

A Record of a Mortal's Journey to Immortality: Immortal Realm #Chapter 51: Minor Spatial Teleportation Technique - Read A Record of a Mortal's Journey to Immortality: Immortal Realm Chapter 51: Minor Spatial Teleportation Technique

Chapter 51: Minor Spatial Teleportation Technique

A string of dull thumps rang out incessantly from both directions at once.

Almost as soon as the five ghostly heads appeared, they exploded like a cluster of smashed watermelons, and the crimson ghostly seal was also completely pulverized.

On the other side, the 13 bone swords also shattered into pieces before being reduced to dust, immediately following which the crimson shield was torn apart as if it were made from paper.

Two blood-curdling cries rang out almost in unison as the silver-robed man and the red-robed woman's bodies exploded violently.

A purple nascent soul that was around two inches tall flew out of the silver-robed man's remains, and there was a horrified look on its face as it immediately tried to flee the scene.

However, before it was able to fly away, Han Li had already appeared right beside it, then reached out a hand to catch it firmly in his grasp.

The purple nascent soul struggled and writhed with all its might in an attempt to break free, but all it took was a nonchalant squeeze of Han Li's hand to erase it from existence.

The red-robed woman's nascent soul didn't dare to flee right away. Instead, it took advantage of the distraction provided by the silver-robed man's nascent soul to flee the scene, flying rapidly toward the forest in the distance.

Han Li suddenly turned around before opening his mouth to release a burst of white qi, which took on the form of a flying sword as it hurtled through the air.

A burst of rumbling rang out within the forest up ahead, and one huge tree was felled after another.

Deep in the forest, a streak of white light flashed past, and the red-robed woman's nascent soul was instantly sliced into two before disintegrating into specks of light.

This seemed to have been a complex process, but in reality, it had all taken place in the blink of an eye.

Meanwhile, Qi Xuan and the yellow-robed man were already fleeing in opposite directions, frantically unleashing secret techniques to enhance their speed.

The yellow-robed man was standing atop a giant bone bird, and the bird was flying at an incredible speed, able to cover a distance of 2,000 to 3,000 feet with each flap of its wings.

As for Qi Xuan, he had grown a pair of crimson wings that were around 10 feet in length on his back and he was flying even faster than the yellow-robed man. At this point, he was already over 10,000 feet away.

Both of them were greatly alarmed and horrified to sense the auras of their two companions being instantly snuffed out.

The yellow-robed man immediately flipped a hand over to produce a black and red octagonal copper mirror, and black and red light flashed from its surface as it appeared directly behind him.

Even with that, he still didn't feel safe, and he swept a sleeve through the air to release nine small black flags, which connected with one another in mid-air to form a dense black light barrier in the blink of an eye, forming a watertight protective layer all around him.

At the same time, a string of cracks and pops rang out from within his body, and his clothes were torn to shreds as a series of thorn-like bone spikes protruded out of his skin, then fused together to form a suit of bone armor that covered all of his vital regions.

In the other direction, a decisive look appeared on Qi Xuan's face as he raised his right hand, then chopped his own arm off in one swift motion.

A large plume of blood erupted through the air, transforming into a cloud of blood mist that enveloped his entire body, turning him into a streak of crimson light that sped through the air at an incredible speed.

Han Li's brows furrowed slightly, and he didn't immediately give chase. Instead, he pointed a finger at Liu Le'er from afar.

A streak of azure light shot forth before vanishing into her body in a flash.

A series of black lightning chains instantly appeared around her, then shattered with a dull thump.

"Brother Rock!" Liu Le'er called out in an ecstatic voice.

Han Li gave her a faint smile, then beckoned to her with one hand, and a dull black talisman flew out of her body, exploding mid-flight to release five miniature black mountains that fell into Han Li's grasp.

Han Li then cast his gaze toward the two fleeing figures, and his arms flashed through the air in a blur.

Two of the miniature mountains flew out of his grasp, transforming into a pair of black shadows that hurtled through the air toward Qi Xuan and the yellow-robed man, closing down the gap at a phenomenal rate.

Black light flashed on the surfaces of the two mountains, and they each swelled to over 100 feet in size mid-flight, leaving a trail of ripples in the space in their wake.

Soon, both the yellow-robed man and Qi Xuan felt a burst of terrifying power sweep toward them from behind, much to their alarm and horror.

The yellow-robed man hurriedly tried to make a hand seal, but it was already too late.

The black mountain crashed through with devastating force, instantly destroying the octagonal copper mirror, the black flags, and all of his other protective treasures upon contact.

The bone bird beneath his feet also exploded into countless bone fragments with a despairing cry.

The yellow-robed man was then struck by the mountain, and the suit of bone armor that he was wearing was instantly shattered, while his body was also reduced to a mangled mass of flesh and blood.

His nascent soul didn't even get a chance to escape before it was destroyed in the blink of an eye by the tremendous force imbued within the mountain.

At this point, Qi Xuan was already close to four kilometers away, and he was horrified to see what had become of his final remaining companion in the distance.

Right at this moment, the other black mountain came hurtling toward him with unstoppable might.

In this dire situation, he let loose a guttural roar as his eyes turned bright red, and his body also took on a crimson hue. Countless veins bulged beneath his skin, and his entire body began to swell up like a balloon.

A resounding boom rang out, and flames scattered in all directions as the cone of fire exploded, falling down from above as balls of fire.

His body then exploded into a massive ball of crimson light, while crimson ripples spread through the air in all directions.

The black mountain arrived on the scene like lightning, but it was stalled slightly by the crimson light.

Qi Xuan's nascent soul took advantage of the opportunity to fly out of the crimson light, then abruptly vanished on the spot. In the next instant, it appeared over 1,000 feet away, then opened its mouth to release a ball of blood essence, which formed a ball of crimson light around itself.

The nascent soul then continued to flee into the distance at an incredible speed.

Han Li's eyes narrowed slightly upon seeing this, and he beckoned to Liu Le'er again.

Silver light flashed from her left arm, and a clear cry rang out, following which countless specks of silver flames emerged to form a palm-sized silver fire raven.

The bird spread its wings before landing on the center of Han Li's palm.

Han Li made a hand seal before pointing a finger at the silver fire raven, and it instantly swelled several times in size before rapidly elongating to form a fiery silver bow with countless silver runes dancing around it.

Even though no arrow was nocked on the bow, he still grabbed onto the bowstring with his other hand before gently pulling back.

The fiery silver bow began to glow with dazzling light, then blasted several bursts of silver flames through the surrounding air. The silver flames instantly converged to form a silver fire arrow, which was aimed at Qi Xuan's nascent soul from afar.

Even though Qi Xuan's nascent soul was already close to 10 kilometers away at this point, it still felt a chill run down its spine, and a sense of foreboding welled up in its heart, causing its expression to change drastically.

"Stop!"

Right at this moment, a thunderous roar rang out in the distance.

A speck of black light had appeared on the horizon, and it swelled to become a dark cloud in the blink of an eye, approaching the scene at an alarming speed.

Qi Xuan's nascent soul was ecstatic to see this, and it immediately changed directions, flying toward the dark cloud.

However, Han Li paid no heed to the voice as he released the bowstring, and the silver arrow was immediately fired before vanishing into thin air.

In the next instant, the silver arrow reappeared directly behind Qi Xuan's nascent soul, then pierced through it in the blink of an eye.

The nascent soul erupted into silver flames amid a horrified wail, and it was reduced to a ball of black light in the blink of an eye.

Right at this moment, the dark cloud also reached the nascent soul, and a burst of black qi swept toward it, but it was already too late.

"How dare you!"

Rumbling thunderclaps rang out within the dark cloud, and it was clear that whoever was inside the cloud was furious.

A black ghostly claw that was the size of a small mountain extended out of the cloud, reaching for Han Li with gusts of fierce Yin wind blowing all around it.

As the ghostly claw descended from above, bursts of black ghostly flames appeared on the tips of its fingers, releasing countless black fireballs that rained down in a torrential storm.

Han Li remained completely unfazed by this, and a cold look flashed through his eyes as he clenched his fist before throwing a punch toward the sky.

A burst of tremendous force erupted into the heavens, threatening to tear through the very air in its path.

All of the black fireballs raining down from above were quickly snuffed out, and the giant black claw was also stopped cold in its tracks.

Black light flashed over the claw momentarily before it exploded violently into countless bursts of black qi that dissipated into nothingness.

Gusts of ferocious wind were swept up, tearing the black cloud in the sky apart with ease.

As a result, a black-robed elderly man was revealed, and his body swayed slightly before he quickly steadied himself with a bewildered look on his face.

Han Li raised his head to look up at the black-robed elderly man, and a hint of derision appeared in his eyes.

A dark look appeared on the black-robed elderly man's face upon seeing this, and he flipped a hand over to produce a shimmering silver object, which he hurled through the air.

This was a silver array plate that flew directly toward Han Li amid a sharp screeching sound, and it abruptly exploded on its own mid-flight.

Boundless silver radiance erupted from the array plate, spreading over an area over 1,000 feet in size, encompassing both Han Li and Liu Le'er within.

Countless silver runes appeared within the light amid what appeared to be the sound of Buddhist prayers.

A thought abruptly occurred to Han Li upon seeing this, and he was just about to do something when a streak of black light flew out of the silver radiance, screeching toward Liu Le'er at an incredible speed.

Han Li vanished on the spot in a flash, then instantly appeared in front of Liu Le'er before sweeping an arm through the air.

The streak of black light was sent flying by his casual swat, revealing itself to be a black flying dagger.

Right at this moment, the silver light in the surrounding area suddenly brightened significantly, filling the entirety of his field of view.

His body was enshrouded under a certain force, and the scene around him rapidly transitioned.

Soon, his vision was restored, and he found himself in an empty and spacious area.

"That was the Minor Spatial Teleportation Technique!" Han Li mused to himself as he swept his gaze over his surroundings.

He found himself situated in a massive valley under a dense layer of dark clouds. There were tall black mountains on either side of him, with some buildings visible on those mountains.

At this moment, he and Liu Le'er were on a huge plaza in the valley, and the black-robed elderly man was hovering in mid-air above them.

The plaza was several hundred acres in area and was riddled with black jade. Plumes of black qi were surging out of the black jade, forming a faint yet resilient layer of black mist over the plaza, making the entire plaza appear as if it were situated on a black cloud.

In front of the plaza was an enormous and majestic hall, above which was a black plaque that carried the words "Heavenly Ghost Hall" in large characters.

Chapter 52: It's My Turn Now

Almost as soon as Han Li and Liu Le'er appeared on the plaza, the earth around the giant plaza began to tremble, and nine black stone pillars rose up out of the soil, encircling a large circular area.

Each pillar was so thick that the average adult human would only just barely be able to wrap their arms around it, and they stood at over 100 feet tall. Countless runes and array patterns were engraved all over the surfaces of the pillars, and there were also many glowing black gemstones embedded into them. These gemstones seemed to be some type of special spirit stone, and they were all shimmering with bright black light.

Aside from that, there was a statue of a different ghostly creature situated at the top of each pillar. All of them were extremely life-like, and even though they were nothing more than statues, just the mere sight of them was enough to send chills running down one's spine.

Dazzling black light rose up from all the ghostly creatures on top of the stone pillars before connecting together in a flash to form a hemispherical black light barrier in the blink of an eye.

The surface of the light barrier was riddled with black runes that were flashing incessantly, and countless indistinct ghostly projections were manifested amid bursts of eerie ghostly wailing, presenting a terrifying sight to behold.

Liu Le'er couldn't help but shudder upon seeing this, and she unconsciously sidled up closer to Han Li.

She was no longer the inexperienced little fox girl that she once was, but this fearsome sight was still enough to strike horror deep into her heart.

Han Li didn't even bother to take a single glance at the black-robed elderly man as he swept a hand through the air, releasing the silver fire raven out of his palm. The fire raven transformed into a silver net of fire at his behest before settling over Liu Le'er as a protective barrier.

"Stay in there, and don't be afraid."

Liu Le'er was greatly reassured by Han Li's calm demeanor.

Right at this moment, countless streaks of light rose up from the surrounding buildings before converging toward the plaza, and they were all black-robed Heavenly Ghost Sect disciples.

It didn't take long before the sky above the plaza was filled with several hundred people, and there were still more people constantly approaching from all directions.

However, Han Li paid no heed to the commotion around him. Instead, he was calmly examining the nine stone pillars and the black light barrier around him with blue light flashing in his eyes.

The Heavenly Ghost Sect disciples converging from all directions were under the impression that the sect had been invaded by powerful enemies, and they were all rather bewildered to see only an ordinary-looking young man who appeared to be in his twenties and a little girl at the center of the plaza.

However, no one dared to ask any questions after catching a glimpse of the dark expression on the black-robed elderly man's face.

The black-robed elderly man made no effort to address the disciples around him as he descended onto one of the black stone pillars, then began to chant an incantation as he released nine array plates out of his sleeves before making a rapid series of hand seals.

The nine array plates flew through the air before each of them descended onto one of the nine giant stone pillars, then vanished into the black light radiating from the giant pillars in a flash.

Even more runes surged out of the black light barrier, and it instantly became significantly thicker, while the rather indistinct ghostly projections also became clearer and more substantial.

Only then did the black-robed elderly man allow himself to heave a faint sigh of relief, but he still continued to make hand seals without pause.

