

Tales of Herding Gods Chapter 931-935

Chapter 931: To Ask About Dao From Toads and Ask for Dao From the People

Dan Fenglai felt his limbs turn cold as he felt an animal-like scream emerging from his throat. Ancestral God King was Celestial Venerable Zu of the ten Celestial Venerables, and these people were all disciples under him. He had countless disciples all across the world, but Ancestral God King didn't have the energy to teach every disciple.

Thus, the one who taught all of these junior brothers and sisters was actually Dan Fenglai!

They bore gratitude towards Dan Fenglai, who was their teacher, and they were also extremely respectful towards him. The sort of relationship they shared would be unimaginable to outsiders.

Now that so many junior brothers and sisters of the Ancestral King Palace were murdered here, he felt a pain in his heart that was akin to having it cut by a knife. Yet, he still steeled his heart and suppressed his scream, swallowing it back into his stomach!

Ancestral God King's gaze landed on him, and he spoke in a composed manner, saying, "Celestial Venerable Mu commits all sorts of evil. He took advantage of my absence in the palace and murdered over two hundred of my disciples. My disciple Fenglai witnessed this personally. Was this what happened, Fenglai?"

Dan Fenglai bowed and replied numbly, "This is exactly what happened. I witnessed this personally."

Ancestral God King nodded his head with satisfaction. He walked down from the Abyss Stage and pat him on the shoulder. "Things like the reform are extremely treasonous. You have also overheard some things about the Celestial River Divine Treasure, but your level of cultivation is already very high. I trust that you can recognize what is beneficial and what is detrimental and that you won't act recklessly."

Dan Fenglai agreed and replied without emotion, "Disciple understands. The reforms go against the ways of the ancestors, and it's extremely treasonous. I deeply despise and abhor such shameless acts and want nothing more than to eliminate everything associated with it."

Ancestral God King brushed past him and said leisurely, "Celestial Venerable Mu, that brat, after causing trouble for God Emperor Lang Xuan, he came to cause trouble for me. Which Celestial Venerable does he intend to cause trouble for next? When this rascal came to the celestial heavens, many thought that he would die without a doubt. But who would have thought that he was actually becoming more and more lively... Fenglai, go and settle these junior brothers and sisters. As for their families, reward them handsomely."

"As you command."

Dan Fenglai raised his head and watched him leave. He thought to himself, 'My junior brothers and sisters died because of Celestial Venerable Mu. If he hadn't imparted his techniques and spoke about Dao, Master wouldn't have killed them! Celestial Venerable Mu, I have a deep grudge and great hatred towards you, and we cannot live under the same heaven!'

He dared not bear grudges against Ancestral God King, so his hatred could only be shifted onto Qin Mu.

“Celestial Venerable Mu, Celestial Venerable Hong is cultivating in seclusion. The Hong Celestial Palace is closed, and we won’t receive any outsiders.”

Yun Chuxiu had brought Qin Mu and the others to the Hong Celestial Palace. The god guarding the palace entrance said apologetically, “Regarding Celestial Venerable coming down to pay a visit... when Celestial Venerable Hong comes out of seclusion, I will inform him about it, and he will definitely repay your visit. Celestial Venerable Mu, please return.”

Qin Mu and the others could only leave.

When Yun Chuxiu brought them to Celestial Venerable Xiao’s manor, they received a similar reply.

When they came to Celestial Venerable Huo’s celestial palace, the god guarding the entrance said, “There is abnormal activity in the Great Void, and Celestial Venerable Huo has led all of his disciples to travel about and search for the reason behind it. It’s not known when they will return.”

At Celestial Venerable Xu’s place, a god said, “Celestial Venerable Xu and Celestial Venerable Huo have both brought their disciples to travel about the Great Void. She isn’t in the palace. Celestial Venerable Mu, please return.”

Yun Chuxiu sighed and questioned in bewilderment, “Could it be that all of the Celestial Venerables have run off?”

Yun Jianli’s gaze flickered, and he smiled and said, “Why don’t we go to Celestial Venerable Yan’s and Celestial Venerable Qiang’s to take a look?”

Yun Chuxiu glanced at him and smiled sweetly. “Brother, did you forget that these two Celestial Venerables are heavenly ladies, and they live in the chambers of concubines. How would we be able to meet them? Why don’t we pay Celestial Venerable Hao a visit? Celestial Venerable Hao couldn’t have also gone out, right?”

Yun Jianli smiled but stayed silent as he thought to himself, ‘Which Celestial Venerable is she exactly? Amongst the Celestial Venerables of the celestial heavens, other than Celestial Venerable Qiang and Celestial Venerable Yan, Celestial Venerable Gong and Celestial Venerable Xu are also female. However, these two Celestial Venerables are avoiding a meeting as well. I wonder which is Yun Chuxiu’s true form. Could it be possible that one of the sisters has become a man?’

Qin Mu said, “Let’s not visit Celestial Venerable Hao. There’s some conflict between us, and we aren’t on good terms. Even if we go, he will just chase me out the door. I heard that Dao Ancestor has returned to the celestial heavens, let’s go to the celestial heavens’ Dao Sect instead and pay this old Daoist a visit.”

Yun Chuxiu seemed to want the whole world to be thrown into chaos, but when Qin Mu said that they should visit Dao Ancestor, she seemed to be a little less excitable.

Qin Mu's main goal was to pay Dao Ancestor a visit. It was just that he hadn't imagined that so much would happen in between—they turning the Lang Xuan Divine Palace and Ancestral King Palace upside down and having the other Celestial Venerables avoid meeting him.

However, him going to the celestial heavens' Dao Sect to visit Dao Ancestor wouldn't seem as abrupt a gesture now.

The celestial heavens' Dao Sect.

The Dao Sect seemed to not have expected that Qin Mu would actually pay them a visit, such that the old Daoist and divine beast guarding the mountain gate had watched them approach in a daze. It was only when the group reached the gate that they regained their senses and hurriedly dashed off to the Dao Sect to report their arrival.

After a short period, an old Daoist led a group of Dao Sect disciples to welcome them. He said in an apologetic tone, "Celestial Venerable has traveled here from afar, yet we didn't receive you properly, please pardon us."

Qin Mu looked at the old Daoist from top to bottom. This wasn't the Dao Ancestor that he had met in the Dragon Han Era. However, from his voice alone, it seemed that he was that old Daoist who had entered the Guardian Pavilion with Celestial Venerable Huo.

"Celestial Venerable, this is the Dao Master of the Dao Sect," Yun Jianli reminded him.

"Is Dao Ancestor around?" Qin Mu asked.

The celestial heavens' Dao Master hurriedly replied, "Dao Ancestor returned to the Dao Sect a few days ago and is currently in seclusion. Why doesn't Celestial Venerable come back another day?"

Qin Mu smiled. "No worries, I can wait for him to come out of seclusion."

The celestial heavens' Dao Master couldn't do anything else but invite him into the mountains.

The Dao Sect of the celestial heavens took up an extremely vast piece of land, and it was countless times more extravagant than Eternal Peace's Dao Sect. The Dao Sect resided in a celestial palace—the Jade Pure Celestial Palace.

The Dao Sect that Dao Master Lin Xuan was in charge of—even though the Kunlun Border was considered the Dao Sect's territory—merely took over one of the mountains and a few scattered Daoist monasteries that didn't have much incense.

In comparison, the celestial heavens' Dao Sect was extremely extravagant and luxurious. The palaces were grand and magnificent, and there were tens of thousands of buildings and pavilions. Here, the Daoists were also not dressed in plain Daoist robes. They wore opulent clothing from head to toe and didn't have the restrained appearance of Daoists. They even had maids and retainers who helped to take care of all their living needs.

In actuality, those that entered the celestial heavens' Dao Sect weren't actually Daoists. Daoists were people who cultivated the Dao and had very few desires. The disciples of the celestial heavens' Dao Sect were actually only there to learn the techniques and algebra of the Dao Sect, and they considered it a place for them to study the paths, skills, and divine arts.

They were, however, not at all interested in the Dao Sect's core teachings.

They weren't real Daoists, they were the descendants of the powerful and nobility of the celestial heavens, who had sent them there to get good reputations.

On the contrary, Eternal Peace's Dao Sect still retained the actual core teachings of Dao Ancestor when he first formed the Dao Sect, and they did all they could to follow it closely. Whether it was the previous Old Dao Master or the present Dao Master Lin Xuan, they did a good job passing on the teachings.

