

Tales of Herding Gods Chapter 256-260

Chapter 256: Invite Dao Sword, Slay True Dragon

Qin Mu stared with wide eyes, beyond startled. He had a grotesque and variegated feeling and didn't know whether to laugh or cry. Just then, that sword light had avoided him and went straight for the heart of Fo Xin's brows, penetrating his skull. Even if he wanted to stop it, he couldn't make it in time.

The aim of this sudden sword light was to slay him, the Heavenly Devil Cult Master. However, when he clashed with Fo Xin, he had used Rulai's Mahayana Sutra, so his buddha rays shot to the heavens, while Fo Xin had used Great Educational Heavenly Devil Scriptures, which gave him a severe devil nature.

The owner of the flying sword was over a mile away from them, so with the hazy moonlight, he had simply sent the sword flying based on the rays he saw from afar, taking Fo Xin's life.

The retainers of the crown prince naturally had extremely high abilities and cultivated orthodox sword techniques. On top of that, Fo Xin had been already heavily injured by Qin Mu, and so he lost his life carelessly just like that.

Beside the boundary stone, the dragon qilin was staring at the elaphure. Before the two strange beasts could even start to fight, the battle had already ended.

The elaphure let out a sigh of relief when he saw Qin Mu not killing Fo Xin, yet to its surprise, a sword light came from nowhere. It was so sudden that the elaphure had no time to react.

The figures began flying over, and Qin Mu didn't think twice before moving back onto the dragon qilin. When the elaphure saw Fo Xin's death, its mind was left in a huge mess, and the creature was overwhelmed by the dragon qilin's aura.

Qin Mu jumped onto the back of his mount, and the dragon qilin immediately fled from the scene as fire clouds grew under his feet.

"That head is mine!" one of the crown prince's retainers shouted out. "No one shall take my credit!"

He came to the boundary stone and pulled out his flying sword from the heart of Fo Xin's brows. When he got ready to cut Fo Xin's head off, he was slightly stunned. "How come he doesn't have hair?"

As the other retainers rushed after, they were bewildered when they saw 'Fozi' riding on the dragon qilin to escape while the elaphure that guarded Great Thunderclap Monastery stood motionless.

Qin Mu turned his head back, and the Heavenly Devil Cult Master smiled towards these retainers of the crown prince under the moonlight, making their hearts fall into the abyss.

"Heavenly Devil Cult Master..."

The retainers of the crown prince felt their whole bodies turn cold as they thought what to do next. Since the one riding the dragon qilin was Heavenly Devil Cult Master, there was only one person that could be lying there under the boundary stone.

They turned their suddenly stiff necks and saw the retainer with the sword standing helplessly. He stretched his hand out to try and block the sword hole in the heart of Fo Xin's brows, but there was no use. He stood up, thinking to drag the body away, but then saw the rest of his companions when he turned his head around.

This retainer was out of his wits and turned around to look at the corpse of Fozi under the boundary stone before looking back at the other retainers. He then looked at the corpse again, repeating the movement of his head for the third time.

"What do I do?" He sounded like he was sobbing. "We all came here together, so you guys can forget about leaving me alone. If you sabotage me, you guys won't escape death as well! Killing Fozi is a grave crime, and the crown prince will execute all of you as well!"

The other retainers also had no idea how to proceed, but then, one of them said with a parched throat, "We might as well go all the way: burn the corpse and eliminate all evidence, pushing the blame onto Heavenly Devil Cult Master! There's already more than enough shit on Heavenly Devil Cult Master, so one more thing won't make a difference!"

Someone in the crowd reminded, "But that elaphure saw what happened..."

They all turned to look at the elaphure.

"Kill this deer and no one will know!"

They sprung into action, and countless flying swords flew out from their sheaths, coming down from the sky like sword rain which came for the elaphure. The body of the elaphure trembled as the animal revealed its true body, which was dozens of times larger. The elaphure braved the sword rain and charged at the group, ignoring the flying swords. They could prick its skin, but not injure its organs.

A huge bang could be heard when the huge deer horns stabbed two people and smashed them into the boundary stone. Two new blood stains appeared on the boundary stone.

The other two people immediately flew away, but this elaphure was not an unusual strange beast. It had the face of a horse, the hooves of a cow, the tail of a donkey, and the horns of a deer. Listening to the dharma of Great Thunderclap Monastery for close to two hundred years, it had cultivated remarkable abilities and was incomparably strong.

The elaphure shook its head, and the deer horns flew out. One of them pierced through the chest of one man, nailing him to the ground. In the meantime, the elaphure caught up to the other person and stomped him to death.

That strange beast then shook its head, and the deer horns flew back to its head. After looking back at the corpse of Fozi under the boundary stone, the elaphure turned and sprinted back to Great Thunderclap Monastery.

Even though flying swords covered the creature's body, they created only external injuries; there was no decrease in the running speed.

Not long later, the sky had brightened, and a few elderly monks came to the place of the boundary stone under the lead of the elaphure. Those old monks examined the situation with grim expressions.

"Fozi actually died just like this..."

A yellow-robed old monk frowned and said, "The sword wound was indeed left behind by the retainers of the crown prince, not the sword skill of Heavenly Devil Cult. It also a match with the weapons of those retainers. It's just that Rulai is now discussing with crown prince the great plans regarding the future of the world, to change the dynasty and correct the reform of Emperor Yanfeng, returning everything to its origin. This is a plan of extreme importance. If it was spoiled by this..."

"It's saddening to see Fozi pass away, but it's only mortal flesh that's gone. He can finally be free from the struggles in this sea of suffering."

Another old monk said, "We can't let the death of Fozi spoil the plans of extreme importance. Rulai doesn't need to know about this incident, it's enough that we the arhats of the Hall of Arhats knows about this."

"However, Fozi is dead, and the retainers of the crown prince are also dead, we can't hide this from them."

"We will tell Rulai and the crown prince that it was Heavenly Devil Cult Master who did this. Out of goodwill, Fozi sent Heavenly Devil Cult Master out of the monastery, but Heavenly Devil Cult Master launched a sneak attack on him at the boundary stone, killing Fozi. The retainers of the crown prince had gone to stop him, but they were all ruthlessly killed by him as well."

The expressions of yellow-robed old monks changed, and an arhat shouted out, "A monk cannot lie!"

The old monk's long eyebrows fluttered as he said with an emotional sigh, "There's no need for you guys to say anything, I'll do it. After saying it, I'll return to a normal life and leave the monastery! In comparison to the future of Great Thunderclap Monastery, what's the harm in giving up my clean reputation?"

"Excellent, excellent! Senior brother is righteous." All the monks put their palms together and paid their respects to him.

...

When the monks from Hall of Arhats returned to Great Thunderclap Monastery, Old Rulai had already finished the discussion with Eternal Peace Crown Prince. He got up to send him off and said, "Your Highness should immediately return to the capital city, if the emperor dies and the world is without a ruler, I'm afraid the other princes will assume the throne if Your Highness is not in the capital city."

Eternal Peace Crown Prince said sternly, "Buddha is absolutely right."

That long-eyebrowed monk came forward at that moment and said, "Revered One of the World, Heavenly Devil Cult Master has done much evil. Fozi had gone to send him out, but his life was taken. The retainers of the crown prince had gone forward to save Fozi, but their lives were also lost, so their souls went to paradise."

Eternal Peace Crown Prince was furious. "That devil actually dared to do something like this? I didn't find trouble with him, so he came to kill my people instead! Buddha, this devil even dares to kill Fozi, he's truly impudent, we can't just let him off like this!"

Old Rulai took a look at the arhats from the Hall of Arhats. They looked down, not speaking a word.

"Your Highness does not need to trouble himself with this matter, return to the capital city as soon as possible. Great Thunderclap Monastery will settle the incident regarding Heavenly Devil Cult Master." Old Rulai had a warm expression as he looked towards the long-eyebrowed monk. "Chang Mei, how long have you been in the Hall of Arhats?"

"Revered One of the World, it's already been two hundred and nine years."

Old Rulai said in an amiable manner, "You shall settle the incident regarding Heavenly Devil Cult Master, for that, I shall allow you to return to your normal life."

