

# The Mans Decree - The Mans Decree

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Hyrum was gripped by fear. He had come to the staggering realization that he was outclassed by Kai in both strength and mastery of poison. If this drags on, I won't be able to save myself, much less kill him!

Glancing at Xanthus, he observed the intense battle between Xanthus and Misho. The two were evenly matched, both being Sixth Level Tribulators. Hyrum estimated that it would take some time before a clear victor emerged.

Meanwhile, his subordinates were struggling in combat with the other cultivators.

The unity among this group of cultivators caught him off guard. His previous ambushes on human cultivators had always succeeded because most would selfishly flee when faced with a group confrontation.

However, it seemed things had turned south this time.

Simultaneously, the distant roars of silver tigers reached Hyrum's ears. The prospect of these silver tigers joining the fray made any hope of escape seem futile.

"Elder Fabrizio, we need to retreat immediately!" Hyrum shouted, swiftly turning and fleeing.

They found themselves at a significant disadvantage, and their only option was to withdraw and bide their time for another opportunity.

Xanthus, too, frowned. He hadn't expected a mere human exploration team to include a Sixth Level Tribulator expert like Misho. The idea of a tactical withdrawal crossed Xanthus mind.

Since killing Kai is no longer feasible, conserving our strength takes precedence now. We'll seek another chance to act in the future!

Once the decision was made, the Demonic Cultivators began to pull back while continuing to fight. Hyrum, in particular, discarded all hesitation, desperately racing into the mountain range without a backward glance.

Observing this, Kai advanced. His figure blurred as he pursued.

Initially, Hyrum assumed that his familiarity with the terrain in Mount Crimson would allow him to easily shake off Kai. However, he soon realized that, regardless of his efforts to escape, Kai stuck to him like a persistent specter.

"Brat, we have no grudges against each other, so why are you so persistent in pursuing me? It wasn't my intention to kill you. Besides, we're both alchemists. Can't you let me go? Push me too far, and I'll fight back!" Hyrum pleaded while running, hoping Kai would relent and cease the pursuit.

"True, we have no grudges, but you tried to kill me. Now that your plan has failed, you seek mercy. Do you think you can always get your way?" Kai responded casually.

"Don't assume I'm afraid of you, kid. I just don't want to reveal too much of my skills. Since you're so insistent, don't blame me for being ruthless!" Hyrum came to a sudden stop. Kai also halted, giving Hyrum a cold stare.

"Come out!" Hyrum shifted his gaze to the side. At that moment, Rostom emerged slowly from behind a nearby tree.

Hyrum had stopped because he sensed Rostom's presence. Alone, he might not match Kai, but teaming up with Rostom would likely corner Kai.

"Mr. Goeckner, I never thought I'd see you being chased by a youngster. Seems I made the wrong call in collaborating with you," Rostom said, displeased, while assessing Hyrum's disheveled appearance.

He had risked his life to divert Hamish, and this was the outcome.

"Mr. Beridze, I can assure you that teaming up with me isn't a mistake. If we work together now to eliminate Kai, I'll give you what you desire. Celestial energy, right? Once we finish Kai, I'll guide you to it. After all these years in Mount Crimson, there's not a corner of this mountain range I'm not familiar with." Hyrum tempted Rostom with promises.

As anticipated, the mention of celestial energy made Rostom waver.

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Rostom and Kai were both deeply intrigued upon learning that Hyrum knew the location where celestial energy could be found.

Originally, Rostom had intended to eliminate Hyrum, but now he realized that he must keep the man alive for the time being. After all, the latter was his key to discovering the celestial energy's source.

Rostom's gaze hardened as he acquiesced, "Fine, I agree. But make no mistake, if you try to deceive me, I'll have my father's men eradicate you."

Despite his reservations, the allure of celestial energy was too great for him to resist.

"You really think you can take me down? Don't you think you're overestimating yourself a bit?" Kai scoffed, his eyes flashing with disdain.

"Hmph, we'll just have to see if I'm overestimating myself or not. Your actions will be the judge of your words!" Rostom retorted with a sneer, brandishing a glinting long sword that seemed to appear from thin air.

He twirled his sword with expert precision, unleashing a torrent of light that shot forth from the weapon.

As Rostom lunged at Kai, Hyrum didn't remain passive either. He furrowed his brows intensely, and surprisingly, a few drops of blood essence began to ooze from his forehead.