Of course, in the celestial heavens' Dao Sect, there were still some Daoists dressed in Daoist robes who were sage-like. However, there weren't many of them.

Qin Mu had many sentiments since he first started his journey.

There were real and fake monks, and similarly, there were real Daoists and fake Daoists. If they merely wore a false appearance and didn't have actual internal self-cultivation, they would just be fooling others with their appearances.

'The true teachings of the Dao Sect aren't within the celestial heavens.'

Qin Mu looked at some youths who were dressed flamboyantly and thought to himself, 'No wonder Dao Ancestor doesn't come back to the Dao Sect frequently.'

At this very moment, a Daoist ran over hurriedly and said something to the celestial heavens' Dao Master in a low voice.

The Dao Master of the celestial heavens nodded his head gently and smiled. "Celestial Venerable, everyone, Dao Ancestor has come out of seclusion. Upon hearing that Celestial Venerable is here, he has ordered me to invite everyone over. Please follow me."

Qin Mu was overjoyed, and he followed after him with the rest.

Yun Chuxiu smiled. "Celestial Venerable Mu went to visit the various Celestial Venerables, but none of them dared to meet him. Dao Ancestor is quite brave, seeing that he actually dares to meet Celestial Venerable Mu."

The Dao Master of the celestial heavens quickly smiled in an apologetic manner. "Dao Ancestor is just the Dao Ancestor of our Dao Sect, how would he dare to be compared to the other Celestial Venerables? Celestial Venerable has come to pay a visit, Dao Ancestor wouldn't dare to refuse the meeting."

They came to the main hall of the Dao Sect. This main hall was positioned where the Numinous Sky Hall should be in the Jade Pure Celestial Palace, but it wasn't built according to the architecture of the Numinous Sky Hall.

In contrast, this main hall was unexpectedly shabby looking. It was a Daoist temple that was built out of a straw hut and had a radius of six to seven yards around it. It was also not guarded by divine beasts. Qin Mu saw that there were two toads at each corner, on the left and right sides of the stone steps by the door.

The two toads seemed to have some intelligence. Upon hearing the sound of footsteps, their eyes bulged out of their heads, and they slowly opened their eyelids to glance at them as they croaked.

Following this, the two toads retracted their eyes back into their heads, covering them up tightly and flatly.

Yan'er leaped off of Qin Mu's shoulder and used her beak to knock on the head of one of the toads.

The toad slowly bulged out its eyes again and asked in a leisurely manner, "What is it?"

"It can speak!"

Yan'er got a shock, and she jumped two steps back before asking vigilantly, "Are you monsters?"

The toad rolled its eyes and replied with displeasure, "Can't you speak too?"

"I'm not the same. I'm a half-god, while you're a toad!"

Yan'er hopped forwards and laughed. "If you are of a mortal species, then you shouldn't be able to speak. Unless, of course, you have cultivated to become a demon."

The toad replied, "I am Dao and not a toad, so naturally, I can speak."

Yan'er was incredibly shocked. The dragon qilin pushed his huge head forwards and asked curiously, "You are Dao? Who told you that?"

"The old Daoist told me."

The toad wore a serious expression and continued, "He said that Dao was toads and that he wanted to seek Dao and required our help. Thus, he brought us over here to guard his door. You won't understand, retreat."

Yan'er and the dragon qilin squinted at each other.

Qin Mu followed the celestial heavens' Dao Master into the small rundown-looking temple. The Dao Master turned around and smiled apologetically to Yun Jianli, Qi Jiuyi, and the others. "Dao Ancestor will only see the Celestial Venerable, please hold your steps."

Yun Jianli and Qi Jiuyi quickly replied, "It's fine. Dao Master, please go ahead."

They were all aware that although this Dao Master of the celestial heavens' Dao Sect looked like a subservient and mindless old Daoist, he actually had immeasurable abilities and was an existence that was only inferior to Dao Ancestor within the Dao Sect.

However, Yun Chuxiu was a little unhappy, as she wanted to enter and listen to Dao Ancestor and Qin Mu's conversation. Yet, the celestial heavens' Dao Master guarded the door with a smile on his face. It was evident that he didn't intend to let anyone else other than Qin Mu inside.

'This sloppy Daoist is acting all mysterious and sneaky, what exactly is he up to?' Yun Chuxiu snorted coldly.

Qin Mu walked into the straw hut and saw a sloppy-looking old Daoist sitting by a green lamp. Upon seeing him, the old Daoist stood up and smiled. "Celestial Venerable Mu, it's been a long time since we last met."

Qin Mu smiled. "It's been a long time."

The old Daoist took off his wooden hairpin to pick at the lamp wick as he smiled. "There are ears everywhere, Celestial Venerable, let's have our conversation in the lamp."

A flower made of light with blinding radiance burst out of the green lamp. When the light reverted to its original state, the old Daoist and Qin Mu had already vanished without a trace!

When Qin Mu's vision was restored, he realized that they had already arrived within a heavens that was within the wick. The entrance to the heavens was a flame in the shape of a candle flame. This flame was thousands of yards tall, and it was incredibly astonishing.

Dao Ancestor was right beside him, and he said leisurely, "The outburst of the Eternal Peace Calamity, the interception of the reforms of Eternal Peace, and Celestial Venerable Mu coming to the celestial heavens. When I heard about all of this, I hurried back here, intending to help out so as to repay the enlightenment you once gave me. I didn't expect that Celestial Venerable would have such great abilities and would actually be able to resolve the danger around you so easily. It's just that the actions of Celestial Venerable have caused disruptions to the peace of the heavens. Celestial Venerable, you have caused chaos within the celestial heavens. Are you aware of how many people and how many gods and devils in the celestial heavens will die because of your actions?"

Qin Mu laughed coldly. "Dao Ancestor is benevolent. Do you know how many people died during the calamity of Eternal Peace? Less than one in ten survived! Billions of human lives became ash and smoke just like that! Has Dao Ancestor ever felt any sympathy for them?"

Dao Ancestor sighed. "I was also helpless to do anything during the outburst of the calamity of Eternal Peace."

Qin Mu replied, "The Dao Sect advocates inaction, however, with the affairs of the world today, inaction will result in deaths! You were unable to save the lives of this world, yet you still wish to criticize me for

creating chaos in the celestial heavens and causing the deaths of some disciples of a few Celestial Venerables?”

“I wouldn’t dare.”

Dao Ancestor said, “It’s just that flowers, grass, trees, and wood are all lives...”

“Foolish! Hypocrite!”

Qin Mu shook his head. “Dao Ancestor, you helped the celestial heavens research the ancient gods’ Great Dao divine arts. Do you know how many are dead because of you? You are also guilty in regard to the innumerable deaths during the Eternal Peace Calamity. Are these human lives inferior to the flowers, grass, trees, and wood that you speak of? I have merely caused trouble for the Lang Xuan Divine Palace and the Ancestral King Palace, and you’re already holding me accountable. Who will hold you accountable? You say that the Dao is a toad, but toads don’t understand Dao, people do! Not only do people understand Dao, but they can also create Dao.”

“Dao Ancestor, you are blinded in your pursuit of Dao! You wish to achieve Dao, but it cannot be done through studying and asking about Dao. Instead, you have to create a Dao that belongs to you! One who can create Dao, only then is it the real Dao!”

He yelled out, “To ask for Dao from Dao, you might as well ask for Dao from the people!”

Dao Ancestor felt a tremble in his head, and he replied solemnly, “Back then, I was enlightened by Celestial Venerable, and today, I have once again been enlightened by Celestial Venerable. I have benefited from your advice.”

Chapter 932: Staring Into the Abyss

Dao was toads.

This single sentence encapsulated Dao Ancestor’s desire to seek Dao.

Dao Ancestor never cared about anything else when seeking Dao. He couldn’t even settle his own basic needs and relied on Brahma Buddha’s help. When Qin Mu returned to the first year of the Dragon Han Era and saw the two of them, it was Brahma Buddha who came to beg and acquired spirit pills to keep both of them alive.

Then, Dao Ancestor was fully focused on Dao, and he didn’t care about anything else.

Dao was toads. He thought of the ancient gods as Dao and, thus, toads. He used algebra to analyze them. During this million years’ worth of time, he refined classic algebra to its greatest potential. He used it to analyze the Great Dao of the ancient gods and morphed it into runes before helping the ten Celestial Venerables construct the Celestial Heavens Realm.

