

## Tales of Herding Gods Chapter 106-110

### Chapter 106: Poisoned

Qin Mu slept in an inn in Tiger Sun County until evening when he was rudely awakened by the commotions outside. He could hear the inn owner saying, "No idea where these beetles have come from. They rush in from all over the place and they can't be killed or chased out! This is the red beetle. Officer, can you take a look to see if they are harmful..."

Qin Mu's heart leaped and hurriedly got up. He woke up the little fox and packed his baggage. The inn owner was still talking about the matter regarding the bugs with the officer below, however, the officer was only a martial arts practitioner and knew nothing about this kind of bugs, "There're many bugs of this kind in the city. They weren't around earlier. It must be the upcoming war which caused this bug infestation. Just trample these bugs to death."

"They can't be crushed or be burned to death. Even when I watered them with boiling water, they were still leaping and frisking about. One of them even went into a guest's mouth and he couldn't even get it out by vomiting..."

Qin Mu left a great abundance coin on the table and pushed open the window. Hu Ling'er executed her spells to summon a demon wind and Qin Mu jumped out, stepping on the demon wind as he traveled away.

At this moment, he could see the red corpse beetles flying scattered in the sky above Tiger Sun County. Qin Mu flicked his fingers repeatedly and every flick was like a thunder bursting forth. The corpse beetles nearby him dropped to the ground before they could even see him.

"Why is Corpse Immortal Cult so persistent like a ghost? We just killed their cult leader's son. Is there a need for them to pursue us relentlessly?" Hu Ling'er ranted angrily.

Qin Mu landed on the ground and quickly sprinted away. He also bought a few trays of steam buns and just took the whole bamboo steamer along with him. Just as the owner was about to shout theft, a great abundance coin came flying onto the table of his stall, making him can't help feeling overjoyed.

Qin Mu stuffed buns into his mouth as he quickly ran out of the city. Hu Ling'er jumped onto his shoulder and grabbed a piping hot bun. Yelping repeatedly from the heat of the hot bun, she tossed it around in her paws. Enduring the heat, she took a bite and stuck her tongue out from scalding it.

The human and the fox quickly finished the buns. When Qin Mu looked back and didn't see any red corpse beetles following over, he gave a sigh of relief.

Hu Ling'er tunneled into the backpack and took out the Eternal Peace's geographic map. Qin Mu opened up the geographic map and checked it. He then raised his head and took a look at the surroundings. After he determined his location, he immediately increased his speed and rushed towards the capital city.

Meanwhile, in Tiger Sun County City, many of the red corpse beetles couldn't find Qin Mu and flew out of the city. Outside the county's city, Senior Uncle Qiao sat on top of Flat Sun Mountain and called back his corpse beetles with a slight frown. Yet at this moment, he saw a single arm elder walking over and when the elder passed by him, he stepped on one of his corpse beetle with a squash.

Senior Uncle Qiao was about to spew vulgarities at him when he suddenly came to a realization, "My corpses beetles are incomparably durable so how can they be squashed to death so easily? This single arm geezer is an expert and it's best not to provoke him!"

When the elder walked far away, Senior Uncle Qiao identified the directions and thought to himself, "There are no signs of him nearby, and since the way here has been blocked by me, this brat has only east, west and north to escape from. My flying zombies have already reached city west and city east and no traces of him could be seen there. In that case, he must have gone up north."

He immediately moved and headed north.

After a short distance, Senior Uncle Qiao met the single arm elder again. He looked at the hollow sleeve of the elder who walked slowly and steadily towards the north.

Senior Uncle Qiao had no intention to take heed of him. Some of his corpse beetles formed a red cloud and carried him into the air while the rest flew into the forest to search for any traces that Qin Mu might have left behind.

Squash, squash.

The single arm elder crushed another two corpse beetles and Senior Uncle Qiao raised his eyebrows while holding back his anger. The swarm of corpse beetles slowly descended but they didn't land on the ground, keeping the distance of a yard away from the ground and two yards away from the elder.

Senior Uncle Qiao bowed and greeted, "This elder, these corpse beetles are raised by me. It's fine if you squashed one to death but why did you have to squash two more of them?"

The single arm elder stopped and replied, "I thought they were ownerless bugs that were flying all around. So they were raised by you, excuse me, excuse me."

Senior Uncle Qiao smiled, "One who does not know is not guilty, elder please be more careful next time..."

Squash.

The single arm elder raised his feet and crushed another bug to death. Senior Uncle Qiao's expression instantly changed. The single arm elder immediately moved back and said, "I didn't do it on purpose..."

Squash.

Another few corpse beetles flew under his feet for no reason and were crushed into red color juice.

Senior Uncle Qiao sneered and flying zombies came out from the forest and surrounded the single arm elder. Senior Uncle Qiao asked with a grim expression, "Elder, are you here to toy with me? Purposely crushing the corpse beetles I've raised, can it be that you're bullying us Corpse Immortal Cult?"

The single arm elder immediately explained, "So you are an expert from Corpse Immortal Cult. Don't be misunderstood, your bugs had made their way under my feet by themselves. You can't blame me."

Senior Uncle Qiao didn't know the depth of his cultivation and was slightly afraid. His expression eased and forced himself to say, "Since it's not on purpose, let's leave it at that."

As he was about to leave, he heard another squash. Senior Uncle Qiao flew into fury and his fear grew into guts. With a thought in his mind, the flying zombies pounced on the elder!

His flying zombies were different from He Yin's. He Yin was merely just an entry disciple of Corpse Immortal Cult who had just cultivated to Six Directions Realm and cultivated his divine arts. Whereas he was a figure of the older generation in Corpse Immortal Cult with the cultivation of Seven Stars Realm. His flying zombies had long been refined into copper armored corpses which had copper tendons and iron bones. They were all packed with astonishing power!

Furthermore, he had refined quite a number of corpses and with so many copper armored corpses pouncing on the single arm elder, it was naturally very easy to get him!

Before those flying zombies could pounce on that elder, a resonating name of Buddha sounded out and the aura of Buddha erupted out. Senior Uncle Qiao's blood ran cold and could only feel a Buddha standing in front of him. He couldn't help getting frightened out of his soul and knelt down on the ground at once to kowtow deeply, "Spare my life!"

Meanwhile, the flying zombies were shone by the Buddha's aura and they fell flat onto the ground. The connections between him and his zombies were completely cut off. They were instantly enlightened by the single arm elder and could never harm people anymore.

"Stand up."

The single arm elder gave him a look and walked away, "Anyone can make mistakes, forgive them when possible. I shan't kill you but I wish you could spare people if it's possible to let them off."

Senior Uncle Qiao raised his head and looked at his surroundings. He let out a sigh of relief and thought to himself, "Luckily I'm smart. If trained properly, any skill would be able to save lives, for example, kneeling when you can't win."