The blood essence droplets hovered in midair, exuding a disconcerting smell of blood and malice. Shortly after, a strange movement seemed to stir within Hyrum's abdomen, contorting his expression into a grotesque grimace.

Ah!

Suddenly, he opened his mouth, unleashing a multitude of venomous parasites that advanced toward the drops of blood essence.

It seemed as if his body was teeming with a legion of venomous parasites, all crawling and scrambling out of his body in an unending stream.

While the revolting sight unfolded, Rostom was already engaged in fierce combat with Kai. Brandishing his sword, he sent forth a continuous stream of light, launching an assault against the latter.

Unfazed, Kai absentmindedly fended off the attacks with his Dragonslayer Sword.

He soon shifted his attention to Hyrum. Even with his extensive knowledge and experience, he couldn't comprehend the latter's actions and the reason behind the swarm of venomous parasites pouring out from his body.

Inside Kai's consciousness field, Faiyar explained, "Mr. Chance, this is the parasitic silkworm. Although they appear as insects now, they will soon dissolve into thin air, becoming imperceptible. Parasitic silkworms are not only venomous, but they can also devour a person's divine soul. Even the soul of an immortal would succumb to these parasitic silkworms, ultimately turning the victim into a soulless being. It was believed that the parasitic silkworm had vanished long ago, so it's quite shocking to see that someone has been cultivating it. These creatures must be nurtured inside a host's body, requiring the host's fresh blood every month. Each feeding is excruciatingly painful, which is why very few people choose to cultivate these parasitic silkworms."

Upon hearing this, Kai couldn't help but feel a shiver run down his spine. The idea that someone would cultivate venomous parasites within their own body was utterly outrageous to him.

Having absorbed Hyrum's blood essence, those parasitic silkworms started to turn transparent one by one, and in the end, they vanished without a trace.

Since Kai was warned beforehand, he understood that these venomous parasites didn't just vanish; they had dissolved into the air. If it wasn't for Faiyar's explanation, I would have fallen victim to these parasitic silkworms.

As the parasitic silkworms vanished, Kai was ready and retreated quickly after he pushed Rostom back with a powerful sword strike.

Rostom saw this as a sign that Kai was intimidated, and he sneered, "So, the mighty Kai is running scared, huh? Not so tough now, are you?"

Kai couldn't be bothered with Rostom's taunts and kept his focus squarely on Hyrum.

After he had released the parasitic silkworms, Hyrum's eyes betrayed a hint of regret and reluctance, but ultimately, he turned around and fled.

Perplexed by Hyrum's sudden retreat, Rostom was momentarily bewildered. I've just managed to push Kai back, so why is Hyrum sprinting away from the battle?

Just as he was grappling with his confusion, he suddenly felt a tightness in his body, as if something was devouring his divine soul.

His expression twisted into a grimace of agony, for the pain he felt was far more intense than any physical pain he had ever experienced.

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Watching Rostom's torment, Kai realized that it must be the parasitic silkworm's venom at work. He hadn't expected that Hyrum would betray even his own ally.

I guess it was all a ruse from the very beginning... Hyrum had been manipulating Rostom the whole time, using him to distract me so that he could unleash those parasitic silkworms.

"Ahhh!" Rostom howled in agony, his face twisted in pain. Soon, his expression grew blank and lifeless, his eyes becoming empty and void of any emotion. His body stood motionless, resembling a walking corpse.

These were the symptoms after Rostom's divine soul had been devoured. He had become nothing more than an empty shell, and before long, he would become a meal for the demon beasts that had invaded his body.

In the end, his machinations backfired, and he paid the price. In a way, it was a harsh lesson in karmic justice.

With an unsettling groan, Rostom's mouth parted, and a swarm of venomous parasites crawled out. The newly emerged ones still retained a discernible shape. Seeing this, Kai hastily conjured a ball of demonic fire to incinerate these venomous parasites.

The inferno engulfed not just the creatures, but Rostom as well. Soon, Rostom's body was reduced to a smoldering pile of ash, but to Kai's surprise, the venomous parasites remained unscathed.

"D\*mn it! I can't believe these creatures are immune to demonic fire! These parasitic silkworms are too powerful!" Kai muttered.

Realizing he was outmatched, he turned on his heel and ran.

