

## Tales of Herding Gods Chapter 91-95

### Chapter 91: Moon Guardian

“This is Fengdu, restricted area for a living person.”

The bird-head mutant gave off a bird cry and it sounded very weird. His voice was fluent like a human, “You’re a living person and you shouldn’t come here.”

Village Chief had a serious expression as he smiled, “I’m already here.”

“The bird-head mutant said, “If you want to leave, you’ll have to pay the price.”

Village Chief asked curiously, “What’s the price?”

“There’s King of Hell in Fengdu.”

The bird-head mutant’s eyes seemed to be looking at its beak as it spoke, “King of Hell has noticed you and admires you very much, therefore, King of Hell has this request. If you agree to this request, you’re free to go.”

Village Chief had a slight change in expression as he asked politely, “What’s the request?”

The bird-head mutant replied, “After you die, you’ll belong here.”

Village Chief muttered to himself irresolutely and suddenly smiled, “Living realm of the dead, dead realm of the living. If I died and could still come here, why would I not want to? Living outside means to be dead here and being dead outside means to be alive here. It’s a good thing to be able to live here after I die, I agree. However, can I ask you a few questions?”

The bird-head mutant leaned its head to one side and replied, “You may ask but I won’t necessarily answer.”

Village Chief gave a slight smile, “Is Carefree Village that Moon Ship?”

“No.”

Village Chief was stunned and cried out, “If it isn’t Carefree Village, why would it attract Mu’er’s jade pendant? Why would the jade pendant point its way here? And also why did Moon Ship appear here?”

The bird-head mutant frowned. Its eyeballs once again stared at its beak. It was obvious that it was annoyed at Village Chief for having so many questions, “The Moon Herders on-board Moon Ship have all died out, they’re extinct. Moon Ship was sent here by the last Moon Guardian. There’s a dead man living on the ship. You can go ask him. He might have the answer.”

“Dead man? Could it be the Moon Guardian?” Village Chief was bewildered.

The bird-head mutant raised a leg and ruffled the feathers on its neck, picking out a golden bug to eat it, then it said impatiently, "You have too many questions."

Village Chief asked, "What's with the devil god that attacked me? Isn't Fengdu the territory of Heavenly Devil Horde?"

"She's an occupant here. This place belongs to King of Hell and not Heavenly Devil Horde."

The bird-head mutant turned a blind eye to him and used its beak to preen its feathers, "You'll stay here like her in the future. King of Hell admires you very much."

Village Chief spat out a murky breath. He had originally thought it was the world of the devil but he had still guessed wrong. It seemed like the devil god he had trapped was just a big shot in the living realm of the dead.

He asked again, "Where's Carefree Village?"

The bird-head mutant had completely lost patience with him this time and flapped away, "You have too many questions and I really hate you. Don't forget your promise, when you die, I'll be there to get you, don't follow the messengers of death!"

Village Chief sent him off and looked at Moon Ship. The enormous Moon Ship had already stood up and pulled the moon forward aimlessly.

"I've been despised. Could it be that I had more to talk after growing old?"

Village Chief didn't know whether to laugh or cry and walked over to Moon Ship. Meanwhile, the devil god was still struggling to break free from the bleeding whirlpool in the sky.

"This devil god used Moon Ship to attract Mu'er and it should know some secrets regarding Carefree Village. It's a pity I can only trap her and can't force her to say what she knows."

He boarded Moon Ship and came onto the ship that the toad was carrying. Looking around, he could see a great number of palaces which were rundown, having crumbling fences and dilapidated walls. There were also huge weapons that had collapsed on the ground. Many of them were full moon shape weapons and there were also items like mirrors.

The palaces here were huge and not places an ordinary person would stay.

He passed by a huge main hall and stopped to inspect the sculptures in front of this huge main hall.

What was sculpted here was a three-legged jade toad. It had three legs, a human's body and a toad's head, making it a half human half toad.

"Shi shi shi..."

A peculiar laughter came from the halls and Village Chief could hear that sinister voice singing a nursery rhyme, "Row row row your boat, gently down the stream..."

Village Chief hesitated for a moment and ignored this voice and walked to the main hall in front instead. The main palace was in a mess with the censer on the ground and the incense ashes all scattered on the floor. The bronze sparrow lamps were smashed, the screens were broken and jade beds were shattered. It was evident that a huge change had happened here.

He looked around and stopped at the wall painting in the main hall. On the painting were tall giants wearing white robes and herding the moon. They drove Moon Ship and only appeared at night.

There were numerous strong and vicious devils outside attacking the ship but they were all pushed back by the giants using spears, knives, swords, bows, and arrows.

When the dawn breaks and the darkness retreats, Moon Ship would return to a deep abyss which should be Moon Well.

Village Chief inspected closely and could see that the giants had handsome appearances. On the heart of their brows was a crescent.

“It seems like the bird mutant was right. Mu’er is indeed not a Moon Herder. There’s no crescent on Mu’er’s forehead.”

Walking a circle in the main hall, he didn’t discover more stuff. He then came to the few pillars which were in the center of the halls. The incomparably thick pillars had chains coiled around them and the other end of the chains were floating towards the sky, tied to a crescent moon.

Moon Ship was moving, therefore, the broken moon was also being dragged. As the broken moon rumbled forward, huge fireballs would fall from the sky. They were the mountain rocks on the broken moon.

This moon was destroyed therefore rocks would fall from even the slightest movement and become meteors.

Some meteors were not fully burnt and would crash into Carefree Village and smash huge holes in the ground, making it very dangerous.

“Merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily, life is but a dream! Hee hee hee hee hee...”

The singing voice became more and more strange. Village Chief frowned and looked around but he couldn’t see anyone. He couldn’t help but have a chill running up his spine.

At this moment, he saw the source of the voice. On the ground in the middle of the pillars was a face, a huge face.

The huge face was currently singing and singing this nursery rhyme which became slightly creepy. His hair was in a mess and he was like a lunatic sealed in the mirror, however,

“Moon Guardians of the Moon Herd Tribe...”

Village Chief sighed and sat down. He grabbed a stone and sculpted it in the shape of the jade pendant in front of Qin Mu's chest to ask, "Moon Guardian, have you see this jade pendant before?"

"Life is but a dream!"

The huge face giggled, "A dream!"