He got up and composed himself with a pained expression on his face, "These flying zombies cost countless years of my blood and sweat to create, never would I expect all of them to be destroyed! Who is that single arm elder? He's really powerful. He even didn't attack and just shone once with his aura to destroy my precious... However, when I catch that brat and take away that first ranking high official's treasure sword, everything would be worth it!"

Qin Mu rapidly sprinted into the forest and suddenly stopped. He bent over and plucked a small grass that had a flower with three purple petals. Hu Ling'er was bewildered, "Young Master Mu, what flower is this?"

"This is Earth Origin Grass. It has a scent that human and beast cannot smell."

Qin Mu carefully plucked the small purple flower. He threw away the flower and kept the leaves and rhizome. He continued to wander around the forest and search for another few herbs which were common herbs that could be seen in the forest, "However, the scent of Earth Origin Grass was abnormally fragrant to insects. Yet this grass has a poison which is not toxic to humans but deadly to insects, therefore it is called the bane of hundred insects. These other herbs that I have picked don't have other uses other than to multiply the scent and toxicity of Earth Origin Grass by a hundred times."

He quickly rushed forward. As he was running, his vital qi burst forth and propped the few herbs in the air. Using vital qi as a cauldron, he refined the medicine in the air.

Flames burst forth in his other hand and roasted the herbs. At the same time, Black Tortoise Vital Qi was used to moisturize the herbs to prevent them from getting burnt.

Before he crossed the col, Qin Mu had finished refining the medicinal energy of these herbs. Removing the medicinal dregs, his hands interlocked each other and instantly some liquid that was like clear oil appeared in the middle of his palms.

Qin Mu looked at the surroundings and found a clear spring in a col nearby and went over to wash his hands. He then exerted force and rushed away.

Not long later, a red cloud came flying over in the sky which was omnipresent. It was the red corpse beetles of Senior Uncle Qiao.

These red corpse beetles followed Qin Mu's trails and immediately caught up to Qin Mu. Suddenly the corpse beetles couldn't control themselves and flew down to the clear spring in the col.

Senior Uncle Qiao who was controlling the corpse beetle swarm from behind was startled and rushed over at once. Looking at the red color bugs that laid dead around the whole mountain and wilderness, he felt his heart turning cold. The corpse beetles that he had painstakingly raised had all died completely!

To be able to poison his corpse beetles all in one go, this ability made him tremble with fear!

"Furthermore, the most crucial thing was..."

Qin Mu who had now gone far away smiled and told the little fox hiding in his backpack, "Corpse beetle is also a type of poison and is a great poison. The red corpse beetles are even more poisonous! The poison oil that I had just refined has no effect on humans but if eaten by the red corpse beetles, it would merge with the toxicity of the red corpse beetles and turn into another poison which is even more terrifying. As long as one touches the poison, their flesh and blood will start to rot and their body would be paralyzed. They wouldn't be able to move and can only look at themselves rotting away!"

Hu Ling'er jumped in shock and cried out, "Young master, will the strong practitioner from Corpse Immortal Cult be poisoned? I see that his cultivation is quite high!"

Qin Mu said faintly, "That would depend if he would touch those corpse beetles or not."

Looking at the sky, he gently said, "This toxic will detox itself. When the sun shines on it, the toxicity will break down and become weaker and weaker. After getting exposed to the scorching sun for an hour, the toxicity will be gone. However in the next hour, whoever touches it dies!"

At the col, Senior Uncle Qiao's body trembled and he suddenly sneered, "Luckily I still have more corpse beetles and the beetle queen is still here..."

At this moment, the corpse beetles on his body climbed out frantically and flew towards the poisonous spring in the col. Even the beetle queen also flew out. Senior Uncle Qiao gave a cry of alarm and immediately grabbed at the beetle queen but the flying speed of the beetle queen was extremely fast. It had already come to the spring and drank the spring water.

Senior Uncle Qiao grabbed the beetle queen from behind and was about to give a sigh of relief when his body suddenly turned stiff. The skin on his palm rapidly rotted and this rot was spreading up his arm. His muscles started to fall off from his arm and dropped to the ground, rapidly turning into pus.

He could see his arm rotting but he couldn't feel any pain.

He wanted to chop off his arm but his consciousness seemed to be separated from his body and couldn't control his body. Gritting his teeth, Senior Uncle Qiao mustered all his strength to lift his other arm. Suddenly his body lost balance and collapsed onto the floor. With his face on the floor, there were several more corpses of the dead corpse beetles under his face.

"Grandpa Apothecary was right. He told me if I can't win, I'll just have to use poison." The cowherd boy from Disabled Elderly Village sighed ruefully in the distance.

## **Chapter 107: Fight Ten With One Hand**

Five days later, Qin Mu came to River Tomb County. River Tomb County was much more flourishing than the other counties' cities he had seen on his way here. River Tomb County was a city that was practically built entirely on the river. This river was Gold River and not Surging River, therefore River Tomb was also known as Gold Tomb.

The torrential waters of Gold River were vast and mighty like the sea. Originally River Tomb County was built on an island on the river but as more ships came and went, it flourished and became overpopulated therefore a large scale construction was carried out to build a city.

At that time, appointed as the magistrate of River Tomb County was the Imperial Preceptor today. At that time he was already a strong practitioner brimming with talent. He showed extraordinary abilities and gathered numerous skilled workmen and countless of divine arts practitioners to lay down deep stone pillars into the river. Every stone pillar was three hundred yards long and there was a total of three thousand and eight hundred stone pillars. The top of the stone pillar was a hundred yards above the water level which allowed large ships to sail below and also floods to flow pass.

Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor used huge stones to pave the road along with the skilled workmen and divine arts practitioners, and used divine arts to stabilize and construct River Tomb County. This was a very large project and it took tens of thousands of divine arts practitioners tiring for ten years to build this new city.

Below the new city was a few impluvia for illumination and when the rain got heavy, the impluvia could be used to carry away the rainwater. There were also some docks that were constructed below the city to facilitate the traffic.

Beside the city were also harbors, big and small, for the ships coming here to load and unload goods.

This place was simply bustling, therefore, it was also called small capital. The scholar-officials at that time criticised the construction of the new city and accused the River Tomb County Magistrate of plotting a rebellion by building a River Tomb City to intercept the dragon's vein of the empire. They petitioned the emperor to execute him.

They also said that the River Tomb Magistrate built a dragon's head on Gold River, having errant intentions.

After Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor accomplished this spectacular feat, he was summoned to the capital and many people thought the emperor was going to execute him. Never would they thought that Crown Prince Yanfeng admired him extremely and after Crown Prince Yanfeng ascended to the throne with his great skills and strategies, he promoted Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor repeatedly and made him into the imperial preceptor not long later.

