15/12/22 Ten-Year Anniversary Q&A for Reverend Insanity

[Compiled from Group Chat Records]

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(Note: spoilers for both Reverend Insanity and Infinite Bloodcore are present in this Q&A.)

Question: Zhenren, when will you finish writing Infinite Bloodcore? As for Reverend Insanity, will you wait until it is unbanned to update it or will you do it privately in the future?（>-<）

Gu Zhenren: Infinite Bloodcore will take a long time to finish writing. I am still waiting for it to be unbanned. Infinite Bloodcore is currently in the middle of book 2. There's 5 volumes planned.

Question: Of the list mystical Gu, what is the number one mystical Gu? Is it Giant Sun's vital Gu from his later years?

Gu Zhenren: I checked my draft since it's been a while and I've forgotten. It's Giant Sun's stare pregnancy Gu. It wasn't his vital Gu. Some questions about Reverend Insanity are hard to answer. On the one hand, it is because my memory is fuzzy, and on the other hand, I worry it might cause trouble in future chapters.

Question: Is there hope of publishing The Legends of Ren Zu?

Gu Zhenren: It is difficult. After all, it is a book within a book and bound by copyright.

Question: If a Gu Immortal places down their aperture then uses a killer move to turn themselves into an immortal zombie, will the blessed land die along with their physical body? Would the immortal aperture become a dead aperture the moment the Gu Immortal becomes an immortal zombie or only when the immortal zombie retracts the aperture back into their body?

Gu Zhenren: Gu Immortals are already in their aperture when it is placed in the outside world.

Question: When Long Hair Ancestor was alive, how strong was he among rank eights? On Baidu, some say Long Hair Ancestor had pseudo rank eight battle strength… did Long Hair only have pseudo rank eight battle strength?

Gu Zhenren: This question is too specific, I cannot answer it. So sorry.

Question: Will future chapters of Reverend Insanity continue to address the philosophies of life? Will it be in the form of The Legends of Ren Zu?

Gu Zhenren: It will. The Legends of Ren Zu and the main storyline will develop together.

Question: Excluding Fang Yuan, can other venerables only become venerable in a single path because of conflicting dao marks? Or are there reasons?

Gu Zhenren: I know what you mean. Most venerables have one main path and one secondary path. Limitless Demon Venerable is more unusual in that he only has rule path.

Question: Will the ending of Reverend Insanity give an ending for all of the main characters? This includes all of the major characters throughout the series like Bai Ning Bing, Hei Lou Lan, Feng Jiu Ge, and more.

Gu Zhenren: Yes, there will be. Basically every character will have their own ending. Although where Reverend Insanity has stopped may look like it's not far from the finale, it is not the case and there is still plenty of story to write.

Question: Are the dao marks of Heavenly Court Gu Immortals stored in their bodies or in their phantom aperture?

Gu Zhenren: It should be in the phantom aperture. According to what I checked:

1. The phantom aperture replaces the immortal aperture. It is specifically made to hold immortal essence and Gu worms. It cannot store living creatures.

2. The phantom aperture can take in dao marks.

Question: What tier is Fang Yuan's personal talent (not counting assistance from wisdom Gu and true meaning from dream realm in elevating his attainment)? How does it compare with venerables and Dao Guardians?

Gu Zhenren: This is a matter of personal interpretation, and everyone will have a different answer to it. Fang Yuan's strongest traits are not his talents but his outstanding stubbornness and perseverance.

Question: During the Immemorial Antiquity Era, what was the sun made up of? At the time, fire Gu was elsewhere and the sun could emit the light of glory that could pierce the nine heavens. It is clear that the sun was not quite the same as the one today. You also specifically included it in your outline's table of contents… Why was it destroyed? And how was it changed into the present sun? Was it caused by Ren Zu or his ten children?

Gu Zhenren: This is a good question, but I cannot answer it as it is a spoiler. It involves parts of the storyline that are deliberately left unanswered. Many of these set the foundation for future plotlines. Therefore I cannot answer this.

Question: Will you consider writing side stories for the more heavily written supporting characters of Reverend Insanity? Like Tai Bai Yun Sheng, Wu Yong, and Duke Long?

Gu Zhenren: I remember I wrote Reckless Savage's Biography. Unfortunately, it was discontinued. In fact, I actually have an outline for it. If Reverend Insanity is allowed to be regularly updated once more, there will be new side chapters. Currently, due to politics, policies, and copyright issues, I cannot write these side chapters. Alas… A number of characters who have already left the stage will also reappear. I will not reveal who here. I can only say that it has to do with Great Dream Immortal Venerable.