"Mr. Chance, these parasitic silkworms are ancient and rare creatures. Very few people can cultivate them nowadays. If it weren't for that guy's desperate attempt to save his life, he probably wouldn't have released these parasitic silkworms so quickly," Faiyar explained.

He was right, for at this moment, Hyrum was kicking himself for running away. After all, those parasitic silkworms were his greatest reliance and his ultimate trump card.

Even the members of Soulless Hall are unaware of my secret weapon. I went to great lengths to raise these parasitic silkworms, but I didn't do it to raise my power. Instead, I simply wanted to nurture these creatures. The pain I endured each time was beyond description, something only a



few could ever withstand. It pained me to deploy all my meticulously cultivated parasitic silkworms against Kai, but I had no other choice.

Meanwhile, the parasitic silkworms had once again vanished without a trace, rendering them undetectable even to Kai's spiritual sense.

He reckoned that if someone were to arrive now, they would unquestionably fall victim to the venomous parasite, and all this would happen without them having the slightest inkling of the impending attack.

The parasitic silkworms were fast, and Kai had no choice but to sprint desperately, without the capacity to chase after Hyrum.

"Faiyar, is there no way to stop these parasitic silkworms? Will they just keep attacking relentlessly?" he asked.

I don't get it. No matter how potent these venomous parasites are, there should be moments when they stop, shouldn't there?

"Once unleashed, it is almost impossible to stop these parasitic silkworms. They must feed on their victim's divine soul until they are satiated before they gradually cease and transform into a pupa, awaiting the next host's cultivation. If no one cultivates them, these parasitic silkworm pupae will gradually disappear," came Faiyar's reply.

Hearing this, Kai was utterly baffled. I need to let these parasitic silkworms feed until they're satisfied? What kind of joke is this?

Just as he was running for his life, Misho appeared, leading a group of men toward him. They were worried that Kai might be in danger and had come to protect him.

Seeing Misho and his group approaching, Kai panicked and shouted frantically, “Don’t come over here! Run! Run quickly!”

Misho and the others hesitated for a moment, gazing at Kai with a sense of confusion. They observed that there was nothing behind the man, yet he was acting as if something terrible was chasing him.

“Quickly, run!” Kai shouted again when he saw Misho and the others standing still. However, it was too late, for he was on the verge of colliding with Misho and his group.

He knew that if he ran over, those parasitic silkworms would undoubtedly follow, and Misho and the others probably wouldn’t be able to escape them.

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With determination, Kai gritted his teeth and abruptly came to a stop.

Almost immediately, a strange sensation engulfed him, swiftly followed by an intense, stabbing pain.

It felt as if his soul was being peeled away, layer by layer.

Witnessing Kai's contorted expression, Misho and the others moved forward to assist him.

"Don't approach. Hurry and leave. There are venomous parasites here," Kai warned aloud. Hearing this, Misho and the others, filled with terror, refrained from getting closer and retreated.

The parasitic silkworms had infiltrated Kai's body, voraciously devouring his divine soul within his consciousness field.

Drenched in sweat, Kai found himself powerless against the venomous parasites within his mind.

Helplessly, he watched as the parasitic silkworms feasted on his divine soul.

Faiyar looked on anxiously, unable to offer assistance. Down to his last wisp of bodily spirit, he knew that if the parasitic silkworms noticed him, they would consume him instantly.

Observing Kai in agony, Misho and the rest were deeply concerned, unable to grasp the perilous situation he faced. At that moment, Kai felt the world spinning, and his consciousness blurred.

Just as he was losing his senses, a golden light sparked within his consciousness field. It emanated from the Golden Tome. The parasitic silkworms immediately halted their assault, attempting to flee from Kai's consciousness field.

However, the golden light intensified, and eventually, all the parasitic silkworms dissipated under its glow. Once they vanished, Kai's pain subsided, and in their place, a cocoon emerged. This cocoon

intrigued Kai. Why did it appear after the

parasitic silkworms disappeared?

Under his gaze, the cocoon writhed and eventually hatched, revealing a parasitic silkworm larva.

This larva looked peculiar, its body gleaming gold, appearing somewhat adorable and not at all like what one would associate with a venomous parasite.

"Mr. Chance, this parasitic silkworm larva is quite unique. Could it be the king of the parasitic silkworms? If so, it's a valuable find. Parasitic silkworms are scarce these days, and having a king among them could offer a formidable ally once it reaches maturity," Faiyar expressed with enthusiasm.