Qin Mu had also heard these interesting stories from the helmsman and didn't know how much of it was true. However, Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor's capability and Emperor Yanfeng's wisdom eyes made him admire the two people.

Onboard of the same ship were some scholars from River Tomb County. Some were poor scholars from poor families and there were also scholars from rich families. Qin Mu made some inquiries and found out that most of these people were from elementary school and college. They were all students from the same school.

Qin Mu was astonished and inquired about the elementary school and college in River Tomb County. Only then did he know about the reason for it.

Elementary school and college were set up by Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor and had been extended to the whole country.

Imperial Preceptor told Emperor Yanfeng, "The lives at eight years old, from aristocrats to the common people, will have to enter elementary school, to learn Daoyin, etiquettes, sense of propriety, rites and music, archery, literacy, cultivation to build their foundation. The talents of the students should be observed first, then the students should be taught in accordance with their aptitude. Those students who have awoken their spirit embryos and broken the walls of their divine treasures are going to be chosen to enter college."

Imperial Preceptor then told Emperor Yanfeng, “When they are at age of fifteen, the eldest son and the heirs of the Son of Heaven as well as the heirs of the dukes, high ranking officials, senior officials, imperial scholars will attend college with the talented common people. They will learn divine arts, sword skills, how to rectify one’s mind, how to cultivate oneself, how to govern the people. They will be proficient in the knowledge of divine arts at all times. At that time, all of the college’s scholars will be the students of Your Majesty and there will be no need to rely on sects. As time goes by, the danger of sects would be got rid of.”

Imperial Preceptor also said, “Once one graduate from college, he can enter Imperial College. Imperial College’s scholars will learn the paths of being officials and generals, and study the paths and govern the whole world. That way the four seas will attain peace and Your Majesty will be free of worries.”

Qin Mu sighed ruefully. With Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor’s way of scholarship, how can a country not be prosperous?

The living space of the sects in Eternal Peace Empire was squeezed out by the elementary school and college. Without a living space, it’s no wonder the sects would rebel.

On the boat, Qin Mu took out the Computational Canons he had bought at River Tomb City. Studying it attentively, he wrote down his calculation methods with a charcoal pencil on the paper.

Suddenly a scholar with a plump physique asked, “Brother Qin is also going to the capital city to take the imperial examinations?”

Qin Mu nodded his head and smiled, “That’s right. I plan to go to the capital city to take a gamble for my future. Brother Wei is also going there for the imperial examinations?”

The scholar with a plump physique called Wei Yong nodded his head and smiled, “To pass the entrance exam with scholarly honors and enter Imperial College to study is my long cherished wish!”

Another scholar laughed, “Brother Wei, it’s not that easy to enter the empire’s Imperial College. Your age is merely just over fourteen and you are still an elementary scholar. You won’t be able to enter Imperial College!”

Wei Yong sneered, “Are Imperial College’s scholars that amazing? They might not even beat me and Brother Qin!”

Most of the scholars laughed out loudly.

Qin Mu also revealed a smile. Many of the scholars onboard the same ship with them were all going to the capital city to take the imperial examinations. They all wanted to enter the empire’s Imperial College.

What the college of River Tomb taught were all basic sword skills and spells which were not widespread. Whereas in Imperial College of the capital city, it had millions of books and had everything they wanted. Almost all the techniques and divine arts of all the sects in Eternal Peace Empire were gathered here. It could be said to be the empire’s highest learning institute!

It was extremely difficult to enter Imperial College. The college's scholars from all around the country had all fought fiercely just to enter. As for elementary school's scholars, they mostly planned to enter the capital city to enter the college there. It was even more difficult for an elementary school's scholar to enter Imperial College. Unless they were especially outstanding then would they have a chance to enter. Every year, the number of elementary school's scholars that can pass the entrance exams and enter Imperial College was close to none.

The helmsman steered the ship towards the shore.

Qin Mu noticed that this ship used a strange furnace. There were flames in the furnace and as long as medicinal stones were thrown in, the spirit energy in the medicinal stones would be able to spin the gears on top of the furnace. The gears were then linked to a water wheel which pushed the large ship forward like a water vehicle.

The helmsman only needed to be in charge of the rudder and control the directions.

Qin Mu clicked his tongue in wonder. Where would he be able to see such strange contraptions in Great Ruins?

Not long later, the large ship finally sailed to the bank. Disembarking with the rest of the scholars, Qin Mu followed them and came to the vehicles and horses market after walking a short distance.

Qin Mu looked around and became even more curious. He could see land traveling boats, flying vehicles, cranes and land dragons for rent and sale. There were also some ships that were ready and waiting to set sail. Smokes were billowing out from these ships and there were even flames mixed in with the smoke.

"Brother Qin, over here!"

Wei Yong stood at the bottom of a ship and waved at him. The ship lowered its gangway and there were some scholars going up the ship.

Qin Mu walked over and raised his head to look at the ship, giving off an astonished expression. Wei Yong had been familiar with him from the beginning and smiled, "Land traveling boats are too bumpy, flying vehicles are too expensive, cranes and land dragons have to brave the wind and rain, it's still the most comfortable to take a ship. It's just that the speed is slightly slower. However, it's still quite early before the selections, therefore, let's take a ship to the capital city."

Qin Mu agreed with him and asked, "How much is it?"

Wei Yong took out a jar of wine and smiled, "You're more well dressed than me and you still care about the price? Sister Fox, I bought some wine for you."

Hu Ling'er surprised and delighted. She stood up like a human and thanked him earnestly before taking the wine jar.

Qin Mu came to the boatswain's location and paid the ship's fare. Ten great abundance coins were needed to travel from River Tomb to the capital city. It wasn't considered expensive seeing how Qin Mu



was used to being extravagant. He had totally no idea how much a great abundance coin was worth and only knew that he had always given a great abundance coin for all his lodging and food to the other parties, making them grinning from ear to ear.

The two people and one fox boarded the ship and not long later, the ship was already fully occupied. There were apothecaries and their boys starting the furnaces. The medicinal energy was turned into magic power to be supplied to the sculptures of the bronze beasts at the aft of the ship. The huge mouth of the bronze beasts immediately spewed out intense flames and the ship gradually rose into the air. The ship slowly adjusted its direction in midair and unfurled its sails as it drove out of River Tomb, heading towards north.

On the ship, the guests all had their own rooms and food service was also provided on board. They would just have to spend the next few days onboard the ship.

Qin Mu stood on the ship and looked down at the ship got higher and higher up. With its increasing speed, River Tomb City below had become smaller and smaller but he could still see flying vehicles, flying beasts, flying ships and etcetera flying out to other cities from time to time. Meanwhile, ships were bustling on the river.

“Eternal Peace sure is a magical place.”

