the hands of the general or the strong practitioners on the ship!

Qin Mu composed himself. It was still the first time he had seen such a gruesome sight. It was even much gruesome than the massacre of the village he had seen when he followed Granny Si to deliver a baby when he was young!

Back then, his soul was frightened out of his body and was caught back by Granny Si. Now, despite being a martial arts practitioner, his soul still wavered upon seeing such a sight.

Too cruel.

If a small general of Eternal Peace Empire could be so strong and ruthless, how great would the impact be on these savage lands if the armored cavalry of Eternal Peace Empire entered the Great Ruins?

Qin Mu shook his head and chased away his uneasiness. He then turned to Hu Ling'er and warned, "Don't go out to drink these few days, tell your sisters to behave themselves as well and don't go out."

Hu Ling'er immediately nodded her head.

She may be a demon but the sight in front of her eyes had frightened her.

"Ling'er, go back first to find your sisters, I shall go down to have a look in case these thousands of corpses pile up and form a dam!"

Finishing what he wanted to say, Qin Mu leaped down and sprinted on the walls of the cliff until he reached the surface of the river. He then stepped on the river and left.

These corpses piled up with the floating ice and every place they passed, more floating ice were swept along as they continued to surge downstream. Qin Mu quickly caught up to the ice tide of corpses only to see it growing bigger. As the ice collided with one another to create a grinding sound, the corpses were squashed into broken pieces as they floated on the ice.

Sprinting three miles downstream, the floating ice had already piled up into a terrifying ice mountain on the river with corpses hanging off of it.

The ice tide and the ice mountain became heavier and taller as it slowly flowed forward. Even the river water flowing downstream was being blocked up, causing the surface of the river behind to rise.

Qin Mu frowned. The river was still flowing in a straight path but when it reaches the oasis where Woman Wu was, there will be a turn in Surging River. If the floating ice can't pass through there, it would become stuck and turn into a dammed lake. The river water and the floating ice would accumulate over time, stacking up to be three hundred yards in height!

When the ice tide and ice mountain can no longer withstand the pressure, it would shatter and collapse. The huge flood would sweep away and swallow everything in its path. No matter if it was a human or a beast, they would all be swept away by the flood!

There were many villages in the Great Ruins that were constructed at the riverbank to allow easy traveling. If the flood was to burst forth, he had no idea how many villages would be destroyed from the disastrous outcome!

"Granny Si and the rest are still downstream dredging the river. They probably still don't know that a dammed lake is about to form here. There's only Village Chief left in the village and it is inconvenient for him to move so who can help me solve the issue with the ice tide?"

Qin Mu pondered over strenuously. The ice tide had flowed past the Disabled Elderly Village while giving off grinding sounds as the ice chunks collided with one another. With his power, there was no way he could solve the ice tide.

At the village entrance, Village Chief was unperturbed until he suddenly saw Qin Mu and the ice tide flowed by in front of the village with his eyes wide opened. He then shook his head and smiled, "This punk, causing trouble again..."

Because of the blockade caused by the ice tide, the river level had almost spread to his legs. At this moment, vital qi flowed out from where Village Chief had broken his leg and transformed into two legs. He then stepped up into the sky and sat down, looking at Qin Mu.

These legs were formed by vital qi and looked no different from real legs. If his vital qi was dispersed, his legs will vanish as well.

"That's right, I can find Woman Wu!"

On the river, Qin Mu's eyes lit up and immediately hastened his footsteps. With a few strides on the river surface, he leaped onto an ice mountain and with a burst of force, he leaped forward and left the ice tide behind him.

Sprinting forward with flying speed, he finally reached the oasis in the heart of the river in just a short while. The oasis was like a lonely island and on the island was a temple which was restraining an old monster called Woman Wu.

Qin Mu reached the oasis in just a few steps and rushed straight into the rundown temple.

Inside the temple, a little girl with three braids was swaying its legs in utter boredom as it waited for its preys to send themselves to the door. Seeing Qin Mu rushing in, its eyes turned red with fury from

meeting its foe. The little girl immediately leaped down from the Buddha's hand and hid behind the Buddha statue, staring intensely at Qin Mu with hatred.

"Woman Wu, I mean no harm!"

Qin Mu quickly explained, "The ice tide is almost here, I need your help to shatter the ice tide!"

The little girl came out from behind the Buddha statue and jumped onto the hand of the Buddha again without much interest, "Not interested. The ice tide happens every year and with the protection of the Buddha statue here, the ice tide won't flood this place."

Qin Mu's gaze flickered and said, "I can cut off your chains and set you free!"

Woman Wu's eye lit up before becoming dull again as it shook its head, "If it were the elders in your village, they could cut off the chains but you can't."

Qin Mu's vital qi surged out and swept up the Junior Protector Sword from his back and gave a chop down!

Clank—!

A huge sound resonated out and one of the chains wrapped around the great Buddha had a deep crack. What was weird was the crack in the chain was actually healing automatically.

Without further explanation, he roused his vital qi and chopped down with another swing!

Clank, clank, clank. A series of crisp sound rang out and a chain was soon cut off by Qin Mu!

Woman Wu was stunned. Astonishment and delight rose up in its heart. However, the copper Buddha suddenly opened his eyes and shouted with his thunder like voice, "Evil creature, how dare you spoil my religious practice and spoil my merit?"

## **Chapter 62: Spoiling Your Merit**

"Spoiling your religious practice and spoiling your merit?"

Qin Mu sneered as he cut off the rest of the chains, "You're merely a copper Buddha statue so where does your merit come from? Is your merit restraining Woman Wu here? But you turned a blind eye when Woman Wu ate humans in front of you. If you had any merit, it would have all been squandered away by you!"