He no longer needed Brahma Buddha to beg for him.

Qin Mu's point about him asking for Dao from Dao implied that he was asking for Dao from the ancient gods. Ancient gods were the embodiment of Dao, and by asking for Dao from them, the Dao would still be there regardless of his begging. He hadn't created at all.

Qin Mu also talked about asking for Dao from people, which referred to people with the powers of creation. There was no sword path before people existed. People created the sword path. The same could be said about the path of painting and calligraphy, spirit embryo, and cultivation techniques.

Cultivation techniques, regardless of divine treasure or celestial palace, were created by people and not found on ancient gods or toads.

Dao Ancestor's intense research of Dao during these past few years made him unable to break free of his learning, which also made him inferior compared to the ten Celestial Venerables.

However, he must have realized his own limits, which was why he told the two toads to guard the door themselves.

There wasn't necessarily a direct correlation between age, intelligence, and wisdom. Intelligence and wisdom depended on nature and nurture equally, and nurture depended on the environment.

Qin Mu was born from Eternal Peace and witnessed its reform. Thus, he became its leader and witnessed the process of change of the Great Dao of Heaven and Earth, from its reform to the changes in its paths and skills.

He dared not say that his experiences superseded those of Dao Ancestor, but in some aspects, his opinion was superior.

"I have heard that Mistress Yunxiao went to the Jade Pool and saw Celestial Venerable Mu. I assume that you're here for Celestial Venerable Yun's case."

Dao Ancestor retrieved a wooden case and said, "I have been guarding this case for thousands of years. Now, I can finally shed this burden."

Qin Mu took the case and asked, "You also don't know what's inside of it?"

Dao Ancestor shook his head and replied, "It's an object meant for you from Celestial Venerable Yun, how could I open it? There were two cases from Celestial Venerable Yun. One for you, and one for Celestial Venerable Qin. I have already passed him his case."

"Celestial Venerable Yun left a case for Founding Emperor? Mistress Yunxiao didn't tell me that."

Qin Mu was curious and asked, "What was in Celestial Venerable Qin's case?"

Dao Ancestor laughed. "I was beside Celestial Venerable Qin when he opened it. It was a topographic map of a place called the Great Void, which I didn't observe in detail."

"The Great Void?"

Qin Mu felt agitated and asked, "I just visited Celestial Venerable Huo and Celestial Venerable Xu, and I heard that there were some peculiarities in the Great Void. They brought their disciples to tour the area. What is the Great Void?"

Dao Ancestor shook his head and replied, "I don't know, only the ten Celestial Venerables do. I have only heard about it and don't know what's there, nor where it is. However, I do know that when Celestial Venerable Qin received the topographic map, a calamity occurred, and he went to Carefree Village. Rumor has it that Carefree Village is in the Great Void. The ten Celestial Venerables care a lot about the Great Void because they want to know what happened to Celestial Venerable Qin."

Qin Mu fell into deep thought. The Great Void, Carefree Village, and the world visualized by the masters of creation. What was the link between these three things?

He witnessed the prehistoric masters of creation coalesce a consciousness unbelievably stronger than any of theirs in the relief sculptures of the Blood Rust Zone. They created another world out of nothing at all in an attempt to distance themselves from this chaotic world and the killings of the ancient gods.

Thus, could the world that was created by these masters of creation be the Great Void?

Would Carefree Village be within the Great Void then?

Both Qin Hanzhen and Princess Consort Zhen talked about the dangers lurking within Carefree Village. What was that supposed to mean?

Qin Mu had numerous questions that he couldn't answer.

Qin Mu opened Celestial Venerable Yun's case and was stunned. Within it was a small sacrificial altar.

It was too small, around three-tenths of an inch in length and only as tall as two fingers stacked together. It was very compact to be put in such a case.

Qin Mu wanted to retrieve the small sacrificial altar from the case, but he realized that his hand grew smaller when it entered the case. As a result, his hand couldn't reach the bottom.

'The interior of this case is very large, and the altar isn't as small as it looks.'

Qin Mu carefully examined the case and its altar before suddenly discovering something unbelievably minuscule on the altar.

He sent forth his magic power and used his vital qi to create a palm, which he sent into the space in the case, retrieving the item on the altar.

Qin Mu recalled his vital qi and found a cubic seal in his hand that was slightly larger than his palm.

'This seal is...'

He couldn't help but ponder. The seal wasn't large and was translucent, and it was made from an unknown forged substance that barely allowed him to see the markings on his palm.

It was a seal, but there were no words on it, unlike ordinary seals. The only thing on top of it was a complex sculpture of a mountain.

He played with it before handing it to Dao Ancestor and asking, "Can you find out what secrets this seal contains?"

Dao Ancestor meticulously examined it, and an eye suddenly appeared in the heart of his eyebrows, giving off limitless starlight. It was the Heaven Eye Divine Art.

After a while, the heaven eye on his forehead closed itself before another eye appeared. It carried with it blazing Youdu devil flames. It was the eye of Earth Count.

He dispersed it and used the various divine eye divine arts of various ancient gods, but he couldn't discover the secrets of the seal.

"I can't see the secrets within the seal."

Dao Ancestor shook his head and returned the seal to him. "Since Celestial Venerable Yun was so serious about handing it to Celestial Venerable, it must contain a deeper meaning."

Qin Mu was agitated as he opened his third eye to carefully examine it. At that moment, Shu Jun's voice appeared, saying, "This was the imperial seal of Grand Emperor Ju Yushi! It's a precious artifact formed by coalescing his consciousness!"

Qin Mu used his third eye to observe it and immediately discovered something unusual with the imperial seal.

It was an object formed by coalescing an unbelievably strong consciousness. In his third eye's point of view, it morphed into an extraordinarily tall emperor that stood in the center of his palm!

His gaze fell on this emperor's body, and he instantly felt that his consciousness was under attack!

It was instantly forced into his body, and the heart of his brows was squeezed to the point of collapse.

Qin Mu immediately closed his third eye, and Shu Jun's voice continued, "How could the treasure of Grand Emperor Ju Yushi end up here? It symbolized his authority. During his time, he carried it around when he went around the universe, and it exterminated all races that didn't submit to his rule! When his seal appeared, corpses appeared in a radius of ten thousand miles! No one dared to disobey him! However, he should have died during the siege of the ancient gods, so why would his seal appear?"

The attack on Qin Mu's consciousness left him with a cracking headache. It was only after a moment that he recovered slightly and asked, "Shu Jun, how can one unleash the Grand Emperor's seal's potential?"

Shu Jun laughed. "Give me all of your essence, blood, and consciousness for the next three years, and I will teach you how to unleash its potential. It's extremely powerful and has killed countless masters of creation, patriarchs, and ancient gods created by billions of races. None of them could counter its

power. Give me your essence, blood, and consciousness for the next three years, and I can allow you to harness its power!”

‘Forget it.’”

Qin Mu ignored him and muttered to himself, “What could Celestial Venerable Yun mean by leaving this seal behind. He gave Founding Emperor a topographic map of the Great Void and gave me the Grand Emperor’s seal. These two items are likely linked...”

Dao Ancestor was shocked. “Celestial Venerable Mu knows the name of this seal?”

He put away the seal and laughed. “I know a few things about it. It was formed by coalescing Grand Emperor Ju Yushi’s consciousness. However, I don’t know how to activate it. Dao Ancestor, you were on good terms with Celestial Venerable Yun, right?”

Dao Ancestor continued, “After I managed to accomplish things and stand out amongst the human race, Celestial Venerable Yun found me and asked me about my algebraic attainment. We talked for quite a long time. For me, one could use my Dao of Algebra to break the Great Dao of the ancient gods and overthrow their rule.”

He talked about the events regarding Celestial Venerable Yun finding him.

At that time, Celestial Venerable Yun was already Celestial Emperor of the Heaven Han Celestial Heavens and belonged to the Dragon Han Celestial Heavens in name only, ruling all lifeforms after the beginning on behalf of ancient Celestial Emperor.

The Dragon Heaven Celestial Heavens was ruled by Celestial Venerable Hao, who ruled over all half-gods.

The two celestial heavens often fought one another, the battle between half-gods and lifeforms never ceasing. The battle between the races lasted hundreds of thousands of years during the Dragon Han Era, and countless people died.

However, in name, both celestial heavens were branches of the Dragon Han Celestial Heavens, as ancient gods still ruled the world. The strife between the half-gods and lifeforms after the beginning merely secured the ancient gods’ rule. The Heaven Han Celestial Heavens and Dragon Heaven Celestial Heavens still paid tribute to the ancient gods.