Monk Chang Mei was greatly shaken. He raised his head to look at Old Rulai, but Old Rulai had already turned around to speak to Eternal Peace Crown Prince. "Your Highness, return to the capital city; there must be no delay."

Eternal Peace Crown Prince agreed and hurried down the mountain while thinking to himself, 'This buddha sure is a profound mystery.'

Monk Chang Mei tidied up and also left the mountain thinking to himself, 'Old Rulai had that I lied so he chased me out of Great Thunderclap Monastery without me bringing it up, as expected of the wise and awakened one. This is a realm I can never reach in my life, so I should just make use of this body to do more things for Great Thunderclap Monastery!'

After going down the mountain and walking a short distance, he suddenly heard a voice coming from the sky. "Monk Chang Mei, why don't you come with me?"

Monk Chang Mei raised his head and saw a luxurious flying ship which had stopped in the sky. The crown prince stood on the bow of that ship, inviting him over.

His heart moved slightly, and he immediately rose into the sky and landed on the ship with a greeting. "Your Highness, I'm no longer a monk, the surname of my normal family is Su, my name is just a..." He thought for a while before breaking into laughter. "I haven't used my secular name for over two hundred years. It's been so long that I've already forgotten it, please excuse me, Your Highness."

"Even if you returned to your ordinary life, you're still half a monk and half an ordinary person, I'll just call you Su Changmei," said Eternal Peace Crown Prince.

Su Changmei expressed his thanks and said, "I will go with this name. What did Your Highness call me for?"

"Heavenly Devil Cult Master."

Eternal Peace Crown Prince said, "This devil from the devil cult has too many tricks up his sleeves and even Sun Nantuo died from his schemes without any traces to be found! When Imperial College was having holidays and he planned to return to Great Ruins alone, I ordered people to spread the news and lured experts from all over to give chase, but he was still able to escape alive. I've also received news that the strong practitioners that chased after him, Lu Wenshu from Poor Logic Sect, Wanderer Qing Yu, Arhat Pu Shan, Daoist Ku Ye, and even Daoist Qing Shan had been killed! Heavenly Devil Cult's power is no weaker than that of Great Thunderclap Monastery! I'm afraid that if you chase after him, you will only be harmed by him."

Su Changmei's heart trembled. Lu Wenshu, Wanderer Qing Yu—these people were all famous existences, especially Daoist Qing Shan. He was a righteous practitioner of Life and Death Realm. His abilities were no weaker than those of Su Changmei himself!

Even Daoist Qing Shan had been killed?

Eternal Peace Crown Prince then added, "I was waiting for you here to remind you to take your time in making a decision. You are not out to kill just anybody, it's the cult master of Heavenly Devil Cult, the number one sacred ground of the devil path. Why don't you follow me back to the capital city and plan slowly?"

Su Changmei nodded in agreement. "Your Highness, revenge must be taken for Fozi."

Eternal Peace Crown Prince smiled. "I don't only want to take the head of Heavenly Devil Cult Master, but for whole Heavenly Devil Cult to be uprooted and completely eradicated. This is what your Great Thunderclap Monastery would agree with without prior consultation, I'm sure. Don't worry, even though you're no longer an arhat of Great Thunderclap Monastery, after I ascend to the throne, I'll allow you to found your own sect and be your own abbot, to become buddha!"

...

In Kunlun Jade Void Mountain's Dao Sect, a Dao child ran over in a hurry to Dao Master and said, "Dao Master, Rulai has come to visit!"

The other asked quickly, "How many people?"

"One person."

Old Dao Master let out a sigh of relief. "Then he has not come to fight. Quickly, invite... Nevermind, I shall invite him personally!"

After a while, Old Rulai and Old Dao Master sat down, and he dismissed his followers. Old Rulai also didn't beat around the bush and said directly, "I have met Eternal Peace Crown Prince."

Old Dao Master's heart trembled slightly, and he said, "The crown prince is not as good as His Majesty; he's not a wise ruler."

"His Majesty knows how to rule the country too well, which is why there's this natural disaster. Dao brother, look at this snow disaster that caused the people to struggle for their lives. Do you want an even greater disaster to descend? Dao Sect should know about the records from Mourning Emperor Emptiness Era, right?"

Old Dao Master mumbled and said, "Your buddhism refers to it as Mourning Emperor, Emptiness Era, Emptiness Calamity, whereas my Dao Sect refers to it as Founding Emperor, Founding Emperor Era, Founding Emperor Calamity. I've also seen the records of Founding Emperor Era and the prospering divine kingdom that had been wiped out. Countless living beings had suffered from that calamity and were turned to ashes. I'm quite worried about this matter."

After a moment, he continued, "A small country with a small population that discards conventional wisdom, which is held holy and sacred—this is the lesson my Dao Sect learned from that Founding Emperor Calamity. With a small country and few people that don't believe in any experienced and wise saints, everyone could live well and happy, without any worries. Wouldn't that be excellent? It was fine in the past, with small countries with small populations listening to the orders of their sect."

"We need a new emperor. A dead emperor is better than all living things being dead," said Old Rulai

Dao Master gave him a glance and asked, "What benefits did the crown prince promise you?"

Old Rulai shook his head and said, "I didn't ask for any benefits from him."

Dao Master smiled. "I believe you." Since they were done, he rose and said, "That Dao sword of mine hasn't been used for awhile. I wonder if it has turned blunt, if it'll be able to slay a true dragon."

Old Rulai rose to express his thanks. "Much thanks to senior brother for assisting!"

Chapter 257: Not Your Fault

As Qin Mu traveled forward, he saw desolation caused by the disaster. There were starving people everywhere, small and large tragedies sprung up everywhere, and plague ran amuck. When compared to the peaceful territory of Great Thunderclap Monastery, these places were simply hell.

Luckily, there were numerous college and primary school scholars sending medical help to suppress the plague, or else the disaster would have become even more severe.

Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor had constructed many primary schools and colleges to replace private schools, and they revealed their worth at this moment. Even though the power of each and every one of these scholars was weak, they were astonishing together. They were equivalent to numerous small sects.

Qin Mu saw officers with their men wiping out demons and monsters that were taking advantage to create even more chaos. The county magistrate was even guarding the land personally and advising the

immigrants to return home since the rations the emperor sent for disaster relief would be transported soon.

There were even some disciples of Dao Sect and buddhism helping disaster victims, but they were more casual. Compared with the power of the empire, their reach was limited, and they would only help wherever they went. Some people took this chance to impart their teachings and give birth to numerous evil cults, but they were all half-baked.

'This level of natural disaster can't wipe out such an empire,' Qin Mu thought to himself. The new crops were already planted, so as long as they waited until the harvest season, the people would be appeased.

The timing of this disaster in Eternal Peace Empire was extremely strange, though. It happened precisely after the entire empire was thrown into chaos and most of the rations had been exhausted by the wars. With this snow disaster added into the fray, it was enough to shake the foundation of the empire.

'I wonder if Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor has returned to the court, if the emperor is still sending disaster relief. Also, where did this natural disaster come from? This is not something that sacred grounds like Dao Sect and Great Thunderclap Monastery can create, but that requires a god's power.'

He raised his head to look up at the sky in suspicion. Why had this happened?

Why did Heaven want a disaster to descend on Eternal Peace?

For the orthodox teachings of gods in the human world?

Before Eternal Peace, it was a world that was ruled by sects which formed countries of all sizes. Some of these sects had ancient inheritances and legends which said that they had been created by gods. In that case, was it because the orthodox teachings of gods in the human world were being wiped out by Eternal Peace Empire which angered the gods into sending such a natural disaster?

Or was there a more profound reason behind this?

Qin Mu found some disciples of Heavenly Devil Cult and made a few inquiries. Heavenly Devil Cult was currently following the authorities to send disaster relief and most of the disciples in the cult had been mobilized, covering all of the lands. The hall masters of every hall had also donated money out of their pockets and were all beyond broke.

The problem was that some merchants were still hoarding to profit and some influential families were not selling.

"The emperor was angered and killed a bunch of them, then found some officials that took bribes and bent the law, coveting the money for disaster relief, and so he killed another bunch of them. There were also some people that took this chance to sell official positions, and the emperor killed one more bunch."