Village Chief frowned. This Moon Guardian should have died when he had completely fused with the ship. He gave it his all to move Moon Ship into the living realm of the dead but he died in the ship's body instead. Even if he was revived in the living realm of the dead, he could only live in the ship's body and was unable to come out.

He turned crazy after he died.

Village Chief stood up and was about to leave when the face of the ground suddenly said, "The jade pendant of Carefree Village?"

Village Chief stopped in his steps and immediately turned back, "You know where's Carefree Village?"

"Of course I know."

The face on the ground seemed to regain part of his sanity, "We the Moon Herder are from Carefree Village. Even the token of the Moon Guardian is made by Carefree Village, even the Moon Ship is also from Carefree Village... That's right, Moon Herders, Moon Herders!"

He laughed out loud until tears streaked his face, "Dead, they're all dead. Their corpses can't even be pieced together. Haha, they're dead! I run, I run, I scare, I left them, heehee..."

Village Chief asked, "Where's Carefree Village?"

"Gently down the stream..."

Village Chief sighed and left when he saw he couldn't ask anything out from him.

He came to the dock and saw his limbs vanished without a trace again. He gave a sigh internally and saw the gold coin on the wooden pillar. He broke into a smile, "Mu'er is still the thoughtful one."

He took out the gold coin which was giving off a faint glow. Village Chief waved the gold coin towards the dense fog and soon a small boat floated over with a lantern on it.

Village Chief floated up the boat and stood upright at the bow of the boat which floated into the dense fog. There are numerous unsolved mysteries in this mysterious land and he would come to explore this land if he had the chance in the future, however, that should happen after his death right?

"Ling Jing sure is living free and easy, roaming all over the place to witness all these wonderful stuff. I guess I could only be relieved of this burden after I'm dead right?"

He then silently thought to himself, "It's just when I'm dead, I can only remain in this living realm of the dead and can't explore the unknown wonders in this world."

The small boat sailed to the entrance of the sea of fog and Village Chief saw Qin Mu sprinting frantically. Seeing how Great Educational Heavenly Devil Scriptures had transformed into a silver thread which kept on piercing and slicing the skeletons that were pouncing at him, Village Chief then let out a sigh of relief.

Seeing the small boat floating over, Qin Mu also let out a sigh of relief and was elated. Left with two trump cards which were the Great Educational Heavenly Devil Scriptures and Emperor's Disk, he was barely holding off the attacks.

At this moment, the strange world behind them suddenly became hazy and blurry as a loud crow from a rooster sounded out.

"Crap! It's dawn!"

Village Chief's expression changed slightly and immediately rose into the air. Grabbing Qin Mu, he frantically rushed toward outside!

As the two of them rushed out from this incredible world, Qin Mu's feet sank as he stepped onto the river surface of Surging River and the waves swept across his feet. They had returned to Surging River. Turning back to have a look, the world seemed to become a painting which had been drawn by the fog. With a gust, it instantly disappeared and the jade pendant had also lost all signs of activity.

With the darkness retreating, the world had completely vanished from Great Ruins as if it had never existed.

It should be the next night when the entrance to this world would appear, however, no one would know where the entrance would have floated to.

## **Chapter 92: Professional Test Breaker**

Qin Mu stretched his palm out and gently touched the air. He could not find any trace of the world's existence.

Village Chief hesitated for a moment but he still told Qin Mu about his encounter in the living realm of the dead. Qin Mu stared with his eyes wide open. Village Chief actually had such an encounter?

"There's a King of Hell in the living realm of the dead therefore it shouldn't be the world of the heavenly devils and should be something left behind before the darkness. It should be part of Great Ruins before the darkness had descended."

Village Chief analyzed, "The King of Hell in the living realm of the dead should be a clergy as well, just like Sun Guardian and Moon Guardian. However, Carefree Village isn't there and I couldn't extract where exactly it was from the bird-head mutant. Your jade pendant led you to the living realm of the dead might be because both the Moon Ship and your jade pendant came from Carefree Village."

He sighed, "The world of Great Ruins is simply too huge. Staying here so long, I had never thought that there would be so many layers of worlds. There are at least three layers of worlds here!"

Qin Mu nodded his head. Great Ruins in the day, Dark Realm in the night as well the living realm of the dead which appears in Dark Realm. This night, they had seen the three layers of worlds in Great Ruins. This incredible encounter wasn't necessary to let others know because not many people would believe it.

On their way back, they passed by the little village where they had met the messengers of death. Qin Mu stopped and looked towards the village which was dilapidated and covered in spider webs. It was evident that no one had stayed here for quite some time.

However, it wasn't so last night. Last night, there was an elder carrying a lantern and making paper boats. These were the mystical and strange points of Great Ruins that no one could understand.

"Is there a relation between the living realm of the dead and the messengers of death?" Qin Mu asked.

Village Chief shook his head, "I've no idea either. However, as I see it, the messengers of death don't belong to the living realm of the dead. The King of Hell in the living realm of the dead should be only the King of Hell in Great Ruins. Whereas I have also met messengers of death and such village in the outside world as well. They are the gods of netherworld..."

Qin Mu scratched his head. Netherworld? Living realm of the dead? Messengers of death? So complicated that his head would explode if he reflected on them!

"Carefree Village is even more mysterious than this living realm of the dead. We won't be able to find this mysterious place in just a short while."

Village Chief continued, "Mu'er, I'm afraid you'll have to wait to find out about your ancestry. Don't worry, as long as Carefree Village is still in Great Ruins, we'll definitely be able to find it."

Qin Mu nodded his head, "When I get stronger, I can go find out about my ancestry myself. Village Chief, I..."

He hesitated for a moment but Village Chief understood what he wanted to say and smiled, "You want to leave Great Ruins and train in the outside world?"

Qin Mu nodded his head with his heart on tenterhooks.

"Devil Cult Patriarch sent a letter for you and a letter for Granny Si. I have also taken a look at it. He has only seven years left to live, so it's only logical you head over to Eternal Peace Empire to meet him."

Village Chief said unhurriedly, "The bird will have to leave home one day to broaden its horizons. Before entering the darkness, I had discussed this with Apothecary, granny and the rest and they had all agreed."

Qin Mu's eyes lit up. Village Chief continued, "They say as long as you pass their tests, you will be able to leave the village for an experience."

Qin Mu disappointed. No matter what, he would still have to pass the tests to leave the village.