If they didn’t pay tribute, the ancient gods of the Dragon Han Celestial Heavens would descend and help the other side in the conflict, punishing anyone who disobeyed its authority. So much blood was shed that it formed rivers, and so many people died that their corpses formed mountains.

It was under those conditions that Celestial Venerable Yun found the slightly famous Dao Ancestor and invited him to join the Heaven Alliance.

Then, he attempted to analyze all of the Great Daos with algebra. He was well-versed in all kinds of divine arts, it was just that his power was not great and that he hadn’t learned many divine arts.

During those trying times, there were as many talents as stars in the universe. There were also many strong warriors. Dao Ancestor and Brahma Buddha weren't remarkable then.

When Celestial Venerable Yun told Dao Ancestor that his algebra could break down the ancient gods' Great Dao and completely overthrow their rule, ending the suffering in the world, Dao Ancestor was shocked and didn't believe him.

Then, Dao Ancestor had already split with Brahma Buddha. Both of them lived their own lives and had their own disciples.

Yet, Celestial Venerable Yun made him believe that it could be performed and that ordinary people, too, could understand the spring of the ancient gods' power and even attain it.

Thus, Dao Ancestor carried out Celestial Venerable Yun's plan and broke down the Great Dao of the ancient gods without stopping for hundreds of thousands of years.

And today, he had drawn the foundations of the ancient gods' Great Dao.

"However, I also observed changes in the world's affairs, and today's ancient gods aren't the threat faced by heaven and earth."

Dao Ancestor was in a daze before suddenly saying, "The Heaven Alliance has replaced the ancient gods as the threat faced by the world. I am a mere researcher that doesn't question worldly affairs and was thus unprepared and disturbed by this situation. Thus, when I learned that Celestial Venerable Mu was visiting me at Clear Sky Heaven, I took the risk and sent Celestial Venerable to the Guardian Pavilion with the intention of imparting the ancient gods' Great Dao to Celestial Venerable to make some changes."

Qin Mu thanked him and asked, "Why would Dao Ancestor impart the Guardian Pavilion's ancient gods' Great Dao to the ancient Celestial Emperor?"

Dao Ancestor hesitated before saying, "This was Celestial Venerable Yun's idea too."

Qin Mu was stunned.

"During the last periods of that era, Celestial Venerable Yun seemed to know he wouldn't be able to live long enough. Thus, he told me that the Heaven Alliance had gone haywire and needed an enemy. He observed that amongst those inside the alliance, one of them could be the ancient Celestial Emperor and wanted me to get close to him."

Dao Ancestor said, "He couldn't solve the Heaven Alliance's problems and could only do this to fracture it and prevent it from becoming too big. Unfortunately, it still became what he feared."

Chapter 933: The Real and Fake Celestial Venerable Mu

The aim behind the formation of the Heaven Alliance was to overthrow the rule of the ancient gods, to overthrow "Heaven", which referred to the ancient gods during the Dragon Han Era.

Back then, as the leader of the Heaven Alliance, Celestial Venerable Yun had to unite all forces, regardless of whether they were half-gods or lifeforms after the beginning. As long as they had the same will to overthrow the ancient gods, they could join the Heaven Alliance.

By the time they eliminated the ancient Celestial Emperor, the power of the Heaven Alliance had increased greatly, and finally, one day, Celestial Venerable Yun realized that when they overthrew "Heaven", they also became "Heaven".

However, by that time, he was already helpless to turn the present Heaven Alliance around, and he became an obstacle to the Heaven Alliance in their pursuit to rule over the world.

He was aware that his death was definite, and thus, for the future, he created a plan that would be carried out by Dao Ancestor on his behalf.

"Celestial Venerable Yun was trying to make use of the ancient Celestial Emperor to divide the Heaven Alliance. If it was necessary, the ancient Celestial Emperor could also be exposed so that the Heaven Alliance would temporarily give up on suppressing the lower bound and shift their attention to fighting the ancient Celestial Emperor instead."

Dao Ancestor continued, "By doing that, the lower bound would have a chance to develop."

Qin Mu's heart trembled violently.

Celestial Venerable Yun truly had great foresight!

The Heaven Alliance wouldn't allow the ancient Celestial Emperor to be revived no matter the circumstances. Only when the ancient Celestial Emperor was dead would they be invincible. If the ancient Celestial Emperor was revived, all their efforts would be for naught.

This was because any of the other ancient gods had their own shortcomings and weaknesses, and they also had to follow the rules of the Great Dao. However, the ancient Celestial Emperor didn't.

He wasn't restrained by the Great Dao of Heaven and Earth.

This sort of Celestial Emperor was the most terrifying.

If they knew that the ancient Celestial Emperor hadn't been completely eliminated, that his soul had reincarnated and infiltrated into the ten Celestial Venerables, the alliance that was formed by them would immediately crumble and disintegrate.

If they knew who the ancient Celestial Emperor was, they would drop all the grudges amongst themselves to come together and eliminate him.

"Then, during the outbreak of the Eternal Peace Calamity, why didn't Dao Ancestor announce the identity of the ancient Celestial Emperor?" Qin Mu questioned.

He felt a pang of sorrow in his heart. So many had died during the calamity of Eternal Peace, and it was also his most helpless period, his most demoralizing period. He was almost unable to recover from this

setback, but for the sake of those who had survived, he too had pulled through and walked out a brand new path.

However, if Dao Ancestor had announced the identity of the ancient Celestial Emperor back then and diverted the attention towards the ancient Celestial Emperor instead, perhaps the calamity of Eternal Peace wouldn't have occurred.

Dao Ancestor shook his head. "It wasn't the right time."

Qin Mu's voice was hoarse. "Not the right time? Then when will be considered the right time? How many lives must be taken before it's the right time?"

Dao Ancestor had a deep gaze. "During the Founding Emperor Calamity, I didn't expose the ancient Celestial Emperor, and the Eternal Peace Calamity wasn't the right time either. The crucial problem here is that the abilities of the ancient Celestial Emperor aren't sufficient to go up against the Heaven Alliance of today. To pit him alone against the other nine, he wouldn't be able to withstand it. After he dies, the lower bound won't have any capabilities or measures to resist the Heaven Alliance. The lifeforms after the beginning need to have sufficient abilities to go against the Heaven Alliance, and the ancient Celestial Emperor must also have sufficient abilities to tear the Heaven Alliance apart. Only then will it be the best time."

His expression was apathetic. "As the executor of Celestial Venerable Yun's plan, I have to be completely rational and wait for this moment to arrive. Before that, regardless of the number of deaths, I still have to continue waiting."

Qin Mu was silent for a moment. "Which Celestial Venerable is the ancient Celestial Emperor?"

"Celestial Venerable Mu, I won't reveal it to you."

Dao Ancestor continued with a calm expression, "You aren't suitable to be the executor of Celestial Venerable Yun's plan. You are too rash, and you tend to reveal your aces in a moment of spite. But I will not. I am able to ignore the deaths of billions. You are a Celestial Venerable who is held in high esteem by many. Celestial Venerable, you don't have to carry this foul reputation and these sins. Such sins and such a foul reputation are to be borne by the executor of Celestial Venerable Yun's plans."

His old face revealed a trace of a smile. "I have been preparing for this for over five hundred thousand years, Celestial Venerable Mu, don't steal my credit."

Qin Mu clasped his hands and bowed to the ground, and Dao Ancestor hurriedly returned his bow.

"I'm just a reckless brute, a nobody. By some stroke of fate and chance, I transmigrated to the first year of the Dragon Han Era and was merely lucky to be able to meet the seniors and distinguished predecessors of that era, even eventually becoming a Celestial Venerable. Yet, I hold the title of Celestial Venerable with nothing to back it up. I accomplished nothing before I returned to the present times."

Qin Mu sighed ruefully. "Comparatively, you have all fought for your cause, sacrificing yourselves and bleeding for it. I am unworthy of the title of Celestial Venerable, it is you all who are worthy of it."

Dao Ancestor replied, "Imparting the way to become a god and letting the world know that there is still a Celestial Heavens Realm, just this alone makes you worthy of the title of Celestial Venerable. Moreover, what Celestial Venerable has done isn't limited to this. Celestial Venerable Mu, perhaps you should leave the celestial heavens soon."

Qin Mu jolted slightly, not knowing what he meant.