A Heavenly Devil Cult Disciple who had followed the emperor to send disaster relief had seen quite a number of things. When he spoke, his face was wide with a smile full of exultation. "The emperor even faces assassins, most of whom were existences of the cult master level. However, there were civil and

military officials in the entourage, and the emperor personally went into battle as well. He was extremely powerful! It's a pity cult master was not there"

Qin Mu asked, "Who are the strong practitioners that had tried to assassinate the emperor?"

"I've heard it was Teacher Poor, True Lord Tian, and those guys. There were also some strong practitioners from beyond the Great Wall."

Qin Mu's expression changed slightly. "Alliance with the cult master level strong practitioners from beyond the Great Wall? Is Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor back?"

"I haven't seen him."

Qin Mu mumbled for a moment, then asked, "Where is the emperor now?"

"He's at Bazhou Prefecture that's five thousand miles away from here." That Heavenly Devil Cult Disciple soon added, "The emperor had gone to the south and cleared the influential families that had refused to sell their rations before going to the north and is now at Bazhou. That place is still considered stable."

Qin Mu composed himself and asked, "What about the capital city? Which of the first ranking high officials are left behind?"

"The crown prince was left behind to supervise the empire and the officials related to him."

Qin Mu's expression became grim. The capital city was supposed to be supervised by the crown prince yet he had run to Great Thunderclap Monastery. Teacher Poor, True Lord Tian, and their friends who had almost died in the hands of Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor had been saved by Old Rulai who had promised they would convert to buddhism and not meddle with the affairs of the secular world. Yet Teacher Poor and the rest had run out again.

When he added the crown prince paying a visit to Old Rulai to that knowledge, things seemed to be getting serious.

"They say that the imperial court is the largest sacred ground in the world. I wonder if it really clashed with Great Thunderclap Monastery, who would come out on top?" Qin Mu muttered to himself irresolutely before shifting his thoughts away. "Can we contact the hall masters?"

"Now that every hall is helping disaster victims, it's quite hard to contact them. If we wanted to gather all the halls, it would probably take a month or two."

Qin Mu shook his head and left without saying anything. Sitting on the back of the dragon qilin, he hurried towards Bazhou.

Bazhou was about five thousand miles away, and the journey was long. Even if the dragon qilin didn't rest, he would only be able to reach there the next day. But rest was necessary, so he reckoned that he would only reach Bazhou on the night of the next day.

"If only my treasure ship was still around, it would be so much easier. What a pity it's ruined."

Qin Mu ordered the dragon qilin to rush forward at full speed and promised him a bucket of food every day. The dragon qilin's spirit was roused and he sprinted towards Bazhou while stepping on his fire clouds.

Night fell in no time, and Qin Mu raised his head to look at the aspects of the celestial bodies to determine the direction before ordering the dragon qilin to continue on his way. When the sun had risen, the dragon qilin couldn't maintain his speed anymore and started foaming from exhaustion. He couldn't run anymore and his speed became slower and slower.

Qin Mu made him stop and looked around to determine his location. Taking out the geographic map of Eternal Peace, he noticed he was only a thousand miles away from Bazhou.

He let out a sigh of relief and fed the dragon qilin. He headed forward at a steady pace, allowing the dragon qilin to rest his feet.

He didn't walk far before he saw a house in the desolate mountains. The place should be a recently built one since everything seemed new. Qin Mu walked over, wanting to knock on the door when it opened and a woman came face to face with him. Both of them were stunned.

"Mu'er?"

The woman with matchless beauty was stunned in place when she saw him. Looking around, she asked bewilderedly, "How did you find this place? I spend quite an effort to shake off Blind and Old Ma, yet was actually found by you."

Qin Mu was surprised and delighted. "Granny, why are you here?" He suddenly became alert. "Are you granny or Li Tianxing?"

Granny Si moved aside to let him into the house. "The old devil is temporarily suppressed by me. Even though Old Rulai didn't manage to get rid of him, he was still able to injure his vitality greatly, so we are currently evenly matched and thus we made an agreement. He will only come out at night while I'll come out during the day."

Qin Mu asked suspiciously, "If you are really granny, why did you have to avoid Grandpa Ma and Grandpa Blind? Why do you have to hide here?"

Granny Si rolled her eyes at him. "Rascal, suspecting even granny now? If I was the old devil, why would I have to lie if I wanted to harm you?"

Qin Mu thought about it and felt that it was really the case. Compared to Granny Si, he was pathetically weak. If she was Li Tianxing, she wouldn't need to waste her energy to lie to him. He then walked into the house.

If she was Li Tianxing, she could have charmed him with just a gaze with her seductiveness. He was even more of a woman than a woman.

This house was very simple as it was just constructed. There was little furniture, and looking around, Qin Mu found that the tables were all crooked or slanted. This put him at ease.

Granny Si didn't have deft hands like Grandpa Ma. She could make pieces of clothing but her carpentry was pitiful, so these tables and chairs were definitely made by her.

Qin Mu sat down on one chair to rest and felt uncomfortable as the chair was higher on one side and lower on the other. Because of that, he was absolutely certain that the chair had been made by Granny Si. He asked curiously, "Why does granny not want to return to Great Ruins?"

Granny Si shook her head and walked out of the house. After a moment, a few pieces of wood floated into the house as she planned to make a bed.

Qin Mu didn't care much about resting and immediately went up to help. Granny Si was the saintess of the cult, and even if she had lived in Disabled Elderly Village for over forty years, she had not learned Old Ma's craft at all. On the other hand, Qin Mu was an expert in crafting all kinds of furniture.

Granny Si couldn't help, so she went to fetch water from the riverside and came back to polish the bronze mirror. She said, "I can't go back now, what would be the point? In Great Ruins, there's the darkness blocking the way. If the old devil came out to create a ruckus again, how long could the old bones of Village Chief and the rest last? Wouldn't it be better to just stay here and wear down the old devil's temperament?"

Qin Mu quickly finished making the bed and moved it into the house. He saw the mirror was all bumpy from Granny Si's polishing and didn't know whether to laugh or cry. He immediately took the mirror into his hand and transformed his vital qi into White Tiger Vital Qi. After some calculation, his vital qi thread polished it finely and leveled the bronze mirror. He then went to make a dressing table.

Granny Si saw the dragon qilin sprawled out on the ground in deep sleep and Qin Mu's bloodshot eyes that were filled with exhaustion. She said, "You have hurried all night? Go to sleep first."

"You won't leave?"

"I won't."

Qin Mu relaxed and went to sleep on the bed. Even though there was no bedding, he was used to sleeping outdoors and fell asleep quickly.

It was unknown how long had passed when Qin Mu woke up in a daze and saw Granny Si spacing out in front of the bronze mirror on the dressing table. She held scissors, which were pointed at her face, in her hands.

"Granny!" Qin Mu shouted out in a panic.

Granny Si turned around and placed the scissors down. With a smile, she said gently, "Rulai said there's only one way to destroy the heart devil, and it's to remove his infatuation with this face. Mu'er, I don't want to harm you anyone, especially you..."

Qin Mu saw her raising the scissors again, and his tears flowed out uncontrollably. "Granny, it's not your fault... I've never blamed you..."

"I can't do it!" Stunned, Granny Si placed down her scissors with a smile. "Mu'er, help me do it."

Qin Mu got up from the bed and took the scissors from her hand and placed them gently back into her little basket.

"It's not your fault, no one can blame you. You've already hidden for over forty years, never using your appearance to meet anyone."

He squatted down and raised his head to look at the face that was so beautiful that there could be no other like it. This was the true appearance of the closest kin that had raised him up. Qin Mu revealed a smile. "If it was me, I could at most persevere for a day or two, I couldn't last forty years. It's not your fault for growing to be like this. Which beautiful woman would be willing to cover their own face forever and use an old face to meet people?" He stood up and said, "Granny, I will get rid of Li Tianxing. But for now, you stay here. I'll go to Bazhou, something might be happening there."

Granny Si nodded gently.

Qin Mu walked out of the room, then turned back with a smile. "Granny, you should eat and drink when you should, don't torture yourself."

"Rascal, lecturing me again!" she retorted angrily.