Village Chief smiled, "And I'm your ninth test. Mu'er, once you pass all these nine tests, you'll be considered an adult and you'll be free to spread your wings."

Qin Mu's face turned even blacker. The eight tests from Old Ma and the rest were already extremely difficult and Village Chief's test made him feel as if he was looking up at a towering mountain that he could never pass. How could he pass the nine tests?

Suddenly Qin Mu felt warmth flowing out from the heart of his brows and into his whole body. Every part of his body and mind was comfortable and his vital qi was also circulating vigorously by itself, making him cry out in astonishment.

Village Chief's expression changed slightly as he felt the vigorous vital qi in the body of this youth beside him. It gave him the feeling that a small sun was hidden in the heart of the youth's brows!

"Mu'er, your spirit embryo has awakened?" Village Chief asked.

Qin Mu replied, "It has. My spirit embryo doesn't seem different from before... Just that there's something different with my vital qi."

Regarding the Overlord Body that he had made up, Village Chief also knew nothing about it, therefore, he couldn't say anything to help even if he wanted to. He could only console him, "I have never seen a spirit embryo awakening four times. However, if it's a good thing, there's no need to worry. Is the change in your vital qi a good one?"

Qin Mu nodded his head repeatedly and Village Chief smiled, "Then that's good."

Disabled Elderly Village.

The darkness retreated and the morning sun rose. It was already the third month of spring today but it was still chilly in the morning. Qin Mu woke up early in the morning and scooped up a bucket of water from the village's well to pour it over his half naked body to wake himself up.

His vital qi burst forth in Vermillion Bird Vital Qi and evaporated the water on his body. Soon he was energized.

"Mu'er, pour a bucket on me as well." Butcher propped himself over with his hands.

Qin Mu scooped up another bucket of water and poured it on Butcher's head.

"Refreshing!"

Flames surrounded Butcher's body and turned the bucket of water into white steam. He immediately waved his hands and made his Pig Slaughtering Knife flow over into his hand. He took his big knife to quickly shave his beard while the steam was still there.

Old Ma pushed open his room door and unloaded two doors at his sides. He stretched his lazy back and all the bones in his body cracked. A green dragon coiled around him and with a raise of his hand, he sealed his Five Elements, Six Directions, Seven Stars, Celestial Being, Life and Death Divine Treasure and only left the Spirit Embryo Divine Treasure open. He then shouted, "Damned Cripple, are you awake?"

"I am."

Cripple hobbled out with combing his hair with a small comb. He dressed himself up nicely and looked like a refined elder as he smiled, "Today is the big day, therefore, I've to wake up early. Is Deaf awake?"

"What's the commotion about?" Deaf was grinding his ink and painting in his study. With two metal ears in his ear holes, he didn't even raise his head.

Mute was currently pouring out the slags in his furnace. Apothecary was feeding some small fire-breathing birds at his windowsill and a small bird then flew to Village Chief's room to peck on his window. Village Chief's voice came from inside, "I know. I'm awake already."

Granny Si was cooking on the stove and steaming rice in a wooden bucket. Cripple ran over to lift the lid and was smacked by Granny Si using the spatula. Giving him a stare, she scolded, "What's the hurry? Have you washed your hands and face? Use the toothpaste to brush your teeth."

Cripple immediately scooped up some water to wash his hands and face. He then asked Apothecary for some toothpaste and used a wooden toothbrush to brush his teeth. Granny Si called Qin Mu over and the two of them hurried to serve the dishes and scooped rice. Old Ma arranged the table and chairs and soon all the villagers in Disabled Elderly Village seated in front of the table. Qin Mu placed a set of chopsticks and bowl for everyone before carrying Village Chief up and placed him on the recliner before sitting down.

Qin Mu rose to pour wine for every villager before pouring a cup for himself. Granny Si raised her wine cup and was on the verge of tears. Butcher complained, "Why are you crying on a day of exultation? You clearly want him to go outside in your heart yet you still can't bear to see him leave. Women sure are sentimental!"

Granny Si flew in a rage and stared angrily at him. She then smiled and said, "Today is a day of exultation for Qin Mu so I won't stoop to your level. Mu'er, everyone, let us have a toast!"

Everyone drained the cup with one gulp and Qin Mu chuckled as he poured the wine for everyone again. At the same time, he carefully said, "Hope that everyone would use lesser strength and go easy on me."

Butcher smiled, "Rascal, don't be so cocky. You might already be sprawling on the ground after the first test."

The rims of Granny Si's eyes turned red again, "Mu'er, do remember to come back often to visit us after you leave the village..."

Butcher smiled, "He may beat all of you but he can't beat me..."



Granny Si flew into a rage again and pressed his face into the bowl while smacking his head with her chopsticks, "You talk too much! My Mu'er is the Overlord Body, he will definitely beat you until you cry for your parents!"

Butcher cried for his parents and begged for forgiveness repeatedly before Granny let him off.

After breakfast, Qin Mu cleaned up the cutlery and Village Chief asked, "Has everyone sealed the rest of the divine treasures?"

Everyone nodded silently.

"Then let us begin."

Old Ma walked out and said indifferently, "Mu'er, you have learned your fist skill from me, therefore, you'll definitely lose if we are to compete in fist skill. You can execute whatever you've learned. As long as you beat me, it will be considered as a pass."

Qin Mu bowed and a dragon roar could be heard. His vital qi turned into a Green Dragon coiling around his body and he said firmly, "I would like to use fist skill to take Grandpa Ma's test!"

Old Ma gave a smile, "Ambitious! However, this way you might not be able to pass the first test."

Both of them stretched out their hands and Qin Mu suddenly made the first move. With his vital qi bursting forth, Tempest Of The Nine Dragons was executed in his first punch. His grandiose vital qi burst forth with his punch and dragon markings could be faintly seen in the air.

Similarly, Old Ma also used Tempest Of The Nine Dragons to face him, "Are you trying to compete the transformations in our dragon forces..."

Boom—

Old Ma had a huge change in expression. It was as if a behemoth weighing dozens of tons had collided with him, making him fly backward and crash into Mute's smithy. Shattering through the smithy didn't stop him from flying backward.

In midair, he involuntarily activated his Five Elements Divine Treasure and with a drone, the terrifying power in his Five Element Divine Treasure burst forth and he finally stopped. However, at this moment, the shirt on his back exploded into countless pieces and indistinctly turned into forty-nine Green Dragons rushing backward as they raised a gale. The several huge poplar trees ruffled loudly from the gale and their leaves scattered randomly.