The body of the great Buddha quivered as the blood marks on the copper body glowed. With the golden leaves covering it, it became a great Buddha sparkling in golden lights as it spoke with a muffled voice, "Do you know how many people would be eaten and ruined if you set it free?"

"I only know that it had hidden countless bones behind your back and used you to commit evil. I don't see you doing anything about it."

Qin Mu cut off the second chain and sneered, "The ice tide right outside the temple happens several times a year. Have you done anything about it? To solve the ice tide issue is then considered a merit, but sitting in the temple to restrain a monster is not, much less allowing the monster to eat people. If you shatter the ice tide to save the common people downstream, then will you have great merits!"

The Buddha statue shone with a golden glow and its hands moved as if he was becoming alive. Woman Wu immediately shouted in alarm, "The old bald donkey is an evil Buddha. He's trying to purify me to death. Hurry up!"

Qin Mu moved quickly and went out of the temple in a flash as he used Junior Protector Sword to cut off the chains outside the temple.

"The sins of all lives need to be washed away by the flood. Only then could they rid themselves of evil. They reap what they sow."

Booom.

A violent tremor came out as the copper Buddha stood up and broke apart the temple with its head. It roared like thunder which shook the heavens and the earth. "You evil spirit, how dare you spoil the teachings of Buddha! You stubborn evil creature can't be enlightened!"

The chains that had chained down the copper Buddha and Woman Wu instantly seemed to become alive as they whistled through the air and shot towards Qin Mu.

"The teachings of your Buddha are all about saving yourself by saving others and not saving others for the sake of saving them. Hypocrite."

Qin Mu leaped and avoided the coiling of a chain. He used his Junior Protector Sword to cut down the last chain, "It would still be your merit if you killed Woman Wu back then when you brought it under control. But you merely restrained it and still allowed it to harm people. Why? Because eating people is its sins, and the greater its sins become, the greater your merit would be for purifying it. Bah! The sins of Woman Wu for the people it had eaten should be counted as your sins as well!"

Clank—

Junior Protector Sword collided with the chains and a powerful force came out from the chain, deflecting the treasure sword away.

Qin Mu grunted and stumbled back while avoiding the chains that were like two black pythons. He then sneered, "With the flood around all the temple, you are not only sitting here and refusing to help people, but even stopping me from helping people, and you still think of attaining merits? Let me tell you, there are many elderly in my village that helps fight against the ice tide every year, saving the common folks and beasts, saving countless of lives! If one can become a Buddha just by merits alone, every one of them would already be Golden Body Great Buddha and not like you, mere a copper statue!"

"Ridiculous!"

The copper Buddha was extremely huge and with a raise of its leg, the Buddha walked out of the rundown temple. With its palms together, the clanging of the metal chains sounded as the Buddha shone brightly and repelled Qin Mu!

All of Qin Mu's limbs and bones shocked as he hanged in midair while the chains came flying at him.

Stepping on the chains, he sprinted along it as he used his vital qi to control Junior Protector Sword to cut down on the last chain that was shackling Woman Wu.

The chains were like extremely thick pythons crisscrossing in midair as they attacked towards Qin Mu, dazzling him.

The copper Buddha was clearly made from brass yet it was extremely nimble, simply unimaginable.

Previously the copper Buddha couldn't differentiate between Qin Mu and Woman Wu. Only when Qin Mu used the devil voice would the copper Buddha react automatically by saying Buddhist incantation to purify Woman Wu. Now that Qin Mu had tried to release Woman Wu, the copper Buddha had changed its ways by attacking Qin Mu automatically.

The thick chains flew towards him in all directions and Qin Mu stepped on one of the chains to avoid the rest of the attacks.

The power of the copper Buddha from the chains slowly grew stronger. The vibration caused by the chains grinding against one another made Qin Mu's unstable. His legs got sore with the vibration, and his control on Junior Protector Sword wasn't as accurate as before.

The copper Buddha grew stronger and stronger as if there were limitless strengths in its body. At this moment, these strengths were awakening bit by bit.

Granny Si and Cripple had brought up this copper Buddha before and had said that there was something strange with the copper Buddha. Granny Si had said she once decided to get rid of Woman Wu but was stopped by the copper Buddha and didn't succeed.

Granny Si was naturally extremely powerful yet she was unable to get rid of Woman Wu. This meant that when the power of the copper Buddha fully awakened, it would be extremely terrifying!

And now, the copper Buddha's strength was awakening bit by bit!

Even if it was partly awakened, it wasn't what Qin Mu was able to withstand.

Right at this moment, an earth-shattering crash sounded out. The ice tide from upstream had finally reached the oasis. The towering ice mountain which was dozens of yards in height rushed down under the violent currents and appeared right in front of the oasis, which was at the back of Qin Mu.

Qin Mu immediately got shrouded by the shadow, and he hurriedly looked back only to see numerous ice chunks squeezing each other as they rolled up towards the pinnacle of the ice mountain before rolling back down again into the river. New ice chunks would be sent up to the pinnacle of the ice mountain again before rolling down.

With the ice tide crushing everything in its path, the corpses on the ice were shattered into pieces that could not be found anymore. The only thing left was the rolling ice mountain that surging forwards, crushing everything in its momentum!

“Tut—!”

The copper Buddha also seemed to realize the imminent danger and couldn't care more about Qin Mu as it stretched open his arms to face the rolling ice tide, trying to push it back.

Bang—!

The surrounding of the oasis formed a huge golden bell from rays of light which enveloped the entire oasis!

Numerous ice chunks collided onto the golden bell and created loud banging sounds as they shattered from the tremors. Every floating ice that collided onto the golden bell would cause ripples of golden light to spread out. From Qin Mu's angle, it was a splendid and magnificent sight.

Following it, the ice tide collided, causing sounds like the booming of thunder, deafening the ears. In midst of the noise, the bell rings of the golden bell could also be heard!