Qin Mu laughed and kicked the dragon qilin awake. "Still sleeping? Get up and hurry on!"

Chapter 258: Emperor, Dao Master, Rulai

"Many people don't realize what the reform was for, why they had to reform their lives. They say, wasn't it well in the past, everyone was living comfortably, was joyous and harmonious, while your reforms, aren't they just to satisfy your ambition of an emperor? By offending the blue bloods and the sects, aren't you doing it to expand the territory of Eternal Peace? All the natural calamities and man-made disasters over the years have been your fault, we've had to suffer all of them because of that reform. But this is a fallacy!"

In Bazhou Prefecture, Emperor Yanfeng led a group of civil and military officials through a street while looking at workers manning the porridge stall to feed the people lining up for food. Emperor Yanfeng went over and came to the front of a porridge stall. The worker was about to kneel down when Emperor Yanfeng held him back and said, "There are few rules in such cold weather and frozen land. How much is one serving?"

"Your Majesty, an adult gets a bowl of porridge, two steamed buns, and a ladle of dried vegetables."

Emperor Yanfeng nodded and dismissed him. He picked up the ladle and distributed food to the disaster victims, while behind him stood the civil and military officials of the imperial court. He then continued, "We had all lived well in the past, we were never common people! Minister of Agriculture, tell them, before Imperial Preceptor's reform, how many people could be fed with six ares of fertile land."

Minister of Agriculture immediately said, "Before the reform, six ares of fertile land could produce three hundred and thirty pounds of crops. However, at that time, all the land belonged to influential families, monasteries, and Daoist temples, so there was no land in the hands of farmers.

"A farmer's family had seven-eight people and they took care of five hectares of land, which had grain, fruits, vegetables, and herbs. After slogging for a year and harvesting for two seasons, there was no surplus grain, and they could barely fill their stomachs. They could have one to two meals of meat every month and would starve if they met with natural calamities or man-made disasters. Back then, many elderly would automatically go up the mountain or jump into rivers during years of disaster so that they wouldn't be a burden to their families. Meanwhile, the influential families, monasteries, and Daoist temples were hoarding great amounts of grain and gold."

Emperor Yanfeng said, "Five hectares of land to only feed a family of seven to eight. After painstakingly planting a year's worth of grain, where did it go? Tell them, how many people can be fed by six ares of land after the reform?"

Minister of Agriculture continued, "Your Majesty had order Imperial Preceptor to manage the reform and reclaim all the land. Influential families, monasteries, and Daoist temples can no longer manage any land.

"An adult male can manage five hectares of land, one hectare of which would be fertile land. In the recent years, there was a growth in population, so the rules had been changed. An adult male can now manage two and a half hectares of land and half a hectare of fertile land.

"Imperial Preceptor had also made martial arts practitioners and divine arts practitioners to help with agriculture. To provide a stable crop, rain was provided during drought and water drainage during floods, thus there was no starvation for one hundred and sixty years. Nowadays, six ares of land can produce eight hundred and twenty pounds of crops. Four hundred and forty pounds are used for the land tax, but farmers no longer find it too expensive to eat meat."

"Three hundred and thirty pounds, eight hundred and twenty pounds." Emperor Yanfeng picked two steamed buns and placed them in the bowl of a starving person before giving him a ladle of dried vegetables while sighing ruefully. "What is buddha? This is buddha, a living buddha, a breathing buddha, the buddha of all common people! It's not by taking on the title of Rulai or Dao Master and giving talks on chicken soup for the soul would one become buddha or Dao Master! Minister of Agriculture, let me ask you again, since Imperial Preceptor's reform was good and the rations have also increased, why are there still starvation whenever a natural disaster breaks out?"

Minister of Agriculture had a troubled expression and hesitated. "This..."

"Say it!"

"Yes. Other than the increase in population, there are still things like the eating of meat and wars. Feeding livestock requires grain, as well as feeding strange beasts in the army, training soldiers, fighting wars. All of it requires grain. But the most important reason is still the circulation of cultivated land. There are some pieces of land that were bought back by the influential families, sects, and temples, who then once again became landowners."

“Grain has once again returned into their hands. The reason why the sects were able to rebel the previous time was because they had the money and the rations, that’s why they were so daring. Still, this issue of starvation shouldn’t have been so severe. It was all because after fighting the war, the empire’s treasury had been emptied and the influential families, sects, and temples refused to give out rations. The effect caused by the previous rebellion of the sects is huge...”

Emperor Yanfeng turned his head back and took a glance at the officials. “Influential families, sects, monasteries, and Daoist temples were always seated high above, eating exotic delicacies daily, talking about wind, flowers, snow, and the moon, chatting about paths, skills, and divine arts, discussing immortality and longevity. There are farmers feeding them, but who of them is willing to lend a hand to those farmers? If the farmers refuse to comply, they will send disasters and calamities on them straight away! Is this snow disaster strange? No, it isn’t. When sects ruled their own countries, these kind of snow disasters weren’t rare, either! However, it wasn’t gods sending those calamities nor was it Heaven. It was the sects sending those calamities and disasters to make the common people comply and not dare to rebel!”

“Imperial Preceptor’s reform made sects have to work for farmers, for merchants, this is what made them displeased, and they didn’t want to do it. In the meantime, Imperial Preceptor created more reforms and founded primary schools, colleges, and Imperial College. He used them to pass down the abilities of sects to the people of the world, to let them be able to protect themselves, and the sects were even more displeased. They wanted to rebel, to kill people! Little did they think that their ancestors from eight generations back were all farmers, none of them an exception!”

“Look and listen clearly. I have executed them this time, and if you guys act like them the next time, I will execute you guys as well! The officials I want aren’t from those sects that are high above or any experts or buddhas. The officials I want are those that are able to handle matters in a down-to-earth manner! Scholars must be able to work for farmers, artisans, and merchants! There are actually some scholarly officials who think they are a level higher than others. Damn it—scribe, allow me to say a profanity—damn it, they only know how to grumble and view themselves highly! I wish for more than anything to execute them!”

The civil and military officials lowered their heads and didn’t dare to say a word.

Two scribes looked at each other, both of their expressions troubled. The older scribe then said softly, “Your Majesty, Son of Heaven needs to watch his language.”

“I don’t say profanities frequently, wasn’t I really angered which was why I had scolded people? Pardon me, scribe.”

While he had been speaking, the person in queue for food was a high monk who was holding onto a golden alms bowl with a smile. “That was a very good speech, Your Majesty. However now that the natural disaster has come, the righteous path is to stop the disaster and save the common people from suffering.”

Emperor Yanfeng took a look at this high monk and gave him a bowl of porridge, two steamed buns, and a ladle of dried vegetables before saying, “Not only was my speech good, what I do is even better. High monk, eat slowly, don’t bother the people of the secular world.”

That high monk agreed and carried his golden alms bowl away.

“Rulai!” The people behind Emperor Yanfeng were stunned when they saw that high monk.

After he left, an old Daoist came from the back. His clothes were disheveled, and his hair was slightly messy. While carrying a bowl, he smiled, “Has Your Majesty eaten?”

Emperor Yanfeng had a grim expression as he scooped porridge for him and shook his head. “Not yet.”

“Your Majesty should eat more, it’s easier to be move if you’re full.”

Emperor Yanfeng nodded and grabbed two steamed buns and a bowl of porridge. He said to the civil and military officials, “Come and eat some too, we have trouble.”

The civil and military officials looked at the monk and Daoist like they had met formidable foes, but the two people only squatted down at the corner of a wall. They drank the porridge and ate the buns and dried vegetables, enduring hardship gladly.

The officials went forward and took a serving each before squatting down beside another wall. Emperor Yanfeng soon did the same and ate silently.

After eating, he came to the front of pressure well to wash his bowls, and the officials all lined up behind him. Rulai and Dao Master also came forward to wash their bowls while saying, “It’s been awhile since we ate meals of the human world, they have a different kind of flavor to them now.”

“I and these ministers have been eating them for months.” Emperor Yanfeng said seriously. “Dao brothers should eat them more and not let yourselves stay too high above.”

“Staying high above is to keep ourselves from the secular world.” Old Dao Master smiled. “You are the emperor of the human world so you naturally rule over the secular people. Whereas we who cultivate Dao and buddhism have to be far away from the secular world. If we got tainted, it would be hard to break free.”