Qin Mu exclaimed in admiration to himself, “Ling Yuxiu said that the skills and divine arts of Eternal Peace were progressing rapidly and now I see it, it really seems to be the case.”

He could see that Eternal Peace Empire was incorporating skills and divine arts into every corner of the everyday life. The basic needs of ordinary people were slowly changing and this was very similar to the path of the saint described in Great Educational Heavenly Devil Scriptures.

The path of the saint was for the everyday use of common people. Eternal Peace Empire had done very well.

He suddenly had a weird thought, “Could Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor also be part of my Heavenly Devil Cult?”

There were scholars practicing their martial arts onboard and their cultivations were all remarkable. However what made Qin Mu astonished was that they were all cultivating the same type of martial arts, spells and sword skills.

Qin Mu was puzzled, “Won’t it be very easy for the opponent to catch your weakness by cultivating the same types of spells and sword skills?”

From his point of view, martial arts practitioners might be a realm for one to build up their foundation but being erudite was also a foundation. When too many scholars cultivated the same martial art, the same spells, the same sword skills, it would be very easy for others to catch their weakness.

“This kind of martial arts practitioners, I can fight ten with one hand.” Qin Mu shook his head silently and continued to study Computational Canons. There was a total of ten books of Computational Canons

which Eternal Peace Empire had printed out. He had already finished reading them and sorted out most of the calculation methods on the paper.

When night came, Qin Mu would come to the deck and raised his head to look at the astrological aspect. Using his calculation methods to deduce, he would then record his calculations on the paper.

After flying for four days, the ship was gradually getting closer to the capital city. It was the first time going to the capital city for most of the scholars and it was hard for them to conceal the excitement in their heart. They all leaned out the side of the ship to look outside. Suddenly a violent tremor traveled over and the ship tilted to one side. Some scholars didn't have a stable grip and fell off the ship.

These few people didn't cultivate divine arts that could make them fly so they let off a long and blood-curdling scream which went on for a long time. Because the ship had flown too high up, it would still take a while for them to fall to the ground.

Qin Mu frowned. Both of his legs were like two spears nailed to the ship as he grabbed the drunk Hu Ling'er with one hand and the also drunk Wei Yong with the other in case they fall off as well.

At this moment, a loud laughter came from outside the ship and an unimaginably huge python opened its huge mouth which was laid with barbs, biting down onto the aft of the ship.

Everyone on the ship was startled. The aft of the ship was broken off by that huge python. The scholars who were standing at the aft of the ship fell off from the ship and there were even some scholars swallowed by the huge python!

There was also a person standing on the flat head of the huge python. The person wore a flowery gown and had applied rouge and powder, looking very alluring. However, it was an alluring man who was looking excitedly at all the flustered people on the ship.

## **Chapter 108: The Crowd From Dragon Rider Sect**

Whoosh—

The huge python's thick and solid body coiled over and actually managed to coil around the several levels of the ship. The floors of these levels creaked from the bind and stupified scholars were all around the ship. Even the boatmen were frightened silly.

"Brother Wei Yong, can you fly?" Qin Mu suddenly asked.

Wei Yong had yet returned to his senses, "What?"

Qin Mu raised his hands and threw this short fatty off the ship. Wei Yong's terrified screams came from below, "I can't fly, ahh—"

Qin Mu leaped and jumped off the ship. Hu Ling'er who was dead drunk was now as awake as an owl at night. The instant Qin Mu jumped off, the little fox executed spell and a cusp of gust lifted Qin Mu up.

Qin Mu stepped on the cusp of gust and whizzed down to stretch his hand to grab Wei Yong. Wei Yong who had not yet recovered from his shock looked down and gave another scream.

“Stop screaming!”

Qin Mu exerted force and sprinted frantically. In the sky, the large ship creaked and shattered pieces of the ship came crashing down. Qin Mu continuously dodged in the sky and avoided huge woods that came whizzing past as he rushed towards the distance.

Wei Yong turned back to have a look and his gaze turned dull. The ship had been crushed into pieces. The huge snake coiled around the ship and desperately tightened the ship and split it into two halves!

The scholars on the ship jumped off the ship. There were some divine arts practitioners who had learned flying skills, therefore, they controlled their spirit weapons to assist them to fly. There were some who had never learned that before and could only flail their limbs helplessly as they were crashing towards the ground.

“Long Jiaonan! Are you trying to rebel?”

The boatswain of this ship abruptly into anger and turned into a flaming giant as he attacked that alluring man with his extremely overbearing divine art. However, the ship couldn't support the battle of the two experts and the core elixir room of the ship was shattered from the binding of the huge snake. The apothecaries and boys inside immediately rushed out and jumped off the ship.

At the same time, the huge snake spewed out a cloud of poison smoke onto the boatswain's face. The flaming giant immediately extinguished and fell down facing upwards.

“We're done for...”

Wei Yong's face turned pale white, “Dragon Rider Sect has rebelled. The person which has raised this huge worm is Long Jiaonan, the young sect master of Dragon Rider Sect. He's a well-known villain...”

Qin Mu dragged him along with great effort and rushed toward the ground. There were foothills below them where they could hide their traces and not be discovered by the strong practitioners of Dragon Rider Sect.

After some time, they finally landed on the ground. Hu Ling'er dispelled her spell and was about to say something when a blood-curdling scream came from above. A scholar crashed through the dense tree crowns and splattered into pieces in front of them, his brain and liver scattering everywhere.

Thud!

Another dull thud came from not far away.

Thud, thud, thud...

It seemed like it was raining in this foothill as the scholars fell from the sky and died horribly!

Wei Yong's expression turned ashen as he shivered uncontrollably. Qin Mu's ears twitched and suddenly pulled him to sprint forward. Behind them, a loud crash sounded out as half of the ship came crashing down and destroyed a forest. The trees that were hit, shot out in all directions, looking extremely terrifying.

The huge body of that ship slid three hundred yards and finally came to a stop before crushing Qin Mu who was sprinting.

Qin Mu continued to rush forward and an earth-shattering bang came from the ship. It was the furnace exploding and the surging waves of air smacked the two people and one fox away!

Qin Mu landed on the ground and let go of Wei Yong while whispering to him, "Let us move quickly, soon there will be experts from Dragon Rider Sect to check if there are any surviving people!"

Wei Yong had just recovered from his shock and immediately sprinted forward, "What happens if they see surviving people?"

Hu Ling'er rolled her eyes at him and looked slightly drunk. It was obvious she had sneakily drunk some wine, "Fatty Wei, what do you think?"

Wei Yong gave a cold shiver, "Dragon Rider Sect sure is extremely daring. They actually dared to attack the ship which carried scholars going to take the imperial examinations so close to the capital city. When Imperial Preceptor's injuries are healed, he will definitely not let Dragon Rider Sect go!"