Dao Ancestor continued, "Celestial Venerable Hao has come to visit me to inquire about something. He asked if it was possible to make use of the creation divine weapon in the Patriarch Creation Palace to forge a Celestial Venerable Mu. He wanted me to create a Celestial Venerable Mu. At the Jade Pool incident the other night, I was there too, and I observed you for a long time. A few days ago, I handed over the blueprint of Celestial Venerable Mu to him."

Qin Mu was tongue-tied. "Dao Ancestor, you, you..."

Dao Ancestor replied calmly, "Even if I hadn't given him the blueprint of Celestial Venerable Mu, he would have been able to find others skilled in algebra to create a Celestial Venerable Mu for him. Thus, I gave it to him. After Celestial Venerable Hao has made use of the creation divine weapon to create a new Celestial Venerable Mu, he will find an opportunity to kill you and then replace you with the Celestial Venerable Mu that he created. He will be able to get his revenge and make use of your prestige to do many things."

Qin Mu's eyes widened, and he let out a shallow breath.

Dao Ancestor continued, "To deal with you, the celestial heavens is full of such tricks. Celestial Venerable Hao looks to be reckless, but he's actually very scheming. At the Jade Pool incident that night, he was also there, yet his goal wasn't to kill you but merely to make a show of it to see how many people in the celestial heavens were against him. He has already achieved his goal. I have also recorded data of your corporeal body to create an obedient Celestial Venerable Mu."

Qin Mu felt his heart tremble. The Celestial Venerable Hao that Dao Ancestor spoke of and the Celestial Venerable Hao in the impression of others seemed to be two different people!

"Thus, it's time for you to leave the celestial heavens."

Dao Ancestor said, "I can send you back to the lower bound."

Qin Mu composed himself and shook his head. "The celestial heavens have yet to be thrown into great disorder, so how can I return? If I suddenly vanish after coming to your place, anyone who is bright enough will be able to tell that it was you who sent me away. I cannot implicate you."

He smiled. "It's also not that easy for Celestial Venerable Hao to kill me. I still have something I would like to consult Dao Ancestor on. Does Dao Ancestor know how to get to the Great Void?"

Dao Ancestor shook his head. "Don't cause any trouble, you should still hurry and leave the celestial heavens."

Yan'er and the dragon qilin were currently outside the small temple and conversing with those two toads. The two toads were lazy in nature, and they spoke to them with their eyes buried within their heads flatly. It was only when Yan'er took out spirit pills to tempt them that their eyes bulged out from their heads.

"These two toads would definitely taste good." Qi Jiuyi laughed.

Suddenly, the two toads bulged their eyes out and glanced at him. Qi Jiuyi felt as though he had fallen into an icy pit, and all sights vanished before his eyes, leaving only four massive eyes surrounding him.

Qin Mu walked out of the temple and gave Qi Jiuyi, who had stiffened up, a puzzled look. Only then did the apparition before Qi Jiuyi's eyes disappear.

He couldn't help but shudder, and there was a shred of fear in his eyes. The abilities of these two toads were far superior to his.

The Dao Master of the celestial heavens escorted them out of the Jade Pure Celestial Palace.

Qin Mu was silent for a while before he said to Yun Chuxiu, "I heard that there's a Patriarch Creation Palace in the celestial heavens and that there's a creation divine weapon there. Can good little sister bring me there to take a look? I intend to use the Patriarch Creation Palace to build a few Spirit Energy Mutual Shift Bridges so it will be more convenient to travel between the celestial heavens and the lower bound."

Yun Chuxiu rolled her eyes at him and then burst out giggling. "Calling me good little sister..."

Qi Jiuyi and Yun Jianli felt their hair stand on end as they looked at the other two with terrified expressions. This woman was either Celestial Empress or Mistress Yuanmu, yet Qin Mu had actually dared to call her good little sister.

'This Celestial Venerable Mu who has come up here from the lower bound, do you know how many ways there are to write out the character for 'death'?'

Yun Jianli's heart suddenly beat violently as he thought to himself, 'Oh yes, I also called Yun Chuxiu little sister previously, I am also one who doesn't know death... I better go down to the lower bound soon!'

"Spirit Energy Mutual Shift Bridge?"

Yun Chuxiu asked curiously, "To make it more convenient to travel between the lower bound and the celestial heavens? Is Celestial Venerable not afraid of the gods and devils of the celestial heavens going to the lower bound to trample on the living beings of Eternal Peace?"

With a solemn expression, Qin Mu replied, "Eternal Peace has already pledged allegiance to the celestial heavens, we are subordinates of the celestial heavens and are very loyal to the celestial heavens. Good little sister, the celestial heavens won't go against the honest and faithful!"

"I'll be d*mned if I believe you!"

Yun Chuxiu burst out giggling, her eyes rolling about mischievously before she replied seriously, "Give the Spirit Energy Mutual Shift Bridge blueprint to me, and I will help you forge a few. Opening up the world barrier of the celestial heavens and the lower bound is an extremely significant event. You have yet to gain power in the celestial heavens, so you won't be able to make decisions on this. It has to be approved by a Celestial Venerable."

Qin Mu took out the blueprints for the Spirit Energy Mutual Shift Bridge and handed them all to her. The blueprints were numerous and stacked tall. Yun Chuxiu pulled out a few pieces, and upon seeing the algebra runes on them, she couldn't help but frown. Seeing all of these blueprints annoyed her, and she said, "This should still be handed over to the Dao Sect. I'll let the Dao Sect take these to the Patriarch Creation Palace to build the Spirit Energy Mutual Shift Bridges... Brother, Celestial Venerable, Brother Jiu, I'll head off first!"

She took off quickly with the blueprints and headed towards the Jade Pure Celestial Palace as she thought to herself, 'This Spirit Energy Mutual Shift Bridge is quite useful. It can connect the celestial heavens to the other heavens, and it's not limited to only the Primordial Realm. If these Spirit Energy Mutual Shift Bridges can be built, then I'll be able to rule over even more heavens and worlds...'

Qin Mu, Qi Jiuyi, Yun Jianli, and the others headed towards the Jade Pool instead. Yun Jianli had doubts brewing in his heart, and after suppressing it for a while, he finally asked, "Why did Celestial Venerable hand the Spirit Energy Mutual Shift Bridge blueprints over to Yun Chuxiu? This Spirit Energy Mutual Shift Bridge is of great use, and if the celestial heavens and the Primordial Realm are connected, the gods of the celestial heavens can head to the lower bound at a whim, and the Primordial Realm won't have an opportunity to react! The rule of the celestial heavens will only become even more stable!"

Qin Mu nodded and smiled. "The Eternal Peace of today is merely a tiny vassal state under the celestial heavens, it's not like we will rebel, so what is there to be afraid of?"

The doubts in Yun Jianli's heart grew even more. "I don't believe that you would be so stupid that you don't know what the Spirit Energy Mutual Shift Bridge can be used for. What exactly are you planning?"

Qin Mu didn't reply to him directly. Instead, he smiled and said, "With the Spirit Energy Mutual Shift Bridge, you will be able to go down to the lower bound too, you won't have to stay in the celestial heavens."

He had set a future strategy for Eternal Peace. To resolve the eight rules that the ancient Celestial Emperor had set to curb the Eternal Peace reforms, one of the most crucial plans was to let Eternal Peace develop its manufacturing side such that it would be able to forge the divine weapons for the celestial heavens.

For this to happen, trade routes would have to be opened up.

To transport goods from Eternal Peace to the celestial heavens, even with the phoenix ship that had incomparable speed, it would take about a year for a round trip. If regular ships were used instead, the round trip might even take a hundred years.

The Spirit Energy Mutual Shift Bridge would be able to open up the trade routes, reducing the transportation time for trade between Eternal Peace and the celestial heavens significantly. This way,

Eternal Peace's path of making use of manufacturing to restore the country would also be considerably shorter.

If the Spirit Energy Mutual Shift Bridges were forged across the innumerable heavens and worlds and trade was opened up, allowing Eternal Peace to crowd out the manufacturing industries of the other worlds and heavens, then the rebellion of the innumerable heavens and worlds would also happen a lot sooner!

However, the Spirit Energy Mutual Shift Bridge couldn't be built by him. If it was suggested by him, it would only lead to suspicion from the other Celestial Venerables. The simplest and most effective way around it was to hand it over to Celestial Empress and let her build them instead.