Emperor Yanfeng smiled and asked, “Dao Master, can you become a real god?”

Dao Master shook his head.

Emperor Yanfeng asked Rulai, “Rulai, can you become a true buddha?”

Rulai shook his head. “The divine bridge is broken, who can become a true god or buddha?”

“Then what bullshit are you spouting? Staying far from the secular world and saying you are very powerful is— Scribes, I have spouted profanities again, don’t record them. I know. You guys can fall back, you’re not needed here,” Emperor Yanfeng said as he walked out of the city accompanied by the civil and military officials.

He stopped then and turned back with a smile. "Even though it's according to the rules of the imperial court and not the rules of the martial world, there's no need for so many people. Those of Divine Bridge Realm stay, others may fall back."

Most of the civil and military officials stopped in their tracks; only seven people followed Emperor Yanfeng. They were Grand Marshall Monk Yuan Kong, Situ Xiu Leqing, Sikong Wei Pingbo, General of Heavenly Strategies Qin Baoyue, King of Mount Tai Ling Xuhua, Grand General of White Horse Quan Dingwu, and High Official Su Yunzhi. Including the emperor, there were eight people.

Rulai and Dao Master paid no attention and continued to walk forward.

Emperor Yanfeng led everyone forward, walking past the outskirts of the city. When they came to the fields outside the city, he stopped to look at the crops and asked an old farmer, "Will there be harvest?"

"Will!" that old farmer said in a loud voice.

Emperor Yanfeng smiled and turned back to look at the ministers behind him. "There's going to be harvest!"

Dao Master said, "Your Majesty, there might be harvest this year, but there might not be the next year. Old Dao has brought a scroll which records the story of Great Ruins; it's called the Founding Emperor Calamity Classics. Your Majesty can slowly take a look while we walk. If Your Majesty still insists on the reform after finishing the scroll, this world is going to change."

Rulai sighed. "Dao Master is merciful."

Dao Master shook his head. "He doesn't know the danger of this. If he knew, he would be like us." When he was done, he passed the Founding Emperor Calamity Classics into the hands of Emperor Yanfeng.

"Your Majesty, be careful of tricks!" High Official Su Yunzhi warned.

Emperor Yanfeng smiled. "No harm."

He took the Founding Emperor Calamity Classics from Dao Master's hands and read them in detail.

They continued to head forward at a leisurely pace. Emperor Yanfeng flipped page after page and read through the Founding Emperor Calamity Classics. Dao Master and Rulai never hurried him, quietly walking nearby.

After covering over a hundred miles, Emperor Yanfeng had finished reading the Founding Emperor Calamity Classics and composed himself. He raised his head to look at the sky but did not say anything.

Old Dao Master asked, "Your Majesty has the well-being of all living things in mind, so you should know what to do, right?"

Emperor Yanfeng was in a daze for a time. Then, he suddenly said, "When I was young, Eternal Peace Empire didn't have such a large territory and the emperor wasn't so respected. At that time, all the sects and influential families were still riding roughshod over people. I had once followed an envoy out of the

country to visit a place called Yuanqi Country, which is now Yuan Prefecture. There was a lightning disaster there, and the sky was covered in dark clouds which shrouded Yuanqi Country. The lightning crackled and struck non stop, killing livestock and common people alike.

“The emperor of Yuanqi Country brought his civil and military officials to kneel and beg for forgiveness from the lightning disaster. The common people of that country were also kneeling on the ground, begging Heaven to grant them a pardon. In that lightning disaster, the emperor was electrocuted to death. Only after the event did I learn the Heaven in their words wasn’t the heavenly gods but Hidden Lightning Sect.

“That year, the harvest hadn’t been good, so the goods offered to Hidden Lightning Sect were lacking, and Hidden Thunder Sect sent a calamity on them. What had caused the disaster was the cult’s legacy spirit treasure, Nine Heavens Lightning Luring Cover. The emperor had put all the blame on himself, which was why Hidden Lightning Sect had electrocuted him and changed the emperor. At that time, I was already thinking...”

He looked at Dao Master and Rulai and said slowly, enunciating every word, “I had to overthrow you guys! Now, I have done it, but what Imperial Preceptor and I have done is still not enough, so there is this snow disaster. It was sent by a god? Then I shall overthrow that god!”

Dao Master couldn’t resist asking, “Your Majesty isn’t going to put the well-being of all living things in mind? Do you want to turn Eternal Peace into the likes of Great Ruins? When you and Imperial Preceptor carried out your reform and took down the many sects to conquer such a huge territory, this Old Dao didn’t stop you, did I? However, if you continue with your reform, Heaven will be angered and all living things will be in danger!”

Old Rulai said, “Think thrice, Your Majesty.”

“You have your own beliefs, and I have mine.”

Old Rulai sighed and said to Dao Master, “Old Dao friend, let’s just change the emperor.”

Dao Master fetched his Dao sword and nodded. “Oh well, I said what I could. What can I do if Your Majesty remains stubborn? We’ll just have to change the emperor.”

Emperor Yanfeng looked around and saw old Daoists, old monks, Teacher Poor, and the rest walking in from all directions, surrounding them in the middle. Their numbers were much greater than his own.

The expression of General of Heavenly Strategies and the rest changed drastically.

Emperor Yanfeng was stunned, then broke into laughter. “Rulai, Dao Master, I thought you would go by the rules of the martial world. Never would I have thought you guys would go by the rules of the imperial court.”

Rulai shook his head. “We have no choice, so we seek forgiveness from Your Majesty. Dao Master, Dao friends, let us send His Majesty on his way.”

Chapter 259: Cow Cart

The land a hundred miles west of Bazhou City was filled with murderous intent, and even the air there seemed to have solidified. The vital qi around the old Daoists and old monks raged and formed into gods whose aura could swallow mountains and rivers.

Dao Sect and Great Thunderclap Monastery had long legacies which were even greater than that of Heavenly Devil Cult. To these two sacred grounds, Heavenly Devil Cult was still considered a young cult.

From the gods that were formed by the vital of old Daoists and old monks there, they could see the gods that had appeared in the course of history. There was one with three heads and four arms, another with a tortoise's shell and a horsetail whisk, another was a hoopoe with a leopard's tail, one was a Vajrayaksa and many others.

As for Teacher Poor, True Lord Tian, and the rest, they were a different sight. Even though their legacies weren't as ancient as those of Dao Sect and Great Thunderclap Monastery, they were still incomparably powerful. Some of the gods that appeared behind them were wise saints, some were women holding onto golden insects, and some were poor gods that wore clothes filled with holes.

The qi appearance of the first ranking high officials of the imperial court was different from them, however. Behind General of Heavenly Strategies Qin Baoyue wasn't a god, but a pair of golden truncheons. They shone with a brilliant light, and on their bodies were eight blades that spun continuously. This man had frequently participated in wars and didn't cultivate to become a god or buddha, so he treated his weapons as a god who took charge in battle.

The god behind Grand Marshall Monk Yuan Kong wasn't a buddha, either, but an ascetic monk who was wrapped in chains and holding a buddhist's monk knife. He had a battle posture and looked very much like the man himself.

Behind King of Mount Tai Ling Xuhua were nine dragons coiling around Mount Tai with Mount Tai as the altar to worship them. He was in charge of the offering of sacrifices to the ancestors.

Sikong Wei Pingbo was in charge of the water conservancy in Eternal Peace Empire, so his vital qi didn't form a god behind him, but a long river dam that was constructed from earth, wood, and water. His god was water conservancy.

Situ Xiu Leqing was a female official who was in charge of the empire's treasury; she was responsible for all the finances in the world. The god that her vital qi formed was no god, either, but a string of great abundance coins that slithered around like a huge python. Her god was money.

High Official Su Yunzhi was also a female official. She could open her own bureau so her rank was on par with the three councilors. She was a free civil official, but she had reached the highest official position. She was in charge of all primary schools and colleges so what had transformed from her vital qi also wasn't a god, but a book and a ruler.