The power of nature against the Buddhism divine art of the copper Buddha was world-shaking. Even the oasis swayed from the vibrations and seemed like it could sink into the water any moment.

The ice tide was blocked by the oasis and the golden bell, and this caused it to grow taller and taller. The ice tide at both sides had already continued to flow downstream through the sides of the oasis. Only the place which was blocked by the oasis had accumulated more and more floating ices. Gradually, the ice tide had the trend to flow over the oasis.

Rattle—

The chains shook as they flew towards Qin Mu. This copper Buddha actually had energy left over to control the chains like spirit snakes to chase relentlessly after him.

At the same time, the copper Buddha moved and gave off sonorous sounds of metal colliding as it palms struck continuously on the walls of the golden bells to reinforce it.

The chains were coiled around on its body and flew around continuously with its movement as they attacked Qin Mu. Meanwhile, Woman Wu who was in the form of the little girl, Xian Qing'er, staggered from the pull of the chains and suddenly tripped, causing its face to become badly battered from being dragged around miserably.

Qin Mu stepped on the chain and immediately felt that the great Buddha's strength had diminished quite a lot and wasn't as terrifying as before. He took the chance to cut down and break the last chain with a loud clank while using Junior Protector Sword.



Woman Wu was stunned and couldn't refrain from being astonished and delighted as it lifted its arms to see the two golden loops around its wrists along with the broken chains.

There were also golden loops around its ankles which were dragging two broken chains.

"Stop daydreaming and move quickly!" Qin Mu shouted loudly as he flew over.

Woman Wu laughed loudly and its body suddenly bulged rapidly. Xian Qing'er's skin burst apart randomly and revealed its true body which was covered with bones. With its hundred feet dancing in the breeze, it shouted, "Little brother, jump onto my body and I'll bring you out of here!"

Qin Mu landed on its body. The body of this great demon was covered in bone armor as it barged forward towards the back of the oasis while dragging the golden loops and chains. Its legs moved very fast and soon rose up into the air. The hundred feet under its long body moved in unison as it broke through the air and charged towards the wall of the golden bell!

"Evil creature, you're my merit and you still think of running away?"

The copper Buddha turned around and its brass hand grabbed onto the void. The golden loops and chain on Woman Wu's body rattled and started to fly backward. Meanwhile, the chains on the copper Buddha's body also flew up by themselves as if they wanted to reconnect back with the broken chains.

Woman Wu's blood ran cold. It fell down from the pull of the chains on its body. The strength coming from the chains on its legs grew greater and actually pulled her backward continuously.

Using all the strength in her hundred feet, it tried its best to crawl forward but couldn't help being dragged back.

Qin Mu was planning on using qi to manipulate his sword to cut off the golden loops on Woman Wu's limbs when suddenly, an extremely fine ray of light flashed by and broke open the golden bell before passing between the copper Buddha's eyes.

The copper Buddha howled and its palm grabbed towards the front of its eyes. Woman Wu suddenly felt its body becoming light and immediately took to its heels to run. With a few steps, it rose into the air and rushed out from the area which was enveloped by the golden bell, vanishing on the river surface.

Behind them, the copper Buddha howled continuously. Suddenly the golden bell crumbled and mountain like ice tide came crashing down, burying the oasis along with the copper Buddha. The ancient temple was also shattered in that instant. The entire oasis was flattened!

"You and I have always minded our own business..."

The copper Buddha was furious. But before it could finish its words, it was pushed down into the river by the ice tide along with the oasis!

**Chapter 63: X, A, H**

In the air, a fine light flew over and hid inside Village Chief's hair. Village Chief acted like nothing had happened and walked downwards in midair, returning back to the Disabled Elderly Village.

Thirty miles downstream, Surging River took a turn here to go around a mountain so to flow past a ravine. The ice tide was stuck here and more ice started to accumulate until the whole river path was blocked.

"Woman Wu, stop!"

The hundred feet white bone centipede woman carried Qin Mu into the sky and slithered forward like a dragon with extremely fast speed. Upon hearing Qin Mu's words, it landed on the left peak of the ravine and laughed coldly, "Why should I listen to you, rascal?"

Qin Mu jumped down from its back, looking bewildered, "I've saved you so you naturally should help me by breaking apart the dam of ice on the river to repay me."

Woman Wu wiggled its body and transformed back into Xian Qing'er. With its limbs dragging the chains, it jumped around Qin Mu a few times with the chains rattling. Then, it stuck out its head from Qin Mu's back and chuckled. "I have to repay you because you helped me? Have you forgotten? How miserably had you treated me before? I was almost killed by the old bald donkey! Not only that, you even robbed all the treasures I had hidden all these years. I should be eating you up instead!"

Qin Mu smiled, "But you don't dare."

Woman Wu's neck suddenly grew by several yards. It wrapped a few times around Qin Mu before it looked at him straight in the face and sneered, "I don't dare to? Now that you don't have the old bald donkey to help you, why wouldn't I dare?"

"I live in the Disabled Elderly Village and I have nine elders, every single one of them could easily kill you."

Qin Mu smiled and continued, "No matter how you change your face or how far you run, they can easily track you down, easily kill you, and easily make you wish that you were never born in this world."

Chills went down Woman Wu's spine and its neck shrunk back, returning back to the adorable girl who jumped around while shaking the golden loops and chains on its hands, "I'm scared of your elders but I am not obliged to help you. The old bald donkey was right, now that you saved me, I'm going to commit evil and eat people! Why should I help you save people? I'm going now—"

It turned around and left with the chains rattling.

Qin Mu suddenly said, "Woman Wu, as what Buddhism preached, lay down the butcher's knife and become Buddha on the spot. This sentence is too superficial and has no distinction between good and evil so it's hard to truly believe in it. However, if you help me settle the dammed lake and save countless of lives downstream, it would be your merit which would be a way greater merit than that Buddha ever did."