Uncertain whether the larva was the king of parasitic silkworms, Kai still decided to keep it.

The parasitic silkworms had proven to be formidable, and Kai felt defenseless against them. Were it not for the protection of the Golden Tome within his consciousness field, his divine soul might have been consumed, leaving him an empty shell.

“Then take good care of it. If it needs to feed on blood, let it. There’s only one; it won’t take much,” Kai said, entrusting the larva to Faiyar, who was more than happy to have some company, even if it was just a parasitic silkworm.

“Kai, are you all right?” inquired Misho as he approached Kai with caution.

“I’m fine,” Kai replied, shaking his head before inquiring, “Old Mr. Giuvali, what happened to those Demonic Cultivators?”

“They fled. They’re intimately acquainted with this area, and we couldn’t catch up.” Misho sighed.

The Demonic Cultivators had spent numerous years in the Mount Crimson range, becoming well-versed in its terrain. It proved impossible for Misho and the others, many of whom were experiencing it for the first time, to keep pace.

“Leave them be. After this ordeal, they likely won’t dare to cause trouble again. Let’s go check on Mr. Chevalier and the others,” Kai suggested, leading Misho and the group to locate Hamish and the rest.

Meanwhile, Hamish and the others sought refuge behind a concealed boulder, where Tamazi diligently concocted medicine to tend to Hamish’s injuries.

Izolda anxiously surveyed the surroundings, her eyes filled with worry, fearing for her grandfather’s safety.

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Feenix and Cloud also shared concerns about Kai, aware that dealing with those Demonic Cultivators was no easy task. Amidst the worry, Kai, accompanied by Misho and the others, had already discovered them.

“Mr. Chance, are you all right?” Cloud rushed to greet Kai upon seeing him.

“Grandpa!” Izolda, spotting Misho unharmed, exclaimed happily.

“We’re fine. The Demonic Cultivators have been driven away,” Misho conveyed with a slight smile.

Upon seeing Kai arrive, Tamazi approached and said, “Supreme Alchemist, while Mr. Chevalier’s injuries aren’t severe, traversing the Mount Crimson range on foot would be challenging. He needs a couple of days of rest. Perhaps you could take a look?”

Acknowledging his own limitations compared to Kai, Tamazi spoke humbly.

Kai glanced at Hamish and responded, “His meridians are injured and indeed require rest. However, we need to find a safe place first.”

“With demon beasts and now, Demonic Cultivators, roaming the Mount Crimson range, where can we find a safe haven?” Tamazi asked helplessly.

Many of them were exploring the Mount Crimson range for the first time and were unaware of any safe locations.

“I know of a place that should be safer. Even if demon beasts are present, they tend to avoid that area. There’s a cave I’ve entered before. It contained nothing, but strangely, no demon beasts would venture within ten miles of it,” Hamish disclosed.

Having traversed the Mount Crimson range multiple times, it wasn’t surprising that he knew of places others did not.

“No demon beasts dare to step foot in it? If that’s the case, there might be something inside that frightens them,” Kai mused, puzzled.

“I had the same thought when I discovered it,” Hamish admitted. “But after a thorough inspection, I found nothing. I even suspected there might be a treasure hidden there, but I never found anything.”

“Let’s rest in that cave for a day and continue once Mr. Chevalier has recovered,” Kai proposed.

The group unanimously endorsed the plan, acknowledging that Hamish’s guidance was indispensable for navigating the challenging Mount Crimson range. The recent battle had drained their energy, necessitating a rest to replenish their spiritual reserves.

Supporting Hamish, the group proceeded toward the mentioned cave. Meanwhile, Hyrum had regrouped with Xanthus and others. What appeared to be a certain victory had transformed into a pursuit.

“D\*mn it, who would have thought this kid had such a skilled fighter with him? We almost lost!”

Xanthus cursed, seething with anger.

“What’s our next step, Elder Fabrizio? These human cultivators are united, and targeting Kai in the Mount Crimson range will be a formidable challenge,” Hyrum inquired.



Kai's actions had almost cost Hyrum his life and resulted in the release of the hard-earned parasitic silkworm, marking a significant loss.

"Once we traverse this Mount Crimson range, we'll reach Salinsburgh City in the southern region. They'll undoubtedly rest there. We'll proceed to Salinsburgh City and contact Demon Seal Alliance. Acting alone, we might lack the strength to eliminate Kai Chance," Xanthus stated with solemnity.