Behind Grand General of White Horse Quan Dingwu was a steed that was blazing with flames, and on that horse was a god bathed in the flames of war. He had eight arms which held a knife, shield, spear, pike, sword, and halberd. He had four faces which looked in four sides and eight directions while flames spewed out his eyes like beams. All the four faces were the general's own face.

From this, one could see that cult master level strong practitioners of the imperial court were different from those of the sects. Dao Sect and Great Thunderclap Monastery worshiped gods and buddha, so the gods behind them were all gods and buddhas. On the other hand, the strong practitioners of the imperial court treated whatever they managed. Each of them had different duties and each had their own specialty.

Even Monk Yuan Kong who was from buddhism treated himself as an ascetic monk that was cultivating in battle and didn't show the bearing of a great buddha.

A long-eared monk's expression changed slightly, and he said in a low voice, "Imperial Preceptor's reform has caused all these evil and unorthodox paths that don't worship the gods! They would rather worship all this rubbish than gods and buddhas!"

Grand General of White Horse pointed at this long-eared monk and sneered, "Use what you learn, act with your knowledge. Long-eared monk, your skills acquired through religious practices are shallow; it'll be hard for you to escape death."

"How can cultivating your entire life be any worse than achieving enlightenment to become a god or buddha?" Emperor Yanfeng said leisurely. "These are all people's own abilities, so relying on gods and buddhas is the unorthodox path. By doing their jobs properly and cultivating them into the realm of gods and buddha will they become gods and buddhas!"

The old Daoists of Dao Sect frowned, and Old Dao Master shook his head. "Cultivating their jobs to the realm of god? In that case, won't they still have to work for mortals even after becoming gods? This is once again the teachings of Heavenly Devil Cult! None other than the everyday use of common people. Emperor, you've been influenced by Imperial Preceptor and Heavenly Devil Cult."

Emperor Yanfeng smiled. "If I went to Heavenly Devil Cult, I just might be able to become the cult master."

"Since it's the devil path, there's no need for further words."

The old Daoists adjusted the treasure swords on their backs, and it was hard to say who had shouted out the first "Die!".

Once this word was out, murderous air overflowed into the heavens, and the trembling cold wind became incomparably bone piercing. Yet at that moment, an old man walked over while pulling onto a cow cart that went gulu gulu.

Everyone pulled their murderous air back and stood quietly, looking down without saying a word.

The old man was astonished when he saw the entire sky filled with gods and buddhas. The cow shivered in fear, unable to even pull the cart anymore on its shaky legs. The old man was so angry that he whipped that cow a few times until it exerted its force to slowly pull the cart out of this place where they shouldn't be.

When the old man and the cow cart disappeared into the distance, the battle was about to erupt!

Yet when the strong practitioners of the divine bridge realm were about to make a move, they suddenly heard another gulu gulu sound of the turning wheel. Another cow cart came driving over, and everyone saw another old man walking over while pulling onto that cow cart. When he saw everyone, he trembled in fear and used a lot of effort to move the cow cart away.

Everyone let out a sigh of relief and was about to make a move when the gulu gulu of the wheel turning was heard again. An old Daoist said angrily, "In such cold weather and frozen land after a natural disaster, where did so many cow carts come from?"

Everyone was astonished. That was indeed the case. Now that there were calamities everywhere, all the livestock had been eaten, so how did three cow carts just pass by them one after another. Furthermore, why here of all places?

An elderly couple sat on the next cow cart. One of them was a white-haired old woman while the other was an old yet not that old man. Everyone waited quietly for the cow cart to pass.

However, that cow cart stopped nearby. That cow seemed to be fearless, and the old man and old woman jumped down without much care. As if they were about to perform a conjuring trick, they opened up the cloth on the cart and gave a gentle shake before pulling it off. Instantly, dozens of weirdly-shaped people appeared on the cow cart, filling it up until they were almost spilling out.

"Heavenly Devil Cult's Left and Right Guardians, twelve cult protector elders, and also two heavenly kings." Dao Master looked down with a helpless expression. "We only saw two people and a cow coming on a cow cart, so I never expected to see sixteen people springing out. What a great trick, Heavenly Devil Cult."

Left Guardian Kong Lingxian raised his head and chuckled. "We like to perform conjuring tricks as we traveled through the martial world to make a living by getting tips from officials. We're sorry to have embarrassed ourselves in front of the lords."

Right Guardian Xue Bi'e beamed at everyone. "Old Bald Donkey, Old Daoist, the cult master ordered us to follow the emperor when he went home for New Year, so now that the emperor is in trouble, the old brothers and I can't ignore it. Otherwise, we wouldn't be able to take the punishment once cult master comes back."

The twelve cult protector elders and two heavenly kings of Heavenly Devil Cult jumped down from the cow cart. Heavenly King Shi and Heavenly King Yu stretched their bodies and paid their respects to everyone with a smile. "Everyone here are all high figures, so we, the little old men, pay our respect. Cult master handed us a living and breathing emperor, so if you guys killed him and we had to return a dead emperor to him, we could only use our lives to appease his anger."

Beggar Sect Master Qi Dayou shouted out loudly, "Evil and unorthodox path! The imperial court associates with the filthy Heavenly Devil Cult, so fellow friends of Great Thunderclap Monastery, feel free to subdue the devils!"

"Die!"

A shout burst forth, and thunder rumbled in the sky once the battle erupted. In an instant, violent gusts of air surged forth in all directions, flattening portions of a forest nearby.

This battle far surpassed the one to pacify the rebellion by Imperial Preceptor. Even though there were many cult master level existence in that battle, they were all a level inferior when compared to the cult master level strong practitioners of the three big sacred grounds. With the imperial court being equivalent to one big sacred ground as well, one could well imagine the power of the strongest practitioners from the four big sacred grounds clashing at the same time!

However, the whole nest of Great Thunderclap Monastery and Dao Sect had come out to fight this time, whereas there were only half of the strong practitioners from the imperial court and Heavenly Devil Cult. Since Dao Master and Rulai were present as well, the situation of the opposing side wasn't optimistic.

Once a battle starts, people will fall.

The long-eared monk found Quan Dingwu straightaway, and the two strong practitioners of Divine Bridge Realm opened up all of their divine treasures, cracking the heaven and rending fissures in the earth. The long-eared monk was the head of Great Thunderclap Monastery's Hall of Arhats and was proficient in buddhism and Victorious Fighting Skill.

Meanwhile, Quan Dingwu was the Grand General of White Horse, riding horses and killing people all his life, eradicating countries and sects as he went through fire and water. When Imperial College was just founded, Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor had gathered all the experts in the world to study the path, skills, and divine arts. One of them was Quan Dingwu, and he could be said to be one of the top strong practitioners of Eternal Peace Empire.

When the Victorious Fighting Skill met with the skill of slaughter, a sea of blood overflowed into the sky, and flames of war blazed furiously atop it. This vision seemed like a real existence, and it had been formed by the murderous air of Quan Dingwu.

A huge buddha stood over the sea of blood, and in front of it was the long-eared monk. Compared to the huge buddha, he seemed to be much smaller. Through the sea of blood and flames, a person rushed towards him, and it was Quan Dingwu. The horse behind him stepped on the flames of battle and the person behind the horse was like a monstrous god of slaughter, looking terrifying and incomparably fierce!

"Evil and orthodox path, death cannot wipe out the crimes of those who don't cultivate true buddhism!"

Golden color appeared around the body of the long-eared monk as he interlocked his arms. Chanting the incantations of buddhism, he executed two kinds of mudra at the same time. They were incomparably intricate and struck towards the lethal points on Quan Dingwu!

To the monk's surprise, Quan Dingwu did not dodge but allow the skills to hit him. The arms formed by vital qi, which were under Quan Dingwu's armpits, flailed as he wielded the knife, shield, spear, pike, sword, and halberd to strike. The knife severed the arms of the long-eared monk, the shield bashed open his skull, the spear pierced through his chest and lifted him up, the pike penetrated his heart, the sword light sliced his throat, and the halberd hung his body high up!

Behind them, the god of slaughter clashed against the huge buddha while the sea of blood and flames swirled around them like a whirlpool.

“You didn’t dodge...” the long-eared monk said astringently as he hung on the long halberd.

A huge shield smashed down and shattered him into pieces.