After Celestial Empress built the bridge, in order to benefit from it, the other Celestial Venerables would also start to build the bridges. From there, the innumerable heavens and worlds would be connected, and Qin Mu would have achieved his goal!

They had yet to reach the Jade Pool when a god suddenly stood in their way and bowed. "Celestial Venerable Mu, Celestial Venerable Hao would like to invite you to the Hao Palace to attend a banquet."

Qin Mu's heart jumped, and he sneered. "We have a grudge between us, and his banquet is definitely nothing good, I'm not going!"

The god was taken aback.

Qin Mu walked off quickly, and Yan'er, who was perched on his shoulder, saw that there were many fine goosebumps raised on the back of his neck.

'This rascal, Celestial Venerable Hao, must have already made use of the creation divine weapon to create another me. Inviting me to the banquet is probably just a front to kill me!'

They had yet to reach the Jade Pool when another lady came forward. "Young Master Yun, Mistress Yunxiao asks you to return."

Yun Jianli had never seen this person before, and he was confused, but he still followed after her and left.

After a while, a god under Red Deity of the Southern Heaven blocked their path and bowed. "Red Deity misses Young Master and asks Young Master to return and meet her."

Qi Jiuyi was shocked. "My master is here? Isn't she in the lower bound? Second Brother, come along with me!"

The dragon qilin looked towards Qin Mu. Qin Mu's heart trembled slightly, and he said, "Just go ahead."

Qi Jiuyi and the dragon qilin followed after the god and left together.

Qin Mu smiled. "Later on, there will be someone from South Deity Zhu Que's side who will come and ask Sister Yan'er to go and meet South Deity."

Yan'er was puzzled, and she laughed. "How do you know that?"

Qin Mu didn't answer.

After a period of time, another goddess really came forward, smiling. "Princess Yan, South Deity misses you. She asked me to come and invite the princess to return and meet her."

Yan'er looked at Qin Mu, and Qin Mu nodded his head gently. "The meeting of a mother and daughter is important, it must not be delayed."

Yan'er followed after the goddess and left.

Qin Mu returned to the Jade Pool, going back to the Slow Winding Pavilion. Awaiting his arrival was another Qin Mu, who was standing in the pavilion with his hands behind his back.

Chapter 934: Facing the Sea

Qin Mu walked towards the pavilion and stood side by side with the other Qin Mu as they both looked at the Jade Pool's surface.

"Celestial Venerable Mu doesn't seem surprised at all."

The other Qin Mu glanced at him and laughed. "If I saw another one of myself, I would certainly scream in shock before eliminating him. In this world, I am unique."

Qin Mu smiled back. "If the celestial heavens can create more than ten Celestial Venerable Yus, it should be easy to create another me. This body was created in the celestial heavens' Patriarch Creation Palace, right? It looks like it was. However, even if they could create an exact copy of me, it would be outdated in the next moment."

The other Qin Mu observed every action of his and imitated his actions and his tone before pointing out, "The goal wasn't to create another you but to replace you. By doing so, you will die quietly while the other you still lives on."

He imitated every minute action of Qin Mu's and vividly said, "After you die, you will still live on as a leader of Eternal Peace's reform. You will still be Celestial Venerable Mu and remain in your accomplices' midst. Earth Count, Heaven Duke, and the others won't see any flaws. These ancient gods still want to preserve your life and expect the invincible Great Wizard to revive them. You gave these corrupt beings hope, yet you will have died unexpectedly."

Qin Mu tilted his head, and his third eye emerged from his eyebrows. He inspected this body before saying, "You are Celestial Venerable Hao? You lost to me twice."

The Qin Mu on the opposite side's pupils contracted as an eye emerged between his eyebrows. It opened as fast as Qin Mu's third eye, a clear imitation of him.

His eye's pupil was hexagonal too. It was clear that when Dao Ancestor examined Qin Mu, he did it in a detailed fashion and ensured that every detail would be identical.

From the clothes and accessories to the location and number of every hair, it was all exact!

This was how serious a man Dao Ancestor was.

"The first time was during the first year of the Dragon Han Era. In fact, it was at this exact location."

Qin Mu was excited as he recalled the past. "You were beaten to the point of becoming a dog that lost its family. You ran for your life as those under you tried to stop me and prevent me from killing you with their lives, but I killed them like one would chickens. Their blood and yours dyed the Jade Pool red, and your mother, Mistress Yuanmu, had to project herself here to save you. However, in front of her, I still beat you until you were a dead dog. How long did it take you to recuperate?"

The opposite Qin Mu replied, "Medicine was undeveloped then. Celestial Emperor hired famous doctors to save me, but they were unable to do so. Nobody could heal your sword will and the sword wounds you inflicted. I laid in bed for more than a hundred years, unable to eat or drink, relying on others to feed me. I couldn't control my urination or defecation and could only do those things with the help of palace maids. During those years, I wanted to die more than once. I even prayed for others to kill me more than once."

Qin Mu smiled. "This was my reward for you. You laid in bed for around a hundred years, yet Celestial Venerable Yu laid in his bed for more than a million years."

"Afterwards, I slowly recuperated and was able to walk. It was then that I realized that my physical injuries had healed a long time ago. What didn't recover was my Dao heart."

The opposite Qin Mu's pupils contracted as the divine light in his eyes grew denser. After retracting his divine light, he plainly said, "The injury to my Dao heart took longer to heal. Within the thousand years after that, I would always see your sword going through my body and your fist colliding with my body and crushing my bones and tendons whenever I closed my eyes."

Qin Mu apologetically said, "I should have killed you then so you wouldn't be tortured like this."

The opposite Qin Mu coldly said, "It took me a thousand years to emerge from your shadow, but, after that, I knew that I was no longer the old me. I was then a mere knife in my father's hand that he used to get rid of the future potential rival to his position, Celestial Venerable Yu. You made me die once before giving me a new life. From then on, I swore to live for myself."

He was still imitating every action of Qin Mu's as he continued, "I started to become steady and impassive. I was an unremarkable prince amongst the other princes. After all, I was a failure, someone beaten by Celestial Venerable Mu as if I were a dead dog. Yet, the more I became like that, the more chances I got to prove myself. My father valued me more as a result. I helped him scheme to get rid of the crown prince and killed him. He was the son of Celestial Empress, and he had humiliated me before, taunting the fact that I was an illegitimate son and someone beaten badly by Celestial Venerable Mu. Thus, I gave him the name of Xie Wuqi to shame him so he would be tortured in Youdu even after his death!"

Qin Mu saw the opposite Qin Mu smile as brightly as him. However, beneath this brightness were dense feelings of hatred, as well as satisfaction at avenging himself.

“After Xie Wuqi died, the princes with authority weren’t my opponents. Some died, while some became injured. Some even had their Dao hearts collapse because of me.”

The other Qin Mu chuckled. “My father felt that Celestial Venerable Yun and Celestial Venerable Ling were still a threat to the celestial heavens, so he planned on supporting a trusted aide against them to restrain them. Thus, he chose me. Hehe, he could only choose me then. Consequently, I came to the Primordial Realm and established the Dragon Heaven Celestial Heavens to go against Celestial Venerable Yun and others, fighting to the death. However, I also established my own entourage, who allowed me to seek my cause.”

Qin Mu praised him, “Celestial Venerable Hao, you grew up.”

“It was all thanks to you.”

The other Qin Mu’s smile grew to be purer. His smile glowed like a sun as it became that of a boy, and he said, “I fought Celestial Venerable Yun for a long time, and the humans and lifeforms were too weak to be proper opponents of half-gods. Thus, to inspire confidence, he morphed into an image of you to fight me. How laughable.”

He couldn’t help but say, “I was indeed scared then, until I found out that Celestial Venerable Mu wasn’t you. As great as his imitation was, he couldn’t fool me.”

A vague expression somewhat akin to smiling and crying appeared on his face. “Who could understand you like me? You were the devil who appeared in countless nightmares of mine. Celestial Venerable Yun was too naive to imitate you! Yet, I never exposed him in front of everyone and instead told him about my plan. Thus, I, the person you hate so much, joined the Heaven Alliance. Hehe, I killed Celestial Venerable Yu, which made me hated universally by humans and you, but I still joined the Heaven Alliance and became one of its elders! This was because he wanted to deal with my father with me!”

He observed Qin Mu’s expression in an attempt to find traces of disappointment from it, but none appeared.