"If we go to Salinsburgh City, won't our aura be detected? It's too dangerous to enter such a densely populated city as Demonic Cultivators, isn't it?" Hyrum questioned.

Hyrum, if not for the fear of being detected, wouldn't have stayed in the Mount Crimson range for years, living almost like a wild man.

"Don't worry, I have pills that can mask our aura. Once ingested, our identities won't be exposed," reassured Xanthus, distributing some pills he had taken out.

Hyrum recognized that these pills must have been provided by Demon Seal Alliance. After all, he was the only alchemist in Soulless Hall, and as such, only he could cultivate pills.

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In the meantime, guided by Hamish, Kai and the others arrived at the vicinity of the cave. Hamish pointed ahead and said, "That's where the cave is."

Kai observed that the trees before him appeared significantly larger than those in other areas, and the roars of demon beasts were no longer audible in the vicinity.

Frowning, he sensed that something unusual was causing the plants in the area to look different. However, he had no idea about the cause behind the phenomenon.

Just as they were about to step into the perimeter of the cave, a giant figure darted through all of a sudden, preventing them from advancing. Everyone was shocked for a moment, and when they took a closer look, they realized it was Tiger King!

The abrupt arrival of Tiger King, a silver tiger demon beast, threw everyone into a panicked frenzy.

Nonetheless, Kai remained composed. He walked up and glanced at Tiger King. "Why are you stopping us from entering the cave?"

"Stop advancing. The cave in front is a forbidden zone. You guys will be in great danger!" Tiger King warned Kai.

"Forbidden zone?" Kai froze for a moment.

"What forbidden zone? I was just there not long ago..." Hamish immediately retorted.

Ignoring Hamish, Tiger King continued explaining, "I'm only telling you because you helped us get rid of the toxins from our body. The cave is dangerous. Don't go in there!"

"Even demon beasts don't dare to enter? What exactly is in the cave?" Kai asked, curiosity evident in his tone.

"Stop asking. I'm merely warning you out of goodwill. It's up to you whether you choose to heed my advice." With that, Tiger King leaped into the air and disappeared.

His remark left the crowd dumbfounded, and even Kai began to feel hesitant. Everyone immediately shifted their gaze to Hamish.

"I did go in before. I'm telling you the truth! There's nothing in the cave and even in the surroundings!" Hamish explained, trying his best to defend himself.

"Mr. Chevalier, I believe you," Kai said, deciding to continue with their exploration. He was eager to uncover the danger that lurked within. "Come on. Let's go!"

Everyone continued walking, and soon, they arrived at the entrance of the cave. As they stepped inside, Kai sensed a familiar aura. Something in the void seemed distinct from the usual spiritual energy.

The Ethereal Realm was saturated with spiritual energy, yet the aura in the area hinted at an unusual quality in the spiritual energy. Kai sensed a flicker of familiarity, but for some reason, he couldn't place why the spiritual energy felt known to him.

Feenix, who stood next to Kai, took a step forward. Suddenly, she furrowed her brows. "Master, this area doesn't seem safe. Some demon beasts must have already taken over this area. I detect a threatening scent, preventing us from entering. They must have left it behind."

As a member of the beast race, Feenix was particularly sensitive to the threats left behind by other demon beasts.

Kai, too, felt something was amiss, but he couldn't quite pinpoint it.

"Keep that to yourself first. Let's observe the area for a while," Kai reminded Feenix to remain quiet to avoid causing a commotion.

Soon, the crowd arrived at the cave. It was enormous, and the cave was pitch dark. Upon entering, they found that it wasn't particularly deep. In fact, it was quite spacious. There was nothing inside, and no presence of demon beasts was detected.

If not for Tiger King's warning, Kai would have considered the cave the safest place to take shelter.

“Don’t listen to that demon tiger. I bet he must have his ulterior motive.” Hamish felt Tiger King was merely trying to frighten them. The cave doesn’t look dangerous at all!

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“Since the place looks safe, let’s take a quick rest to recover our energy. I’ll make some pills for Mr. Chevalier so that he can recuperate by tomorrow morning,” Kai said to the crowd.

Everyone then sat down cross-legged and cultivated, focusing on restoring their energy.

Without wasting time, Kai concocted a pill designed to repair the injuries in Hamish’s body, ensuring they could traverse Mount Crimson more efficiently. Otherwise, carrying him throughout the journey would significantly prolong their exit from the area.