Old Ma twisted his waist and landed on the ground with a bewildered look.

Cripple was currently eating a braised pig trotter and stuffed the pig trotter into his mouth in shock, leaving only the toe outside. Butcher was currently sharpening his knife and the whetstone broke with a crack.

Apothecary and Village Chief were drinking tea and their teacups all exploded. Blind's bamboo cane was squeezed into a bamboo strip and Deaf's ink had spilled all over the table. Granny Si crushed a stack of porcelain bowls while the hen dragons just clucked and flapped its wings back into its chicken coop, stretching its claws to close the wooden door of the chicken coop.

Apothecary looked at Village Chief and whispered, "What happened after you two had gone out at night? How did Qin Mu's cultivation raise so much?"

Village Chief was also at a loss. He suddenly came to realization and whispered back, "His spirit embryo had awakened a fourth time. He said there was nothing different with his spirit embryo, it just that his vital qi was slightly different..."

The corners of Apothecary's eyes twitched as he muttered, "This is slightly different?"

"How did I know his slightly different was actually several times increment in vital qi..." Village Chief also muttered.

### **Chapter 93: Heaven Pilfering Sun Switching**

"I've lost."

Old Ma spat out a murky breath and gave a gratified smile, "Brute force can overcome everything. Mu'er, the power in your strength could make up for the lack in your moves. You've passed. That's right, why did your cultivation raise so much in such a short time? Even I can't shake off your strength."

Qin Mu let out a sigh of relief and smiled, "On the way back after going out with Village Chief, my spirit embryo..."

Village Chief immediately gave a few coughs and Qin Mu was bewildered, "Village Chief, what's wrong?"

"I was startled by your move just now."

Village Chief gave another two coughs and ask, "You've passed the first test so what about the second?"

Cripple pulled out the pig trotter in his mouth and hobbled over while chuckling, "Mu'er, let's not compete fist skills and compete leg skills instead. Raise your head and look, do you see that cloud there?"

Qin Mu raised his head and only saw a white cloud slowly drifting across. Cripple smiled, "Let us contest our leg strength and see who can reach that cloud first."

Qin Mu hesitated for a moment and nodded his head. Cripple smiled warmly, "You're still young. I'm fond of children so I shall let you have a head start."

Qin Mu also smiled warmly, "I respect the elderly so you can go first."

"You're still young. You go first."

“Your old body isn’t that good anymore. You should still go first.”

...

Both of them wore the fake smiles on their faces and politely pushed each other to move first. Butcher raised both his knives and shouted, “Stop being so long winded! That cloud has almost floated away! If you still don’t run, old man I will mince both of you!”

Qin Mu and Cripple literally burst forth like a hurricane at the same time. Qin Mu stepped repeatedly as wind gathered under his feet. Suddenly he rose into the sky as his feet stepped onto a gale. However, Cripple was already one step faster than him. Qin Mu pressed his palms down, and the wind beneath Cripple’s feet instantly blew towards the ground, making Cripple flailed his limbs as he fell from the sky.

Qin Mu immediately rushed forth and passed Cripple. Just as he was about to travel on the wind, he suddenly felt both of his legs tightened as they got tied up together, causing him to instantly crash head first to the ground.

Cripple laughed as a vital qi whip appeared on his hand and locked Qin Mu’s legs.

Qin Mu fell from the sky and this elder who had lost a leg stepped on his body to rise into the sky.

However, at this moment, Qin Mu’s vital qi burst forth and snapped his whip. Hugging Cripple’s leg, he kicked his feet towards Cripple’s face. With a bang, both of them crashed into the ground, raising up all the dust and smoke.

Cripple’s crutch touched the ground and executed perfect Heaven Pilfering Leg Skills to attack Qin Mu. Lying on the ground, Qin Mu only attacked his crutch and gave countless kicks to it. Being kicked a dozen times by Cripple, Qin Mu finally kicked Cripple’s crutch into pieces.

Standing on one leg, Cripple scolded angrily, “Rascal, who taught you to be so mean?”

Pushing both his hands on the ground heavily, Qin Mu spun upside down into the sky. Cripple sneered. Bending his only leg, he jumped into the sky with a leap.

Just as he jumped up, Qin Mu who was on top of him immediately gave him a smack. His vital qi changed into Black Tortoise Vital Qi and water markings immediately appeared in the air, which turned into a water dragon that rushed towards Cripple.

“Little tricks!”

Cripple sniggered and wind came out from his hands to strike the water dragon, deviating the water dragon. His vital qi then transformed into a leg which was translucent. With both of his legs sprinting, he looked like he was going to overtake Qin Mu.

Qin Mu’s leg split open and did a horse stance in the air. Pushing the air with his palms, his head flipped back up and the legs went back down. With his legs back together, he sprinted after Cripple and mercilessly struck towards Cripple’s back.

As the two of them sprinted in the air, they executed their leg skills and they were all despicable moves. Their figures shifted around indefinitely, dazzling the eyes of people below who were looking at them.

Suddenly Cripple's arms moved like shadows that even ghosts couldn't notice as he executed Heaven Pilfering Hand Skill. Before Qin Mu could detect his attack, he immediately felt his pants loosening and the pants got pulled down to his ankles.

He was immediately tripped by himself and he suddenly felt a chill on his back as his shirt was also taken off by Cripple to tie his hands. As Qin Mu fell from the sky, he urgently ripped his shirt and pulled up his pants. As he sprinted frantically and tied his pants, he shouted angrily, "Grandpa Cripple, you didn't teach me this move!"

Cripple laughed out loudly, "If you can catch up to me, I'll teach you!"

Qin Mu snickered and with a punch, the dragon-shaped fist force instantly rushed forth at Cripple. With an astonished cry, Cripple hurriedly changed his footsteps and dodged to one side.

Qin Mu molded his qi into thread and the vital qi thread which was as thick as an arm swept towards Cripple like a huge snake. If he was to be tangled up with the vital qi thread, it would be hard for him to break free therefore when Cripple dodged again, Qin Mu had already caught up to him. He then said grudgingly, "Alright, I'll teach you."

The two of them was full of smiles as they got closer to each other in the air. Cripple was about to attack him when Qin Mu suddenly sealed his three souls and seven spirits before kicking this old geezer down from the sky.

Crash!