"You really think Imperial Preceptor is injured?"

Qin Mu shook his head, "In my opinion, Imperial Preceptor was not injured at all. He is purposely luring the snakes out of the holes, to lure out all the powers that are opposing him in Eternal Peace Empire and capture them all in one go. Isn't Dragon Rider Sect now lured out by him?"

Wei Yong was stunned and cried out, "What you mean is... Impossible! I've heard that there are no less than twenty regions that are rebelling. They have overtaken the cities and caused countless deaths among the common people, and there are many bandits running amuck. How could Imperial Preceptor condone such a thing?"

Qin Mu replied, "These are naturally tactics. If he wasn't hurt, how could he lure these rebels and traitors out? Therefore he is injured. Suffering a defeat at Great Ruins and being assassinated on his way back, he was gravely injured. No matter if it was his reputation or power had suffered a great decrease. Who would give up on such a great chance?"

He said resolutely, "From what I see, this should be a conspiracy of Imperial Preceptor and he will definitely not quell the rebellion until all the rebels and traitors have unmasked their true nature."

Wei Yong still felt hard to accept it and muttered, "But many people will die..."

"However, the danger lurking around Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor would be completely got rid of, am I right?"

Qin Mu gave a look at Wei Yong. This fatty was extraordinary nimble and could actually follow his footsteps. However, it seemed like he didn't have any comprehension to the wind and couldn't step the cusp of gust to fly. Qin Mu continued, "Once he completely wipes out the lurking dangers, who would dare to mess around with him when he goes out to battle with his troops then? Besides if Imperial Preceptor manages to capture all his enemies at one go, who would dare to object if he wants to ascend to the throne?"

Wei Yong shivered a few times uncontrollably and looked at Qin Mu as if he was a monster, "Brother Qin, you're about the same age as me right? How can you think of so many intrigues and conspiracy? Little fox, is he actually an old cunning fox spirit who had cultivated himself into a human?"

Hu Ling'er got excited and said, "Fatty Wei, you also noticed it? I have long suspected that Young Master is a male fox that had turned intelligent!"

Wei Yong replied, "Don't call me Fatty Wei. The Wei Family of River Tomb is also considered a reputable family. If word of this gets out, it's going to be embarrassing."

Little fox then said, "Then I shall call you Fatty Yong."

Wei Yong fell silent for a moment before replying with an astringent voice, "It better for you to call me Fatty Wei, at least it sounds nicer."

Suddenly Qin Mu asked, "Brother Wei, what's your cultivation?"

"I have broken through the Five Elements Wall and awakened my Five Elements Divine Treasure, however, my cultivation doesn't seem too much higher than yours."

Wei Yong was bewildered, "What's your cultivation?"

"Spirit Embryo Realm."

Qin Mu's vital qi swept and pulled out his Pig Slaughtering Knife as he said, "Brother Wei, you deal with two and I'll deal with two!"

Wei Yong didn't understand what he meant. Suddenly four huge snakes slithered from the forest in front of them. Accompanying the huge snakes were melodious flute sounds that were light and quick. It was like a charming village maiden playing with a green snake in the bushes, the tune going sometimes high and sometimes low.

The people blowing the flutes should be the disciples of Dragon Rider Sect. Looking towards the source of the sound, Qin Mu couldn't see any experts from Dragon Rider Sect, therefore they should have hidden themselves.

Dragon Rider Sect was originally the sect of Great Flourish County that was near the capital city. They raised snakes for a living. Since they could raise huge snakes, therefore, they called themselves Dragon Rider.

This sect had been subdued by Imperial Preceptor and had always known their place. Even among the strange beasts kept in the military, there were huge snakes raised by the disciples of Dragon Rider Sect.

The sound of the flute was clear and melodious as the huge snakes slithered along with the flute's music.

"Brother Qin, Dragon Rider Sect's weapon may look like the huge snakes but it's actually the flute's sound which is used to control the huge snakes' attacks..."

Wei Yong was about to tell Qin Mu about the offensive method of Dragon Rider Sect but Qin Mu had already rushed out. Without a choice, Wei Yong could only take a step and rushed forward as well.

Suddenly the flute's sounds became compressed and fleeting. The speed of those huge red crown snakes suddenly grew faster as they pounced on the two people.

The instant Qin Mu met with the first huge snake, knife light suddenly flashed and burst forth like a huge silver ball!

Midnight Battle Across Stormy Cities!

In a split second, before the huge red crown snake could pounce on him, a silver light went around it. This silver light rushed from the snake's head to the snake's tail and when the silver light vanished, all that was left was a huge snake's skeleton without any flesh or blood left.

At the same time, Hu Ling'er controlled her curved wind blades to cleave another huge snake. However, the flute's sound controlled the huge snake to suck in with its huge mouth and sucked in the curved wind blades, following which, the snake wanted to spew out poisonous smoke.

Qin Mu put his fingers together and thrust forward, which caused Junior Protector Sword to stab into the huge snake's eyes. Flicking his fingers upwards, Junior Protector Sword instantly broke out from the snake's head!

On the other side, Wei Yong pushed forward and his cultivation was dense. With a sword case on his back, he controlled flying swords to stab the huge snakes. The sword case was also a spirit weapon, however, its sharpness was inferior to Qin Mu's Junior Protector Sword and Pig Slaughtering Knife.

Wei Yong moved around nimbly under the attacks of the two snakes and managed to create lots of sword wounds on the huge snake but he couldn't find a chance to kill the two huge snakes.

Even though his cultivation was dense, his techniques in battle were far inferior to Qin Mu and his moves were also moves from the school. He didn't have the ability to kill with one hit.

Suddenly Hu Ling'er skipped and entered the forest like a wisp of smoke while Qin Mu also rushed into the forest from the other direction. Wei Yong gave out a cry of alarm as he wanted to rush over as well but he didn't have the chance to while being tied down by the two huge snakes.

At this moment, the flute's sound suddenly stopped and without the command of the flute's sound, the two huge snakes blanked out. Wei Yong took this opportunity and killed the two snakes, then rushed

into the forest at once. When in the forest, he heard little fox's sound coming over, "Fatty Wei, over here!"

Wei Yong immediately ran over and saw Qin Mu along with the little fox. They were beside a towering tree which was bleeding but Wei Yong didn't see anyone. Taking a closer look, he saw that the one that was bleeding wasn't the tree but a man. The attire of this man was exactly the same as the tree bark and even his face was painted with the grain of the tree bark.

This person had dug a hole in the huge tree, which size was just right to hide in it. Without taking a closer look, it was impossible to see him.

"He's a disciple of Dragon Rider Sect!"

Wei Yong's heart skipped a beat and said, "Brother Qin, the disciples of Dragon Rider Sect usually move in a group!"

"What you mean is..."