Right at this moment, two particularly bright streaks of light shot forth from the distance before arriving above the plaza in the blink of an eye, revealing a pair of figures, one of which was a white-haired elderly man, while the other was an imposing man with a dark complexion.

Just like the black-robed elderly man, both of them were also Spatial Tempering cultivators.

Once the Heavenly Ghost Sect disciples present on the scene realized that there were three sect elders present at once, all of the commotion and chatter instantly died down.

As soon as the white-haired elderly man and the dark-skinned man arrived, they immediately released their spiritual sense in unison to sweep over Han Li and Liu Le'er while also quickly inspecting the surrounding area.

"What is the meaning of this, Elder Jiang? Why did you use the Minor Spatial Teleportation Plate to bring these two juniors into the sect? On top of that, you've even activated the nine Heavenly Ghost Monarch Pillars! I'm sure you know just as well as I do how much resources have to be expended just to activate this array even once," the white-haired elderly man said with a displeased expression.

The dark-skinned man also turned to the black-robed elderly man with a perplexed expression.

"You've come at just the right time! Help me power the array to refine these two at once!" the black-robed elderly man said in an urgent voice as he continued to make hand seals.

"You activated the array just to refine these two low-grade cultivators? The Heavenly Ghost Monarch Pillars can trap even Body Integration Stage beings! Is this supposed to be a joke, Brother Jiang?" the dark-skinned man chuckled, displaying no intention to cooperate.

The white-haired elderly man also refrained from joining the black-robed elderly man.

A stir ran through the nearby disciples as well, but they didn't dare to say anything for fear of irking the black-robed elderly man.

Many of them had already managed to identify that the two people trapped in the array were only at the Nascent Soul Stage and the Core Formation Stage, and even among the disciples present, there were many who were capable of killing them with ease.

However, the black-robed elderly man was a Spatial Tempering cultivator, and he was proclaiming that it was necessary to activate the nine Heavenly Ghost Monarch Pillars just to take care of such a lowly pair of cultivators. If word of this were to spread to the outside world, he would be made the butt of countless jokes.

"Don't underestimate them! That Nascent Soul Stage brat is an extremely formidable body cultivator with powers far beyond what his cultivation base suggests!" the black-robed elderly man said in an urgent voice.

The dark-skinned man was still unconvinced and shook his head with an amused smile.

The white-haired elderly man lowered his head to look down at Han Li, who was still casually looking around, seemingly completely oblivious to the perilous situation that he was in.

Right at this moment, Han Li's gaze suddenly settled on something, and he murmured to himself, "Seeing as I'm already here, why don't I kill two birds with one stone?"

As soon as his voice trailed off, he sped over to one side of the light barrier, leaving a trail of afterimages in his wake, then casually tapped a certain spot on the light barrier with a single finger.

An incredible scene immediately unfolded.

The entire black light barrier began to tremble violently, while the light radiating from its surface flashed erratically, and the ghostly projections within it suddenly erupted into a chaotic frenzy as if they had gone insane.

The dark-skinned man's smile immediately stiffened upon seeing this, and his eyes widened with shock.

The black-robed elderly man shuddered as he threw up a mouthful of blood, and he made a rapid series of hand seals, doing everything in his power to stabilize the array.

"We need to stabilize the array! We can't let him break free!" the white-haired elderly man yelled in an alarmed voice as he flew through the air before landing on top of one of the stone pillars.

The dark-skinned man also returned to his senses and flew toward another one of the stone pillars with a stunned expression, but it was already too late.

With one final flash of light from the surface of the light barrier, all of the ghostly projections instantly vanished. Immediately thereafter, nine giant ghostly faces appeared in unison on the surface of the light barrier

corresponding with the locations of the nine stone pillars, and all of the ghostly faces wore agonized expressions as they let loose ear-piercing shrieks.

Their voices were extremely sharp and abrasive, and all of the disciples on the plaza immediately screamed as they threw their hands over their heads, while some of the weaker ones among them began to bleed out of their ears and nostrils.

After letting loose those horrific screams, countless black runes surged out of the nine giant ghostly faces in a frenzy before abruptly crumbling away.

The entire light barrier also shattered like glass, disintegrating into countless specks of black light.

Not only that but countless cracks also appeared on the statues of the ghostly creatures on top of the nine stone pillars before they exploded in rapid succession.

At this point, Han Li had already withdrawn his finger, and his hands were clasped behind his back as he made his way toward Liu Le'er amid the countless specks of black light drifting through the air.

Liu Le'er was ecstatic as she stood under the silver net of fire, and if it weren't for the fact that they were still completely surrounded by enemies, she would've already erupted into jubilant cheers.

The three Spatial Tempering Stage elders of the Heavenly Ghost Sect were astonished to see that the array had been destroyed so easily, and all three of them felt as if they had been dealt a heavy blow.

The hundreds of Heavenly Ghost Sect disciples present were also completely rooted to the spot, looking on with dazed expressions.

"How dare you destroy our sect's precious array!" the black-robed elderly man roared with fury as he opened his mouth to release a burst of white light, which transformed into a white bone blade with nine large silver rings on its back.

At the same time, he made a rapid series of hand seals, releasing five or six incantation seals in quick succession.

The nine silver rings on the bone blade clattered together to produce a disorienting sound, while countless crimson runes abruptly appeared on the surface of the blade, releasing a dazzling blade projection that was close to 1,000 feet in length, which came crashing down directly upon Han Li.

At the same time, the white-haired elderly man reached out to summon an antiquated black cane, at the tip of which was an ornate black dragon's head.

The cane circled around in mid-air before swelling drastically in size, transforming into a black wyrm with a pair of wings on its back.

The wyrm opened its cavernous mouth to release a vast expanse of black flames, while the dark-skinned man also flipped a hand over to produce a gray feather fan without any hesitation.

The fan seemed to have been made from the feathers of some type of spirit bird, and he injected his magic power into the fan in a frenzy before sweeping it vigorously through the air.

The sky instantly darkened as gusts of fierce gray wind swept through the air, transforming into seven or eight gray wind dragons that pounced toward Han Li.

With the three Spatial Tempering Stage elders springing into action, the surrounding Heavenly Ghost Sect disciples also quickly joined the fray, summoning all types of treasures while chanting different incantations.

All of a sudden, spiritual light of all types of different colors appeared all around the plaza.

Han Li immediately swept an enormous burst of spiritual sense over the entire plaza upon seeing this, sending an indescribably powerful burst of spiritual pressure crashing down upon the entire area.

All of the people in the plaza felt as if they had received a blow to the head.

Stars instantly began to dance in front of the eyes of the nearby Heavenly Ghost Sect disciples, and they immediately fell unconscious before plummeting out of the sky, falling onto the plaza in a limp and immobile state.

All of the treasures summoned by the disciples also clattered down onto the ground as a result.

In contrast, the three Spatial Tempering Stage elders possessed considerably more powerful souls than the disciples at the scene, so they were able to quickly shrug off the effects of the spiritual sense attack.

The three of them continued to unleash attacks at Han Li without skipping a beat, and in the blink of an eye, a blade projection, a wave of black flames, and the thunder of wind dragons descended upon Han Li.

Han Li remained completely still on the spot, displaying no intention to take evasive measures.

A string of resounding booms rang out, and the crimson blade projections were the first to strike Han Li's body, only to be completely shattered and revert back to a white bone blade that was repelled back through the air.

The black flames and the wind dragons also disintegrated upon making contact with Han Li's body, unable to inflict any harm upon him. In fact, even his azure robes remained completely unscathed.

As for Liu Le'er, she was also safe and sound under the silver net of fire as all of the attacks had been withstood by Han Li.

The three Spatial Tempering Stage elders drew a sharp breath in unison, unable to believe what they were seeing.

"It's my turn now!" Han Li declared in an indifferent voice as he raised his head.

Chapter 53: Scorched By Devilish Flames

As soon as his voice trailed off, Han Li's body blurred before vanishing on the spot.

"Look out!" the black-robed elderly man hurriedly yelled in an urgent voice.

However, before he had a chance to do anything else, he felt a blur flash past his eyes, following which he was sent flying back like a ragdoll as if a giant mountain had just crashed into him. He flew all the way to a mountain outside of the plaza before crashing into the mountain with such force that his body was completely embedded into the mountain face, and it was unclear whether he had survived the attack.

The white-haired elderly man and the dark-skinned man looked on as the black-robed elderly was sent flying, and before they even had a chance to make sense of the situation, two more dull thumps rang out as the two of them were also sent flying away in different directions before crashing heavily into the mountain face.

The entire plaza had fallen completely silent.

Liu Le'er was staring at all of the unconscious bodies and treasures littered all over the plaza, and her jaw had completely fallen onto the ground.

She had always known that Han Li was extremely powerful, but this still went far beyond her imagination, and she felt as if she were in a dream.

While she was still looking on with a dazed expression, Han Li arrived by her side as he asked with a concerned expression, "Are you alright, Le'er?"

"I'm fine, Brother Rock. It's all thanks to those treasures and pills that you gave me. That Qi Xuan was a really insidious bastard! Not only did he want to take your spirit flame for himself, he used me as bait to lure you here. Thankfully, he didn't do anything to me aside from keeping me prisoner," Liu Le'er replied with a hint of lingering fear in her eyes.

Han Li nodded in response, then sat down with his legs crossed before producing a white pill that he placed into his own mouth.

Even though he had intentionally held back on the spiritual sense attack he had unleashed earlier, his current meager reserves of magic power had still almost completely run dry.

Liu Le'er faltered slightly upon seeing this, then looked around with a concerned expression as she asked, "Shouldn't we be leaving this place before other people get here, Brother Rock?"

The massive commotion that Han Li had caused here had naturally attracted the attention of the entire Heavenly Ghost Sect, and many streaks of light were converging toward the plaza.

"There's no hurry to leave," Han Li replied with a nonchalant smile.

Mere moments later, several particularly large streaks of light arrived on the scene, revealing six figures that were giving off auras that weren't inferior to those of the three Spatial Tempering Stage elders from earlier.

The six of them were greatly alarmed to see the situation down below, and they all focused their eyes on Han Li.

The six of them were rather hesitant about how to proceed, and they quickly released their spiritual sense to inspect Han Li's cultivation base, then exchanged a glance with one another before retreating to open up some distance, and only then did they release their treasures.

Six treasures of different colors descended from the heavens, screeching through the air as they hurtled directly toward Han Li with devastating might.

Han Li didn't even bother to stand up, remaining in a seated position as he lashed out with his fists, throwing punches in six different directions to oppose the oncoming treasures.

Powerful shockwaves rippled through the air, proliferating in all directions.

A string of deafening booms rang out, and it was as if all of the treasures had crashed into invisible walls. Six enormous bursts of spiritual light erupted forth, and the entire space seemed to be trembling violently.

By the time the light faded, Han Li was already nowhere to be seen.

The six figures in the air faltered slightly upon seeing this, immediately following which Han Li appeared in front of a middle-aged man with a pair of narrow eyes before throwing a punch without any hesitation.

The middle-aged man didn't get a chance to react at all before he was sent flying back by a burst of tremendous force.

Five resounding booms rang out in quick succession, followed by the sound of a heavy impact, and the middle-aged man slumped down onto the ground, having fallen completely unconscious.

Han Li then sent the five remaining Spatial Tempering cultivators flying with a punch each, then returned to Liu Le'er's side, where he stood with his hands clasped behind his back.

The Heavenly Ghost Sect cultivators that were approaching from all directions were just in time to witness this astonishing scene, and they hurriedly stopped cold in their tracks with alarmed expressions, exchanging bewildered glances as they pondered how to proceed.

All of these high and mighty Spatial Tempering Stage elders were getting swatted away like flies by a completely unremarkable-looking Nascent Soul cultivator. Some had smashed deep craters into the plaza, some had been entombed in the nearby mountain face, and some had crashed through and toppled nearby buildings.

In particular, the hundreds of unconscious disciples and the treasures littered all over the ground around the plaza presented a harrowing sight to behold.

Right at this moment, a streak of white light shot forth from the distance, arriving in the sky above the Heavenly Ghost Hall, most of which had already collapsed at this point.

The light then faded to reveal a burly man in a silken robe who appeared to be no more than 30 to 40 years of age. He had a square face with a short purple beard, and he was giving off a formidable aura.

"Grand Elder Lu!"

"It's Grand Elder Lu! Thank heavens..."

All of the disciples around the plaza were ecstatic to see the arrival of the purple-bearded man, and they all called out in elation as if they had found a life raft to cling onto.

The man's gaze fell upon Han Li, and he wore a cautious expression as he quickly made a series of hand seals.

"So a Body Integration cultivator has finally shown up," Han Li mused to himself with a faint smile, then flipped a hand over to produce a miniature mountain amid a flash of black light.

The mountain flew out of his grasp with a swipe of his arm, rapidly swelling to several hundred feet tall mid-flight as it hurtled directly toward the purple-bearded man.

Even before the mountain arrived, a burst of astonishing force surged through the air.

The purple-bearded man remained calm and collected, and he was making hand seals at such an incredible speed that his hands had turned into an untraceable blur.

At this point, the black mountain had already swelled to over 1,000 feet in height, yet right when it was about to crash into the purple-bearded man, he suddenly stopped what he was doing.

A burst of dark purple light appeared beneath his feet, following which a hidden array that was riddled with runes abruptly emerged, swallowing him up in an instant.

The mountain missed its target as a result, continuing to crash toward the wreckage of the Heavenly Ghost Hall down below.