Woman Wu stopped her footstep and turned her head back to listen curiously.

Qin Mu continued, "Helping me save people will raise your merit hundred times higher than that copper Buddha who restrained you! If you meet him again, would he still have the face to restrain you?"

Woman Wu leaned its head to one side and gave it some thought before bursting out in laughter, "You have a point, I shall help you then. Hehe, the old bald donkey pretended to be righteous by using the fact that I had eaten too many people to restrain me in the name of justice, he also said that he would use these churning river water to wash away my sins. I've told him that I only ate people because I'm hungry and not if they are good or evil. I only need to eat like how you humans need to eat rice, chicken, and vegetable when you're hungry."

It looked at the dammed-up river below and continued, "I had no feelings with the people I ate so I only treated them as food. You don't have any feeling with vegetable and rice that's why you eat them. The baldy said I had fallacious reasoning and suppressed me. He did well so I decided to eat people in his temple and not let him have any merit! However, if my merit is above him, I'll see if he still have the face to suppress me! Hmm, there's too much ice in the river, if my spirit weapons were still around, I could break through the ice. However, my spirit weapons were all confiscated by the baldy..."

Hummm—

Qin Mu controlled the Junior Protector Sword and used qi to manipulate sword to cut down on the ice tide blocking the ravine below, "Woman Wu, assist me!"

"The sword that cut off the chains?"

Woman Wu's eyes lit up and revealed its true form. With its hundred feet moving together it leaped down the cliff. Qin Mu jumped down and landed on its back. The hundred feet white bone centipede then flew in the air and carried Qin Mu to the blockade made from the ice tide.

"Cleave!"

Qin Mu shouted as the Junior Protector Sword cut down onto the ice tide. As the same time, Woman Wu spat out a breath and frightening demon vital qi rushed out and surged frantically into the Junior Protector Sword.

This Junior Protector Sword suddenly expanded three hundred yards long and cut down on the ice tide!

The ice tide grew higher and higher as floating ice kept getting sent up to the freezing blockade. If it continues to accumulate like this, it would definitely be a calamity for the lives on both shores of the Surging River!

Junior Protector Sword slashed through the air and where the blade had passed, two walls of air could be seen with the naked eye. The three hundred yards long sword then landed on the dam of ice, slashing all the way through like it was tofu.

"This is bad!"

Woman Wu's expression changed hugely and was about to fly up but it was already too late. The dam of ice immediately collapsed under the pressure of the turbulent river water, causing numerous shattered ice to fly straight at them after being squeezed under the pressure of the water.

From the looks of it, it was clearly a drowning disaster.

Before the dam of ice even hit them, the hurricane had pressured them to fall from the sky.

Chi chi chi—

Numerous ice shards flew in random directions. Qin Mu's face suddenly felt a wave of pain as one of the ice shards grazed his face.

His vital qi was dense and had an extremely strong defense. He couldn't be hurt from the pummeling of the raging ape yet the ice shards were so fast that they could actually hurt him. From that, one can imagine how dangerous it would be if the dam of ice were to fall on them.

Woman Wu carried him and ran as ice shards of all sizes flew past them along with the surging waves. Following that, the hurricane along with the ice shards and huge waves smacked right into their bodies, sending the monster and the human flying!

Thud thud.

Two loud thuds came from the cliff opposites as Qin Mu and Woman Wu smacked onto the cliff and embed themselves in the walls. One of them was sprawled in an "X" shape while the other was in a series of "H" shape.

Then, a screeching sound of a sword could be heard. When Qin Mu heard this sound, he knew something was wrong as the screeching of the sword was heading straight for him!

He immediately opened up his legs and heard a clink sound as the Junior Protector Sword nearly stabbed into his thighs.

Phew—

Qin Mu left out a sigh of relief, now his legs had formed an "A" shape as the Junior Protector Sword was just five inches away from his body.

Beside him, the great demon burst out in laughter. Qin Mu couldn't help it but laugh out as well. The laughter of the demon and the human grew louder and louder as it resounded throughout the whole ravine.

Below them, the river water surged forth and a crisis was resolved by this peculiar duo.

Not long later, Qin Mu and Woman Wu, who had transformed into Xian Ling'er sat on the cliff while resting their hands backward as they looked at the blue sky and white clouds. They experienced tranquility in their hearts.

“Who’s that copper Buddha?” Qin Mu asked.

“He’s from the Small Thunderclap Monastery, a different kind that had reached illumination, a demon just like me.”

Woman Wu looked at the golden loops on its legs, “It is said that the patriarch of Small Thunderclap Monastery had worshiped Buddhism and became a disciple of the Great Thunderclap Monastery. However, he had rebelled and left the Great Thunderclap Monastery to create the Small Thunderclap Monastery, bestowing the title of Small Rulai on himself. I’ve heard that he was forced into the Great Ruins by Rulai of the Great Thunderclap Monastery and so the Small Thunderclap Monastery had also moved into the Great Ruins. The successive generation that was in charge of the Small Thunderclap Monastery were all demons like me but they called themselves Small Rulai. The one who had suppressed me at the ancient temple was the Small Rulai of this generation. Now that you have cut his chains and set me free, hehe, you have it in for you!”

“Small Thunderclap Monastery? Small Rulai?”

Qin Mu was stumped for words, “The Small Thunderclap Monastery is in Great Ruins?”

“Of course. Demon monks aren’t rarely seen. The monks of Small Thunderclap Monastery are extremely petty and would definitely seek revenge, let alone their Small Rulai?”

Woman Wu snickered, “With the old baldy’s temperament, he will definitely seek revenge on you!”

Suddenly, an angry shout sounded out harshly, “As a human, you actually allied yourself with a demon. Today, we as masters and disciples will have to subdue the demons!”

