

the mans Decree: Kai Ping / Chen Ping

Chapter 4541

Zuo Tianzheng glanced at Mr. Shi, snorting coldly with a look of obvious disdain in his eyes.

To him, Mr. Shi didn't resemble a master at all. His aura was so faint, it was practically nonexistent—a level so weak that any cultivator could trample him.

In Zuo Tianzheng's understanding, the presence of a true powerhouse should make the void tremble, even collapse entirely under their might. Yet Mr. Shi appeared so effortlessly, as though he had materialized out of thin air, with not a single ripple of aura to be felt.

Luo Ta turned his gaze to Mr. Shi and smirked. "So, are you the so-called strong man behind Kai?"

But Mr. Shi ignored him entirely, not sparing him even a glance.

Instead, he looked at Kai with a faint smile. "Have you improved your realm again?"

Kai nodded. "This time, I advanced by two minor realms at once."

"Still too slow. Far too slow," Mr. Shi said, shaking his head.

Kai froze for a moment, then responded awkwardly, "The resources I require to advance are ten or even a hundred times more than others. That's why..."

Kai's slow progress was understandable, given how much he needed for each step forward.

“If you can’t find the resources, then take them by force,” Mr. Shi advised bluntly. “Or are you still clinging to some saintly ideals?”

Kai was taken aback, unsure how to respond. In all his time in the Heaven Realm, it had never occurred to him to rob others of their resources. More often than not, he found himself on the defensive—like when the Demon Sealing League used a century’s worth of offerings to hunt him down.

He could have flipped the situation and plundered the Demon Sealing League’s resources instead. Their influence spanned the entire Heaven Realm, and Kai could have targeted their weaker strongholds.

Xiao Yuanshan and the others listened to Mr. Shi’s words in silence, uncertain how to react.

Encouraging Kai to rob resources wasn’t entirely out of place in a world like the Heaven Realm, where strength ruled supreme and the strong preyed on the weak. Still, it felt morally unsettling.

“If you want to rob resources, you’d better have the strength to back it up,” Luo Ta sneered, abruptly throwing a punch at Mr. Shi.

Mr. Shi... Ignoring him had already infuriated Luo Ta.

Boom!

As his punch landed, the sky darkened, and the earth trembled. A terrifying gust of fist wind engulfed everyone, creating an oppressive atmosphere of suffocation.

Even the Mahayana realm masters were overwhelmed; many buckled under the force, some collapsing to their knees, unable to stand. Just one punch had subdued countless powerful figures of the Xiao Dynasty, forcing them to bow and kneel.

This crushing display of power left the Xiao Dynasty’s warriors pale with despair.

Kai's expression shifted dramatically. His body surged with energy, releasing a boundless aura to counter Luo Ta's attack. Yet even with all his strength, Kai struggled to breathe under the immense pressure.

At that moment, Mr. Shi turned to Kai and calmly waved his hand—like swatting away a mere fly.

Boom!

Before anyone could process what had happened, the terrifying fist wind dissipated entirely.

Luo Ta stood frozen, his body locked in the posture of throwing the punch. He didn't move, didn't even twitch.

“Mr. Luo! Mr. Luo!”

Zuo Tianzheng called out anxiously, stepping closer to check on him. But Luo Ta remained motionless.

Tentatively, Zuo Tianzheng reached out and gave him a light push.

In an instant, Luo Ta's massive body crumbled to dust, scattering with the wind.

He was gone—reduced to ashes.

The crowd stood in stunned silence, their minds blank with shock.

The members of the Demon Sealing League were utterly dumbfounded, their wide eyes betraying their disbelief.

What just happened?

Was Luo Ta really gone? Reduced to ashes with a mere wave of the hand?

Zuo Tianzheng's body trembled, as did the others in the Demon Sealing League. Some were so terrified they lost control of themselves.

It was too unreal, too absurd to comprehend.

Luo Ta, who had once been an untouchable figure of immense strength, was wiped out as though he were nothing more than an insect.

Xiao Yuanshan, his eyes wide, could only mutter in disbelief: "F*ck... that's incredible."

Chapter 4542

As the emperor of the Xiao Dynasty, Xiao Yuanshan was the supreme ruler. Yet at this moment, even he couldn't hold back his astonishment, letting out an uncharacteristic exclamation to express his shock.

"Unparalleled in the world... unparalleled in the world," he murmured, his voice trembling with emotion.

Master Wuliang, usually calm and composed, couldn't conceal his excitement, his words quivering as he spoke.

One after another, the people of the Xiao Dynasty fell to their knees—not from the weight of an oppressive aura, but from sheer awe and reverence for Mr. Shi.

No one could have imagined that this unassuming middle-aged man, who appeared weak and exuded no discernible aura, could wield such terrifying strength.

With a simple wave of his hand, he had obliterated a top-tier Mahayana cultivator—a feat that defied comprehension.

To the onlookers, this once-mighty Mahayana master wasn't even worthy of being called an ant.

In the realm of Heaven and Man, Mahayana masters were regarded as the pinnacle of power, standing at the very top of the hierarchy. The peak of the Mahayana realm was considered the apex of strength, a near-unreachable summit.

Immortal realm cultivators? They were the stuff of myths—beings no one had ever seen.

Yet here, a Mahayana master, viewed as an untouchable figure by all, had been wiped away like a speck of dust.

The shock of this reality was so overwhelming that the great warriors of the Xiao Dynasty knelt instinctively, unable to resist their awe.

Even princes like Xiao Feng and Xiao Jian, once proud of their noble lineage, abandoned all sense of superiority. They dropped to their knees, humbled and sincerely submissive.