Cripple crashed into the ground and created a human-shaped pit. He then slowly crawled out from the pit, crying tears of joy, "As expected of the one I taught, he did not easily believe others."

Qin Mu quickly caught up to the cloud in the sky before running diagonally down again. Running a few steps forward as he landed on the ground, he finally stopped.

Cripple smiled, "I promised you just now and I'll not go back on my word. When you pass the ninth test, I'll teach you Heaven Pilfering Sun Switching Hand."

Qin Mu was overjoyed.

Butcher waved his knife around and smiled, "Mu'er, do you need to rest?"

Qin Mu immediately nodded and sat down to rest. He drank some tea to rehydrate himself and after resting for quite some time, he ran back in to change a set of clothes. Butcher's face immediately turned black as he muttered, "Rascal, you have such a dense cultivation so why do you still need to rest? Why can't you just fight? If you just fight I might still have a chance of winning..."

Some more time later, Qin Mu went to the collapsed smithy and picked up another Pig Slaughtering Knife. With his two Pig Slaughter crossing each other, he shouted, "Grandpa Butcher, I'm done resting!"

Butcher sneered, "Originally you only use one knife, why are you using two now?"

Qin Mu gripped a knife normally and helped the other in a reverse grip. Butcher's expression turned solemn and also reversely gripped his knife on the left hand. Butcher then smiled coldly, "Rascal, you want to fight close combat with me? You are still too inexperienced..."

Apothecary coughed and reminded, "Butcher, without the lower half of your body, if he gets close to you, you're at a very big disadvantage. You don't have as much muscles as him."

Butcher's face turned black again and said resentfully, "He won't be able to close in on me He will be blocked outside by my knife skills..."

Old Ma reminded, "His vital qi is abnormally dense and is two to three times more than yours. If your knife touched his knife, your knife would fly away from the impact. You will also be blown away by him. You can only win him in technique."

"Then what's the point of fighting?"

Butcher flew into a rage and stabbed both his knives into the ground. Rolling his eyeballs, he smiled, "Sit down, Mu'er. We shan't use knives and only listen to each other power, put our hands together."

Qin Mu stuck the Pig Slaughtering Knives into the ground and sat down in front of him. Using their hands as knives, they two pressed their palms against each other and closed their eyes. They deduced the movement of the opponent's muscle and vital qi circulation through sensing the change in strength in the opponent's palm. Once one of them grasped the distribution of the opponent's strength, one would aim for the weakness and finish his adversary off with a single knife.

This was the key to Raising The Knife From Forbidden.

Raising the knife from forbidden, the vehicles and horses like thunder. Entering the palace alone, out with the emperor's head in his hand!

The meaning of this poem was as I raised the knife and walked out from the emperor's forbidden palace, the horses and vehicles sounded like the rumbles of thunder outside as numerous men and horses blocked my way. It was because I had slaughtered my way into the palace alone and carried the head of the emperor in my hands.

The loftiness in this move was something other moves could never attain. The wildness, the disdain, and disregard for everything.

However, this move was the move which was most particular on its technique among Butcher's knife skills. It required extreme control of one's own strength and extreme grasp of the opponent's strength as well. This was the pinnacle creation among the battle technique divine arts!

As the two palms touched, Qin Mu could instantly sense the muscle movement, vital qi circulation and power distribution of his and the opponent's. He instantly perceived that Butcher's vital qi was inferior to his and in that split second when he used his hand as knives to attack, Butcher had already sensed the

change in his strength and had blocked in advance while using his other hand to cleave towards Qin Mu's weakness.

Butcher still had a better technique after all. No matter if it was reaction or experience, he far surpassed Qin Mu. However, as Butcher blocked Qin Mu's knife, he then noticed something wrong and flew backward. He was blown out from the village and crashed into the forest by the strength of Qin Mu's hand knife.

Looking down, Qin Mu saw that the shirt that he had just changed into was split open by Butcher's knife. He thought what a close call it was.

His cultivation was too strong therefore despite his knife skill was not as good as Butcher's, he could overwhelm him with his cultivation.

"I've lost!"

Butcher leaped from the forest and landed in the village. With both his hands propping on the ground, he fired off without hesitation, "I've lost. Apothecary and Deaf, there's no need for you two to compete. Your cultivation is definitely inferior to his!"

Deaf sneered, "Who says I'm going to compete with our magic power and cultivation to see who is better at fighting? Mu'er, I've drawn two dragons."

Swoosh—

With a shake of his hands, he unrolled the paintings and hanged them on the poles. Two vivid and lifelike ink dragons stood out on the paper and seemed like they were ready to soar off into the sky anytime. However what's weird was that both dragons had no eyes.

"I've taught you the path of painting and calligraphy over these years and the path of painting and calligraphy isn't like those stupid methods of brawling. It's the thing for the intelligent people and requires comprehension."

Deaf placed the brush and said solemnly, "I've drawn these two dragons using divine art and as long as their eyes are painted, they would be able to transform into dragons and fly away. However, with the cultivation of Spirit Embryo Realm, it's impossible to dot the eyes and bring the dragon to life. However, if the cultivation isn't enough, it will have to depend on your painting technique. I have taught you how to bestow divine soul with a dot by using mutual sensitivity. Today I'll be competing your mutual sensitivity with mine and see which one of us could dot these two dragons to life and let the dragon soar into the sky!"

#### **Chapter 94: Painting Dragons And Dotting Eyes**

The moment he said that, everyone in the village exclaimed in admiration. Village Chief nodded his head and smiled, "Deaf sure is remarkable, what an elegant way to compete. Bestowing divine soul with a dot by mutual sensitivity, to seize the nature of the world and nothing more than that."

Qin Mu went forward and paid his respect to Deaf as a disciple.

Deaf's expression changed slightly and immediately avoided, "You and I are having a competition, therefore, there's no master or disciple. You and I are both students now, therefore we shall greet each other as equal. Only after the competition can I be your teacher."

Qin Mu knew he always handled stuff peculiarly, therefore, he immediately paid his respect to Deaf as equal and Deaf also paid his respect back.

Each of them picked up a brush and stood in front of the painting, looking at it.

Using magic power as divine art and dotting the dragon on the painting to life was already a remarkable achievement. However, with the lack of cultivation in magic power, it would involve the nature of the world if one could still bestow a mind to the dragon in the painting by dotting the eyes with artistic conception.