Qin Mu looked over and saw a few Taoists walking over. There were young males and females along with an elder. The Taoist elder had an austere of righteousness while the young males and females revealed expressions of excitement. It was obvious they were strong practitioners that had come into the Great Ruins from the outside world for the experience.

“Fellow Taoist priests, this demon and I had just resolved a crisis and demolished this dammed lake to save countless of lives downstream.”

Qin Mu rose and solemnly said, “This demon had saved countless of lives and isn’t...”

“Shut up, abandoned people!”

The Taoist elder shouted sternly in devotion to righteousness that inspires reverence, “You deserve to die even more for being in cahoots with a demon and helping a villain do evil! Today we shall get rid of both of you! My disciples, set up the formation and subdue the demons!”

“I’m hungry.” The little girl beside Qin Mu licked its red lips and told him.

“Some people are worse than demons.”

With his interest waning, Qin Mu leaped from the cliff and into the river below, his voice sounding out, “Woman Wu, I hereby release you, you’re free!”

Landing on the river, he stepped on the waves.

Screams came from the top of the ravine as Woman Wu revealed her true form and started its massacre. After a while, the demon had filled its belly and ran into the sky, slithering into the clouds before vanishing.

“Cowherd boy, if fate allows, we’ll meet again—” the demon cloud caught up with Qin Mu and Woman Wu’s voice came from it before going off in the distance.

#### **Chapter 64: Raising Mountains And Rivers In A Cane**

The spring river gradually warmed. It had been over ten days since Qin Mu had broken the dam of ice with Woman Wu. The willow trees on the river shore had regained their shade along with the birdsongs and fragrant flowers while the ice tide had subsided.

In the heart of the river, Qin Mu suddenly stopped in his footsteps, however, he didn’t sink into the river and remained standing on the surface of the water. Ripples spread out beautifully under his feet.

He was using Black Tortoise Vital Qi to control the water condition so he could still remain standing on the water like it was flat land.

He had already grasped the technique of controlling water using Black Tortoise Vital Qi fluently.

Chii—

The sound of sword flying through the air pierced the sky. Qin Mu was trying to use his fingers to control Junior Protector Sword, making it flick it upwards, smearing it horizontally and hacking it downwards. The sword moved along with his body and executed all the most basic moves.

He had learned the most basic techniques of swordplay from Village Chief these few days. Other than stab, he had also learned techniques like hack, curve, parry, wave, poke, jab, cut, and smear.

However, Village Chief didn’t teach him any sword skills and only made him practice the most basic movements day after day.

Meanwhile at the side of the river, Blind stood there motionlessly with his cane, like a statue.

Even since Qin Mu said his goodbyes to Woman Wu, he returned to the village to tell the villagers about how he released Woman Wu. When he reached the part of Small Thunderclap Monastery, Old Ma and the rest forbade him from leaving the village. Even if he was to leave the village, he needed to have someone accompanying him.

On the river, the sound of the wind grew louder. Every time Qin Mu unleashed his sword, it would raise up wind and waves. What Village Chief taught him were the most basic movements of swordplay yet they all burst forth with astonishing power in his hands!

With every practice, the wind and waves on the river would grow bigger and more urgent. With a stab of his sword, the river surface would split thirty yards long and three yards deep, causing all the huge fishes and river beasts to stay away.

With a flick, the river water surged into the sky and splashed down in a downpour. He then followed up with a curve and the river water turned into a water dragon rushing forward.

Even though they might be the simplest moves that required the use of qi to manipulate sword, the power remained terrifyingly strong in his hands.

He had been cultivating these basic movements for more than two years and already knew them thoroughly by heart. However Village Chief still didn't impart a complete move.

Suddenly Blind's ears twitched and he shouted, "Mu'er, it's time to stop, a ship is coming."

Qin Mu put Junior Protector Sword back into the sword pouch on his back and raised his head. He saw a ship sailing down and was stunned for a second, as this ship was the one that was drafting the topographic map of Surging River.

Now that the ship was sailing back down from upstream, they must have finished drafting the waterway of Surging River.

Opening up his stride, he avoided the path which the ship was sailing by.

Flowing down with the river, the speed of the ship was very fast and soon reached in front of them. An exclaim of admiration came from the ship, "To stand on the river without moving, what a neat skill and dense vital qi."

Qin Mu looked at the source of the sound and saw General Qin standing at the head of the ship looking at him along with the youth with a little baby fat who held a foldable fan.

"The mysterious ice from the dragon palace!"

Qin Mu's heart turned cold as he saw the huge slab of mysterious ice. In the mysterious ice, there was a dragon bead hanging high up along with a hand grabbing onto it!

He could only see those as the rest of the stuff below the ice chunk was blocked by the side of the ship. However, even with just that, he knew where the mysterious ice, as well as the hand, had come from.

It was evident that when the general and his men were drafting the topographic map of Surging River, they had discovered the dragon palace under the river. When they searched their way there, they must have discovered Gu Linuan and the young dragon sealed by the dragon bead!

At this moment, the young dragon should still be in the mysterious ice. This general hasn't slain the soul of the mother dragon and most likely has kept the soul of the dragon mother to prevent the mysterious ice from melting.

Their aim should be the young dragon in the ice. If the mysterious ice was to melt, the young dragon would die. He must have intended to bring the mysterious ice back to Eternal Peace Empire and invite masters to cure the young dragon, therefore he didn't save Gu Linuan yet.

"It's the youth who was on the peak with the devil ape."

The baby fat youth said in astonishment, "I didn't expect his vital qi to be so dense, it's even stronger than mine."

Suddenly, Gu Linuan's voice came from the ice, "I can feel my Junior Protector Sword! General Qin Feiyue, stop the ship, my Junior Protector Sword is near, the rascal that tricked me is near!"