While everyone was recuperating, Kai gradually stepped out of the cave. The surroundings of the cave were exceptionally quiet, and not a single roar of a demon beast could be heard. Kai silently absorbed the atmosphere of the place. The aura felt familiar, but he couldn’t place it.

“Master, why not take a rest?” Feenix, who had also emerged from the cave, suggested.

“I sense a familiar aura here, but I just don’t know what it is,” Kai responded with a frown.

“Master, some demon beasts must have taken over this cave. I can sense it in my bones, but I just don’t know which kind of demon beasts they are. And the trees in this area are quite different from the others. Judging by the appearance, the demon beast is far from ordinary,” Feenix explained.

“Of course. Even Tiger King didn’t dare to come near the cave and even tried advising us not to enter it. The demon beast here must be one of a kind,” Kai said. Considering that even Tiger King was cautious, it was not difficult to understand how extraordinary the demon beast was.

Kai then suggested, "Let's go and take a walk around the area. Since it's not a big area, we should be able to spot the demon beast if it's around us."

Kai and Feenix ventured into the surroundings, eager to uncover the identity of the mysterious demon beast that claimed the cave.

After thorough exploration, they came up empty-handed, leaving Kai perplexed. Logically speaking, a demon beast more formidable than Tiger King must be of significant size. It's impossible not to notice it.

"Perhaps the demon beast is absent for now. That would be ideal. We can take a short break and leave without getting entangled in a conflict." Feenix spoke up after the fruitless search for the demon beast.

Kai nodded in agreement. "Let's return to the cave."

As they were on the verge of entering the cave, a tremor shook the surroundings, accompanied by a powerful aura emanating from the cave's depths.

Taken aback, Kai and Feenix heard a deafening roar, prompting Misho and the others to run frantically out of the cave.

Shock was written all over their faces, and they exclaimed, "D-Dragon! There's a dragon in there!"

As everyone rushed out of the cave, a scorching and fiery gust billowed out from within. Before long, a creature extended its head, the size of a house, out of the cave.

Upon noticing that, Kai led the others to retreat. Soon, the dragon crawled out of the cave, with more than a dozen meters of its body emerging from the opening.

Kai immediately recognized that the creature was a water dragon in the process of evolving, not yet a fully matured dragon. Despite being called a water dragon, the creature was actually a type of snake, not a dragon.

Hamish was utterly startled. "H-How come there's a dragon in the cave?" Just a while ago, he had just claimed the cave was completely safe, and now, out of nowhere, a colossal dragon appeared!

Misho's face turned pale. "The dragon is too powerful. We can't even withstand the aura its body emitted."

They simply lacked the means to defend themselves against such a formidable demon beast.

Feenix, beholding the immense dragon before her, was thoroughly amazed. "What a colossal dragon! This is my first encounter with such a creature. You know, a water dragon might face the risk of death when attempting to evolve into, a dragon:"

At that moment, the water dragon fixed its gaze on Kai and the other cultivators with its massive eyes.

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Kai suddenly recalled why the place seemed familiar upon arrival-it was the water dragon's aura that triggered a sense of recognition.

The dragon emitted a hint of draconic energy, although it hadn't completed its evolution, resulting in a minimal and impure essence. This explained Kai's vague sense of familiarity.

“Who gave you, human cultivators, the audacity to barge into my turf? Seeing as this is your first time, I’ll let you go, so hurry up and leave. Else, I won’t hold back,” the water dragon warned, addressing Kai and the others in human language.

Relieved, the group hastily turned to leave, eager to exit the area. However, Kai remained rooted in place, quietly observing the water dragon.

“Master, we better hurry up and leave. This water dragon is quite powerful,” Feenix urged, pulling at Kai to prompt his departure.

“You guys go ahead. I want to find out how this water dragon achieved its cultivation level.”

Kai suspected that the water dragon had tapped into celestial energy, evolving into a celestial beast. The water dragon might have been a tiny snake in the beginning and had transformed through the absorption of celestial energy. It seems everything is possible with celestial energy!

Agitation flickered in Kai’s eyes at the thought. If the water dragon had truly absorbed celestial energy, its beast core could be a valuable magical item.

Even the idea of killing the water dragon crossed Kai’s mind. Sensing the underlying murderous intent beneath Kai’s agitation, Feenix urgently cautioned, “Master, don’t stir a commotion. This water dragon will ascend soon. Even a sneeze from it can annihilate all of us.”