“Killing people on the battlefield only requires one or two moves, so what’s the point of dodging? The battlefield requires a skill for slaughter. If I matched your fighting style, wouldn’t I be taking my weak side to match your expert one?”

Quan Dingwu spat out a huge mouthful of blood. The two mudras from the long-eared monk had almost shattered his five viscera and six bowels. His ribs and shoulder blades were crushed, causing him to suck in cold air from the pain.

Suddenly, a golden bright palm came smashing down, and a loud boom rang out. Another monk had come rushing over, his hands carrying emptiness as he squashed him with an eighteen heavens pagoda. This building was filled with gods and buddhas that crushed all of Quan Dingwu’s bones.

“Monk Yuan Kong, you are also a buddhist, why did you have to take the devil path and become part of the hawks and hounds of the imperial court?” Nun Hong Yin from Great Thunderclap Monastery’s Hall of Great Teachings blocked Grand Marshall Monk Yuan Kong and tried to persuade him. “It’s time for you to come to your senses and stop making mistakes! If you continue to make them, you will forever be unable to achieve the spiritual state!”

Monk Yuan Kong’s eyes burst open, and he shouted out, “What’s this spiritual state? With a buddha in heart, one will never achieve the spiritual state. His Majesty has ordered me to manage the laws of the army, so I chained myself down with iron laws. When I break these chains, I’ll be able to achieve the spiritual state!”

Nun Hong Yin was furious and swung her horsetail whisk over. “You’ve been tainted by the devil, let me get rid of it for you!”

The huge battle erupted, and the old Daoists of Dao Sect sent out their swords. In an instant, the sky was full of sword lights. They came from the sword skills of Fourteen Writings of Dao Sword and were incomparably powerful as well as extraordinary sharp. There was no question that it was the number one sword technique in Dao Sect!

“Get into the formation, get rid of the devil!” an old Daoist shouted out.

“Lay a formation and refine the Daoists to death!” Xue Bi’e shouted out sternly, and the two heavenly kings, as well as the twelve cult protector elders, formed a huge formation to welcome the old Daoists. All the people here were all old acquaintances and had fought each other countless times before, so they knew each other’s methods well.

On the other side, General of Heavenly Strategies, High Official, Sikong, Situ, King of Mount Tai were all blocked by the strong practitioners of Great Thunderclap Monastery. The monks relied on having more people to encircle and annihilate them, avoiding only Emperor Yanfeng.

Emperor Yanfeng looked over and saw Teacher Poor, Qi Dayou, and True Lord Tian walking over. Meanwhile, Rulai and Dao Master were carrying over an alms bowl and a sword.

Rulai said with a warm expression, "Teacher, fellow Dao friends, go and assist the others. Leave this to this old monk and the old Daoist."

Teacher Poor and the rest acknowledged it and immediately joined the battle nearby.

Rulai looked at Emperor Yanfeng and said, "Your Majesty, excuse me."

Emperor Yanfeng's body trembled, and his dragon qi cut across the vast sky with a grandeur. Roars of the dragon came from the sky, and a real dragon could be faintly seen in the clouds. It stretched out its head and claws, then the huge dragon's head lowered to look at Rulai.

Dao Master walked over and swung his Dao sword. Sword light covered the sky and forced the dragon back. The old man then praised, "Your Majesty is about to turn the fake into real, becoming a true god. What a pity the divine bridge is broken and there's no hope. This Old Dao is useless and could only cultivate half of the fourteenth move in the Fourteen Writings of Dao Sword. Today, I shall use this incomplete writing to experience the powerful and benevolent rule of Your Majesty."

Rulai's golden alms bowl flew up and covered the sky. A piece of golden light spewed out, and in it were both gods and buddhas of the twenty heavens. The topmost level was Brahma, and it had a majestic atmosphere. Rulai smiled. "I shall use the highest realm of Rulai's Mahayana Sutra to experience the Nine Dragons Monarch Technique of Your Majesty."

Chapter 260: Slaughter

Rulai and Dao Master were outstanding talents of the previous generation and could have cultivated to the level of god and buddha. If the divine bridge wasn't broken, both of them would have already risen heavenwards and left this world.

Emperor Yanfen might be the least experienced one among them, but he occupied the nine dragon veins and cultivated in the Imperial City, which allowed him to enjoy an exceptional advantage. He could cultivate twice as fast, and he was exceptionally talented in cultivation, which made him one of the top strong practitioners in this world!

Eternal Peace Empire was acclaimed to be the biggest sacred ground in this world, and he and Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor were the sect and cult masters of this biggest sacred ground!

Even so, he was still slightly inferior to Rulai and Dao Master. Those two had joined hands to deal with him not because they felt that their abilities were inferior to him, but that they would find it difficult to keep him from escaping if they fought him one on one.

However, if they made an alliance, Emperor Yanfeng's escape was an impossibility.

Crackle, crackle.

Bolts of lightning came striking down from the clear sky, surrounding Emperor Yanfeng's body with sparks. Incomparably bright and clear lights surrounded the real dragons dancing in the sky, and the nine dragons roared in unison and clawed towards Dao Master and Rulai!

Rulai chuckled, and the golden alms bowl flipped upwards as it shone with a brilliant golden color. The heavens were sent out, which made the gods and buddhas clash with the dragons.

"Old Dao friend, I'll hand the job of killing the emperor to you," Rulai said with a smile.

Old Dao Master controlled his sword, and the sword light moved at a wonderful rhythm, taking control of all the operations of the human world. He chanted softly, "Dao nourishes the earth of all heavens, giving birth to all laws, and the whole world will return to one! Your Majesty, this incomplete move..."

Before he could finish saying that, two trails of light flashed by and suddenly stopped. Old Dao Master hurriedly controlled the sword to stop the attack and concentrated on what was happening. At that moment, he saw an elder in a green buddhist robe and a blind man with a bamboo cane standing in mid-air.

"Rulai, fighting, eh?" Blind asked with a beaming smile.

Rulai also retrieved the golden light that was being spewed out by the golden alms bowls and smiled. "Ma Wangshen, Dao Friend Blind, why are you two here?"

Old Ma said coldly, "Searching!"

Blind knocked his bamboo cane down, and the sky trembled. The strong practitioners that were engaged in a vicious battle were all astonished and hurriedly stopped. Blind beamed at them and asked, "The gales rise and the cloud rise with them, and everyone seems to be busy fighting. Everyone, now that I've greeted you, I'm sorry to disturb, but may I ask if you saw a woman?"

Quan Dingwu who was in the state of being bashed to death finally had a chance to breathe. "Blind man, who are you looking for?"

"A woman, especially beautiful, one look at her and you won't forget her, the kind that will eat away your heart." Blind sighed. "This woman is very powerful and an old devil lives inside her heart wishing to commit evil. He fell in love with her appearance and plans to take her body to become a woman. This is what is called with a beauty like jade, a golden house is made. We originally went to Great Thunderclap Monastery to let Old Rulai subdue this old devil..."

He babbled for quite some time, yet no one was able to tell what he was trying to say. Old Ma then said, "Blind, the important point."

Blind scratched his head and said, "This woman is the previous cult mistress of Heavenly Devil Cult, the previous saintess. Rulai wanted to kill the emperor so he let her escape."

Rulai chuckled. "This old monk was unable to attend to two things at the same time, so I was unable to help her, no matter how much I would have liked to."

Blind scolded him angrily, "Say earlier if you can't do it. Isn't it great, now we can't find her at all! Did any of you Dao friends see the previous cult mistress of Heavenly Devil Cult? She's especially beautiful and can charm you to your bones with just a word. Did anyone see her?"

Everyone shook their heads.

A hope lit up in Xue Bi'e's heart, and she said loudly, "We are from Heavenly Saint Cult, I hope you two can assist us!"

Rulai was astonished, and Old Dao Master asked, "What's their background?"

"My main disciple and Spear God," Rulai said.

Old Dao Master said in astonishment, "So it's the three-eyed Divine Constable Ma and the God's Eyes from back then. You've already become this old?"

Old Ma shook his head and said, "Your matter isn't as important as us finding our person, we won't bother."