The ship stopped and General Qin's gaze landed on Qin Mu, "You are the one that swindled Junior Protector Sword from the junior protector of the crown prince?"

Qin Mu replied, "He wanted to eat me so I swindled his sword away. Since you managed to bring him out of the dragon palace, can you bring his sheath out for me as well? It would only be a complete set with the sheath."

Qin Feiyue's gaze flickered, "For you? This is the sword of the Imperial Family, it's impossible to give it to you, please return Junior Protector Sword back to the Imperial Family."

Qin Mu shook his head in bewilderment, "Why do I have to return it when I swindled it with my own ability?"

The baby fat youth, who was also called the seventh young master, burst out into laughter, "What this youth said sure was interesting."

Qin Feiyue snorted coldly and said indifferently, "To lie to an official of the Imperial Family and scheme after the treasure of an official of the Imperial Family, do you know how severe your crime is?"

"There's no Imperial Family in the Great Ruins."

Qin Mu asked, puzzled, "In a lawless place like this, who can convict me?"

"For you to be this fearless, it looks like you have someone to rely on."

Qin Feiyue looked at the shore and his pupil suddenly contracted. He then solemnly asked, "Junior Qing Feiyue, the disciple of Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor, upper fourth-ranking general of loyalty and martial, Eternal Peace Empire. May I know how to address the senior who is on the shore?"

Blind propped himself on his bamboo cane and chuckled, "Just a blind man, what else can you address me as? Merely an old disabled."

Qin Feiyue's expression sank as he took a look around and saw Disabled Elderly Village in the corner of his eyes. He then smiled, "Three years ago, Mu Beifeng, the prefecture head of Five Sprouts Prefecture of our Eternal Peace Empire led many Li River Sword Sect's experts into Great Ruins to seek revenge. Later on, there were people who found their bodies downstream. I had personally inspected the bodies



of Mu Beifeng and the rest, they were stabbed to death by a spear but the person who stabbed them didn't use a spear and had used a bamboo cane instead. Senior, do you also use a bamboo cane?"

With the bamboo cane in Blind's hand, he beamed, "What else can a blind man use if it's not a bamboo cane? This cane is used for navigation in case I kick a rock when I can't see properly."

Qin Feiyue heard things that were indirectly implied from what Blind had said and affirmed his guess. He then sneered, "Senior, Mu Beifeng should have died near here, am I right? Did senior see anything at the time?"

Blind replied bleakly, "What can I see when I'm a blind man? General, you must be joking. I've heard of Mu Beifeng's name before, he actually died under evil hands? This pains my heart... Whilst the monkeys cried incessantly from one side of a river to another, leaving great men of succeeding generations to grieve for them! How heartbreaking, how lamentable!"

He lifted his bamboo cane and gently tapped the river surface.

Waves surged on the surface of the huge river, causing the entire river to suddenly tremble violently a few times. The waves on both shores soared up to thirty yards in height and split apart the sky. Even the ship swayed erratically, causing many of the soldiers onboard to lose their footings.

Under the river, the waters split to two sides and revealed the gigantic spine of a giant beast which was blackish green and it was as if a small island had appeared in the middle of the river.

Surging River tremored, shaking this giant beast out from the water and into the air before plummeting it back into the water.

Qin Mu immediately saw that this giant beast was being chained down. The other end of the chain was secured to the ship, which explained why the ship could move so fast. It was the effort of the giant beast.

What's weird was that every other part of the river was trembling violently and only the river surface under Qin Mu's feet remained dead calm.

Seventh young master immediately held onto the side of the ship in case he might stumble into the river. However, he couldn't help but shout out, "Old senior, it's supposed to be, 'how sad that he had to die before he gained victory, leaving great men of succeeding generations to grieve for him!' You're mistaken."

Qin Mu couldn't help replying, "This young master, he meant that if all of you were to die here, it would be sad that he had to die before he gained victory, whereas since all of you are alive and only knows how to make a fuss, all of you would obviously be the monkeys crying incessantly from one side of a river to another. If you still insist on getting to the truth, you will just have to die here. Grandpa Blind is actually very wise."

Blind's face was full of pride and chuckled, "Mu'er is still the one who knows me best. If it was Cripple or Deaf, those scumbags would have ridiculed me for being frivolous."

The corners of Qin Feiyue's eyes twitched. The blind man's power was stronger beyond his expectation. It was lucky the blind man had only tapped the Surging River. If he had flicked, the entire Surging River might just have been flicked up by him!

In the mysterious ice, Gu Linuan kept his mouth shut. He had obviously speculated Blind's power just from him tapping the river. He knew Blind was not to be trifled with and if he insisted on wanting the sword, he would probably die here.

"We'll leave the Junior Protector Sword here first, let us go. Set sail!"

Qin Feiyue laid down the command and a soldier immediately took out a bugle horn and blew into it. The sound coming out from the bugle horn was astonishingly deep and when the giant beast under the water heard the sound of the bugle horn, it started to stir up waves. The water of the huge river suddenly lifted up like a water mountain that was higher than any of the other river surface, as it dragged along the ship and rushed downstream!

"General Qin, aren't you trying to ask the blind man who was the one that had killed Mu Beifeng? Why did you leave before getting an answer?" seventh young master poked his head out from the palace maids surrounding him and asked curiously.

"Young Master, I have already gotten my answer."

General Qin sneered, "Mu Beifeng died at the hands of the blind man just now. The magnificent Spear God was reduced to a blind man and has been hiding in this tiny village! What other terrifying entities must be hiding in seclusion with him? I can't handle this tiny village, therefore, I can only request for reinforcement!"