“Don’t worry. I won’t do anything stupid,” Kai reassured with an awkward smile, surprised that Feenix had discerned his intentions. Resignation filled Feenix. She had no choice but to slowly leave the area.

Upon realizing that Kai didn’t yield and detecting the hint of murderous intent in his eyes, the water dragon’s eyes turned red with anger. “Insolent brat! You’re thinking of slaying me and taking my beast core?”

"That's my thought, but I know I still can't achieve that at this moment," Kai admitted conspicuously.

Misho and the others, waiting not far away, nearly spat out blood upon hearing Kai's admission.

What on earth is Kai doing? How dare he talk to a water dragon about to ascend like that?

The water dragon was also taken aback, never expecting Kai to openly admit his intentions.

"Hey, brat, if it weren't for the inappropriateness of causing bloodshed when I'm about to ascend to immortality, you'd probably be dead and burned to ash by now," the water dragon roared furiously.

"Stop tooting your own horn, and stop putting yourself on such a high pedestal! You're nothing more than a large python. That's all." Kai smirked with disdain.

"You're courting death, brat!"

Anger surged through the water dragon, particularly irritated by being referred to as a python.

Misho and the others were completely shocked. They couldn't fathom why Kai would intentionally provoke the water dragon. Is he seeking his own demise?

The water dragon threw its head back and released a thunderous roar. A powerful aura, like a tornado, swept through, nearly knocking Misho and the rest off their feet.

On the other hand, Kai remained firmly grounded, the draconic essence in his chest flickering.

Baffled, the water dragon observed the draconic essence in Kai's chest and sensed the pure draconic energy emanating from him.

After a moment, it lowered its head with a look of shock, shedding its once aloof aura. Witnessing the change in its demeanor, Kai leaped abruptly and landed on the water dragon's head.

Everyone else was left dumbfounded, unable to comprehend why the water dragon, nearly unrivaled in the Ethereal Realm, would bow its head to Kai.

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“Take me inside the cave. I have something to ask you.”

Kai had the water dragon guide him into the cave. Wanting to keep his identity discreet, Kai preferred limiting the number of individuals who knew about him. Thus, he chose to converse with the water dragon in its secluded cave.

The water dragon promptly led Kai inside. Upon reaching the cave’s end, Kai noticed another pit leading underground. The water dragon’s habitat was concealed beneath the earth, sealed off by the dragon. Consequently, Kai and the others reached the cave’s end shortly after entering.

“What are you?” the water dragon asked.

“You don’t need to know that. Answer my question truthfully. If I’m satisfied with your answer, I can give you some pointers to help you become a true dragon,” Kai stated with a contemplative expression.

The water dragon courteously responded, “Please ask. I’ll tell you everything I know.”

“How did you become like this? Did you absorb celestial energy to transform into a water dragon?” Kai inquired.

“Yes, I was a crimson snake in the past and accidentally stumbled upon a giant rock imbued with celestial energy. Consequently, I began to cultivate, absorbing the energy. Despite many years

passing, I am still one step away from ascension, unable to find a way to become a true dragon,” the water dragon truthfully replied.

“Is the giant celestial rock still here?” Kai questioned.

“Yes!” The water dragon nodded.

“Take me to it.” Kai wanted to witness the celestial rock that facilitated the transformation of a tiny crimson snake into a water dragon.

The water dragon slithered into the endless pit, with Kai following closely behind. After some time, a sea of red lava came into view.

The boiling lava’s temperature exceeded a thousand degrees. However, Kai remained unfazed, his body capable of withstanding even the scalding temperature of demonic fire, let alone lava.

In the middle of the lava, Kai observed a massive rock. The stone was substantial, providing a comfortable perch for the water dragon..

“Such a huge celestial rock!” Kai exclaimed in astonishment.

“Of course. How else would I absorb celestial energy from it for so many years? However, there isn’t much energy left within the rock now. If I don’t utilize every bit of the celestial energy to ascend, I fear that I’ll be forever stuck in this phase.”

The water dragon’s tone was dismal as it spoke.

Kai eyed the massive rock and leaped onto it. He then realized the celestial energy exuded from the stone was exactly the same as the one he encountered in the ice soul fragment in the far north.