Question: Have there always been otherworldly demons or did they start popping up after some specific time? Are you able to answer?

Gu Zhenren: They have always been around.

Question: Some paths already had various kinds of mortal Gu and Immortal Gu, so will the development of the path (or the attempts of Gu Masters to research developments) lead to an unlimited number of kinds of Gu? Or is there a limit to this development?

Gu Zhenren: Gu are the essence of heaven and earth, the crystallization of dao marks. Therefore, the foundation for the development of all paths is dao marks. The number of dao marks in the world will determine the path's prospective development. Of course, the number of dao marks can be increased. Again, this involves later stages of the overall setting. I remember that, while writing about Limitless Demon Venerable, I touched on this aspect.

Question: The Gu World doesn't seem to have conservation of energy…the idea of eternal life does not conform to the law of conservation of energy and real world logic.

Gu Zhenren: The Gu World is always growing and expanding, and the energy conservation follows as such. As for the source of the nourishment for the growth of the world, I'm sure you can easily guess, right? For example, transmigrators like Fang Yuan and the Chaos.

Question: Fate Gu being split into portions all over the world was based on the human will of the humans of the five regions, so does that mean variant humans also had the control of their fate given to them?

Gu Zhenren: It is hard to answer such a particular question.

Question: When Gu Immortals possess many dao marks of their path, will the heaven path dao marks that make up their lifespan be in conflict with their dao marks? What effect would this have on their lifespan? Would more dao marks result in a shorter lifespan?

Gu Zhenren: Dao marks of different paths reject each other, and lifespan Gu is a heaven path Gu. In order to restrict the lifespan of venerables, the Heavenly Dao deliberately reduces the production of lifespan Gu. The principle is the same.

Question: Paradise Earth is a child of a human and a variant human, why was he able to become a venerable?

Gu Zhenren: Why can't a mixed blood child become a venerable?

Question: How long will it take for you to finish book two of Infinite Bloodcore?

Gu Zhenren: At least one more year. It is mainly because the writing style is completely different. I also want to try many things with it. Due to this, the early stages of writing it took quite a bit of time. Book one actually didn't turn out how I wanted it to, too. The original book two, before the rewrite, was even less of what I wanted it to be. Later on, the rate of progress will slowly speed up. Uh, probably, more or less.

Question: Zhen Ren, have you been writing Reverend Insanity at all?

Gu Zhenren: No. It is very difficult to write two books at the same time because I am always learning new things. Truth be told, as a middle-aged man, my daily energy and time is finite.

Question: Zhenren, I have a question. Will there be a storyline where Long Fu travels to the beastman continent to develop himself? (#grinning)

Gu Zhenren: Yes, there will be, in book 3. But it should be different from what everyone normally thinks of it.

Question: When will Reverend Insanity come back?

Gu Zhenren: Indeterminable. After the pandemic situation stabilizes, I will make a trip to Qidian HQ.

Question: Is there a connection between the Gu World and the world of Bloodcore? Why design it as both an Eastern xuanhuan and Western fantasy?

Gu Zhenren: There is no connection.

Question: Zhen Ren, Infinite Bloodcore's auction storyline feels somewhat slow.

Gu Zhenren: It is. In fact, the story beat is slow in many arcs, and there are many reasons for this. I have already realized this, and the flow will be improved in the future. But there won't be a rewrite, not to the same extent as the book 2 rewrite.

Question: Do you still play Hearthstone?

Gu Zhenren: Ah, the Death Knights have recently been released. Have to play and cherish it, before they terminate the server. (Context: Hearthstone China will be suspended by Jan 23, 2023)

Question: How is your health, Zhenren?

Gu Zhenren: So-so. When I was hospitalized some time ago, I was miserable, but I have recently recovered to normal. The risk of the pandemic is quite high now, everyone be careful. Don't get the virus if you can. Get medical treatment at the first sign of symptoms.

Question: There are apparently many Arabian fans of Reverend Insanity on Twitter. Basically almost all of them were attracted by the manhua to read the Arabic translation.

Gu Zhenren: Oh there is such a thing. This is the first time I've heard of it.

Reply: There are also foreigners tattooing English phrases of the novel on their arm…

Gu Zhenren: ?

Question: There seems to be no signs of heaven's will existing in The Legends of Ren Zu, did heaven's will exist at that time? Personally, I think that heaven's will hadn't come into being at that time and was in the process of coming into being, or it hadn't developed to its current state yet. When/why did it become like what it is now?

Gu Zhenren: Heaven's will has always existed.