At the same time, identical purple arrays appeared beneath Han Li and Liu Le'er's feet as well, releasing a burst of purple light that enveloped the two of them in an instant.

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Inside a secluded valley in the Yin Necropolis Mountain Range.

The space here was very confined, and there was barely any natural light. The entire valley was filled with dense black mist, and on either side of the valley were rock faces that stood at over 1,000 feet tall, upon which were engraved some strange patterns and complex ghostly runes.

Situated at each of the four corners of the valley was a large bluestone pillar, all four of which were riddled with runes and quite archaic in appearance.

Right at this moment, purple light suddenly flashed from the ground, and both Han Li and Liu Le'er appeared in the valley at the same time.

Liu Le'er was still under the protection of the fiery net formed by the silver fire raven, and she was swaying slightly from the rush of dizziness brought on by the sudden teleportation, but aside from that, she was completely fine.

As soon as Han Li arrived in the valley, he immediately raised his head to inspect his surroundings.

The purple-bearded man from before had already appeared on one of the bluestone pillars, and two male cultivators and one female cultivator were seated atop the other three pillars, seemingly meditating with their eyes closed.

The woman had a voluptuous figure and a set of beautiful features that were complemented by a red dress. She didn't appear to be very old, but she was giving off a mature charm.

The other two cultivators consisted of a giant of a man with only a single eye, and a hunch-backed elderly man.

Judging from their auras, all three of them were also Body Integration cultivators.

The three of them opened their eyes in unison upon sensing the disturbance in the valley, and they took a bewildered glance at Han Li's duo before turning to the purple-bearded man.

"Didn't you go to the Heavenly Ghost Plaza to take care of some intruders, Elder Lu? Why are you back so soon, and why did you bring these two outsiders into this forbidden zone?" the woman asked with a displeased look on her face.

"There's no time to explain! Hurry up and activate the Earthly Ghost Soul Suppression Array! That man is a Body Integration Stage body cultivator!" the purple-bearded man said in an urgent voice with a grim look on his face.

The other three cultivators were all quite surprised to hear this, but each of them instantly summoned a black badge without any hesitation.

The four of them then tossed their badges through the air in unison with a flick of their wrists.

Four metallic clangs rang out as the badges flew directly downward, instantly burrowing into the ground around Han Li.

Immediately thereafter, the ground beneath Han Li's feet began to tremble violently, and a string of thunderous rumbling rang out from beneath the ground.

The soil around him churned violently while the rocks crumbled away, and four peculiar archways erupted out of the ground, surrounding Han Li and Liu Le'er.

Each of the archways was around 500 to 600 feet tall with four pillars that were riddled with human and beast bones. A crimson skull was hanging from each corner of the archways' eaves, and they were swaying incessantly in the wind like red windchimes.

A giant ghostly head was engraved into the very center of each archway, and each of them was different in appearance from the others.

Before Han Li had a chance to do anything, the four ghostly heads on the archways seemed to have suddenly sprung to life, and their eyes swiveled toward him in unison.

A vast expanse of crimson light erupted out all of their eyes, then intertwined to form a projection of a sea of churning blood that encompassed the entire area around Han Li and Liu Le'er in a radius of several thousand feet. magic

Situated within the sea of blood, Han Li could feel an immense weight forcing down upon his shoulders. His robes were pressed tightly against his body, and all of his movements had become slightly slow and sluggish.

Blue light flashed through his eyes, and a string of loud cracks and pops rang out from within his body in quick succession. However, he only swayed slightly under the tremendous force weighing down on him before steadying himself again, seemingly completely unfazed.

The silver net above Liu Le'er was beginning to warp under the enormous pressure, and the uppermost section of the net had caved in significantly, but it was able to hold its shape once Han Li cast a string of incantation seals into it, much to Liu Le'er's relief.

The woman in red was staring at Han Li and Liu Le'er with an incredulous expression. "How is this possible?"

"Looks like we've still underestimated him. At the very most, this array will only be able to temporarily trap him. However, now that I've brought them into the Devilish Flame Valley, I can use the Ninth Heaven Devilish Flames left behind in the valley by Patriarch Bone Flame to refine them," the purple-bearded man said as a fierce look appeared in his eyes.

The one-eyed man and the hunch-backed elderly man exchanged a quick glance, and both of them nodded in agreement with this course of action.

Thus, the four of them immediately began to make a rapid series of hand seals, and the sound of their collective chanting rang out within the valley.

At the same time, a faint buzzing sound appeared in the valley before quickly becoming louder and louder, causing the entire valley to tremble and buzz.

Small rocks began to roll down from the cliff faces on either side of the valley, and the ghostly runes engraved upon them were radiating dazzling light.

The previously rather indistinct patterns suddenly became extremely vibrant and life-like, and they quickly joined together to form a series of black fire lotus flowers.

The lotus flowers swayed as bursts of black flames were released from their petals, surging incessantly into the valley. Before long, the entire valley had been filled with a sea of black flames that completely inundated Han Li and Liu Le'er.

Chapter 54: Devouring the Devilish Flame

This black flame was rather peculiar. With the scorching heat that it released, it was as if the entire valley had been plunged into a furnace, but at the same time, inky-black devilish qi was gradually permeating throughout the area, giving off a terrifying aura.

Situated within the sea of black fire, Han Li and Liu Le'er were subjected to incredibly high temperatures, so much so that the air around them was becoming warped and indistinct.

Liu Le'er had already turned as pale as a sheet as she watched the oncoming sea of devilish flames with a horrified expression.

However, she then immediately discovered that the silver net of fire around her seemed to be releasing some type of immense suction force that was drawing in all of the surrounding devilish fire and the unbearable heat, creating a cool and refreshing area with a radius of several dozen feet. As a result, Liu Le'er was instantly feeling a lot more reassured.

Even though Han Li didn't have the silver flame to protect himself, he appeared to be extremely calm and collected as he stood within the churning sea of devilish fire.

Right as the devilish flames around him were about to sweep over his body, he suddenly opened his mouth before inhaling sharply.

All of the black devilish flames around him instantly surged into his mouth in a frenzy, and in the span of no more than two or three seconds, most of the fire in the valley had been devoured by Han Li.

The four Body Integration cultivators around the valley were so astonished to see this that their eyes almost bulged out of their sockets, and they hurriedly stopped what they were doing.

As a result, the black fire lotus flower diagrams on the cliff faces quickly reverted back to their original form, but compared with before, the patterns had clearly dimmed slightly.

Meanwhile, Han Li was displaying no signs of stopping, and only after he had devoured all of the black fire in the valley did he close his mouth before letting loose a loud burp, seemingly still not quite satisfied with the meal.

"How can any possibly be able to devour the Ninth Heaven Devilish Flame?"

"What kind of monster is this man?"

"We can't afford to hold back any longer, Fellow Daoists. We have to kill him now while he's still trapped in this Earthly Ghost Soul Suppression Array. Otherwise, once he comes out, the consequences will be catastrophic!" the purple-bearded man yelled in an urgent voice.

He raised a hand as he spoke to summon an antiquated purple copper lantern that was no more than half a foot tall, then chanted a complex incantation as he gently rubbed his hands together.

A faint purple flame was ignited within the lantern, and at the same time, countless tiny purple runes emerged on the surface of the lantern before quickly revolving around it.

A burst of dense purple smoke rose up from the lantern, then quickly swelled to form an extremely life-like giant purple tiger in the blink of an eye. The tiger was the size of a pavilion, and it raised its head before letting loose a silent roar, then pounced directly toward Han Li at an incredible speed.

On another stone pillar, the woman in the red dress was chanting an incantation, while a layer of red light had appeared over her eyes.

The red dress that she was wearing began to billow around her despite the lack of wind, and all of the skin and flesh all over her entire body was rapidly withering away at a rate that was discernible even to the naked eye. The nails on her slim fingers elongated and turned black, transforming into a set of sinister claws, while the flesh on her seductive face melted away, and she transformed into a living pink skeleton.

She swooped down in a graceful manner, traveling at an astonishing speed. In the blink of an eye, she appeared directly above Han Li, leaving a trail of afterimages in her wake before swiping down viciously with one set of claws.

Spatial fluctuations erupted above Han Li, and a white bone claw the size of a small mountain emerged. The fingers of the giant claw were as sharp as blades, and they were screeching through the air as they grabbed viciously down upon Han Li's head with gray baleful qi surging out of the palm of the claw.

Even though the bone claw was also embroiled in the projection of the sea of blood, it seemed to be completely unaffected.

Han Li remained still on the spot as he casually raised a hand upward, releasing a miniature black mountain, which transformed into a full-sized mountain in the blink of an eye before crashing into the white bone claw with vicious might.

The black mountain exploded beneath the bone claw, plummeting out of the sky as a shower of giant rocks, but the bone claw also shattered upon impact.

The boundless expanse of baleful qi quickly faded, leaving behind only the countless bone fragments that remained of the giant claw.

Before the pink skeleton had a chance to do anything else, it was swept up by a devastating shockwave from below like a frail leaf in the wind, sent flying without being able to offer any resistance. The pink skeleton tumbled through the air like a ragdoll before crashing into a mountain face, where it was also shattered into a pile of bone fragments.

Right at this moment, the giant purple tiger entered the fray, opening its mouth to release a pillar of purple light that came crashing down with remarkable speed and power.

However, all it took was a casual wave of Han Li's hand to dispel the pillar of purple light with a resounding boom, following which he leaped up into the air, completely disregarding the heightened gravitational force as he appeared right under the giant tiger's belly.

He then reached out with both hands like lightning, closing his grip around the giant tiger's head with one hand while grabbing onto one of its hind legs with the other. The muscles on his arms bulged, and despite the giant tiger's frantic struggles, it was completely unable to escape his vice-like grip.

Right as he was about to wrench his hands apart and tear the tiger into two, a dull thump suddenly rang out from the ground down below, and four huge black spears that were giving off a faint black sheen erupted out of the soil, piercing through the sea of blood as they plunged viciously toward Han Li's vital organs.

A loud clang rang out, and it was as if the four spears had struck a steel wall. The impact of the strike caused the spears to be repelled back as they quivered violently.

All of a sudden, the ground split apart, and a giant black spider sprang out.

There were two rows of white compound eyes on its head, and its eight spear-like legs were as thick as human arms. There was also a gray fleshy pouch hanging beneath its abdomen, and upon closer inspection, Han Li discovered that the pouch contained none other than that hunch-backed elderly man.

The spider seemed to have grown out of the bulge on his back, presenting a very strange sight to behold. magic

As soon as the black spider appeared, it crossed its two sharp forelegs once again before raising them upward. The crimson light radiating from its forelegs

gave them the appearance of a pair of red-hot giant scissors, which were closing in viciously on Han Li's neck.

However, this time, Han Li chose to retaliate rather than remain passive. While still holding onto the giant purple tiger, he sprang down with ferocious might, sweeping his right foot horizontally through the air during his descent.

A resounding boom rang out as the spider's two forelegs were shattered, and it was sent flying through the air by a burst of tremendous force, crashing into a mountain face before being buried under the falling rocks.

As soon as Han Li landed on the ground, he spread his arms apart viciously to tear the giant purple tiger into two.

However, things suddenly took an unexpected turn.

Instead of disintegrating into nothingness, the giant purple tiger transformed into a huge cloud of purple mist that completely encompassed Han Li.

A strong, indescribable scent was released by the purple mist, and it possessed the ability to cloud the mind and disorient the senses.

"Brother Rock!" Liu Le'er called out in an alarmed voice upon seeing this.

Not far away, the pink skeleton had reformed itself from its remains, and it stood up in a slightly unsteady manner as it cackled, "Hehe, so what if you possess a formidable physical body? Under the effects of Elder Lu's Soul Corroding Ghostly Mist..."

Before it had a chance to finish its sentence, an agonized howl suddenly rang out from the top of one of the stone pillars.

The purple-bearded man came tumbling down from the stone pillar before rolling around in agony, while the purple copper lantern fell onto the ground beside him.

The purple mist formed by the giant purple tiger faded to reveal Han Li, who drew the purple copper lantern into his grasp with a casual beckoning gesture. After a brief inspection, he stowed the lantern away into his storage bag.

At the same time, a translucent thread of spiritual sense shot out of the purple-bearded man's head before flying back into Han Li's glabella.

Only then did he turn and cast his gaze toward the archway to the left before asking in an indifferent voice, "Have you still not found an opening to attack me?"

As soon as his voice trailed off, a figure emerged from behind the archway in a flash before rapidly retreating. It was none other than the one-eyed man, who had refrained from attacking this entire time.

At this moment, his entire body was encased in a suit of spiky bone armor, and he was holding a translucent crimson ax in one hand, which was clearly also an extremely powerful treasure.

After retreating to some distance away, the one-eyed man cast a wary gaze toward Han Li, displaying no intention to attack.

He had just witnessed Han Li dominate three Body Integration cultivators at once with ridiculous ease, and throughout the entire process, he hadn't found any opportunity to attack.

He couldn't even remember the last time he had felt this helpless in a battle.

Han Li took a glance at the one-eyed man before withdrawing his gaze, then made his way toward one of the archways in an unhurried manner.

Judging from how tightly his clothes were pressed against his body, it was clear that the enormous force being exerted by the sea of blood was still acting upon him, but even though he wasn't walking very quickly, he clearly wasn't struggling, either.

Upon making his way over to one of the archways, he inspected it momentarily before suddenly bending down at the knees and wrapping his arms around one of the pillars. He then suddenly began to exert force through his entire body, hoisting the pillar upward.