Qin Mu also had a change in expression as he looked towards the deeper parts of the forest. The trees were verdant and lush over there and then over a hundred figures walked out from the tree trunks. Their bodies covered with grains of the tree bark.

The sound of the flute sounded out and countless of huge snakes came slithering from the back of the forest. The snakes spread out everywhere over the hills and dales and the red crowns of these huge snakes were like flowers swaying gently in the wind.

### **Chapter 109: Black Feathers And Red Crests**

The disciples of Dragon Rider Sect had already kept watch at the front, waiting to clean up the people that had slipped through the net!

The snakes spreading out everywhere over the hills and dales slithered forward. The scene caused their hairs to stand on end. Wei Yong's expression turned pale white and muttered, "What's the capital city doing? All kinds of demons and monsters had come running out, where are the guards of the capital city?"

At this moment, a booming sound suddenly came from the capital city. Qin Mu's heart moved slightly and immediately grabbed Hu Ling'er and placed her into his backpack and whispered, "Fall back!"

Wei Yong fell back at once and just as the two of them retreated three hundred yards away, the snakes suddenly began to stir restlessly as if they had suffered an extreme shock and slithered frantically over to them! Other than the snakes, the disciples of Dragon Rider Sect also got into a panic and jumped on the heads of the snakes. The huge snakes slithered like they were flying as they pounced on Qin Mu and his friends!

"Back to back!"

Qin Mu cried out and Wei Yong understood and immediately came back to back with him. Taking down the sword case on his back slamming it heavily onto the ground, Wei Yong closed both his hands and each hand had two fingers joined together as he clutched his sword secrets. His sword case opened up and swords rose up one after another with the tips of the swords facing down.

With a sword hum, the swords separated and circled around Qin Mu and him, the sword's tips spinning rapidly outwards!

Qin Mu was astonished. This move from Wei Yong wasn't taught by the school and was much more intricate compared to the sword skills cultivated by the scholars in the school. It should be a sword skill passed down through his family. Wei Yong had said that the Wei Family was a reputable family in River Tomb and it seemed that he wasn't bragging about it.

The snakes swarmed over and Qin Mu's vital qi burst forth. Golden rings appeared both in front and behind him and sword lights came shooting out towards the huge snakes and the disciples on the snakes' heads that were swarming over!

This was a skill that he had learned in the ancient temples of Border Dragon City. It was like divine arts yet it was not divine arts. Its attack power was not weak, and once the huge snakes were injured by the golden sword light, they would avoid them and slither away to one side. Meanwhile, the disciples of Dragon Rider Sect were disrupted by his sword light and had no time to attack back.

These people and snakes didn't seem to be attacking them and looked more like they were trying to escape. However, there were simply too many snakes that were swarming over and it was also hard for Qin Mu to avoid all the huge snakes. These huge snakes swarmed over like flood and were about to inundate the both of them!

Wei Yong cried out loudly and his flying sword revolved around the both of them rapidly to slice at the snakes that were swarming over. With flames and sparks fizzing, huge snake's scales flew around from getting sliced and there were even huge snakes that had their flesh sliced open, looking very miserable.

The pressure on Wei Yong suddenly increased, making it hard for him to withstand it. Qin Mu immediately changed his move and with his palms intersecting each other, his vital qi was like a huge raging river as it turned into currents and crashed into the huge snake's bodies. In his backpack, Hu Ling'er executed spells and raised tornadoes which swept up the huge snakes.

The pressure on the two people and one fox grew larger and larger and at this moment, the booming sound grew closer. Huge birds with black feathers and red crests sprinted among the mountain like they were flying. These huge birds were like moving hills and their beaks were several yards in length. Walking in the forest were like walking in the bushes to them. Their sharp claws shattered the mountain rocks and their huge beaks pecked on the huge snakes, swinging them in all directions!

On the back, the birds stood five to six soldiers with quivers on their waist and longbows on their hands. They continuously shot at Dragon Rider Sect's disciples who got swung away and every disciple who got swung off the snake's head would instantly become a hornet's nest!



With the quivers at their waists, they didn't need to stretch behind to retrieve their arrows and only need to lower their hands to pick up another arrow to shoot, therefore their shooting speed was extremely fast.

The huge birds charged around violently and dispersed the snakes. As their huge bird claws came down, they could grab onto the huge snakes and the sharp claws would stab deeply into the huge snakes' bodies and tear the red crown snakes apart.

The flock of birds chased the snakes until they reached Qin Mu and his friends. Wei Yong exclaimed in delight, "It's the bow and arrow cavalry of the capital city's guards!"

The flock of birds soon reached in front of them as they sprinted over. When the few archers saw Qin Mu and Wei Yong, they were startled and pull the reins at once to make the huge black feathers and red crest birds avoid them. They then shouted loudly, "There are still scholars alive. Everyone be careful not to crash into the scholars!"

Swoosh, swoosh, swoosh! Huge flags along with the flagpoles came shooting down from the back of the birds and stuck in front of Qin Mu.

"Splendid abilities!"

The few soldiers on the back of the bird exclaimed in admiration when they saw Qin Mu's palm skills and Wei Yong's sword skills, "To be able to survive from the ambush of Dragon Rider Sect's snakes, these scholars indeed have some abilities!"

When the flocks of birds charging behind saw these flags, they immediately detoured to both sides and avoided Qin Mu and the rest.

After some time, the flock of birds and the snakes all left far away. Qin Mu let out a sigh of relief and Wei Yong who was behind him put his flying swords back into his sword case. Slumping down on the ground, he panted heavily. Qin Mu looked back and saw huge beasts fighting fiercely in the forest. The huge snake was like a dragon turning and twisting in the woods with terrifying impetus. The young sect master of Dragon Rider Sect Long Jiaonan must have met with the bow and arrow cavalry and ended up fighting.

A moment later, the follow-up troops from the capital city slaughtered their way over. The ones who were here this time were the sword guards. As the sword pellets rose into the sky, their radiance was blinding and ten of thousands of flying swords shot downwards, causing great casualties to Dragon Rider Sect. Long Jiaonan brought her huge snake and retreated with countless of smaller sized snakes which slithered onto the huge snake's body. Many of the Dragon Rider Sect's disciples rose into the sky and also landed on the huge snake's body.

The huge snake actually spat out a demon cloud with thunder and lighting, and rose into the air and rushed off. The sword guards chased after it. They soon left further and further away.

"Are there still scholars that have survived?" A voice asked in the forest.

"Yes, I saw two scholars just now!"

“There are only two scholars?”

The voice fell silent.

“Where’s the ship from?”

“Should be from River Tomb County, the hometown of Imperial Preceptor...”

“Damn it! Dragon Rider Sect attacking the scholar’s ship from River Tomb County was clearly to bring down the Imperial Preceptor’s prestige. It’s also our fault. We didn’t guard it poorly... Follow me, let’s go and meet the two scholars.”