Reply: Since heaven's will has always existed, why is there no sign of it in The Legends of Ren Zu? Gu worms having spiritual intellect is normal, if The Legends of Ren Zu as a mythical fairy tale is a mix of truth and falsity, that too will not explain everything.

Gu Zhenren: First of all, The Legends of Ren Zu is a fairy tale, and literary works always select the most interesting things and can't be all-encompassing. Secondly, it is very much difficult for me. You should know how hard it is to conceive such a fable. My own talent is limited, and I am unable to reach such ideal standards.

Question: Zhenren, will you ever release your 910k-word outline? I want to use some of your settings.

Gu Zhenren: Unlikely. What's the purpose of releasing that half-finished work? As an author, one should only show finished works to the reader. Some of the settings also involve spoilers, thus I cannot release it. But as for the settings of released chapters, you can use them as you wish.

Question: Zhenren, when will new chapter Gu be refined?

Gu Zhenren: Waiting for unban Gu! (#striving)

Question: Inkmen, eggmen, and beastmen are born with dao marks. Can you tell us what they are?

Gu Zhenren: Inkmen: Information path. Eggmen: Space path. Beastmen: Transformation path.

Question: Zhenren, will the Bloodcore protagonist continue to move with a group?

Gu Zhenren: Unlikely. Infinite Bloodcore is not a conventional adventure story, nor is it a traditional group dynamic story. It is a group story, where they sometimes scatter, and sometimes gather. Currently, Cang Xu is separated from the group.

Question: Will the youngster of Bloodcore ever enter the subplanes of Hell in a future storyline?

Gu Zhenren: Hehe, someone will go eventually. With so much road laid out, you can be certain one will travel down it

Question: Zhenren, did you ever get the ‘rona?

Gu Zhenren: Not yet, I haven’t. I’m a little worried. I have low immunity, and my body isn't exactly healthy.

Question: Are Xie Han Mo’s and Shang Xin Ci’s endings going to be on the sad or happy side?

Gu Zhenren: Inclined towards happy.

Question: My question pertains to Bloodcore, is “Dong Li” Long Fu’s name? Previously, you had a chapter where the dragonman youngster wrote Dong Li. From then on, people have speculated that Dong Li is the dragonman youngster’s true name on your outline. (#crying laugh)

Gu Zhenren: That’s right, you’re truly clever. (#sweats)

Question: Tan Qiu, Guang Ke, Hun Tong, One Eye, Dian Wan, the fishman spy Shi Fa, the treasure hunter Hong Zhu, the gunman Mei Ban, the dancer Yue Ban, Song Shou, Qi You, Yan Ding, the priest Na Jia, Reng Guazi, etc. These are all early book 2 characters. Will any of them have scenes in future storylines? After all, these are characters you have spent many pages developing, yet they haven’t had any relevance to the plot after their introduction into the story. I can’t help but feel this is somewhat of a disappointment.

Gu Zhenren: There will be, it will be quite interesting. I’ll talk about the important points. These many characters will form the world. These many supporting characters will return later. Each will return in a different way, some will appear on the main stage, some on the side, some friends may become enemies and some enemies may become friends. Eventually, in the fifth book, everyone will appear, creating a world-wide war of upheavals. It will be on an even greater scale than the Fate War in Reverend Insanity.

Question: My biggest question is this: is Paradise Earth's primary path, earth path, actually killing path? Because the essence of earth path is, in a way, killing path. (Smug)

Gu Zhenren: No.

Question: When will Long Fu break through to Gold?

Gu Zhenren: It should be a bit faster than what everyone envisions.

Question: Is the supreme profundity of refinement path the refinement path Gu Master's emotions of aspirations? For example, "Great Love".

Gu Zhenren: The truth is that much of the emotion-related Gu are of heaven path. Such as heaven's envy, heaven's anger, and heaven's sorrow.

Question: What would a theft path Gu Immortal's aperture be like? Would the aperture be full of lesser versions of formless hands stealing from each other? It's a bit of an abstract concept and hard to picture mentally. Currently, the uses of theft path are stealing Gu, stealing lifespan, stealing dao marks, and stealing materials. All of these seem difficult to embody in an immortal aperture.

Gu Zhenren: There's no information about this, I haven't thought about it in detail. You could attempt it yourself, I think it would be interesting.

Question: After a normal rank eight Gu Immortal passes his third myriad tribulation, will there still be more tribulations?

Gu Zhenren: Statistics of calamities and tribulations:

27 earthly calamities, 3 heavenly tribulations;

24 earthly calamities, 3 heavenly tribulations, 3 grand tribulations;

24 heavenly tribulations, 3 grand tribulations, 3 myriad tribulations;

24 grand tribulations, 3 myriad tribulations, 3 chaotic disasters.