The armor on his body rattled and the light in his eyes was like the clash of spear and blade. "Under the whole heaven, every spot is the sovereign's ground; To the borders of the land, every individual is the sovereign's minister. This Great Ruins is also the land of the Imperial Family and not a lawless land! Mu Beifeng is an official of the Imperial Family so how can he die in the hands of the wilderness? This village must be demolished and exterminated in order to show the might of our empire and the might of our Imperial Preceptor. Let the awe of our emperor descend onto the Great Ruins!"

"How impressive."

Suddenly a voice sounded out, sending chills down General Qin's spine. He turned his head back in difficulty only to see a crippled man unknowingly appeared behind him and leaning on the side of the ship with a simple smile.

Qin Feiyue's eyes twitched for a moment and Cripple's figure vanished and was now back to back with him. He totally couldn't see how the crippled man had vanished and reappeared behind him!

Qin Feiyue's forehead was covered in sweat. His palm was already on the hilt of his sword but he didn't even dare to move at all.

"Does Imperial Preceptor knows of your big ambition?"

Cripple bend down and saw the topographic map of Surging River on the ship and laughed, “Does Imperial Preceptor plans to move his army into Great Ruins by making you come to draft the topographic map of Surging River? Keke, this little dragon is so pitiful. Eh? Gu Linuan, what’s with that stinky face? I shall take your sword sheath away. Your banner isn’t bad as well, I shall take this too... This little brother, your piece of jade is pretty good and so is this fan... Bah bah! You’re actually a girl? How unlucky!”

Qin Feiyue suddenly saw a slight opening and turned around as he drew his sword in a flash but the crippled man behind him had already vanished!

The crippled man’s laughter came from several miles away, “Go back and tell Imperial Preceptor to keep my leg safe and don’t lose it. I’ll come back for it personally!”

### **Chapter 65: Fragrance Of Tree Peony**

“Crap, my fourth-ranking official seal!” Qin Feiyue’s expression changed hugely as he immediately searched his waist. The fourth-ranking official seal was gone, causing cold sweats to roll down his forehead!

It was a big deal, losing the official seal. However, since he was the disciple of Imperial Preceptor, he could still keep it under wraps. What made him more terrified was that he didn’t notice when the crippled man stole his official seal. What if the crippled man didn’t steal his official seal and instead, stabbed his heart from behind...

He shivered uncontrollably at the thought.

Seventh young master’s face turned red with embarrassment as he hugged his own chest and ordered numerous palace maids to surround him so no one could pass through.

When Cripple pickpocketed a few treasures from ‘him’, he only discovered that ‘he’ was a female when he stole ‘his’ feminine garment.

Cripple considered touching women a taboo for when he steals. Which was why there was an opening, and why Qin Feiyue had the chance to attack him, giving him only the opportunity to run away.

“This crippled man was the thief god that sneaked into the Imperial Palace to steal the Emperor’s Disk – the Heaven Pilfering Thief!”

Qin Feiyue suppressed the shock in his heart. Seeing that the seventh young master was fine, he let out a sigh of relief, “Y...young Master must have been shocked. Because of my inability...”

Gu Linuan who was in the mysterious ice was even more shocked. The crippled man actually managed to steal the Junior Protector Sword’s sheath from his body!

Not only that, the black banner in his other hand was also stolen by the crippled man!

Being sealed in the mysterious ice, he knew how hard and cold the mysterious ice was. Even a great expert like him was frozen and had no ability to escape. When Qin Mu swindled him of his sword, he also depleted all his vital qi just to send the Junior Protector Sword out of the mysterious ice.

However, this crippled man just disregarded the mysterious ice and touched it gently. It was like the hands of a ghost that easily swiped his black banner and sword sheath away!

“Lord Gu, this crippled man had ventured into the Imperial Palace back in the days and entered the empire’s treasury in front of the countless number of strong practitioners. There were countless traps in the empire’s treasury but they were all useless. He still managed to steal the Emperor’s Disk and nobody was able to stop him.”

Qin Feiyue said, “Luckily, Imperial Preceptor intercepted him and managed to cut down one of his divine legs. Even so, Imperial Preceptor wasn’t able to stop him from leaving with the Emperor’s Disk. He ended up vanishing without a trace.”

Gu Linuan was dumbstruck. Only after some time did he asked, “With a leg missing, he still managed to vanish without a trace? Was this achieved because of his divine legs or his divine hands?”

Suddenly, the cry of a giant beast echoed from the front of the ship. Qin Feiyue was astonished and immediately ran to the head of the ship. His pupils contracted uncontrollably as he saw a spider web erected in front of the ship, locking several miles of the river in place!

The giant beast, which was pulling the ship, had collided with the spider web and was unable to free itself no matter how much it struggled. The river then split apart and an enormous spider slowly crawled out from under the river, dragging the giant beast onto the spider web. It then spewed out web continuously before sinking its teeth into the giant beast’s body.

Even when numerous soldiers used qi to manipulate swords and to summon divine arts, they weren’t able to force the enormous spider to retreat. Even the spider web couldn’t be cut down!

Very soon, the giant beast shriveled and only a layer of skin was left.

Qin Feiyue’s body trembled. Even the hand that was holding onto the treasure sword was trembling. He wanted to hack the enormous spider to death but he didn’t dare to move.

He saw an apothecary in green as he carried a herb basket on the shore. He looked very ordinary but his face had changed beyond recognition and looked very sinister.

Apothecary waved his hand and the enormous spider on the river started to retracing its web. It then followed a thread and crawled back to the Apothecary while shrinking smaller. It then became a small dot that tunneled into the apothecary’s herb basket.

Without the spider web blocking it, the ship began to float downstream again. Qin Feiyue then faintly heard a voice beside his ear, “Tell Imperial Preceptor to drop any inappropriate thought on touching the Great Ruins. Be careful not to provoke us disabled elderly...”