...

A moment later, a few huge birds sprinted rapidly over to Qin Mu and his companions. A high ranking military officer clad in armor jumped off the bird’s back to look at Qin Mu and Wei Yong. With his booming voice, he asked, “Two scholars, do you know how many people were onboard.”

Qin Mu didn’t count precisely and hesitated for a moment, “About three to five hundred people.”

The corners of the military officer’s eyes twitched, “Three to five hundred scholars...”

Wei Yong immediately said, “General, there are many divine arts practitioners among the scholars that know how to fly. I saw many people flying out from the ship. They should have survived.”

The general shook his head, “None of them survived. They were eaten by the flying snakes of Dragon Rider Sect in mid-air. You are the only two left...”

Wei Yong jumped in shock and looked towards Qin Mu. If it wasn’t Qin Mu who had been quick-witted and threw him off the ship, he would have died on the ship. After throwing him down the ship, Qin Mu had brought him to step on the wind to rush down to the forest below. He was still bewildered at why Qin Mu hadn’t continue sprinting in the air where it would be faster. Never would he think that all the scholars who were flying in the air were dead and only the two of them were left alive.

“Brother Qin, my life is given by you! From today onwards, you’re my blood brother...”

Hu Ling’er was bewildered, “Fatty Wei, was it your parents who had given you life?”

Wei Yong immediately said, “Like a second parent, second parent! Little fox, don’t always create trouble. I was about to say my heartfelt words and now I’ve completely forgotten after getting interrupted by you!”

The military officer was astonished, “Your surname is Wei? The Wei of River Tomb’s Wei Family?”

Wei Yong nodded, “I’m indeed from River Tomb’s Wei Family.”

The military officer gave a sigh of relief and said, "You're really the family member of Duke Wei. Young Master Wei, Duke will definitely be happy to know that you're fine. This little brother's surname is Qin? Could it be the Qin of capital city's Qin Family?"

Qin Mu shook his head and smiled, "My Qin is not the Qin of capital city's Qin Family. I'm from Lizhou Prefecture."

The military officer said, "So you are from Lizhou Prefecture. May both scholars try to get to the capital city soon, Dragon Rider Sect has a great power and there might still be remnants. Anybody there? Send these two scholars to the capital city!"

A huge bird came over and the soldier on the back of the bird smiled, "May both scholars come up the bird."

Qin Mu and Wei Yong leaped onto the bird's back. They saw that the back of the bird was very wide and there was even a wide deck secured onto the bird's back for people to stand on.

This black feather and red crest bird strode and rushed towards the capital city.

The military officer let out another sigh of relief and muttered to himself, "Duke Wei is a first ranking high official of the Imperial Family. Lucky his family member is fine or else my official position would be at stake... The other youth with the surname Qin is not from Qin Family? His clothing looks pretty good and his power is also extraordinary. Only powerful families can train out such a remarkable child. Could it be that Lizhou Prefecture has another Qin Family?"

### **Chapter 110: Cathouse And Flower Alley**

An hour later, the black feather and red crest had sprinted its way to the capital city. Qin Mu looked forward and his heart wavered slightly. He had seen River Tomb City before and was extremely shocked yet the capital city in front of him brought him a greater shock than River Tomb City.

River Tomb City was built on Gold River and was a hundred yards above the river surface, having a magnificent sight.

Whereas this capital city was built on mountain ranges which were like huge dragons. Furthermore, it wasn't a single mountain range but nine mountain ranges.

Nine mountain ranges which were like dragons crawling on the flatlands gathered at the location of the capital city. The place where nine dragons converged and where the dragon's heads gathered was the capital city.

This kind of majestic grandeur had already far surpassed River Tomb City which was built on Gold River. It was no wonder Emperor Yanfeng made little of the saying that River Tomb City intercepted the dragon vein by building it on top of the dragon's head. The capital city was originally sovereign of nine dragons, so why did he have to be concerned with the River Tomb City of Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor, which suppressed just one dragon?

With nine dragons surrounding and protecting the capital city, there were still four barracks ten miles away from the capital city. Each barrack was as huge as a city and seven miles away from the barracks were eight towns. Even though they were towns, they could be compared to cities.

These eight towns were built beside a huge river which was the second big river in Eternal Peace Empire called Mud River. The water and land transportation there was extremely convenient and fast. The first big river was Surging River which came from Great Ruins.

Even though it was the second big river, Mud River was called the dragon's vein of Eternal Peace, the orthodox dragon's vein. Whereas Gold River was just rumored to be a dragon's vein and many people in all levels of society didn't approve of that.

Qin Mu gazed into the distance. The capital city where nine dragons converged had an extraordinary atmosphere which was as expected from the place where the Son of Heaven ruled the world from.

"There still troops hidden in the mountains!" Qin Mu gazed at the Nine Dragons Mountain Ranges and could faintly see the qi of troops which made him cried out in astonishment.

The few soldiers on the back of the bird were also astonished as they looked towards him. One of them asked, "Little brother know people in the army? You even know that there are troops hidden in the mountains."

Qin Mu didn't reply. The reason he could see a magnificent army with thousands of men and horses hidden among the Nine Dragons Mountain Ranges was because of his Heaven's Eyes. The Nine Heavens Eyes Awakening Skill which was imparted to him by Blind had the art to gaze at qi.

What was called 'gazing at qi' was to observe the fate.

Stationing troops at such a large scale in a place like the capital city to use the qi of the troops to suppress the fate of the empire, it naturally couldn't escape his eyes.

The bow and arrow calvary sent them to the capital city's gate before taking their leave. Qin Mu and Wei Yong had their travel permits checked at the city gate and entered the capital city. As the city below the foot of the Son of Heaven, it would naturally be extremely flourishing. Even though Qin Mu had been to River Tomb City and the flourishing River Tomb City had broadened his horizons, the capital city was an entirely different scenery.

It was bustling here but there weren't merchants haggling over every cent. There was wealth accumulation, but more, much more than this, there was cultural heritage.

The houses and buildings were atmospheric and the sculpting techniques of the stone lions along the roadside were also very exquisite. The rhyming couplets on the doors of big families were also distinctive. All the families here placed Door Gods on their external doors and this also gave him a wonderful feeling, as if the Door Gods could really come alive to defend against demons and monsters.

One tiny clue reveals the general trend. Checking a leaf and one would know if it's spring or autumn. Observing a drop of water and one would know how blue the sea was. As Qin Mu observed his surroundings, he became fully aware of how formidable the empire was.

Village Chief and the others once told him that Eternal Peace Empire was a sect that was disguised as a country. Only now did he know how powerful this sect was!

“Does Brother Qin have a place to stay?”