If you look at the general overview, the third myriad tribulation is the last tribulation at rank eight.

Question: Zhenren, there shouldn't be an eternal life Gu in the book, right? Eternal life represents infinite lifespan and invincible power. It has been emphasized many times in the book: there are no invincible Gu worms, only invincible Gu Masters. If there really is such a thing as eternal life Gu, which could directly give a Gu Immortal both of these things, wouldn't it contradict that statement?

Gu Zhenren: Fang Yuan's ultimate goal is to refine eternal life Gu. Refinement path is the foundation, but the cost to refine such a Gu worm far exceeds his imagination. This concerns the grand finale.

Question: If the Bloodcore can be mass-produced, then what advantages does the protagonist have?

Gu Zhenren: This question demands a proper answer. Let's not discuss the deep themes of Infinite Bloodcore. I'd like to speak about the golden finger (aka the cheat) in webnovels, there has never been a situation where many people possess the same golden finger as the protagonist. So when this novel was designed, it was intended to break this mold. I have always believed that a golden finger is merely a tool, the true key is the person who uses it.

Question: Can the gods of Infinite Bloodcore be supplanted by mortals?

Gu Zhenren: It's possible. Although there is a gulf between gods and mortals, it can be crossed.

Question: Zhenren, can I hear your voice?

Gu Zhenren: Hahaha, I'll stream if there is a chance. Typing out answers one by one for these questions is too tiring. I need to find a more efficient way to communicate. Currently, such a method of communication costs too much.

Question: What would Fang Yuan do after achieving eternal life?

Gu Zhenren: Depends on the copyright situation.

Question: As an otherworldly demon, does Fang Yuan have otherworldly dao marks on him? If so, what kind of dao marks are they?

Gu Zhenren: Of course he does. I can't say specifically, as it is a spoiler.

Question: Will hope Gu play a big role later on?

Gu Zhenren: It will be related to the final refinement of eternal life Gu and the ultimate world war against the final boss, Fang Yuan.

Question: Is Daoist Countless Treasures a venerable's clone? Is it Thieving Heaven's?

Gu Zhenren: He is not a venerable's clone.

Question: So far, all the Gu in the list of top ten mystical Gu have been revealed. In that case, since the top ten great immortal Gu and top ten great demonic Gu are rarely mentioned, can Zhenren tell us what they are?

Gu Zhenren: Look out, I can't reveal it because it is a spoiler. Because many of them are involved in later events of the story, where the whole world battles Fang Yuan and the other venerables besiege him. Also, you guys know all the top ten mystical Gu? Even I don't know all of them, I'm still missing one, WTF???!!!

Reply: I want to remind you that the list of mystical Gu, great immortal Gu, and great demonic Gu are all somewhat different. In the novel, instead of writing "ten great mystical Gu", you write "list of top ten mystical Gu". Does this mean that the complete list of mystical Gu are not only these ten Gu?

Gu Zhenren: This is because Gu are added and removed from the list based on situational circumstances. The Gu worms currently ranked in the top ten will not necessarily always be in the top ten.

Question: How many more not-yet-appeared secluded domains like the Bewitching Lake and Obsession Death Domain are there?

Gu Zhenren: There are still many to appear in The Legends of Ren Zu.

Question: Can any path allow a person to become a venerable with their respective path's rank nine Gu?

Gu Zhenren: No.

Question: Is there a limit to how many tribulations a blessed land faces after a Gu Immortal dies?

Gu Zhenren: There is no limit, it will be endless. It's mainly that they can't survive it after a certain point.

Question: If I can trouble Zhenren with a question, is the foundation for possessing eternal life the sovereign immortal fetus Gu?

Gu Zhenren: The refinement of eternal life Gu is a separate affair altogether.

Question: Is there an Immortal Gu version of hope Gu?

Gu Zhenren: Yes.

Question: What is the moon like in the Gu world, is the moon an actual object or is it a projection of the sun in white heaven when black heaven is below it?

Gu Zhenren: The moon exists as itself.

Question: If the two rules and regulations Gu exist, could they modify the rules of the world? Every time the rules and regulations Gu are used, a new rule is created: can this rule be controlled?

Each of the ten venerables have founded a path and Fang Yuan has otherworldly dao marks and there are others who also have otherworldly dao marks. Could it be said that paths such as painting path that is out of place in the Gu world are from otherworldly dao marks? Because only venerables can through the five regions unchallenged, only they could discover these dao marks and found the corresponding paths?