“I conspired with him and designed a plan to get rid of my father. At the same time, I constantly placed half-gods inside the Heaven Alliance to fight against him. Not only did I want to get rid of my father, but I wanted the Heaven Alliance too!”

He smiled. “I succeeded, and he failed.”

It was a simple sentence, yet it contained a hair-raising past.

Qin Mu smiled. “Even if you succeeded, the Heaven Alliance still didn’t fall into your control entirely. You experienced the second setback of your life because of me, again.”

The opposite Qin Mu didn't deny it. In fact, he nodded. "I had never seen your true appearance. I built Celestial Venerable Yu to become the strongest weapon, aiming to get rid of Mother Earth in the lower bound. Yet, I never knew that the Great Wizard who resurrected her was you. You used her to strike at me with the move that incapacitated me for more than a hundred years. The shadow in my heart reemerged, and I was thus hurt by Mother Earth. This was taken advantage of by humans, and, as a result, I lost the Primordial Realm. However, that was a mere surprise attack."

He seemed nonchalant about the past as he plainly said, "Today, your worth is no longer as great in my eyes. My cultivation has grown greatly, and I have a greater understanding of Dao. When I think about the battle at the Jade Pool now, it's merely for a laugh, a laugh aimed at my youthful immaturity then."

He gazed at the waves on the Jade Sea and leisurely said, "I don't hate you now. The hatred I express now is a mere smokescreen. You no longer have a place in my Dao heart. You are a mere tool for me to exploit. Additionally..."

A trace of a smile glowed on his face, and it grew and grew. "Additionally, you are dying today! I have staged a perfect death for you!"

"Do you see those palace maids at the Jade Pool? During the night of the Jade Pool incident, the god officers and the army of gods and devils that were sent to announce the imperial decree were sent by me, and the palace maids were changed with my consent. Everyone, from the divine turtles that bear the divine mountains in the Jade Sea to the flower spirits in the lotuses, are my subordinates."

He turned around with a sweeter smile on his face. "Your entourage was also drawn away by me. I placed people in the Yun residence, Red Deity residence, and South Deity residence. It was easy to draw them away. If I kill you here, nobody will know, not even Earth Count or Heaven Duke will know that the real Celestial Venerable Mu has died."

Qin Mu sighed. "Celestial Venerable Hao, I didn't know that your stratagem was so deep. It seems that I can hardly escape. It's just that, this Celestial Venerable Mu that you created, are you sure that it's my opponent?"

He smiled. "You put in so much effort to create this Celestial Venerable Mu and ensure that it's exactly the same as me. In order to ensure that you don't raise the suspicions of the other Celestial Venerables and the ancient gods, you had to ensure that he was at the Divine Bridge Realm too. Such a body can't tolerate your primordial spirit, for it's too strong. You can only use a shred of consciousness to control this body. However, I have killed many Divine Bridge Realm practitioners and ruined two weapons that are akin to yours."

The other Qin Mu's smile was as bright as the sun, which was chilling to see. In such a short time, he achieved such a great degree of similarity that one would have a hard time telling the difference.

"You underestimate my accomplishments during these million years. During this time, I analyzed and fought with you countless times in the depth of my consciousness. You and I have actually fought billions of times."

He laughed without restraint. "In the past, you won more than you lost, but as I grew, the chances of you winning declined. By the Founding Emperor Era, I had defeated you. After that, every time I fought

you in my consciousness, I was merely experimenting with the simplest way to kill you. By the High Emperor Era, I only needed one move to kill you.”

Self-confidence brimmed out of him as he smiled and said, “I arranged the move to kill you, and it’s called the Hundred Move to Kill Mu. It contains a hundred divine arts, and by today, in my consciousness, you will have died before you strike!”

Qin Mu’s pupils contracted.

His aura grew dramatically as his sword pellet flew out!

When he struck, he used the second move of Raising Calamity, Raising Calamity Sword!

At the Jade Pool Meeting then, he used this move to heavily injure Celestial Venerable Hao while he was under the projection of Mistress Yuanmu to the point where he couldn’t take care of himself unless helped!

Now, this Raising Calamity move was even more powerful with even more changes to its moves. Raising Calamity was a sword path but also a basic sword skill known as the nineteenth sword form, which could be combined with any other sword skills. There were nearly infinite amounts of changes!

Unexpectedly, before the potential of Qin Mu’s sword was unleashed, the attack of the other Qin Mu arrived. The sword stabbed out as the light broke the Raising Calamity Sword, which tapped on the heart of Qin Mu’s eyebrows.

Nothing changed on Qin Mu’s brows, yet the back of his brain exploded. An expression of disbelief appeared on his face as his body shook and fell to the ground. His two legs tangled together, and after some body spasms, he was no longer breathing.

The other Qin Mu slowly retracted his finger and said plainly, “Killing you was that simple. It only took one finger. How lonely...”

He looked at the peaceful Jade Sea, and on it, Qin Mu walked towards him.

The other Qin Mu stood in the pavilion with his hands behind him as he awaited his arrival.

He watched Qin Mu approach him until he was beside him, looking out at the sea.

“Celestial Venerable Mu doesn’t seem surprised at all.”

He glanced at Qin Mu and laughed. “If I saw another one of myself...”

He frowned slightly, feeling that something was wrong.

In the real world, Qin Mu sat behind him and poured a cup of tea for himself. He raised the cup to his mouth and commented, “It’s not a bad move. I would hardly be able to defend against it unless I used my life to take yours. Celestial Venerable Hao has certainly grown.”

Chapter 935: The Hundred Moves to Kill Mu

“This is the 26th time that Celestial Venerable Hao has killed me.”

Qin Mu quietly drank his tea, though it became slightly too plain for him. He put his cup down and said, “You didn’t repeat a single divine art in the 26 times that you killed me. Very impressive... I have been very busy since I came to the celestial heavens, I wonder what good teas there are here? Since the celestial heavens is where the powerful and nobility congregate, the tea here should be better than in the lower bound, right?”

An idea formed in his heart. He wanted to buy some tea leaves and take them down to the lower bound, gifting them to his friends.

At this moment, Celestial Venerable Hao killed him again in his illusion.

“It’s just, what’s the currency in the celestial heavens? I certainly can’t buy anything with the great abundance coin of the Eternal Peace.”

Qin Mu couldn’t help but miss Hu Ling’er and Si Yunxiang. If they were here, he wouldn’t have to fret over money.

“After a while, Celestial Empress will be able to establish the Spirit Energy Mutual Shift Bridge and open access between the Primordial Realm and the celestial heavens. By then, I’ll be rich.”

He closed his eyes to meditate. ‘I have died 51 times at the hands of Celestial Venerable Hao, who used 51 different divine arts to kill me. How impressive. I didn’t think that my divine arts and techniques contained so many flaws.’

His admiration for him grew naturally.

As the saying goes—the onlooker sees clear. One could hardly see their own weaknesses and flaws clearly.

For people as proud as Qin Mu, their techniques and divine arts were perfect in their eyes and contained no flaws. However, for the onlooker, many flaws usually still existed.

Celestial Venerable Hao was a Celestial Venerable after all. He was the second person to open a divine treasure, with the first being Celestial Venerable Yu.

After all these years of research, he created the Hundred Moves to Kill Mu, which proved Qin Mu’s techniques and divine arts contained at least 100 flaws. Having someone like him to help perfect one’s techniques and divine arts was surely fortunate!

In Celestial Venerable Hao’s world, Qin Mu died again and again. Strangely, after he killed Qin Mu, he would return to the beginning, every time.

The beginning was him standing at the pavilion, facing the sea as Qin Mu walked towards him and stood beside him.

Every time, his first sentence was the same.

“Celestial Venerable Mu doesn’t seem surprised at all.”

Yet, as Celestial Venerable Hao grew more and more shocked, he also grew to be more and more confused. This scene gave him a surprisingly familiar feeling, which only grew. It was as if he had experienced it before, more than once!

Ever since obtaining the Grand Primordium Origin Stone, Qin Mu’s consciousness grew stronger and stronger.

Before he arrived at the celestial heavens, his consciousness was already strong, as seen by how he was able to find the flaw in Left Assistant Minister Yan Shaoqing’s consciousness technique. This caused Yan Shaoqing, the number one consciousness practitioner, to be stuck in a cycle of illusion, unable to differentiate reality from illusion.

Now, his consciousness was several times stronger. With the master of creation’s Supreme Palace Enclosure Higher Knowledge, the Grand Primordium Origin Stone, and the Three Primordial Spirit Undying God Consciousness, his improvement was immense.