Wei Yong invited him, “If not, there’s no harm coming to the duke’s manor to stay for a few days. We can wait until the Imperial College opens its doors and go over to take the examinations.”

Qin Mu hesitated for a moment and shook his head, “I have old friends from my hometown in the city and I’m going to live with them. Brother Wei Yong, let’s part our ways here.”

Wei Yong could only drop the subject and said, “When you’ve settled down, you can order someone to notify me at the duke’s manor.”

Qin Mu smiled, “Definitely. That’s right, Brother Wei Yong, where is the cathouse at?”

Wei Yong had a weird expression, “I didn’t know before that Brother Qin is still a disso... sophisticated person that likes this kind of taste. The biggest cathouse in the capital city is at Flower Alley. Walk all the way to the end of Flowery Phoenix Street and take a right turn, after that you will see Flower Alley after another three streets. The best cathouse in Flower Alley is called Rain Listening Pavilion. Ehem, do not ask me how I know, I’ve never been there... Take care of your body!”

Qin Mu was bewildered. What kind of taste is going to the cathouse? And what has it to do with the body?

The two of them parted their ways.

Qin Mu brought Hu Ling’er forward and walked towards in Flowery Phoenix Street.

“This is not a cathouse...”

In Flower Alley, Qin Mu looked at the buildings on both sides and was bewildered. The buildings were the crimson red color with lanterns hanging at the doors but there were no signs of cats.

“Little brother come up and play!” Some little sisters waved to him from the top of the building.

“Young Master Mu, do you know them?”

Hu Ling’er was bewildered, “They’re shouting so enthusiastically!”

“It was the same when I went to Border Dragon City. There were some sisters who were very cordial and I wasn’t used to it.”

Qin Mu walked forward and looked at the signboards on his way. The Flower Alley was very deep and had a lot of twists and turns. Once they were deep inside, it wasn’t as bustling as before. The maidens here were more reserved as they hugged their pipas and leaned against the windows. With their faces half concealed by pipas, they gently played pipas in a clear and serene tone.

As they continued to walk in, the soft music came from inside. Qin Mu opened the door to take a look and saw light muslins fluttering about. A few maidens were running to and fro among the light muslins while some maidens were tuning their instruments.

Walking further in, there were some girls upstairs practicing their songs and dances. Peals of laughter like loud and clear bells sounded out from time to time, charming and lovely. Reaching the alley here, there were not as many passersby as before. There would be one or two men coming out from the courtyard from time to time. They seemed like the master as they had graceful and warm women tidying their clothes and sending them off reluctantly.

However, the men who walked out from inside would always cover their faces when they saw Qin Mu, as if they were afraid of being recognized.

Qin Mu was bewildered. It's nothing shameful to walk out of their own house so why are they covering their faces?

"The people in the city are really strange."

He walked deeply into Flower Alley and saw a building which wrote Rain Listening Pavilion. The door of this building was tightly locked, however, the courtyard looked deep and was very silent.

Qin Mu came forward and knocked on the door. A moment later he heard pattering footsteps sounding out with a girl's gentle voice, "I'm coming, I'm coming."

The sound of door bolt opening came from inside and a slit was opened at the door. A girl poked her head out behind the door and asked curiously when she saw Qin Mu, "Guest, who are you looking for?"

Qin Mu asked politely, "Is Fu Qingyun around?"

That girl pulled the door half open and smiled, "May I ask for young master's name? It's easier for me to inform as well."

"You can tell her that my surname is Qin."

The girl closed the door and her footsteps gradually went far away. She must have gone to inform. After some time, the door opened once again and a familiar face was revealed. It was the Cathouse Hall Master Fu Qingyun and when she saw Qin Mu, she couldn't help being surprised and delighted, "Young master is finally here! Quick, quick, come inside! Sisters, what are you waiting for? Serve the tea, young master is here!"

"Young master is here?"

The girls' voices came from inside and they sounded very melodious. Their tinkling voices sounded like small birds chirping on a tree that had just sprouted in spring. Blue, green, red and purple dresses fluttered in front of Qin Mu's eyes as the maidens from Rain Listening Pavilion came out and welcomed him, dazzling his eyes.

The maidens of Rain Listening Pavilion all had their distinguishing features. Some of them were as warm as soft jade, some were as cold as ice frost, some were delicate and charming and some were passionate like fire. It could be said that they were like a mix of flowers that gradually charmed the eyes of the person looking at them.

Fu Qingyun immediately said, "Move away, all move away! Young master has just arrived after a long and tiring journey so don't pester young master! Why are you not preparing the tea?"

These girls dispersed like a bunch of butterflies. Some went to scoop up spring water, some went to wash the teacups and some went to boil the water. That relieved Qin Mu so much, and he appeared relaxed. Fu Qingyun led him into the main room and said, 'These girls lack discipline. Young master, don't blame them! It's dangerous outside. The war brought confusion and disorder, and perhaps things unforeseen have happened to young master on your way over here?'

Qin Mu smiled and said, "I indeed met some troubles but I was lucky to get through daunting experiences without mishap. You can inform the higher-ups in the cult to inform Patriarch."

Fu Qingyun smiled, "Patriarch has been waiting quite some time for young master. Actually, Patriarch had already told us that if we met young master, we should tell young master to meet him."

Some of the girls came up with tea and sneaked a few glances at Qin Mu while giggling.

Qin Mu gave a smile in return and asked bewilderedly, "Sister Yun'er, where do I go find him?"

That girl heard Qin Mu referred to Fu Qingyun as Sister Yun'er and giggled again.

Fu Qingyun gave her a stare and ousted her out before smiling, "Of course Imperial College. Young master drink tea."

"Imperial College?"

Qin Mu was astonished and forgot to drink the tea in the teacup he had raised. Wasn't Imperial College the place the scholars go to for learning? Why did he have to go to Imperial College to meet the young patriarch?

"Young master have no idea?"

Fu Qingyun smiled, "Patriarch is the empire's Grand Chancellor of Imperial College, a lower third-ranking official that in charge of Imperial College, so naturally he would stay at Imperial College. Even though the imperial scholars of Imperial College has the honorific of being students of the Son of Heaven, but they are actually students of Patriarch."

Qin Mu's heart was strongly shaken. All the imperial scholars in Imperial College were students of the young patriarch?

Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor and Emperor Yanfeng actually dared to hand this official position to the patriarch of Heavenly Devil Cult? Weren't they worried that he got too powerful?

Fu Qingyun seemed to be able to see his thoughts and said, "The human world is like a game to Patriarch. No one knows his true identity. Actually, he's an old man virtue and prestige, an otherworldly expert whose reputation had stirred the world long before the time of the first emperor and had always been mysterious. Even Imperial Preceptor had also consulted him for advice and the path. It was also through Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor's vouch that he could become the empire's Grand Chancellor of Imperial College."