Is heaven's will controllable? Could Fang Yuan become heaven's will and control it?

Gu Zhenren: What rules and regulations Gu can do depends on an individual's talent and imagination.

The Gu world is all-embracing. Otherworldly dao marks will not be out of place, they will be incorporated and used to help the Gu world grow.

Venerables are not the only ones capable of discovering and making use of otherworldly dao marks. When a path is founded, the dao marks have to be derived from a certain foundation.

The question about heaven's will involves spoilers, so I can't answer it.

Question: Does Star Constellation not like Paradise Earth only because of his impure bloodline, or because his bloodline is impure, his ideals are different to that of Heavenly Court?

Gu Zhenren: Mainly because the difference in their ideals is vast. The matter of bloodline is secondary. After all, bloodlines can be changed.

Question: Is there a chance Star Constellation's first love will return? (If he won't return, can you reveal what sort of variant human he was?)

Gu Zhenren: It's a spoiler, I can't answer. As far as my outline is concerned, he will return and participate in besieging Fang Yuan, the great demon king and also give the children of human path a lot of help. Shit…spoilers…

Question: Is the Bloodcore protagonist really an ordinary person? His fighting talent and unknown true name imply he is not so. Is he related to Emperor Sheng Ming?

Gu Zhenren: Hehehe, how interesting. I did that on purpose. There has never been a webnovel where the protagonist doesn't have a name. It's a small bit of breaking of the norms, no?

When I was making the setting, I did this to try highlight the theme. Here, there is a gradual process of discovering the self and one's philosophy changing during the process. When he discovers his name, it will be an important point in the development of his philosophy but not the end.

Furthermore, the protagonist's identity does, in fact, have a history.

Question: Can you help me with a question? Zhenren, you write novels that are either cold-blooded, slightly cold-blooded, or hotblooded. Reverend Insanity is cold-blooded, Infinite Bloodcore is slightly cold-blooded. What kind of world would you set a hot-blooded book in, would it be Western fantasy, xuanhuan, or urban?

Gu Zhenren: Hot-blooded will be a Western fantasy novel. I have an initial draft that I have been constantly editing and planning for a long while.

Question: My question concerns the River of Time. In the story, after Fate was broken, the river waters became turbulent. If you take the section of the river that represents the present day and use it as an "anchor", with the Spring and Autumn Cicada, is it possible to travel back to this time? If today is December 15th 2022, and we took water from the river today, then we use it on the 20th, could we time-travel to the 15th?

Gu Zhenren: There's no need to use the river's water. However, it requires the Spring and Autumn Cicada to be still alive in that time period.

Question: When will Bloodcore progress to the next map and end the wandering at sea? Afterward, will they continue to travel in a group?

Gu Zhenren: The sea-wandering will continue for book 2. Book 3 will be set on the beastman continent.

Question: How long is Bloodcore expected to take to finish, and what do you plan to write after Bloodcore is done?

Gu Zhenren: At least a year, a new novel depends on the situation. If Reverend Insanity is unbanned, I will, of course, finish it first!

Question: Zhenren, how do you feel about many readers giving the most attention to Reverend Insanity and rarely discussing Infinite Bloodcore?

Gu Zhenren: Different strokes for different folks, discuss whatever it is you like. For me, it’s all acceptable and doesn’t matter, it's all my writings anyway. Besides, Infinite Bloodcore’s charm still hasn’t been fully revealed yet, it still needs time to mature. When everyone now thinks of climaxes, they think of book one’s finale. But according to my design, that is not where Infinite Bloodcore’s true charm lies, it is also not what I want to highlight in the story.

Question: What does Zhenren think of Reverend Insanity’s sudden popularity on Douyin (Tiktok) and other platforms recently? Has it had any effect on Zhenren writing Bloodcore?

Gu Zhenren: Ah, truth be told, I feel like an actor trying to make a breakthrough and achieve new things in new career paths. If I were to write something in the style of Reverend Insanity, it would be very easy for me. There wouldn’t need to be massive rewrites like I needed to do in Infinite Bloodcore.

But the main reason I write is because I find it interesting and because I like the challenge, I suppose. The impact has been positive and there is no such thing as making everyone like Infinite Bloodcore more. Because I know that Infinite Bloodcore, compared to Reverend Insanity, becomes better later on. I expect that when the novel is finished, there will be people who will like it a lot. Of course, it might only be a few people.

This is why I said I'm not writing for money. As long as Infinite Bloodcore is finished, I think it will fill many empty niches and break through many of the restrictions that bind webnovels.

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Gu Zhenren: Huff… It's 10 pm. Happy 10th anniversary. Goodnight.