The ground rumbled and quaked violently as a humanized look of shock and horror appeared in the eyes of the giant ghostly head on the archway.

The entire archway began to sway from side to side while growing taller and taller before finally being completely uprooted.

The giant ghostly head let loose an anguished wail, immediately following which the entire archway shrank down amid a flash of black light, reverting

back into a black badge that fell into Han Li's grasp. At the same time, the vast sea of blood also churned violently before shrinking significantly in size.

Han Li stowed the badge away before making his way toward another archway.

At this point, the hunch-backed elderly man and the purple-bearded man had already clambered back to their feet, and the red skeleton had already returned to its original human form.

The four Heavenly Ghost Sect Body Integration cultivators were standing at the four corners of the valley, watching with complex looks on their faces as Heavenly Ghost Sect uprooted the archways one by one, but none of them stepped in to try and stop him.

All four of them were standing in silence, seemingly waiting for something.

A few minutes later, as Han Li stowed the final black badge away, he suddenly raised an eyebrow before turning toward a certain direction.

He then abruptly opened his mouth before exhaling forcefully, releasing all of the devilish flames that he had devoured earlier.

The devilish fire erupted into the heavens, then converged in mid-air to form four clouds of fire the size of wagon wheels. Immediately thereafter, the fiery clouds transformed into four fiery black pythons, each of which was several dozen feet in length, and they pounced toward the four Body Integration cultivators in unison.

The four of them were greatly alarmed to see this, and they hurriedly summoned different defensive treasures, conjuring up protective barriers to shield themselves from the flames.

Chapter 55: Explanation

Even though the four Body Integration cultivators had taken extensive defensive measures, they were still sweating profusely from fear.

The four fiery black pythons were only around 30 to 40 feet in length each, but they were manifested by the Ninth Heaven Devilish Flames that had previously filled this entire valley. As high-grade cultivators of the Heavenly

Ghost Sect, they were more aware than anyone else of just how fearsome these flames were.

Even as Body Integration cultivators, the slightest lapse in concentration could've resulted in catastrophic circumstances.

Never did they think that they would be on the receiving end of these devilish flames someday.

Right at this moment, a burst of white light appeared in the air above the valley, then split up into four before descending rapidly from above, moving at such an astonishing speed that it was as if they had arrived in front of the four Body Integration cultivators through instantaneous teleportation.

These were four streaks of translucent swordlight, and they began to revolve in mid-air to form four wheels of light, each of which was around 10 feet in diameter.

In the next instant, the four fiery black pythons crashed into the wheels of light before exploding violently into bursts of black fire.

In the end, the fiery black pythons were snuffed out as powerful shockwaves swept through the air.

Immediately thereafter, spatial fluctuations erupted in the air above the valley, and a black-robed man who appeared to be in his forties appeared. He had a graceful and refined appearance, but his brows were as sharp as a pair of menacing swords.

The four swords then reverted back into streaks of white light that returned to the black-robed figure before vanishing into his body in a flash.

"Martial Uncle Duan!"

The four Body Integration cultivators were ecstatic to see the arrival of the black-robed man.

Han Li remained on the spot as he cast his gaze directly toward the black-robed man.

The man was none other than one of the two Grand Ascension Stage patriarchs of the Heavenly Ghost Sect, Duan Renli.

Duan Renli swept his gaze over the area to find that the revered Devilish Flame Valley of the sect had been reduced to a chaotic mess, while the four Body Integration cultivators were looking completely downtrodden and defeated. His expression remained unchanged, but his eyelids were twitching ever so slightly.

He then lowered his head to direct his gaze toward Han Li before extending a hand forward and spreading his fingers apart.

The five fingers on his hand instantly took on a translucent appearance, and spiritual light was flashing incessantly from his fingertips.

Countless streaks of white light shot out of his fingertips, then transformed into hundreds of white bone flying swords that were each around a foot in length, screeching through the air as they rained down upon Han Li.

Han Li made a hand seal upon seeing this, and a burst of cracks and pops rang out as his body swelled drastically in size. Countless golden scales then appeared over his skin amid a flash of golden radiance, instantly covering his entire body.

The storm of white bone swords arrived in the blink of an eye, striking him in rapid succession, creating explosions of white and golden light that completely devoured him.

Powerful shockwaves swept through the surrounding area like a ferocious hurricane, causing countless thin white rifts to appear in the surrounding space in a radius of several hundred feet.

At the same time, spatial fluctuations erupted in the air directly above the explosions, and a small black seal appeared out of thin air, then instantly swelled to the size of a pavilion before descending from above while radiating boundless black radiance.

Even before the seal had come fully crashing down, it was releasing a burst of asphyxiating spiritual pressure that was causing the nearby to twist and warp significantly.

All of a sudden, an earth-shattering boom rang out, and the giant seal was suddenly stopped cold in its tracks around 10 feet above the ground, unable to descend any further.

Duan Renli's expression finally changed slightly upon seeing this.

Even though he had just unleashed two powerful attacks one after another, all of this had taken place in the blink of an eye, and at this moment, the explosions of white and golden light faded to reveal the situation down below.

Han Li was standing still on the spot like an immovable mountain with his right arm raised above his head. The arm was completely covered in golden scales, and it was holding the giant black seal aloft in the air. His feet had already sunken into the ground, and a series of rifts had opened up around him.

He looked up at Duan Renli with a calm expression, then abruptly bent his right arm before straightening it again.

A deafening boom instantly rang out, and the mountainous black seal was hurled away as if it were nothing more than a piece of wood, flying out of the valley at an astonishing speed before vanishing into the distance.

Immediately thereafter, Han Li sprang up into the air, arriving not far in front of Duan Renli in a flash before throwing a vicious punch his way.

Duan Renli's expression remained completely unchanged upon seeing this, and right at this moment, a silver ring suddenly appeared behind Han Li without any warning before flying directly toward him.

Han Li seemed to have already anticipated this, and he quickly turned around while swinging his hand through the air in a chopping motion to slice the ring into two.

However, to Han Li's surprise, the two halves of the silver ring suddenly vanished, leaving only a trail of afterimages in their wake.

In the next instant, they appeared on either side of him without any warning.

Immediately thereafter, the two halves of the silver ring converged toward the center to form a whole ring once again, constricting Han Li's body tightly within it.

Dazzling spiritual light radiated from the ring as it continued to constrict, and sparks were flying erratically between the inner wall of the ring and golden

scales on Han Li's skin, which were crackling incessantly, looking as if they were about to be crushed into pieces under the immense pressure.

At this point, Liu Le'er had already retreated to the corner of the valley, and she was greatly alarmed to see this. "Brother Rock!"

In contrast, the four Body Integration cultivators were ecstatic to witness this development.

Han Li didn't appear to be panicked in the slightest as let loose a low roar, and a burst of thunderous rumbling instantly rang out within his body as five specks of blue light appeared on his chest and abdomen.

At the same time, all of the muscles all over his entire body bulged, increasing his stature even further.

He then raised his arms with tremendous might, forcibly expanding the silver ring as it flashed erratically. Countless silver runes appeared on its surface, but that still wasn't enough for it to contain Han Li's unfathomable strength, and it exploded with a dull crack.

A serious look finally appeared on Duan Renli's face, and he shot back in retreat while raising his hands, seemingly about to unleash some other treasures or abilities.

Han Li certainly wasn't just going to allow Duan Renli to do as he pleased, and he abruptly vanished on the spot.

In the next instant, Han Li reappeared right behind Duan Renli in a wraith-like manner, then clenched his hand into a fist before throwing a punch.

His fist was glowing with dazzling golden radiance, and a large white rift was left in the space in its wake.

Duan Renli immediately turned around, then opened his mouth to release a crimson cloud, which transformed into a crimson light shield that positioned itself directly in front of him.

Han Li's fist struck the crimson shield, and the surface of the shield caved in significantly before it exploded into a cloud of blood mist. Han Li's fist wasn't slowed down in the slightest as it punched straight through Duan Renli's chest.

However, he knew that this wasn't the end of the battle.

In the next instant, Duan Renli's body disintegrated into a cloud of blood mist, leaving behind only a white skeleton that was dangling off Han Li's arm.

Spatial fluctuations erupted over 1,000 feet away, and Duan Renli emerged out of thin air. He appeared to be completely unscathed, but his face was slightly pale.

All of this had taken place in the blink of an eye, and the four Body Integration cultivators couldn't help but exchange a glance with one another, only to find their own astonishment mirrored in one another's eyes.

Duan Renli scrutinized Han Li in silence for a moment, then mused, "To think that a body cultivator comparable in power to Grand Ascension Stage beings has appeared in this realm in just the past few centuries that I've been in seclusion. May I ask your name?"

"You're far too kind, Fellow Daoist Duan. My name is Han Li," Han Li replied with a faint smile, then casually cast the white skeleton aside.

The golden scales all over his body quickly faded, and he appeared to be content to end the battle there.

"I see. May I ask for what purpose you've come here, Fellow Daoist Han? As a cultivator of your caliber, you should be acting in a way that's befitting of your powers. Why have you come to wreak havoc at our Heavenly Ghost Sect and harmed so many of our disciples? I believe you owe me an explanation," Duan Renli said as his voice suddenly took a cold turn.

"It's rather amusing that you're turning this on me. First, your Heavenly Ghost Sect abducted someone close to me, then forcibly teleported me here using a secret technique. I was hoping that you would be able to give me an explanation," Han Li said with a cold smile.

Duan Renli faltered slightly upon hearing this, then turned to the four Body Integration cultivators before asking, "What's going on here?"

The other three Body Integration cultivators all turned to the purple-bearded man for an explanation.

"I received news earlier that someone had invaded our sect, so I went to investigate. I could see that this... Fellow Daoist Han was quite a formidable opponent, so I teleported him here to contain him in the array. As for why he came to our Heavenly Ghost Sect, I'm afraid I don't actually know," the purple-bearded man explained after a moment of hesitation.

"Investigate this matter right away!" Duan Renli instructed in an implacable voice.

"Yes!" the purple-bearded man hurriedly replied before flying out of the valley.

Duan Renli's gaze returned to Han Li in silence.

Han Li turned to Liu Le'er to give her a reassuring look, then turned back to face Duan Renli with a faint smile on his face.

Around 15 minutes later, the purple-bearded man returned to the valley, then communicated a message to Duan Renli through voice transmission.

Duan Renli's brows furrowed slightly upon hearing what was said, but his expression then immediately returned to normal as he waved a dismissive hand.

The purple-bearded man hurriedly backed away to the side.

"So you're from the Cold Flame Sect, is that right, Fellow Daoist Han?" Duan Renli asked in a slow and deliberate voice, seemingly pondering what he was going to say next.

"That's right," Han Li replied in a truthful manner.

"It's incredible to think that the Cold Flame Sect managed to produce a body cultivator as powerful as yourself completely in secret. I must offer the Cold Flame Sect and yourself my sincerest congratulations," Duan Renli said with a fake smile on his face.

"I suggest you don't try to change the subject, Fellow Daoist Duan," Han Li replied with a faint smile.

"I've already made sense of the situation. What I've heard is that you had some differences with a now-deceased outer court elder of our sect, and everything that happened after that was all a huge misunderstanding. Seeing as that elder is already dead and the situation has already been clarified,

there's no point for our battle to continue. How about we stop here, and I'll send some people to accompany you and your companion out of our sect?" Duan Renli suggested.

In his eyes, Han Li's cultivation base wasn't very high, but he had clearly employed some type of method to conceal his true cultivation base. The other Grand Ascension Stage being of the Heavenly Ghost Sect just so happened to be away at the moment, so it was unwise to continue this battle.

"So I was teleported into your sect for no reason, then had to endure attacks from countless cultivators of your sect, and now, you're telling me that this is all just a big misunderstanding and to pretend as if nothing ever happened. Would you agree to this if you were in my place, Fellow Daoist Duan?" Han Li countered with a cold smile.

Chapter 56: Rise of the Heavenly Ghost

"What do you want?" Duan Renli asked in an indifferent voice.

"I want 50 kilograms of refined Yin Dawn Stone," Han Li replied without any hesitation.

A peculiar silence instantly descended upon the entire valley with this declaration.

"You want 50 kilograms of Yin Dawn Stone?"

"You destroyed several major restrictions of our sect and completely ruined the Devilish Flame Valley! How dare you state such a brazen demand?"

"You must be delusional!"

After a brief stunned silence, the four Body Integration cultivators all erupted into furious tirades before Duan Renli had a chance to say anything.

Duan Renli's expression remained unchanged, but a hint of anger had crept into his voice as he said, "You're asking for far too much, Fellow Daoist! An entire Yin Dawn Stone mine is only able to produce around half a kilogram of Yin Dawn Stone per year, and you're asking for 50 kilograms at once! Don't you think you're going too far?"

"I don't think that at all. Surely you can't tell me the Heavenly Ghost Sect is unable to offer up at least that much Yin Dawn Stone," Han Li replied with a nonchalant smile.

"It looks like you came here with the intention of starting trouble. If you're unwilling to leave, then you can remain here forever!" A furious look appeared on Duan Renli's face as he spoke, and it was clear that he had been completely enraged by Han Li's attitude.

As soon as his voice trailed off, a vast expanse of crimson light erupted out of his body, illuminating the entire surrounding area. At the same time, he released a burst of terrifying spiritual pressure that almost made the nearby space congeal, and he opened his mouth to release a miniature crimson flag that was several inches tall.