Qin Mu had learned painting, calligraphy, reading and writing from Deaf. Even though it could be said that Deaf had taught him a lot and Qin Mu had quite a strong foundation in painting techniques after painting quite a number of paintings, it was still the first time for him to try to bestow life to a painting.

One dot of mutual sensitivity to bestow soul to the human or object in the painting was something Deaf had taught him before but Qin Mu had never succeeded.

This match was much more difficult than the previous few matches.

Qin Mu focused his attention on the dragon in the painting which was in front of him. This dragon was too lifelike therefore as his gaze landed on it, he actually felt like that the dragon in the painting was slowly moving and changing its pose continuously.

Deaf's painting technique sure was extraordinary. Even the eyes hadn't been drawn, he already had the feeling that the dragon in the painting was about to soar into the sky!

Qin Mu held the brush yet he didn't start painting. The dragon in the painting was right in front of him, so how should he dot the eyes?

He felt that no matter how he dotted it, it would be hard for him to bring this dragon to life. No matter where he dotted, it would be wrong.

"Mu'er, rip Deaf's painting and you'll win!" Granny Si couldn't help but mumble to Qin Mu under her breath.

Deaf rolled his eyes at her, "Evil and unorthodox method. I teach Mu'er how to read the holy books, therefore, he is wise and a holy man at heart. He won't make such an evil move like you."

Granny Si flew into a rage.

Village Chief smiled, "Granny, don't interfere with their showdown. Deaf's test for this match is very ingenious."

Granny Si could only restrain her anger.

In Qin Mu's eyes, only the dragon in the painting remained. The village no longer existed in his eyes and only the painting was floating in front of him. A few moments later, the painting also disappeared and all that was left was the dragon painted with ink.

In his eyes, this dragon sometimes swam up and sometimes swam down, while other times it would also swim left and right. It was sometimes soaring in the air, sometimes coiling up and sometimes prone on the floor. It would raise its head, sway its tail, slither like a dragon, play with water, spit fire and lightning which made it all kinds of strange for being so clever.

Qin Mu felt like he had become the dragon in the painting, however, from this angle, everything in his eyes was black because he was still missing his eyes.

He tried his best to break out of this darkness but he didn't know how to open his eyes.

He remembered the dragon pillars in Border Dragon City and the dragon bones as well as the dragon soul in Surging River Dragon Palace. He remembered the statues in the village and the touch of the divine being.

The god statue that the divine being had sculpted was also a form of art. Those incredible skills and the profound grace carved within had seemed to bestow souls into the sculptures and let them protect Great Ruins like gods.

After some time, Qin Mu felt that a line of light gradually appeared in the darkness. It was as if the dragon had slowly opened its eyes. When all the darkness in front of his eyes had dispersed, a trace of vigor burst forth from Qin Mu's eyes. He raised his brush and dotted the dragon's eyes!

Bestowing the divine soul with a dot using mutual sensitivity!

With his brush down, the dragon in the painting instantly came alive on the paper. Shaking its head and swaying its tail, it suddenly flew into the sky from the paper and frolicked among the clouds. Only white paper was left on the painting and there was not even half a drop of ink!

Qin Mu stared blankly. He actually succeeded!

He actually succeeded in dotting a dragon painting to life!

That dragon flew around in the sky for a moment and soon turned back into ink, dyeing the clouds black.

Qin Mu urgently looked towards Deaf only to see that he had already washed his brush and hung it back on the rack. He didn't dot the eyes for the dragon in the painting in front of him.

Qin Mu instantly realized, "Grandpa Deaf, you let me win?"



Deaf shook his head, "I didn't let you win. When I was your age, I didn't have such high attainment like you did. My test is not about winning or losing. A teacher is to impart his knowledge to his disciple and solve his doubts. I'm currently imparting my path to you so why should I care about winning or losing?"

Apothecary exclaimed in admiration, "Deaf, you have the heart of a teacher which I really admire. Mu'er, my test isn't about competing with you as well and instead, I want you to refine medicine. Go to the herb garden outside the village and gather thirty highly poisonous plants to refine them into a medicine of great supplement. After the medicine is done, you'll have to consume it. If it supplements you, you'll pass the test. If you are poisoned and die, you'll have to continue to stay in the village."

Qin Mu didn't know whether to laugh or cry. How could he remain in the village if he died from poisoning?

Apothecary's objective was very obvious. To use thirty highly poisonous plants to create a medicine of great supplement would require one to be extremely proficient in medical knowledge. The amount of each herb, to use the leaf or the root, to use the pollen or the petal, to boil it or to cure it, all these needed careful studies.

Furthermore, Apothecary didn't tell him the prescription and let him decide how much herbs he should use and how he should concoct the medicine so that the toxic would counter each other in a full cycle to become a great supplement with his own medicinal knowledge.

In the concocting process, the heat was also very crucial. Qin Mu had to use his own judgement from his experience in concocting medicine to decide when a herb should be placed in, whether should it be in powder form or in pieces, the heat control, and the time taken to boil a herb.

The slightest mistake would make a world of difference. If there was any mistake in any part, all of Qin Mu's hard work would be for naught and he would concoct out a highly toxic substance to poison himself.

Qin Mu stood at the side of Apothecary's herb garden and took a look at the herbs inside. Muttering to himself for a while, he calculated the toxicity of all the herbs in the garden and wondered how to match them together, how to assign a ruler and his ministers, how to vanquish dragons and tiger, how to balance out the yin and yang.

After some time, he then came into the herb garden to carefully gather the herbs.

When he gathered the twenty-ninth herb, Qin Mu stopped gathering and carefully caught a five patches fly from the leaf of a poisonous herb. Pinching off its head and removing the wings, he took it as the thirtieth toxic medicine.

Qin Mu returned to the village and used vital qi to cure the rhizome of some herbs to refine out the excess medicinal energy. Some of the herbs were steamed with water and some were roasted to extract the water out.

After being busy for a long time, he now then started to concoct the medicine.

Apothecary stood not far away and observed his every step and every method as well as how he used his vital qi while nodding his head silently.

As Qin Mu concocted his medicine, he used his vital qi to prop the huge cauldron in the air. Throwing the thirty herbs into the cauldron, he didn't add any water and instead used his incomparably dense vital qi to nourish the herbs, using his vital qi which had no attributes to extract the medicinal energy from the medicines.