Although the celestial energy within the rock wasn't much to the water dragon, it was a priceless treasure for Kai. It could probably help him break through a minor cultivation level.

After all, the resources Kai needed to break through a minor cultivation level were a dozen times more than the other cultivators.

"You can undoubtedly ascend now with your current level, but you're still grappling with the concept of immortality. Despite the draconic energy within you, it lacks purity. You're not a true dragon. I'll now transfer some pure draconic energy to you. Endeavor to contemplate and comprehend. Once you have a solid grasp, I'm confident you can ascend to a true dragon," Kai conveyed.

"Thank you!"

The water dragon's figure distorted briefly before turning into a handsome man. He knelt and bowed at Kai with gratitude.

Regardless of Kai's identity, it was true that he had draconic essence and pure draconic energy within him.

Hence, the water dragon knew Kai was a Draconian without probing further. I'm truly fortunate to have the chance to receive guidance from a true dragon.

Kai placed his hand on the water dragon's head, and a surge of draconic energy flowed into its body.

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Feeling the draconic energy, the water dragon slowly closed its eyes, and a foul stench began to emanate from its body.



Soon, the once elegant water dragon was covered in filth. Kai leaped away from the water dragon and watched it quietly from a distance.

He fathomed the water dragon had comprehended the ways of the Draconians because of his draconic energy and was undergoing a transformation, hence the putrid smell.

Roar!

All of a sudden, the water dragon returned to its beast form, its scales falling off in chunks. In no time, the initially red scales on the water dragon turned silver, and horns began to grow on its head.

Its dragon claws were also forming rapidly. In just two hours, the water dragon completed its metamorphosis, becoming a real dragon.

“Thank you!”

The water dragon twirled in the air, excitement coursing through its veins as it detected the transformations in its physical form.

“Now that we’re of the same race, it’s only right for me to offer you assistance,” Kai said with a faint smile.

The water dragon circled Kai once, then soared upward.

A gaping hole was left in the mountain as the water dragon shot skyward.

Rumble!

Shock swept through everyone as they heard the thunderous noise and witnessed the water dragon rushing out from within the mountain.

“What’s happening? Did the water dragon ascend?” Misho and Hamish asked in bafflement. None of them expected the water dragon to ascend so quickly.

The process of the beast race undergoing metamorphosis and attaining ascension was more challenging than that of humans. It wasn’t an easily achievable feat.

Subsequently, multi-colored lights appeared in the night sky, illuminating the entire Mount Crimson and giving everyone a false impression that it was daytime.

The rays of blinding light also caused all the demon beasts within the range of Mount Crimson to cower motionless on the ground, not daring to make a sound. In the faraway Salinsburgh City, many people had also noticed the rainbow lights.

“Such magnificent multicolored radiance. Has someone ascended?”

“That’s from the direction of Mount Crimson. The rainbow lights of ascension haven’t been witnessed in Ethereal Realm for so long.”

“I wonder who ascended. Is it a member of the beast race or a human?”

Everyone’s eyes were filled with envy. Ascension was the dream of every cultivator in Ethereal Realm. All of them worked hard to improve their cultivation level for the sake of ascending to an immortal.

Misho and the others stood agape as they watched the water dragon disappear into the rainbow lights and gradually vanish from sight.

Only after the lights disappeared did everyone slowly return to their senses.

“Mr. Chance! Where’s Mr. Chance?”

Cloud suddenly remembered Kai and rushed into the cave, followed by Feenix and the others.

Everyone in the group was indebted to Kai, especially Misho and Hamish, and they absolutely refused to be ingrates.

Moreover, now that the water dragon had ascended, the cave no longer posed any danger. After entering the cave, the crowd was stunned by the scene before them.

There was a passage leading downward, and at the bottom, Kai was sitting cross-legged on a huge rock, surrounded by boiling lava.

The intense heat of over a thousand degrees Celsius made everyone sweat profusely and furrow their brows. Feenix could tell Kai was cultivating, so she spoke up, notifying the others. "Master should be cultivating. Let's not disturb him."

Hearing that, they swiftly retraced their steps, leaving Kai to cultivate on the boulder.

As dawn broke, the group rested and regained their strength, especially Hamish, who had fully recovered after consuming the pill crafted by Kai.

Upon waking, Misho suggested, "Let's go check on Kai."

Just as the rest of the group was about to follow Misho to check on Kai's progress, a muffled thunderous boom echoed from the sky.