The flag circled around in the air before swelling to around 10 feet in height with baleful qi surging all over its surface. An image of a sinister ghostly head with a pair of horns could be clearly seen on the flag, and at the moment, the ghostly head's eyes were tightly shut.

Crimson light began to surge over the giant flag as Duan Renli chanted an incantation, sweeping up gusts of wind that reeked of blood and gore. The ghostly head then opened its cavernous mouth, releasing a thick pillar of crimson light that hurtled directly toward Han Li with unstoppable might.

Even before the pillar of light reached Han Li, a nauseating stench permeated throughout the entire valley, and the nearby air temperature plummeted drastically.

Han Li abruptly vanished on the spot upon seeing this, and as a result, the pillar of crimson light struck nothing but empty air.

In the next instant, spatial fluctuations erupted behind Duan Renli, following which Han Li appeared out of thin air before throwing a punch. His fist was covered in golden scales, and a ferocious barrage of hundreds of fist projections was unleashed in an instant.

A burst of astonishing force passed through the barrage of fist projections, threatening to shatter the space in its wake.

In the face of such an astonishing attack, all Duan Renli did was extend a finger before pointing it at the giant crimson flag before him in an unhurried manner.

A vast expanse of crimson mist instantly swept out of the flag like lightning before quickly spreading through the air, transforming into a crimson cloud with a radius of several hundred feet. The cloud completely encompassed Duan Renli within it, giving him a rather murky and indistinct appearance.

The golden fist projections fell upon the crimson cloud like rain, but it was as if they had struck an enormous wall of cotton. In a strange turn of events, the incredible power imbued within the first projections instantly vanished upon making contact with the crimson cloud, and with each fist projection that landed, the crimson cloud would expand slightly.

Han Li's brows furrowed slightly upon seeing this, and he immediately withdrew his fists before flying back in retreat without any hesitation.

The crimson cloud instantly swept down like a turbulent wave, then rapidly spread apart to either side, while a series of crimson vortexes appeared, releasing bursts of powerful force that swept through the surrounding air, causing the nearby space to warp and twist violently.

A string of loud rumbling rang out, and Han Li felt the air construct around him, following which bursts of tremendous force surged toward him from all directions, causing him to slow down in his retreat.

Right at this moment, the eyes of the sinister ghostly head on the surface of the crimson flag sprang open, and two balls of red light that were as radiant as the sun was revealed, forcing all beholders to shield their eyes and avert their gaze.

Han Li felt his surroundings blur for a moment, and in the next instant, he suddenly found himself situated within a crimson space.

Above his head was a murky crimson sky, while down below was a boundless sea of blood. A faint layer of blood mist was hovering above the surface of the sea of blood, and there was a slightly sweet aroma permeating through the air.

"This is a domain treasure!" Han Li exclaimed as a hint of surprise appeared in his eyes.

Duan Renli was standing in mid-air not far away with his hands clasped behind his back, and his black robe was flapping audibly while crimson mist surged around him. "You sure are knowledgeable. Indeed, this Heavenly Ghost Blood Flag is a domain treasure, and it's the most revered treasure of our Heavenly Ghost Sect. You're extremely fortunate to be able to make this domain your final resting place."

"Is that right?" Han Li harrumphed coldly.

As soon as his voice trailed off, a flurry of ghostly howls suddenly rang out in all directions.

The ghostly howls were undulating incessantly, and it was as if there were countless ghostly creatures screaming and screeching incessantly with all their might.

All of a sudden, Han Li's consciousness began to waver, and his eyelids became as heavy as lead. At the same time, a sense of bloodlust and frustration welled up in his heart, and it seemed that the bloodlust could be satisfied by engaging those ghostly creatures in a battle to the death.

In response to these intrusive sensations, Han Li made a hand seal without any hesitation, and a burst of cool and refreshing energy surged out of his glabella, instantly flowing through all of his meridians.

The deranged thoughts in his mind instantly ceased to exist, and the ghostly howling also faded into silence.

Duan Renli was astonished that Han Li was able to remain completely unaffected by the mind-altering properties of the domain.

The layer of mist hovering over the sea of blood was manifested from the resentment of countless ghosts, and it could completely cloud one's mind and tap into the innermost desires and bloodlust in one's heart. Even if Duan Renli himself were to be beset by its effects in a completely defenseless state, he certainly wouldn't have been able to regain full sanity and rationality so easily.

The fact that Han Li was completely unaffected by this indicated that his spiritual sense was far more powerful than even Duan Renli's!

Thus, one of the trump cards that Duan Renli had prepared was rendered useless from the get-go.

Right at this moment, Han Li's body suddenly blurred as he shot forth through the air, flying directly toward Duan Renli.

Duan Renli gave a cold harrumph upon seeing this, and he quickly made a hand seal.

The sea of blood down below suddenly began to churn violently, and an enormous wave of blood abruptly raised to devour Duan Renli,

Han Li instantly stopped cold in his tracks upon seeing this, and he closed his eyes to release his immense spiritual sense, but his brows then immediately furrowed slightly.

This space seemed to be infinitely vast, and the sea of blood down below was also extremely strange. Even Han Li's spiritual sense was only able to reach a depth of less than 200 feet in the sea of blood, making it impossible for him to find out where Duan Renli was hiding.

After a moment of contemplation, blue light flashed through his eyes as he unleashed his Brightsight Spirit Eyes ability. [1]

Everything within several hundred feet beneath the surface of the sea of blood instantly became as clear as day, but beyond that was still just a vast expanse of murkiness that was impossible to see through.

Han Li flipped a hand over to produce Cloud Crane Herb that he quickly devoured, then injected most of his spiritual power into his eyes, yet right as he was about to activate his spirit eyes ability to its fullest extent, an unexpected turn of events abruptly unfolded.

The surface of the sea of blood several thousand feet ahead of Han Li suddenly began to churn violently, and the viscous blood surged toward a certain direction, forming an enormous vortex that was rumbling incessantly.

Han Li immediately flew up to an altitude of over 1,000 feet upon seeing this, and only then did he lower his head to inspect the scene that was unfolding down below.

The center of the vortex was splashing loudly, and waves were churning and rolling as an enormous skeleton rose up from the depths.

The skeleton was over 1,000 feet tall, and all of its bones were of a translucent red color, as if it were entirely constructed from blood jade. Every single bone was riddled with countless profound runes, and at the top of the skeleton's enormous head, nestled right between a pair of curved horns, sat Duan Renli's nascent soul with its eyes closed and its legs crossed.

Han Li's eyes narrowed slightly upon seeing this.

All of a sudden, the nascent soul's eyes sprang open, and it opened its mouth to release seven balls of blood essence in rapid succession. At the same time, it was making a series of hand seals while chanting an incantation.

The balls of blood essence exploded into seven clouds of blood mist, which wrapped themselves around the nascent soul's body, neck, and limbs like a nest of spirit snakes. Immediately thereafter, the blood mist began to radiate crimson radiance, encompassing the nascent soul within a ball of crimson light.

All of a sudden, the crimson ball of light vanished into the skull of the skeleton.

Two balls of crimson light instantly appeared within the giant skeleton's empty eye sockets, and all of the runes all over its body also lit up in unison.

Enormous waves were churning within the blood vortex down below, releasing bursts of viscous crimson light that rose up while revolving and intertwining, forming a corkscrew-shaped pillar of blood that engulfed the entire skeleton.

Through the pillar of blood, Han Li could see that the giant skeleton was gradually expanding even further in stature.

Shortly thereafter, the pillar of blood receded like the tide, and the giant skeleton had completely vanished, replaced by a terrifying ghostly creature that was over 1,000 feet tall. The creature had a pair of eyes that were as red as blood, and a pair of curved horns on its head, as well as a pair of dark purple bat wings on its back. Its entire body was covered in crimson fur, and even compared with its enormous body, its limbs were disproportionately long.

As soon as it appeared, it immediately began to release an astonishing aura that was causing even the space around it to tremble and quiver violently.

"So this is the legendary Blood Heavenly Ghost that's rumored to be from the Nether Realm? Interesting..." Han Li murmured to himself as he looked directly at the giant ghostly creature before him.

Right at this moment, the Blood Heavenly Ghost raised one of its arms, and a vast expanse of crimson flames erupted on its palm as it grabbed at Han Li from afar.

The sky above Han Li instantly dimmed as an enormous crimson ghostly claw that was around an acre in size appeared overhead, then came swooping down with scorching crimson flames burning all over its surface.

Even before the giant claw reached Han Li, a gust of ferocious wind had already come sweeping down, causing the sea of blood down below to ripple and churn violently.

In response, Han Li threw a punch directly upward, releasing a burst of tremendous force.

A resounding boom rang out, and the crimson ghostly claw was instantly destroyed, exploding into specks of crimson light and scattered flames that scattered in all directions.

However, Han Li was also forced to stumble back a few steps before steadying himself, and a hint of surprise flashed through his eyes.

The power imbued within the giant crimson claw had exceeded his expectations. magic

The specks of crimson light that scattered through the air didn't fade away. Instead, after scattering in all directions for a short distance, they suddenly stopped cold in their tracks, then converged and intertwined to form a ring of blood with a radius of several dozen feet. The ring then abruptly contracted, constricting tightly around Han Li.

Before Han Li had a chance to do anything, the Blood Heavenly Ghost beckoned to him, and the crimson ring around Han Li instantly flew toward it at an incredible speed. As a result, he was quickly drawn into the Blood Heavenly Ghost's grasp, leaving only his head exposed.

"Let's see how you're going to get away now!" the Blood Heavenly Ghost cackled as it closed its other claw around the one that was gripping Han Li, then tightened its grip with both claws.

Han Li immediately felt tremendous force constricting around him from all directions, and his bones were creaking incessantly. Even with his incredibly resolute physical body, he was struggling to withstand the pressure.

1. Can't find where the Brightsight Spirit Eyes ability was first mentioned in RMJI, but essentially, it's an ocular ability that significantly enhances one's eyesight and allows the user to see hidden cultivators and restrictions. 📖

Chapter 57: 12 Awakening Transformations

A hint of surprise flashed through the Blood Heavenly Ghost's eyes, clearly taken aback by the fact that it was unable to completely pulverize Han Li's body with its crushing grip.

However, it then harrumphed coldly as a series of thick crimson patterns appeared all over its body, and its arms bulged as it tightened its grip with all its might, determined to crush Han Li with brute force.

A pained look appeared on Han Li's face, but his body remained as resolute as a piece of indestructible iron essence, refusing to be crushed no matter how much force the Blood Heavenly Ghost exerted.

Right at this moment, a burst of golden light suddenly erupted from Han Li's body, and countless golden scales appeared over his skin, while five specks of blue light emerged on his chest and abdomen. magic

He then let loose a low roar as he spread his arms outward with all his might, resisting against the vice-like grip around him.

A stunned look appeared on the Blood Heavenly Ghost's face as its fingers were slowly forced apart by Han Li.

With the space that was opened up around him, Han Li was able to fly out of the Blood Heavenly Ghost's grasp as a streak of golden light. His body rapidly swelled in size mid-flight, and thick tufts of hard golden fur quickly grew over his entire body, while a pair of white tusks protruded out of his mouth.

In the blink of an eye, he had transformed into a giant golden ape that was over 100 feet tall.

A violent aura erupted out of his body, and bursts of black baleful qi were dancing around him.

"This is... a Giant Mountain Ape!" the Blood Heavenly Ghost exclaimed in a surprised voice.

The giant ape that Han Li had transformed into rushed back to over 1,000 feet away, then thumped its fists against its chest and let loose a long roar as it felt the tremendous strength coursing through its body.

Even though Han Li's nascent soul had been sealed, the power of the true spirit bloodlines he had refined was still in his body, and upon recovering from all of his physical injuries, he was finally able to use his 12 Awakening Transformations again. [1]

Unleashing this ability instantly brought a flurry of memories flooding into his mind.

"It's no wonder that you possess such incredible strength if you're related to this true spirit. I've been searching everywhere for someone like you, never did I think one would show up on my doorstep! If I can refine this Blood Heavenly Ghost Flag again with your blood, its powers will be sure to be greatly enhanced!" the Blood Heavenly Ghost cackled as it launched itself through the air.

It clenched its right claw into a giant fist before throwing a punch at the golden ape, and a vast expanse of crimson light erupted from its fist.

The giant golden ape harrumphed coldly as it also retaliated with a punch of its own, releasing an enormous burst of golden radiance from its fist.

The two fists of completely incomparable sizes clashed, and an earth-shattering boom rang out across the entire sky, causing the sea of blood down below to tumble and churn violently.

The Blood Heavenly Ghost's body shuddered, and it was sent flying back by the impact. Its right arm shattered with blood and flesh flying in all directions before disintegrating into a huge cloud of blood mist, revealing the translucent blood-jade-like arm bones inside.

The Blood Heavenly Ghost plummeted into the sea of blood down below, raising a gargantuan wave of blood.

In contrast, the giant golden ape only swayed slightly before steadying itself, then lowered its head to cast its gaze downward.

The surface of the sea of blood churned for a while before falling still again.

However, in the next instant, a resounding boom rang out, and the sea of blood behind the golden ape split apart violently.

Waves of blood surged in all directions as the Blood Heavenly Ghost emerged from the depths. At this point, its shattered arm had already fully healed, and its eyes were glowing brightly with crimson radiance, seemingly having been completely enraged by the resistance being displayed by the giant ape.