"You guys killing the emperor and protecting the emperor is really not as urgent as us finding our person." Blind sighed ruefully. "If the emperor is dead, you'll just need to change to a new one. However, if that demoness runs out, hehe, the whole world will be doomed. Emperor, have you seen this cult mistress before?"

Emperor Yanfeng had a grim expression, and he slowly shook his head. "I've never seen her before. May I ask the two seniors to assist?"

Blind was slightly disappointed. "No interest. It's good that you haven't seen her. If you had seen her, you could only jolly wait for your empire to be destroyed. Old Ma, let's go, she couldn't have gotten far!"

Old Ma nodded, and the two of them whooshed away, vanishing without a trace.

Everyone was startled. "They are really weird senior experts."

The sounds of slaughter rang out in the air again.

Rulai released the light from the golden alms bowl, and the twenty heavens soared into the sky. Dao Master released his sword light, and the power of the fourteenth writing burst forth. The sword light expounded the relations between the earth and the heaven. It was like heaven and like earth, transforming into all laws, into the alignment of stars. This sword had the aspect of all the relations between the earth and the heaven as one!

Emperor Yanfeng executed Nine Dragons Monarch Technique, and the propitious vapors of the nine dragons surrounded his body as he stepped onto multicolored sunlight. Each of his blows contained

power beyond imagination which could rend mountains and split seas, reversing heaven and earth. He was proficient in a great number of divine arts and could even execute Dao Sword of Dao Sect and Victorious Fighting Skill of Great Thunderclap Monastery. Any divine art could somehow become miraculous in his hands and achieve unimaginable power.

Even the Secrets of Hatred Parting Heavenly Sword, a sword skill which only women could cultivate was able to be executed by him, at an even greater power.

When touched by him, even the most ordinary moves would gain immense power!

Spells, sword skills, and even divine arts of the corporeal body could all be executed by him, and the power of every strike would be like moving the mountains and draining the seas!

Nine Dragons Monarch Technique had already been cultivated to the level of god by him!

Dao Master's eyes lighted up, and his sword skill moved and attacked Emperor Yanfeng like a storm. He praised, "Everyone said Imperial Preceptor was a genius in path and skills, but the world has failed to notice Emperor Yanfeng. Your Majesty, you're already a grandmaster and you could establish your own sect and create your own sacred ground. What a pity!"

Chi, chi, chi!

Dao Sword had the rhythm of heaven and earth which broke through Emperor Yanfeng's layers of defense and injured him again and again.

Rulai saw an opening, and his golden alms bowl flipped to make the twenty heavens pressure him. The twenty small worlds in the alms bowls pressed down onto Emperor Yanfeng's body one after another.

Emperor Yanfeng grunted. As he held out against the immense pressure of the twenty heavens, his movements became very slow. However, the power of his path, skills and divine arts had instead become more and more powerful as he contended against Dao Sword.

The incomplete sword skill from Dao Master had a myriad of transformations, and it had no traces as he derived the limits of algebra operations. He thoroughly performed the path of producing one, one producing two, two producing three, and three producing all things and achieving the essence of the three that produced all things.

However, Dao Master's wisdom was cut short here, so he hadn't completely succeeded in cultivating the final move, which was why his skill was incomplete. Yet even though it was an incomplete sword skill, it could destroy all paths, skills, and divine arts!

Rulai suspended the golden alms bowl in the air and chanted in his buddha voice, "Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor has yet to appear, but changes are inevitable, let's finish this as fast as possible." When he finished saying this, his body trembled and transformed into a tall buddhist idol. His palm smacked forward lightly, and his five fingers shook, which resulted in five mountains pressing down.

At this moment, Qin Mu was sitting on the back of the dragon qilin three hundred miles away. The dragon qilin was still sprinting through the air while stepping on his fire clouds.

“Faster, try to go faster!” Qin Mu felt terrifying pulses from ahead and hurried his mount, “If you can run faster, I’ll give you three buckets of Scarlet Fire Spirit Pills!”

The dragon qilin panted heavily as he said, “Cult master, I’m already trying my best.”

Qin Mu gritted his teeth and said, “Your speed is a whole chunk slower than that of the green bull! He could easily run twice as fast as you and travel ten thousand mile in a sprint! Fatty Dragon, if you exert more strength, I’ll bring you to beat up the green bull! While if you remain this slow, I’ll bring the green bull to beat you!”

The dragon qilin gritted his teeth and suddenly exerted all his strength to sprint forward. The fire clouds under his fire exploded, and his speed was raised tremendously, almost throwing Qin Mu off. After running thirty to fifty miles like this, the dragon qilin’s speed slowed down again, and he started foaming at his mouth. “Cult master, I can’t take it anymore!”

Qin Mu was helpless and said fiercely, “Still dare to be a glutton, I’ll put you on the dinner table on next New Year!”

Just as he was saying that, trails of green and grey light whooshed past, leaving him stunned. That two lights then turned back.

“Mu’er, why are you here?” The two lights stopped, revealing themselves as Old Ma and Blind. Blind said, “If my eyesight wasn’t good, I just might have passed by you. When did you leave Great Thunderclap Monastery? Did the monks give you any trouble?”

Qin Mu immediately said, “I left right after you guys. Grandpa Blind, Grandpa Ma, things are bad, Rulai and the rest are killing the emperor!”

Old Ma said, “We have seen it. Small matter, the emperors have always kept changing.”

Blind grumbled, “Mu’er, you can’t ignore the more important matter. Li Tianxing is the biggest trouble, if this wretch takes over granny’s body, that would be a real problem. Who’s going to be able to stop her?”

“I found granny, so there’s no need for grandpas to worry. Granny just doesn’t want to return to Great Ruins as she’s afraid of implicating you guys.” Qin Mu blinked then and asked, “Can grandpas save the emperor?”

Old Ma looked at Blind, and Blind shook his head. “Hard. The emperor might already be dead. Once Rulai and Dao Master ally themselves together, even Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor would probably be helpless. That’s right, your Heavenly Devil Cult is also there, and I reckon they will die miserably.”

Qin Mu gritted his teeth. “The emperor can’t die yet, there’s no need to bother about the experts of my cult though, they can teleport away anytime. Eternal Peace Imperial Preceptor is not there?”

“Never saw him.” Old Ma said, “Rulai is old, Dao Master is also old, and they both can’t fight for a long period of time; otherwise, much of their lives would be exhausted.”

Blind beamed, “We are younger than them.” Old Ma nodded, and Blind smiled. “In that case, let us snatch the emperor back. Mu’er, wait here, we will go snatch the emperor’s corpse back for you.”

Qin Mu was stunned. “Corpse?”

Old Ma left into the distance, so his voice came from far away. “Since Dao Master had made a move with Rulai, he’s definitely dead.”

In the battlefield, Rulai and Dao Master attacked together as they tried to end this battle as fast as possible. Emperor Yanfeng suffered heavy blows repeatedly while withstanding the attacks of the two god-like existences. His qi and blood were still extremely vigorous whereas the qi and blood of Rulai and Dao Master were fluctuating up and down. However, the cultivations of these two people were simply too strong. In terms of cultivation, both of them far surpassed him, and in terms of battle power, both of them were also a level higher than him. What’s more, these two god-like existences had joined hands to attack him.

Even though his qi and blood were vigorous, he was getting burned out and was merely a dying ember.

Dao Master and Rulai were well aware that the next move could end his life when a bamboo cane came striking over. Old Dao Master hurriedly swung his sword to defend, and Rulai felt a murderous intent coming from his back. The golden alms bowl immediately shone backward, and a ding and dong could be heard as the bamboo cane struck the sword and the sword stabbed into the golden alms bowl.

Blind stumbled backward and praised, “Superb abilities, and your cultivations are higher than mine. Just a little weaker than that of Village Chief, that old fellow.” Once he had finished saying this, he turned and left.

Rulai and Dao Master hurriedly turned back and saw that Emperor Yanfeng had vanished without a trace.

“No need to chase. Emperor Yanfeng’s qi and blood have withered and all his divine treasures are shattered.” Rulai sighed, “Good, even if he’s saved, he will be a useless person.”

A body was suddenly thrown towards Qin Mu and crashed onto the dragon qilin’s back. “Mu’er, the corpse you wanted is here!”