Apothecary had a slight change in expression. This was Qin Mu's unique technique and even he won't be able to learn it. His vital qi had an attribute and the herbs also have their own attributes. Vital qi would spoil the medicinal property of the medicines. Only Qin Mu who had no attributes in his own vital qi could use this method, this technique, to extract the medicinal energy.

Qin Mu became even more careful as he split his vital qi into thirty strands and each of them permeated one type of medicine. At the same time, Vermilion Bird Vital Qi burst forth from the hand which was propping up the huge cauldron and turned into blazing flames, causing the medicinal energy in the cauldron to start to fuse together.

Black Tortoise Vital Qi surged out from his other hand as he used water vapor to moist the medicinal energy, slowing down the fusing process and also washing out the dregs in the cauldron.

After some time, Qin Mu suddenly stirred this huge cauldron and clattering sounds came from the cauldron. When the huge cauldron had stopped spinning, there were white medicinal pellets that were spinning continuously inside the cauldron. The pellets were crystal clear and were like beads made from sheep-fat white jade.

Qin Mu stretched his hand out and picked out a spirit pellet. Granny Si asked anxiously, "Apothecary, is there any poison?"

Apothecary smiled, "When Mu'er consumes it, you'll know if there's poison."

Qin Mu opened his mouth and consumed the spirit pellet, "Don't worry granny, there's no toxicity in this spirit pellet..."

Bang—

His hair suddenly exploded out and grew in all directions, scaring Granny Si and the rest. Qin Mu immediately said, "Don't be alarmed, it just that I didn't balance one of the herbs properly and it affected my kidney water. With my kidney waters being stimulated, it just made my hair grow a little thicker."

Granny Si retorted angrily, "This is a little thicker?"

Qin Mu's hair was still growing longer and longer frantically. His hair was like bamboo shoots growing vertically upwards. In just a short while, the hair had already grown ten yards long. Every strand of hair stood upright and very hard.

Qin Mu felt his head getting heavier and replied, "Granny, the biggest advantage of this spirit pellet lies in healing injuries. This spirit pellet could let decomposed muscle rapidly regenerate and heal ripped muscles. Broken bones could also grow and broken tendons can reconnect together. Stimulating the kidney waters is merely an insignificant side effect..."

His hair was still growing and pressed down heavier and heavier on his head. He almost couldn't support the long hair that was like an explosion on the head.

Apothecary held back his laughter and said, "You've passed this test. Butcher, help him tidy up his hair. If it continues to grow longer, his neck is going to snap from the pressure."

Butcher went forward and shaved off his hair in two to three moves.

Everyone looked at Mute as he used a towel to wipe his hand and dragged his furnace out from the collapsed smithy. Taking out two Winter Irons, he threw them into the furnace and the fire inside instantly extinguished as frost formed on the walls inside the furnace.

Mute walked away and smiled, "Ah, ah ah!"

## **Chapter 95: Sword**

Qin Mu's hair finally stopped growing and reached his waist. He took out a band to tie up his hair and went come up to the furnace with a grave expression.

Granny Si frowned, "Mute, you could already smelt Winter Iron Essence at Spirit Embryo Realm?"

Mute nodded his head.

Granny Si spat angrily, "You freak!"

Apothecary, Blind and the rest all nodded their heads in deep agreement and said in unison, "Freak! Mute, you're really a freak!"

Mute was immensely proud of himself and was grinning from ear to ear.

Winter Iron Essence was way better than Winter Crystal Iron as it was the essence which was extracted out from Winter Crystal Iron. Winter Crystal Iron could be smelted by the furnace fire and be forged into a weapon but the cold air from Winter Iron Essence could instantly extinguish the furnace fire and was extremely hard to smelt.

Throwing two Winter Iron Essences to Qin Mu, Mute clearly wanted him to smelt these two Winter Iron Essences and weld the two pieces into one before forging it into a weapon!

If Qin Mu could complete this, he would pass his test.

Qin Mu's vital qi circulated and turned into Vermilion Bird Vital Qi. With flames igniting on his palm, he put his hand into the furnace and his other hand started to work on the bellows as he attempted to raise the flames in the furnace to ignite the carbon.

However, when he palm entered the furnace, he immediately felt the oppressing cold air and the flames on his hand almost extinguished. Even the Vermilion Bird Vital Qi looked like it was going to freeze!

Mute was pleased with himself and signaled to Deaf who asked, “You mean that igniting the furnace is one of the tests and requires skill? This involves the marvel of smithing and can’t be ignited by brute force?”

Mute was full of smiles when he suddenly heard a poof as the flames within the furnace burst forth. The carbons were forcibly ignited by Qin Mu’s incomparably violent Vermillion Bird Vital Qi and overwhelmed the cold air from the Winter Iron Essences.

Deaf looked at Mute in sympathy, “Not being able to light the fire with brute force just clearly means that your cultivation at Spirit Embryo Realm is still lacking. What Mu’er has is enough brute force, therefore, he is able to light the fire without any skills.”

Mute signaled angrily and Deaf smiled, “You sly fox. The furnace fire from the carbon isn’t strong enough to smelt the Winter Iron Essences, so it turns out you still have another trick up your sleeve.”

Qin Mu lighted up the furnace fire and immediately roused his vital qi to push the furnace fire to its maximum. However, the Winter Iron Essences just wouldn’t smelt or even turn red from the heat.

Qin Mu frowned. Suddenly his two hands went into the furnace and grabbed the two Winter Iron Essences and used Overlord Body Three Elixir Technique. His spirit embryo also started to become berserk and the vital qi outside the spirit embryo was like a huge fire furnace as it pushed the Vermilion Bird Vital Qi to its limits!

The Winter Iron Essences in his hands gradually turned red hot and not long after, molten iron actually started dripping down.

Qin Mu let the molten iron dripped into the sluice and the two pieces of Winter Iron Essences melted faster and faster. Not long later, the Winter Iron Essences had all melted and the molten iron had dissolved together.

Deaf looked at Mute who was dumbfounded, “What are you trying to test him again?”

Mute was disappointed. His original intention was to test Qin Mu’s smithing ability.

To smelt Winter Iron Essence, one must first ignite the stove, however, the heat from the stove isn’t able to smelt Winter Iron Essence. But as long as one’s cultivation is dense enough, he can still use Vermilion Bird Vital Qi to soften the Winter Iron Essence.