It reached down with one hand, and a vast wave of blood rose up from down below, transforming into a crimson spear that was 300 to 400 feet in length before falling into its grasp. The Blood Heavenly Ghost then quickly took aim at the giant golden ape before hurling the spear viciously through the air.

A sharp screeching sound instantly rang out, and the giant ape immediately turned around.

However, instead of retreating, it advanced toward the spear while swinging a huge furry hand down with tremendous force.

A deafening thump rang out, and the crimson spear had virtually only just left the Blood Heavenly Ghost's grasp before it was swatted away, then shattered into countless pieces before disintegrating back into a wave of blood.

The Blood Heavenly Ghost was stunned to see this, and before it had a chance to take evasive measures, the giant golden ape had already reached within 1,000 feet of it before lashing out with both of its golden fists.

The Blood Heavenly Ghost fought fire with fire, raising its left arm to withstand the attack.

A resounding boom rang out, and the Blood Heavenly Ghost was sent flying once again. The blood and flesh on the left half of its body had been completely destroyed, revealing the translucent bones within.

Right as the giant golden ape was about to give chase and press its advantage, an enormous wave suddenly rose up from the sea of blood down below, then transformed into a fearsome dragon's head in the blink of an eye.

The dragon's head opened its cavernous mouth before closing it in a flash, devouring the giant golden ape right as it was about to catch up to the Blood Heavenly Ghost.

Immediately thereafter, a blood dragon that was over 1,000 feet in length rose up from the sea of blood, coiling its massive body in the air as it released a vast cloud of blood mist.

Not far away, the Blood Heavenly Ghost had already steadied itself, and the runes on its bones were flashing as bursts of viscous blood rose up from the sea of blood before intertwining themselves around the missing half of its body. New flesh instantly began to grow at a rate that was discernible even to the naked eye, squirming incessantly as it did so.

Taking advantage of the fact that the giant ape had been devoured by the blood dragon, the Blood Heavenly Ghost hurriedly made a hand seal while chanting a profound incantation.

Bright crimson light glowed within the giant dragon's eyes as it instantly coiled its own body into a massive ball of blood. Crimson light was flashing erratically from the surface of the ball of blood, and it was also rapidly expanding like a balloon.

A fierce look appeared on the Blood Heavenly Ghost's face as it made one final hand seal, but right at this moment, countless golden threads of light suddenly pierced through a certain part of the enormous ball of blood, creating a massive bulge.

Immediately thereafter, a resounding thump rang out, and a burst of golden light flew out before hurtling directly toward the Blood Heavenly Ghost.

Enveloped within the golden light was none other than the giant golden ape.

It had only flown no more than 200 to 300 feet before an earth-shattering boom rang out, and the gigantic ball of blood exploded violently, forming an even more gargantuan ball of crimson light, which was still rapidly expanding in all directions at an alarming rate.

Devastating shockwaves proliferated through the air, sending fierce gusts of wind sweeping through the surrounding area close to 10 kilometers in radius. Spatial ripples that were visible even to the naked eye appeared at the very epicenter of the explosion before fading in the blink of an eye.

The giant golden ape managed to break out of the ball of blood in time, but it was still partially caught in the explosion, and several tufts of its vibrant golden fur had been singed. Thankfully, the injuries that it had sustained didn't appear to be very severe. If it weren't for his fast reactions, even with his formidable physical body, he would've still suffered significant damage from the explosion.

The Blood Heavenly Ghost looked on at the rapidly approaching giant golden ape, and it flapped its dark purple bat wings, instantly conjuring up two gusts of fierce wind beneath itself. Its enormous body then transformed into a blurry crimson shadow that retreated into the distance at an incredible speed that was far superior to that of the giant golden ape.

At this point, it was already clear to the Blood Heavenly Ghost that continuing to challenge the giant ape to a contest of strength was not a wise option.

A cold look appeared on the giant golden ape's face upon seeing this.

The Giant Mountain Ape was renowned for its incredible strength, but its speed was rather lackluster, and there was no way that Han Li could catch the Blood Heavenly Ghost in this current form.

All of a sudden, the Blood Heavenly Ghost in the distance let loose a ghastly screech, and a series of bulges appeared in the sea of blood around the giant golden ape, each of which was several dozen feet in size.

Immediately thereafter, hundreds of crimson shadows shot out of the bulges before converging toward the golden ape from all directions.

It was a horde of crimson ghostly creatures, each with a single horn on its head. The creatures had green eyes and sharp claws, and clouds of blood mist were surging all around them.

The giant golden ape stopped in its tracks, and golden light began to radiate from its body. At the same time, it was rapidly shrinking in size and was quickly concealed within the clouds of blood mist around it.

In the next instant, a clear cry rang out, and countless bursts of azure light erupted out of the blood mist. Fierce gusts of azure wind then swept through the surrounding area to sweep the blood mist away, revealing a giant azure bird.

The bird was 70 to 80 feet in size with bright azure feathers and an azure feather crest on its head. Its wings were extremely wide, and when fully spread open, its wingspan exceeded the length of its body. There were also three long tail feathers trailing along behind it, giving it a majestic and mystical appearance.

With a vigorous flap of its wings, the giant azure bird released countless gusts of fierce wind, leaving hundreds of azure streaks in its wake before slashing into the oncoming horde of ghostly creatures.

Several dozen ghostly creatures were instantly sliced into shreds by the azure streaks, then exploded into clouds of blood mist.

The giant azure bird spread its wings once again, transforming into a blurry azure shadow that flew out of the encirclement of ghostly creatures in an extremely agile manner before racing toward the Blood Heavenly Ghost.

"This is... the Azure Luan Bird! Who are you?" the Blood Heavenly Ghost exclaimed, then hurriedly flapped its wings as it fled the scene.

However, the azure shadow was astonishingly fast, and it reached the Blood Heavenly Ghost in the blink of an eye before flying past amid a flash of azure light.

Three huge wounds that were deep enough to expose bone instantly appeared on the Blood Heavenly Ghost's chest, and blood erupted in all directions.

The Blood Heavenly Ghost reflexively turned around and raised its arms to retaliate, but by then, the azure shadow had already appeared behind it before flashing past its back.

Three huge wounds were instantly inflicted onto the Blood Heavenly Ghost's back, and blood splattered everywhere once again, while one of its bat wings was completely severed.

A furious crimson glow appeared in the Blood Heavenly Ghost's eyes, and it let loose an enraged roar as it lashed out at the azure shadow with its powerful claws.

Countless crimson claw projections were conjured up, then intertwined with one another to form a dense net.

However, the azure shadow suddenly vanished on the spot, then appeared to the right of the Blood Heavenly Ghost in the next instant as if by instantaneous teleportation, then pounced like lightning once again.

Three more deep wounds appeared on the Blood Heavenly Ghost's right arm, exposing its arm bones as blood erupted out of the wounds like a crimson fountain.

The Blood Heavenly Ghost let loose another furious roar as it attempted to retaliate, but unfortunately for it, it was completely unable to keep up with the azure shadow's speed.

A series of blurry azure shadows danced around the Blood Heavenly Ghost in a wraith-like manner, moving so rapidly that it was impossible to track with the naked eye.

The Blood Heavenly Ghost's body was instantly riddled with wounds, and its movements had also become quite sluggish.

If it weren't for the fact that the translucent bones in its body were extremely hard and resolute, it would've already been sliced into countless shreds.

A hint of fear finally flashed through the Blood Heavenly Ghost's eyes, and it threw its arms over its own head as it raced toward the sea of blood down below. At the same time, an enormous wave of viscous blood rose up to meet it.

Right at this moment, a clear cry rang out, and the azure shadow accelerated even further, dancing around the Blood Heavenly Ghost at an unfathomable speed, leaving trails of afterimages in its wake.

Ferocious gusts of wind were swept up, and countless long azure streaks appeared within the wind, filling the surrounding area in a radius of several kilometers as they tore viciously at everything.

The wave of blood had only just begun to rise up before it was instantly struck by dozens of azure streaks, causing it to disintegrate and tumble back into the sea of blood.

1. For more information on the 12 Awakening Transformations, please refer to RMJI Chapter 1425: 12 Awakening Transformations. 📖

Chapter 58: You Have My Thanks

A series of azure streaks appeared around the Blood Heavenly Ghost before rapidly forming an enormous azure cocoon that was slicing into its body from all directions, drawing blood with every single strike.

The Blood Heavenly Ghost was waving its arms frantically, but in complete futility. More and more chunks of flesh were torn out of its body, and whenever it tried to draw upon the sea of blood down below to recover from its injuries, it was always interrupted.

Only two or three seconds had passed since the emergence of the Azure Luan Bird, but the Blood Heavenly Ghost had already been reduced to nothing more than a giant crimson skeleton, just like when it had first appeared. Its entire body had been completely stripped of flesh with the exception of its head.

The ghostly creatures that were rushing in from the distance also disintegrated before they could reach the Azure Luan Bird due to insufficient magic power support.

The Blood Heavenly Ghost let loose a roar of fury and frustration as it began to spin around in mid-air, planning to find an opportunity to swoop down regardless of the consequences.

However, the Azure Luan Bird was only continuing to pick up in speed, and more and more azure streaks appeared in the air. Not only was the Blood Heavenly Ghost unable to descend toward the sea of blood, it was carried higher and higher up into the air by the gusts of fierce wind swept up by the countless azure streaks.

One azure streak after another struck the crimson skeleton in a relentless assault, and the crimson light radiating from the skeleton was slowly beginning to dim.

All of a sudden, yet another azure streak flashed past, and a faint crack rang out as a tiny crack finally appeared on the forearm of the giant skeleton.

The Blood Heavenly Ghost's pupils contracted drastically upon seeing this, and it hurriedly yelled, "Stop! I surrender!"

The azure shadow that was rapidly revolving around its body finally drew to a halt upon hearing this, reverting back into a giant azure bird over 100 feet away. It folded its wings against its sides, then stared intently at the Blood Heavenly Ghost with bright blue light flashing in its eyes.

The countless azure streaks in the air instantly faded, as did the ferocious storm of wind.

The Blood Heavenly Ghost heaved a faint sigh of relief upon seeing this, then immediately flew toward the sea of blood before plunging into its depths.

Moments later, a black-robed figure emerged from the sea of blood, and it was none other than Duan Renli.

His face was looking rather pale and weary, and it was clear that he had expended a great deal of energy during the battle.

The Azure Luan Bird rapidly shrank down upon seeing this, quickly reverting back into Han Li's human form.

The two of them exchanged a glance, and Han Li wore a faint smile, while Duan Renli was looking less than thrilled.

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Inside the Devilish Flame Valley.

The four Body Integration cultivators were gathered in one corner of the valley, while Liu Le'er was standing at the other end of the valley with the silver net of flames around her.

All of them were looking up at the sky, where an enormous crimson cloud was overlooking virtually the entire valley.

A giant crimson flag was just barely visible within the cloud, occasionally releasing bursts of harrowing crimson light.

Liu Le'er was looking on with an anxious expression, while the four Body Integration cultivators were quite relaxed, and they were occasionally casting sinister glances her way, further exacerbating her unease.

As high-grade cultivators of the Heavenly Ghost Sect, they were well aware of just how powerful this Blood Heavenly Ghost Flag was.

The flag had been inherited from one of the ascended patriarchs of the Heavenly Ghost Sect, Patriarch Bone Flame, and there was a heavenly ghost sealed within it. It was said that this heavenly ghost was a ghostly monarch formed by a deceased immortal, and that it had been captured from the Nether Realm.

The flag was passed down between generations of supreme elders, and it was nurtured by the blood essence of those supreme elders. Throughout its history, it had also been refined using special blood essence on countless occasions, thereby further elevating its powers.

Out of all of the Grand Ascension cultivators of the Spirit Domain Realm, Duan Renli could only be considered to be in the middle of the pack. However, everything was different in the space within the flag.

It was true that Han Li was incredibly powerful, particularly when it came to his physical body, but his fate was already sealed from the moment he was drawn into the space within the flag.

"It's already been close to an hour. I'm sure that Han Li must've already been reduced to food for the heavenly ghost at this point. That little demon fox is really annoying to look at, how about we kill her now?" the purple-bearded man suggested as he cast his gaze toward Liu Le'er.

Not only had Han Li taken one of his most powerful treasures, he had also embarrassed him in front of Duan Renli. He was unable to exact his revenge on Han Li, so he was naturally eager to take out his anger on Liu Le'er.

The woman in red hesitated momentarily, then said, "There's no hurry, Elder Lu. In my opinion, we should still wait for Martial Uncle Duan to come out before making a decision."

"I agree. The silver flame around that little demon fox is no ordinary flame. It's capable of even devouring the Ninth Heaven Devilish Flame, and it seems to

be some type of mutated true flame. I also think we should wait, just to be safe," the hunch-backed elderly man said with a contemplative expression.

The one-eyed man was staring intently up at the giant crimson cloud in the sky with his arms crossed, seemingly unable to even hear the conversation taking place around him.

The purple-bearded man's brows furrowed slightly upon hearing this, but he still nodded reluctantly in agreement.

The four Body Integration cultivators made no effort to conceal their conversation, so Liu Le'er was naturally able to hear everything. She couldn't help but shudder in fear as she pressed her back tightly against the rock face behind her, and her face instantly became completely devoid of color.

All of a sudden, the one-eyed man broke his silence. "Looks like it's finally over."

Everyone immediately turned to look up at the sky in unison upon hearing this.