This time, not only did he use a consciousness divine art, but he also used an immature unchanging divine art that turned the small pavilion into an unchanging space!

Celestial Venerable Hao went through the cycle again and again in this unchanging space!

On top of the unchanging space, Qin Mu also used Brahma Buddha’s Boundless Calamity Sutra. Instead of using it to put himself in a dream to shape a dream world, he used it to put Celestial Venerable Hao’s Qin Mu clone in a dream world, unable to escape.

This dream would repeat again and again in the unchanging space as it washed away his memory and put him back at the beginning.

‘It’s the 81st time already.’

Qin Mu removed the tea and washed the tea set beside the Jade Sea under the pavilion. He leisurely thought, ‘I have already died at Celestial Venerable Hao’s hands 81 times! Each time, it was a perfect kill, and each time, my death was a unique one! He definitely figured out my Raising Calamity Sword, Opening Calamity Sword, and other divine arts. This fellow is too powerful. Now there are only 19 ways left to die...’

Suddenly, he frowned.

There was a wave that went through the space in the pavilion. Celestial Venerable Hao had discovered that something was wrong!

‘The unchanging divine art that I comprehended from the peachwood hairpin and the ghost ship is still too shallow. It’s easy to trap him, but my divine art still isn’t as perfect as Celestial Venerable Ling’s.’

Qin Mu realized something. 'The flaw got bigger and bigger with each round, and after the 81st round, the shred of consciousness that Celestial Venerable Hao hid within the clone saw the flaw!'

In the unchanging space, Celestial Venerable Hao killed Qin Mu, and Qin Mu laid on the ground with all of his bones shattered as he took in his last breath.

Celestial Venerable Hao stared at this body as the doubts that colored his eyes grew thicker and thicker.

At that moment, everything returned to its original state. The memory in the clone of Qin Mu was also washed away as everything returned to the beginning.

He stood beside the pavilion, looking at the Jade Sea, and on it, Qin Mu walked towards him.

The doubt coloring Celestial Venerable Hao's face became even thicker as he looked back at the pavilion. Within it, a pair of bloody detached feet remained.

He turned around to look at the Qin Mu approaching from the sea. The approaching Qin Mu lacked feet, yet he was perfectly stable when walking!

His face revealed his confusion, and as his confusion receded, his third eye grew clearer and clearer.

"How daring of you to play such a trick in front of me!"

An unbelievably strong consciousness bombarded the unchanging space of the pavilion from outside!

At that moment, the world surrounding Celestial Venerable Hao's clone of Qin Mu fell apart, and the real Jade Pool appeared in front of him!

Cold sweat broke out on his forehead as he sensed that something was wrong. Thus, he unleashed another wave of consciousness to dismantle Qin Mu's spell and prevent himself from being stuck in this cycle!

However, a bombardment by his real consciousness would alert the other strong practitioners of the celestial heavens who would come to investigate. This would deprive him of the chance to kill Qin Mu silently and replace him!

The plan of creating a new Celestial Venerable Mu to replace Qin Mu collapsed. His opponents in the celestial heavens wouldn't give him a second chance!

Celestial Venerable Hao was furious as the Qin Mu at the pavilion suddenly turned around. Seeing Qin Mu standing outside the pavilion, he looked at himself with a vague smile.

Celestial Venerable Hao's frame of mind recovered quickly as he smiled and complimented, "Great trick, Celestial Venerable Mu, foolish me is impressed."

"Well said, well said."

Qin Mu asked, concerned, "Celestial Venerable Hao isn't shocked, are you? You only displayed 82 moves out of the Hundred Moves to Kill Mu and are left with 18 ways undisplayed. Shall we restart and try again?"

Celestial Venerable Hao's heart turned cold as he replied, "I think not."

"You should."

From Qin Mu's third eye, a sword pellet slowly flew out, changing its shape midair to form a treasure sword. Qin Mu smiled and said, "Since you can't leave and are destined to die here, why not display the other 18 divine arts used to kill me? This time, I won't use my consciousness divine art to give you a chance."

In the sky above the Jade Sea, terrifying waves of consciousness arrived. It was impeccably dense and disrupted the meteorological phenomenon, causing booming thunder to fill the skies.

Many of the strong practitioners in the celestial heavens were alerted and sent their consciousnesses to scout the Jade Pool without going themselves.

Qin Mu laughed. "Maybe you can use your remaining 18 divine arts to kill me, or maybe you will die in my hands."

Celestial Venerable Hao's Qin Mu narrowed his eyes in a fashion very similar to Qin Mu.

Qin Mu frowned as, even now, he was still imitating him.

"What if, instead of using the remaining 18 divine arts, I use the 82 divine arts that I've already used?" Celestial Venerable Hao joked with him.

Qin Mu smiled. "You can try."

Celestial Venerable Hao's Qin Mu clone suddenly moved as the power contained in the first strike of the Hundred Moves to Kill Mu was unleashed. His finger approached Qin Mu. This strike was aimed at the flaws in Qin Mu's technique. Although there were thousands of variations to Qin Mu's sword moves, there would always be a flaw when he used this technique, which he would be able to flit through instantly, like passing through a crack!

His finger skill was aimed at Qin Mu's flaw, which allowed him to kill Qin Mu with one finger in the illusion!

Now, the scene from the illusion replayed itself. Qin Mu raised his Raising Calamity Sword to defend himself with the same unimaginable changes.

Yet, in the next moment, a beam of light from the sword flashed through, and the finger of his Qin Mu clone was chopped off. It fell into the Jade Sea harmlessly.

Celestial Venerable Hao changed his divine art, and he used the eighth move out of his Hundred Moves to Kill Mu. Beams of light burst forth from his three eyes, and they collided, reflected, and formed a thousand nets.

In the illusion, he used this move to break Qin Mu's technique and cut him into countless pieces.

Yet, as three sword lights flashed, the three eyes of his clone of Qin Mu were stabbed blind!

A loud roar came from Celestial Venerable Hao as his muscles bulged to unleash his big fist skill, which carried enough strength to pluck out mountains. In the illusion, he used this divine art to beat Qin Mu into a living pulp!

Suddenly, his wrists hurt as both of his arms had their wrists cut off.

"This is the way to break the second move of your Hundred Moves to Kill Mu!"

Qin Mu's sword followed him as sword light surrounded and flew around Celestial Venerable Hao, who was rooted to the ground. The beam of sword light rang out, and the sword went into his body in the next moment before emerging from his back, like light and electricity.

"This is the way to break the third move!"

"The fourth move!"

"The fifth move!"

"The sixth move!"

...

In the small pavilion, countless sword lights flew in all directions, and in a split second, Celestial Venerable Hao's Qin Mu clone was covered in blood and injuries. Qin Mu had avoided his vital organs time and time again in order not to kill him immediately!

Those sword lights stabbed not just the clone of Qin Mu but also the heart of Celestial Venerable Hao, figuratively. It used the bloody truth to show him how useless the effort and hard work he put in over the past million years was!

The Hundred Moves to Kill Mu that he worked so hard to create was broken by Qin Mu after just one use!

Not only did he break it, but he also used the flaws it pointed out to modify his own Overlord Body Three Elixir Technique and cultivate his sword moves, making his techniques and divine arts more perfect!

On top of that, Qin Mu also abandoned the sword pellet and executed punches, kicks, and divine arts. The flaws in his battle techniques and divine art decreased!

Soon, the eighty-two moves in the Hundred Moves to Kill Mu were broken, one after another. Qin Mu's clothes fluttered as the sword pellet flew back into the heart of his brows.

In the pavilion, Celestial Venerable Hao's clone of Qin Mu was completely covered in blood.

"What's the 83rd move?" Qin Mu inquired.

The bloody clone of Celestial Venerable Hao smiled peculiarly. "You will know them eventually, Celestial Venerable Mu. I will impart the remaining 18 ways to my disciples, and they will kill you."

His consciousness rapidly dissipated, only leaving behind laughter and a proclamation, saying, "You still have 18 flaws, and they will kill you 18 times!"

"How stubborn!"

Qin Mu gave a cold humph as he raised his finger. The brain of the Qin Mu clone exploded as his body wavered and fell into the Jade Sea.

The other surging consciousnesses in the sky couldn't help but feel dumbstruck when they saw the scene.

"As soon as we arrived, we saw Celestial Venerable Mu killing Celestial Venerable Mu..." a voice silently said.