Surrounded by the mysterious ice, Gu Linuan’s voice trembled, “It’s the Poison King...”

Qin Feiyue also suppressed the pounding of his heart and composed himself, "All soldiers, listen to my command, raise the oars and return to Eternal Peace!"

After sailing a mile forwards, a soldier suddenly shouted with a trembling voice, "General Qin, there's a man on the river!"

Qin Feiyue gritted his teeth, his face turning charcoal black, "Which demon dares to block my ship? Do they really think I'm easy to bully? Knock him to death..."

Halfway through his sentence, he suddenly noticed that the man on the river only had his upper body. It wasn't known who had chopped off the lower half of his body.

The weird man was wielding two huge and weird knives as he stood still on the reef.

Suddenly, the knife light tore apart the sky and shook the world. Qin Feiyue looked upwards and saw the clouds being split apart by the knife pressure!

The knife light landed and cut down towards the ship!

Whoosh—

The water of Surging River halved, becoming two rivers with one slash!

"Seven Stars Divine Treasure, awaken!"

Qin Feiyue roared in anger. The divine treasures in his body opened up one by one, causing his frightening vital qi to burst forth into two huge dragons by the ship side, moving it horizontally for three hundred yards!

The knife light grazed the side of the ship's body. It continued to split the river and only closed it back after reaching the back of the weird man of the river.

"Hehe, it's not fun fighting the Imperial Preceptor's disciple. It's only interesting fighting the Imperial Preceptor..."

The weird man on the reef sheath his knife and with both of his hands propped onto the reef, he exerted force and jumped into the sky, vanishing without a trace.

Qin Feiyue restrained his legs from trembling and shouted, "Stabilize the ship, stabilize..."

His voice trembled and even he couldn't hear himself clearly. He could only sit down first to recompose himself. However, his thoughts were in a whirl.

Gu Linuan was even more frightened than him as his voice quivered, "Heaven Knife! That's Heaven Knife who once raised his knives to the heavens and died at the hands of a god, he's actually still alive..."

Qin Feiyue's expression couldn't remain calm, "Why would so many old demons gather in such an unremarkable little village in Great Ruins? Spear God, Heaven Knife, Thief God, Poison King... Other than those people, what other frightening beings still remain in the village..."

He looked at the topographic map of Great Ruins. Then, he let out a sigh of relief as the map he had painstakingly drafted was still on the ship. Those fiendish people didn't destroy the topographic map of Surging River.

"That's not right!"

He suddenly came to a realization. These fiendish people didn't destroy the topographic map of Surging River not because they couldn't, but because they didn't think it was worth destroying.

These old monsters believed that even if he took this topographic map away, Imperial Preceptor wouldn't dare to enter Great Ruins!

"Why didn't they kill us?" asked the seventh young master who was crossdressed as a boy.

"They didn't think we are worth killing."

Qin Feiyue replied roughly, "They didn't think we were worth killing because our abilities were simply too weak..."

His heart was sour. As a disciple of Imperial Preceptor, he had always viewed himself highly. His reputation was also extremely high among all levels of society. He never expected to meet so many powerful beings after just one trip to Great Ruins. The conceit he previously possessed disappeared without a trace.

When he had first met Blind, he still had a trace of arrogance with him. Despite being shocked by Blind, he still had a lofty and unyielding character. However, as he continued to meet the elusive Cripple, the sinister Apothecary, the savage Butcher, his lofty and unyielding character was reduced to nothingness from the shocks he received. Only fear remained in his heart.

"There's nothing that can stop Imperial Preceptor. There is nothing that can scare Imperial Preceptor!"

Qin Feiyue thought about his master, Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor, and his uneasiness subsided. His gazed hardened as he muttered, "If the old fellows in Great Ruins want to be mantises who try to stop the chariot, they will only die horribly!"

The ship continued to sail downstream when Qin Feiyue was suddenly stunned by what was before him. There was originally an oasis here and an ancient temple on the oasis. But the entire oasis had vanished without a trace!

He had originally thought there was something strange with the ancient temple but he didn't go in to inspect. However, he marked it on the map. Never did he think that when he came back, the temple would be gone.

"Eyes awaken!"

Qin Feiyue gave a low shout and light shot out from his eyes. Looking into the water, he was dumbstruck. The oasis was still there but it had been flattened by some powerful strength. Now the ancient temple had sunk into the water!

“Great Ruins...”

He composed himself and commanded the soldiers to rouse their vital qi to row the ship, leaving this place as soon as possible.

Not long after they sailed away, the river split apart and a copper Buddha rose from under the river with the chains still on him. Even though the copper Buddha was extremely heavy, it seemed to be weightless as his feet stood on the surface of the water.

“The old monsters of Disabled Elderly Village are actually this strong. They won’t be easy to handle...”

The copper Buddha looked in the direction of Disabled Elderly Village before exerting force in his legs as he ran ashore and continued sprinting.

“Stealing my merit! I will not let this matter rest! However, since Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor is beginning to stir and wants to enter Great Ruins, I shall let them fight each other first! When they are in a life and death struggle, my Thunderclap Monastery will just reap the benefits!”

In Disabled Elderly Village, Qin Mu met Cripple walking over and throwing something at him. Qin Mu received it and it was a sword sheath which was a match with Junior Protector Sword.

Qin Mu was stunned for a second and wanted to ask where Cripple got it from when Cripple suddenly stuffed another item into his chest.

Qin Mu took out to have a look. It was a milky white garment embroidered with a tree peony. It was one foot long and had stripes like ribbons, along with it was a sweet scent.

“Grandpa Cripple, what is this?” Qin Mu asked puzzledly.

The smile on Cripple’s face froze as he resentfully said, “A sweat towel for you to wipe your sweat with. How unlucky, why do I have to touch something like this. Touching it once leaves you with three years of bad luck...”