The massive crimson cloud churned violently before splitting apart down the center to completely reveal the huge crimson flag.

The four Body Integration cultivators were all a little perplexed by what they saw.

The giant crimson flag was still radiating dazzling crimson light, but the massive ghostly head on the surface of the flag seemed to have dimmed slightly compared with before.

Before they had a chance to ponder this any further, two streaks of light flew out of the flag before landing on the ground down below.

The streaks of light then faded to reveal Han Li and Duan Renli, who were standing across from one another.

Duan Renli stood with his hands clasped behind his back, watching Han Li with a cold gaze.

Han Li was looking right back at him with a calm smile on his face.

"Brother Rock!"

Tears instantly welled up in Liu Le'er's eyes as she rushed toward Han Li as quickly as she could.

However, she was already injured and suffering from magic power overexertion, so she was a little unsteady on her feet. Before she could reach Han Li, she tripped over her own feet and flew through the air.

Right at this moment, she felt herself being carried up by a burst of gentle, invisible force, following which her surroundings blurred, and before she knew it, she was already by Han Li's side. magic

With a sweep of his sleeve, the silver net of fire around Liu Le'er reverted back into a silver fire raven before vanishing into his body.

Liu Le'er opened her mouth to say something, but she suddenly sensed that the atmosphere was a little strange, so she immediately decided against saying anything as she stood off to the side in an obedient manner.

The four Body Integration cultivators had thought that there would be nothing left of Han Li at this point, yet not only was he alive and well, he appeared to be as calm and collected as ever, and all four of them were completely rooted to the spot, unsure of what to make of the situation.

Only after a long while did the four of them return to their senses, and they exchanged a few uncertain glances, wanting to ask about the outcome of the battle, but not daring to do so.

Right at this moment, Duan Renli suddenly broke the silence. "Fetch me 50 kilograms of Yin Dawn Stone."

His voice was quite calm, and it wasn't very loud, but it was no different from a rumbling thunderclap in the ears of the four Body Integration cultivators.

Even though they had already guessed the outcome, they were still left in complete disbelief.

It was clear from what Duan Renli was saying that he had lost.

He was one of the two supreme elders of the Heavenly Ghost Sect, a Grand Ascension cultivator who stood at the pinnacle of the Spirit Domain Realm, yet he had been defeated by this completely unremarkable-looking young man.

Furthermore, the defeat had been suffered in the space within the Blood Heavenly Ghost Flag.

"Do I need to repeat myself?" Duan Renli, and his voice was still as calm as ever, but there was clearly something brewing beneath the calm facade.

The four Body Integration cultivators shuddered upon hearing this, and the purple-bearded man and the woman in red hurriedly turned before flying out of the valley.

"You have my thanks, Fellow Daoist Duan," Han Li said with a faint smile.

Duan Renli took a cold glance at Han Li, then stowed the giant crimson flag away with a wave of his hand before flying away as a streak of black light, quickly vanishing out of sight.

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A short while later, in the main hall on the Cloudrise Peak of the Cold Flame Sect.

"I had a feeling that he was no ordinary person, but never did I think that he would be so powerful that even Duan Renli of the Heavenly Ghost Sect is no match for him," Nangong Changshan said with a wry smile as he sat on the main seat in the hall.

"Thankfully, he's not an enemy of our Cold Flame Sect," Luo Jun sighed with a complex expression.

"Both the Heavenly Talisman Hall and scripture library incidents took place after Elder Han came to our Cloudrise Peak. If you ask me, he was most likely responsible for both, but there's no way we could've possibly suspected him before this," Nangong Changshan mused.

Luo Jun nodded in response. He had clearly already arrived at the same conclusion, but he didn't dwell on this matter any further. Instead, he quickly changed the subject.

"The Heavenly Ghost Sect has been extremely tight-lipped about what happened, but there's no way they could've kept it a secret given the magnitude of the incident. Apparently, many of the sects that were originally

more inclined toward the Heavenly Ghost Sect and the Origin Realm Temple have displayed intentions of defecting to us."

"Indeed. Valley Master Yu of the Serene Prosperity Valley and Mountain Master Zhao of the Idle Mountain have both sent letters to our sect master requesting a private audience. In reality, these people just want to see Elder Han and verify his powers for themselves. Only then can they make a decision whether to join our Cold Flame Sect or not.

"Unfortunately for them, Elder Han went into seclusion not long after his return, and the supreme elder released an order, prohibiting anyone from disturbing Elder Han for any reason," Nangong Changshan said.

Luo Jun nodded in response with a contemplative expression and didn't say anything further.

The hall was silent for a moment before Nangong Changshan suddenly asked, "Elder Luo, what do you think of Elder Han?"

Luo Jun's expression changed slightly upon hearing this. In the past, he would've felt comfortable freely sharing his opinion, but now, he was rather hesitant.

Only after some extensive contemplation did he reply with a cautious expression, "I haven't had much interaction with Elder Han. Back when Martial Niece Gu first brought him into the sect, I didn't notice anything particularly remarkable about him aside from the fact that he's a powerful body cultivator. The more I think back now, the more I realize just how careful and calculated he is. Having said that, he doesn't seem to be a cold and uncaring person."

"Oh? What makes you think that?" Nangong Changshan asked as he raised an eyebrow.

"The sect master once asked Elder Han to move into the cave abode on the Holy Fire Peak neighboring the supreme elder's cave abode, but he refused, saying that he was satisfied with his current cave abode and didn't want to go through the hassle of moving.

"I feel like it goes deeper than that, almost as if he's trying to do our Cloudrise Peak a favor. After all, with someone so powerful staying at our Cloudrise Peak, the status of our peak will be greatly elevated in the sect," Luo Jun explained.

Nangong Changshan nodded in agreement upon hearing this. "That is indeed true. Come to think of it, Martial Niece Gu made a significant contribution in introducing Elder Han into our sect. From now on, double the amount of cultivation resources annually allocated to her."

"Yes, Peak Master," Luo Jun hurriedly replied.

Chapter 59: Borrowing the Star Gathering Platform

Several days later, in a cave abode garden halfway up the Cloudrise Peak.

A beautiful young woman in a palatial dress with skin as fair as snow was slowly walking along half a step behind a tall white-robed woman.

These two were none other than Yu Menghan and Gu Yunyue.

"Thinking back to what you said back then, Elder Han's origins really are a mystery. On the way back to the sect, it had already become apparent to me that he was far more powerful than he let on, but it appears I still severely underestimated him," Gu Yunyue said with a wry smile.

"I wonder when or if I'll ever reach his level," Yu Menghan sighed as a hint of longing appeared in her eyes.

"Striving for the path of immortality in a limited lifespan is already a pursuit that goes against the natural order. Aptitude is important, but luck and fate are even more vital. That's why countless people have cultivated their entire lives without even reaching the Foundation Establishment Stage, let alone the Core Formation Stage and beyond.

"I've already been cultivating for over 500 years, and at this point, I've spent over a century stuck at the mid-Nascent Soul Stage. Perhaps there's a slim ray of hope for me to reach the Deity Transformation Stage someday, but the Spatial Tempering Stage is almost certainly out of reach.

"As for the Body Integration Stage and the Grand Ascension Stage, I wouldn't even dare to think about such lofty aspirations," Gu Yunyue said as she raised her head to look up at the sky with a slightly dejected expression.

A hint of melancholy also appeared in Yu Menghan's eyes upon hearing this.

Gu Yunyue withdrew her gaze before turning to Yu Menghan, then continued, "Given my limited aptitude, this is most likely as far as I'll go in my cultivation journey. However, you possess a spirit body constitution and exceptional learning ability. In just two short years since you've joined our sect, you've already reached the Foundation Establishment Stage.

"Barring any mishaps, you'll be sure to achieve greater things than I will in your cultivation, and there may even be a chance for you to reach the Spatial Tempering Stage and beyond."

"It's all thanks to your unreserved teachings and all of the precious pills you've bestowed upon me, Master. I am eternally grateful to you," Yu Menghan said in an earnest voice.

"Thanks to Elder Han, you won't have to worry about pills or resources for a very long time to come," Gu Yunyue replied.

Yu Menghan's eyes immediately lit up upon hearing this.

"Come to think of it, I visited Elder Han once in the past two years, but at this point, his cave abode has already been marked down as a forbidden zone of the sect, so I most likely won't be able to visit him again," Gu Yunyue sighed with a hint of disappointment in her eyes.

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Not long after that, the Cloudrise Peak of the Cold Flame Sect suddenly accepted a vagrant cultivator as an outer court disciple. The cultivator in question possessed mediocre aptitude, and even though he was already at an advanced age, he was only at the Core Formation Stage, so he didn't fulfill the recruitment criteria at all. As a result, there were a lot of dissenting voices that arose among the disciples of the sect in response to this decision.

That was until it became known that this cultivator by the name of Daoist White Stone was an acquaintance of Elder Han. In the wake of this revelation, all of the dissenting voices instantly subsided, and many people in the sect, including even elders from other peaks with far superior cultivation bases, began to approach Daoist White Stone in an attempt to befriend him, but that was another story.

Over a month quickly passed by.

On the main peak of the Origin Realm Temple, the Heaven Worship Peak, there was an oval pond that was as green and translucent as jade. The pond contained an abundance of spiritual qi, which formed a layer of dense white mist over the surface of the water.

A shimmering golden carp would occasionally leap out of the water, and around a dozen elegant red-crested cranes were playing joyfully beside the pond while pecking at the spirit grass growing around the pond.

All of a sudden, a streak of purple light flew through the air before landing beside the pond in a flash.

The purple light faded to reveal a tall and broad man, wearing a purple daoist robe that was embroidered with a purple pattern. The man appeared to be around 40 to 50 years of age with a long black beard trailing down from his chin, giving him a rather mystical and ethereal appearance.

As soon as he landed on the ground, he took a quick glance at the cranes beside the pond, then cast his gaze toward the moss-covered stone wall on the other side of the pond.

With a flick of his wrist, a voice transmission talisman flew out of his sleeve, then flew into the rock face before vanishing in a flash.

Moments later, a layer of golden light flashed over the stone face, following which an opening that was as tall as a grown man appeared down the center of the stone wall.

The purple-robed man didn't hesitate in the slightest before flying into the opening.

Within the stone face was an extremely spacious stone chamber.

Inside the chamber was a three-level tall platform, with profound patterns engraved all over each layer. There were also a series of strange-looking yellow lanterns placed all over the platform, forming a peculiar array that was releasing astonishing spiritual power fluctuations.

At the very center of the top level of the platform sat a portly man who was seated on a futon. He was wearing a loose-fitting golden robe that left a large section of his chest exposed, and he resembled a small mountain of flesh from afar.

The purple-robed man extended a respectful bow toward the "meat mountain", then reported, "Supreme Elder, we've just received a message from the Cold Flame Sect, stating that Elder Han of their sect wishes to use our Star Gathering Platform for cultivation, and they've promised us handsome compensation in return. Should we..."

The golden-robed man didn't immediately reply. Instead, he pondered the notion for a moment before replying in a slow and deliberate voice, "I asked you to investigate his identity and history. How is that coming along?"

His voice was extremely loud and resonant, and it was reverberating throughout the stone chamber.

"All we managed to find out is that he suddenly appeared in the Prosperous Nation two years ago, and he became a guest elder not long after he entered the Cold Flame Sect. However, during this time, he's always kept a low profile and remained unnoticed, so we only became aware of his existence after what happened in the Heavenly Ghost Sect," the purple-robed man replied.

"It's fine. If I were Sima Jingming, I would definitely have kept the existence of that man a secret. What has the Heavenly Ghost Sect been up to recently?" the golden-robed man asked.

"After the incident, everyone in the Heavenly Ghost Sect has been keeping a very low profile. They haven't expressed any displeasure or any intention to seek revenge," the purple-robed man replied.

"There's no way the two supreme elders of the Heavenly Ghost Sect would simply let something like this slide. We just need to wait and see," the golden-robed man scoffed, clearly unconvinced by this answer.

"Then about that request to borrow the Star Gathering Platform..." the purple-robed man said in a hesitant voice.

"The request is being made by someone with Grand Ascension Stage power, so it's best not to get on his bad side. Agree to his request for now," the golden-robed man decided after some deliberation.

The purple-robed man's brows furrowed slightly, and he hesitated momentarily, then said, "Truth be told, the grand elders of our temple are a little concerned about this. They're afraid that Elder Han would become even more powerful after cultivating in the Star Gathering Platform, and once that

happens, our Origin Realm Temple will fall below the Cold Flame Sect in the pecking order.

"On top of that, activating the Star Gathering Platform requires a great deal of Starwash Stone expenditure. We're already having to be very conservative in using the Starwash Stones on the top disciples of our sect, it's truly a shame if we have to use those precious stones on an outsider."

"Tell them that their concerns are unnecessary. It's not so easy for a Grand Ascension Stage being to further their powers. On top of that, he's the one requesting to borrow our Star Gathering Platform, so the Cold Flame Sect will naturally be responsible for covering all of the expenses involved," the golden-robed man replied with a nonchalant smile.

"Yes, Supreme Elder!" the purple-robed man replied in a respectful manner.

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Two months later, at the Origin Realm Temple.

There was a lush, winding mountain range with cotton-like clouds drifting through the sky, and the occasional crane and spirit bird could also be spotted, presenting a serene and prosperous sight to behold.

At the very center of the mountain range was a mountain that was far taller than all those around it, stretching all the way up into the clouds.