In his envisage, Qin Mu would soften these two Winter Iron Essence and hit them repeatedly with the hammer to weld them together before forging it into a weapon. However, he didn’t expect Qin Mu’s vital qi to be vigorous beyond belief and he directly melted the two Winter Iron Essences with his vital qi!

His aim was to test his skills but Qin Mu managed to do it as well by using his brute force to overwhelm the skills needed. Furthermore, it was even simpler, making Mute having nothing to say.

The clanging sound of the metal striking sounded out as Qin Mu swung his big iron hammer, shooting off sparks in all directions. Every strike contained vigorous vital qi while he used Vermilion Bird Vital Qi to soften and Black Tortoise Vital Qi to cool it down as he tempered it by hitting.

He hammered it countless times and gradually a Pig Slaughtering Knife was formed.

Mute inspected it and nodded his head weakly. Qin Mu had passed this test.

Forging it into a knife, Qin Mu tested its sharpness and was very satisfied. He finally had a weapon forged by himself.

Blind smiled, "Mu'er, don't test out your knife first, you've yet to pass my test. This time we'll compete in reciting poems."

Qin Mu's face turned white as he mumbled, "Grandpa Blind, I'll definitely not win you..."

Deaf plucked out both of his ears with a pop which meant that he was not going to listen. Granny Si and the rest also had faces of disdain as they said, "Blind, change it to something else!"

Blind scratched his head but he couldn't reject everyone, "Then let us compete in spear skills. To gather qi as spear!"

Throwing away his bamboo cane, his five fingers opened up and his Black Tortoise Vital Qi instantly transformed into flowing water as a water dragon spear appeared on his hand.

Qin Mu's vital qi burst forth and a fire dragon spear appeared. Both of them moved and the huge spears in their hands continuously vibrated just like poisonous dragons waiting for their chances to pounce out from the abyss.

The two of them circled each other continuously but the water dragon spear and the fire dragon had never touched each other.

Qin Mu awakened his Heaven's Eyes and his gaze landed on Blind to look for a mistake but he could never find it. Blind may be blind but he didn't show any mistake.

"No mistake then I shall create one!"

Circling each other for quite some time, Qin Mu suddenly gave a stomp and the ground sank as a huge hole was stomped out by him. The vibrations on the ground made Blind's footing unstable.

Whoosh—

The fire dragon spear in his hands stabbed out but Blind gave a smile instead. His water dragon spear was unleashed later but arrived first as he stabbed towards Qin Mu. Even though Qin Mu had stabbed first, Blind's spear was quicker than Qin Mu as it stabbed toward his chest!

Qin Mu gave a smile as water splashed around on his chest when a whirlpool appeared and blocked Blind's spear. The water dragon spear on Blind's hands immediately burst apart and he flew backward from the blast. The long spear in Qin Mu's hands burst forth dramatically and turned into a fire dragon as it stabbed on Blind's chest.

Landing on the ground with a flip, Blind staggered and immediately awakened the divine treasures he had sealed to regain his footing. He shouted angrily, "You're cheating, using two types of vital qi at the same time! You have already lost in terms of skill. You only rely on your Overlord Body Vital Qi to bully me!"

Qin Mu mumbled, "Grandpa Blind, do you want to redo it?"

Blind's anger turned into joy as he said, "Isn't Overlord Body meant for bullying others? This is your strength, therefore, you have passed my test. Granny, it's your turn."

Granny Si looked at Qin Mu who had just won with a complicated gaze, "Mu'er, to me, you had already passed my test. When you had fought through the three hundred and sixty rooms, you had already passed."

Qin Mu was slightly stunned, "Granny?"

"Which child wouldn't leave their home one day?"

Granny Si spoke in a low voice, "When they grow up, they'll all have to leave. I can't keep you by my side forever. These old geezers have already let you pass their tests and it would be selfish of me to not..." She carried her basket and went back to her room, closing the door.

Qin Mu was stumped for words.

Village Chief gave a cough to make him regain his senses and said, "Mu'er, if you pass my test, you'll be able to leave Disabled Elderly Village, to leave Great Ruins and go to the outside world for an experience."

Qin Mu turned around and replied, "Village Chief, please advise me."

Village Chief smiled, "What us old geezers taught you are all abilities for you to survive in this world. Old Ma taught you strength and dignity. Butcher taught you courage and fearless. Deaf taught you art and elegance. Cripple taught you to run for your life and craftiness. Blind taught you to see through facades and see the truth. Apothecary taught you how to concoct medicine and save lives. Granny taught you wisdom and kindness. Mute taught you flexibility and calmness. And what I can teach you is a ruler, to use your conscience as a ruler to measure good and evil. Raise your sword."

Qin Mu took out Junior Protector Sword and raised it in front of him. The back of the sword had separated the blade of the sword into two sides. One side reflected Qin Mu's face and the other side also reflected Qin Mu's face.

“There are four sides of a sword. The side that is facing you is your heart and one side is good and the other side is evil.”

Village Chief continued serenely, “The side that faces your enemy is your enemy’s conscience. One side is good and the other side is evil. The sword is your ruler which is used to measure good and evil. It is used to measure yours as well as your enemy’s. Sword skill is used to measure your enemy’s good and evil as well as yours. I shall impart the first form of my sword skill. Once you learn it, it will be considered as a pass and you’ll be able to leave the village.”

Qin Mu became excited. Village Chief was finally imparting sword moves to him!

The hearts of Old Ma, Blind and the rest jolted slightly as they looked at Village Chief. Granny Si also pushed open the room door and looked over.

Village Chief finally was going to impart sword skills to Qin Mu. This may be a small matter in the eyes of other people but in their eyes, it was an incredibly big event.

Especially to Apothecary as he knew the meaning hidden in the sword skill Village Chief was going to impart to Qin Mu.

Village Chief’s sword skill wasn’t merely an inheritance and was more of a responsibility!

Learning Village Chief’s sword skills meant that he had to take on the responsibility that even Village Chief couldn’t complete.

Apothecary whispered, “Village Chief, do you think he could take on that burden?”

Village Chief smiled, “I can’t doesn’t mean that he can’t either. Devil Cult Patriarch is old and has seven years left to live. I’m also old and would only die a few years later than him. It’s time to leave behind my legacy.”

Stirring up his spirit, he told Qin Mu, “My sword skill is called Sword Pictures and the first form of Sword Pictures is called Sword Treading Mountains And Rivers.”