The peak of the mountain was laden with giant rocks, and spiritual qi was permeating through the air, but there wasn't much plant life present. At the very center was a nine-level platform that was shaped like a round pagoda. It was entirely of a translucent white color, as if it had been constructed from jade.

A group of brown-robed elderly men was seated around the platform with their legs crossed and their eyes closed.

As nighttime approached, the light of the setting sun shone down from the heavens, basking the rocks on the mountain peak in a warm orange glow and reflecting a dreamy and ethereal radiance off the white jade platform.

Right at this moment, two streaks of light suddenly sped through the distant sky, then landed at the foot of the platform to reveal a pair of figures.

The brown-robed elderly men who were seated around the platform all rose to their feet before making their way over to the two men, one of whom was the golden-robed meat mountain of a man, and they all extended respectful bows as they greeted in unison, "We pay our respects to the supreme elder."

The group of elderly men then turned their attention toward the unfamiliar young man next to the golden-robed man.

That young man was naturally none other than Han Li, who had come to borrow the Star Gathering Platform.

The golden-robed man remained silent as he waved a dismissive hand, and the four elderly men immediately returned to their original positions.

"Fellow Daoist Han, these four are the guardians of the Star Gathering Platform. There's only one Body Integration cultivator, while the other three are only at the Spatial Tempering Stage, but they've been working together for many years and are extremely competent. With these four overseeing proceedings, you can rest assured that you'll be safe here," the golden-robed man said with a smile.

Han Li naturally didn't want there to be any bystanders from the Origin Realm Temple present during his cultivation, but he knew that this was not something that he could refuse. Hence, he smiled as he replied, "You have my thanks, Fellow Daoist Closed Mountain."magic

"Night is about to fall soon, so I won't delay your cultivation, Fellow Daoist Han. If you have any requests, feel free to raise them to those four," the golden-robed man said, then cupped his fist toward Han Li in a parting salute before flying away as a streak of light, vanishing into the distance in the blink of an eye.

Han Li watched as the golden-robed man departed, then quickly inspected his surroundings before arriving at the staircase of the Star Gathering Platform, but he wasn't in a hurry to scale it.

The four elderly men around the platform were already beginning to make hand seals while chanting incantations.

Circles of hidden runes lit up around the four men, and a golden light barrier that encompassed the entire Star Gathering Platform appeared.

At the same time, a small opening that was only large enough to fit one person emerged in front of Han Li.

Blue light flashed through his eyes, and he determined that even though the light barrier was giving off powerful spiritual power fluctuations, it was only a protective array, so he strode in through the opening without any qualms.

As soon as Han Li stepped through the opening, it immediately sealed shut, following which the light barrier fused into the air and vanished.

As Han Li set foot on the staircase, a burst of peculiar spiritual power fluctuations immediately swept through the surrounding area.

Han Li was rather intrigued by this, and he looked down to find that the stone staircase beneath his feet and the ground around him were riddled with tiny pits that would've been impossible to see without paying close attention.

He activated his spirit eyes ability momentarily to find that there was faint silver light flashing at the bottom of all of the tiny pits, and they were left behind from all of the starpower exposure that had accumulated over the course of countless years.

There were also many diagrams engraved onto the Star Gathering Platform that were connected by lines and circles. Some of them were extremely simple, consisting of only three to five diagrams, while others were more complex, consisting of clusters that comprised around a dozen diagrams each.

As Han Li scaled the staircase and inspected all of the diagrams, he gradually came to understand that these diagrams were all corresponding with the constellations in the sky.

Chapter 60: Wanted

Han Li continued to scale the staircase all the way until he reached the top of the Star Gathering Platform, and only at the very center of the platform's top level was he able to find a diagram of the Big Dipper.

He briefly inspected the diagram before sitting down with his legs crossed, then raised his head to look up at the sky, upon which he discovered that the heavens had already taken on a dark blue hue, and several stars had already appeared.

He closed his eyes and began to meditate in silence.

Around two hours later, Han Li's eyes sprang open, and he gently uttered the word, "begin".

The four brown-robed elderly men around the platform each flipped a hand over to produce a palm-sized Starwash Stone upon hearing this, then pressed the stones into the indentations on the ground before them.

The four stones cracked in unison as bursts of white light rose up from the indentations, flowing along the runes and patterns engraved into the ground to quickly reach the Star Gathering Platform.

All nine levels of the platform instantly began to glow brightly while taking on a translucent appearance, and the constellation diagrams engraved onto the platform also began to radiate dazzling silver light. From afar, the platform resembled a miniature version of the night sky, and it was a breathtaking sight to behold.

At the same time, the stars in the sky were also becoming brighter and brighter, as if they were resonating with the platform, and boundless silver starlight rained down from the heavens like a faint silver mist that encompassed the entire Star Gathering Platform.

Han Li was situated within the silver mist, and it was as if he were seated among the stars.

He could feel a burst of vast yet gentle starpower surging all around him, and he took a moment to concentrate before making a hand seal and chanting the incantation for the Big Dipper Origin Arts.

A dull thump rang out within his body, and six extremely thick pillars of white light cascaded down from the night sky.

All six pillars of light shone down around Han Li, and the starpower that the pillars of light contained was downright astonishing.

Countless threads of translucent light emerged from the pillars of light, then abruptly straightened before piercing directly toward Han Li like countless steel needles.

At the same time, the faint silver mist that encompassed the entire Star Gathering Platform also began to rapidly surge as if it had been stirred up somehow.

Countless silver fragments of light began to swirl around under the influence of a burst of immense force, forming a silver vortex of light that was over 100 feet tall above the Star Gathering Platform.

The starpower that had been extremely gentle just a moment ago had suddenly become extremely violent.

After being encompassed within the vortex, the six pillars of light brightened and expanded considerably, and the starpower surging into them also increased by severalfold.

However, at the same time, the pain that Han Li was having to bear was also significantly more excruciating.

His robes were instantly soaked with blood, and countless threads of starlight were constantly piercing into his skin. The blood that flowed out of his body was swept up by the power of the silver vortex of light, forming a murky blood mist that enveloped his entire body.

The four brown-robed elderly men around the Star Gathering Platform were astonished to see this. Out of all of the many years that they had been stationed here, never had they seen such violent starpower, nor had they ever witnessed such a brutal and direct way of funneling starpower into one's body.

In the face of such an enormous amount of starpower, even a Body Integration cultivator would be struggling just to keep themselves alive.

However, right at this moment, a burst of light suddenly appeared at Han Li's waist, following which six palm-sized black mirrors suddenly emerged before flying toward the six pillars of light.

The round mirrors were enshrouded in clouds of black qi, and there were runes flashing faintly on their surfaces. These were none other than the Starmoon Mirrors that he had refined using the Yin Dawn Stones that he had secured from the Heavenly Ghost Sect.

As soon as the six mirrors fell into position, black light immediately surged over them, following which countless tiny runes erupted forth in a frenzy,

forming an incredibly thick and dazzling pillar of light that shot straight up into the night sky.

"He's going to enhance the starpower even further? That's incredible!" the Body Integration Stage brown-robed elderly man murmured to himself in an astonished voice.

As soon as his voice trailed off, six of the stars in the Big Dipper Origin Arts abruptly brightened significantly, and a vast expanse of dazzling silver radiance appeared in the air, then flowed into the silver vortex in a frenzy.

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Half a year later, in a stone chamber on the Heaven Worship Peak.

The golden-robed Daoist Closed Mountain was seated with his eyes closed and his legs crossed on the third level of the platform, making hand seals and chanting incessantly.

All of a sudden, his chanting ceased, and he hurriedly rose to his feet.

A gust of wind swept into the stone chamber without warning, and in its wake, flames were ignited in several dozen yellow lanterns on the platform. Wisps of white smoke slowly rose up into the air, converging to form a cloud of white mist.

The surface of the mist blurred momentarily before an elderly figure with a lotus crown on his head emerged. The figure wasn't very tall or imposing, and he was wearing a golden daoist robe.

"Welcome, Patriarch Clear Bright!" Daoist Closed Mountain greeted in a respectful voice as he fell to his knees and kowtowed to the ground.

"No need for formalities. I descended today because I have a few things that I need you to do," the elderly daoist priest said.

Daoist Closed Mountain returned to his feet, standing with his hands by his sides as he asked, "What are your instructions, Patriarch?"

"The Clear Origin Stones that you offered last time were of a very good quality. I'll be requiring another batch within the next 10 years," the elderly daoist priest said.

"Yes, Patriarch."

"I've recently developed some new insights and made some adjustments to the Profound Star Observation Arts that I created. Take this improved version and put it in the scripture library..."

The elderly daoist priest delegated several instructions in succession, all of which Daoist Closed Mountain agreed to without any hesitation.

After that, the elderly daoist priest continued, "On top of all of that, there's an important matter that you need to attend to carefully."

A serious look appeared on Daoist Closed Mountain's face upon hearing this, and he waited in silence for further elaboration.

The elderly daoist priest swept a sleeve through the air, releasing a sheet of paper that was around a foot in size, which drifted over to Daoist Closed Mountain.

"If you find out any information on this man, report it to me immediately," the elderly daoist priest instructed in an implacable voice.

Daoist Closed Mountain accepted the sheet of paper before taking a look, and a hint of surprise immediately flashed through his eyes.

The sheet of paper bore the portrait of a young man, and it was none other than Han Li.

"Is there something wrong?" the elderly daoist priest asked.

"Patriarch, this man is in our temple right now!" Daoist Closed Mountain hurriedly replied.

The elderly daoist priest's expression remained unchanged, but a hint of urgency crept into his voice as he asked, "Are you sure it's him?"

Daoist Closed Mountain hesitated momentarily, then replied in a certain voice, "The man in this portrait is completely identical to the man I'm referring to. There's no mistaking it, it's definitely him!"

The elderly daoist priest nodded in response, then asked, "Why is he in our Origin Realm Temple right now?"

"Please forgive me, Patriarch. This man is a guest elder of the Cold Flame Sect, and..." Daoist Closed Mountain quickly provided a detailed account of everything that he knew about Han Li.

A contemplative look appeared on the elderly daoist priest's face, and he remained silent for a long while.

Sweat was beginning to bead up on Daoist Closed Mountain's forehead, but he didn't dare to make a sound and could only wait in silence.

"This man is most likely a descended immortal, and there's currently a huge reward on his head in the Immortal Realm. Don't alert anyone prematurely, wait for me to make some arrangements. Before the arrangements are complete, make sure that he remained in our Origin Realm Temple no matter what," the elderly daoist priest instructed with a serious expression.

"Yes, Patriarch," Daoist Closed Mountain immediately answered.

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In a certain region of the sea in the Immortal Realm.

The seawater here was as black as ink, and these turbulent black waves stretched on for as far as the eyes could see in all directions.

Close to 100 black mountains were hovering in the air above the black sea, atop which stood a series of giant black octagonal pagodas.

These pagodas varied drastically in height, with the tallest ones stretching to over 100,000 feet in height, while the shortest ones were only around 1,000 feet tall. However, all of them were identical in their inky-black color and their octagonal shape.

In a hall at the top of one of the smaller black pagodas sat Daoist Clear Bright in front of a square altar.

There was a white array that was giving off bright white radiance hovering above the altar.

Daoist Clear Bright cast an incantation seal toward the array, and the white glow that it was emitting immediately faded.

He then cast his gaze directly forward, and even though he was completely still, it was clear that he was pondering something.

After a long while, he finally gritted his teeth and made a decision, then flipped a hand over to produce a translucent crystal bead, which he tossed into the air in front of him.

An incantation seal was cast into the bead, and countless tiny runes instantly appeared over its surface, forming a slowly revolving array that was around a foot in size.

With each second that past, the array would ripple once.

Time slowly passed by, and nothing had changed even after 15 minutes.

However, Daoist Clear Bright remained patient and continued to wait.

Only after a half hour had passed did the array suddenly light up, and a projection of a tiny black figure within it. It was a black-robed man with a wide face and forehead, but he was as thin as a stick and his complexion was of a sickly yellow color.

"It's been over 1,000 years since we last met, but you're still looking not a day older, Layman Bone Flame," Daoist Clear Bright greeted as he cupped his fist in a salute with a warm smile on his face.

However, Layman Bone Flame clearly wasn't that thrilled to see Daoist Clear Bright, and he said in an impatient voice, "If you have something to say, then hurry up. And keep it short."

"Are you at Black Water City at the moment? I have a brilliant opportunity to present to you," Daoist Clear Bright said in a mysterious voice.

"Go ahead," Layman Bone Flame prompted in an indifferent voice.

"I presume you've also received the wanted notice from the Ubiquitous Pavilion, right?" Daoist Clear Bright asked.

"Why are you asking me that? Could it be that you have information on the wanted fugitive?" Layman Bone Flame asked as he raised an eyebrow.

"That's right! That man is currently in the Spirit Domain Realm!" Daoist Clear Bright replied.

Layman Bone Flame's expression changed slightly upon hearing this, and he confirmed with a cautious expression, "Really?"

"All you need to do to verify the authenticity of my claim is to contact your disciples in the Spirit Domain Realm," Daoist Clear Bright said.

Layman Bone Flame's eyes lit up slightly upon hearing this. "Are you suggesting..."

"That's right. This is an unmissable opportunity for us. I suggest our two sects join forces to capture the fugitive, then split the reward from the Ubiquitous Pavilion evenly among us. What do you say?" Daoist Clear Bright proposed.