For lifetimes, they had pursued cultivation, proud of their accomplishments in the Mahayana realm. Yet, in Mr. Shi's eyes, they were nothing more than ants.

Even Master Wuliang, once a distinguished figure from the Celestial Realm, knelt with unwavering respect.

It was one thing for the Xiao Dynasty's people—frogs in a well, ignorant of true strength—to bow in submission. But Master Wuliang had seen the wider world. As an immortal from the Fourth Heaven, he had encountered cultivators of extraordinary power before.

He knew, too, the devastating effects of the Heaven Realm's great formation, which suppressed all who entered. Even those from the Celestial Realm found their strength halved under its influence.

Yet Mr. Shi...

If Mr. Shi was also an immortal from the Celestial Realm, how could he maintain such unparalleled strength under the crushing suppression of the great formation?

This question hung heavy in Master Wuliang's mind, adding another layer of mystery to Mr. Shi's overwhelming presence. It became clear that Mr. Shi was far stronger than the Wuji Taoist—by a staggering margin. This realization left Master Wuliang utterly shaken.

Zuo Tianzheng's entire body trembled as fear overtook him. He had never expected Kai to have such an immensely powerful figure backing him.

And Mr. Shi wasn't just strong; he was terrifyingly so.

What had Luo Ta boasted about earlier? That he could kill Mr. Shi with a single punch?

Yet after that punch, Mr. Shi was untouched, while Luo Ta was reduced to ashes.

“Mercy! Mercy!”

Zuo Tianzheng, along with the other masters of the Demon Sealing League, dropped to their knees in desperation. They had cultivated for centuries to reach the Mahayana realm—they didn't want to lose their lives now.

“Mr. Shi, you can't forgive them!” Kai said firmly. “These people are too vile. They used a hundred years' worth of offerings just to hunt me down. I nearly died because of them!”

Kai was adamant that Mr. Shi should act decisively, wiping out the Demon Sealing League to ensure his peace of mind.

Hearing this, Zuo Tianzheng broke into a cold sweat.

“Don’t kill me! I’m willing to offer a hundred years of sacrifices!” he pleaded desperately.

Without hesitation, Zuo Tianzheng took out his storage bag and threw it before Kai.

The other powerful members of the Demon Sealing League followed suit, hastily emptying all the resources they carried and tossing them at Kai’s feet.

They were willing to give up everything if it meant they could survive.

Kai’s eyes lit up as he looked at the pile of resources before him. With these, he could make significant progress in advancing his realm.

But resources alone weren’t enough.

“Mr. Shi,” Kai said, “even if they’ve handed over the resources, you still have to kill them. They can’t be allowed to live.”

Zuo Tianzheng and the others were stunned, their faces twisting in despair.

“F*ck...” they cursed inwardly, glaring at Kai.

Why hand over everything if you’re just going to kill us anyway?

Mr. Shi remained silent. Slowly, he raised his palm and gestured toward Zuo Tianzheng and the others with a light clenching motion.

Zuo Tianzheng and the others froze, their faces turning ashen.

They knew all too well that with just that simple movement, Mr. Shi could take their lives in an instant.

Chapter 4543

When Mr. Shi closed his hand, the void began to tremble.

Soon, countless faint auras started to converge, swirling together like streams of energy.

Everyone watched Mr. Shi in bewilderment, unsure of what was happening.

Zuo Tianzheng and the others, who had already resigned themselves to their fate, were particularly stunned. They had thought their end was certain, but now it seemed Mr. Shi wasn't targeting them after all.

Even Kai was baffled, his gaze fixed on Mr. Shi, unsure of what he was doing.

The gathered auras gradually took the shape of a human figure, transforming little by little until they resembled none other than Luo Ta.

“This...”

The crowd stared, dumbfounded, as Luo Ta's form solidified before their eyes.

Nobody understood what was happening—not even Luo Ta himself. He glanced down at his body, inspecting it with a mix of disbelief and shock.

Wasn't he already dead? Reduced to ashes?

“Luo Gongsheng?” Zuo Tianzheng exclaimed, his voice trembling as he recognized the newly resurrected Luo Ta.

“What's going on?” Luo Ta demanded, his confusion evident as he turned to Zuo Tianzheng.

“He...he...” Zuo Tianzheng stammered, unable to articulate what he had just witnessed.

Xiao Yuanshan and the others turned their wide-eyed gazes toward Mr. Shi. Why had he resurrected Luo Ta after going to such lengths to kill him?

Could someone reduced to ashes really be brought back to life?

“Mr. Shi, what are you doing?” Kai asked, his face full of confusion.

“You need to kill your enemy yourself,” Mr. Shi replied with a faint smile. “This is just a lesson.”

Kai blinked in disbelief. With his current strength, how was he supposed to defeat Luo Ta?

Xiao Yuanshan and the others were equally perplexed, their minds racing with questions about Mr. Shi. Who was he, really? And why did he have such peculiar methods?

Zuo Tianzheng and his allies, however, breathed a collective sigh of relief.

If Mr. Shi wasn't going to kill them, at least their lives were spared, though the loss of their resources still stung.

Kai continued to stare at Mr. Shi, initially confused, but soon a flicker of understanding appeared in his eyes.

He realized that with Mr. Shi's abilities, he could dominate the world of Heaven and Man effortlessly.

Yet Mr. Shi chose not to. Instead, he let Kai grow, forcing him to face challenges step by step.

“Mr. Shi...” “Mr. Shi, I understand now!” Kai said with a firm nod.

“I'm glad you do,” Mr. Shi replied, gently patting Kai on the head.

Kai then turned to Luo Ta, his Dragon Slaying Sword pointed directly at him.

“You big fool, hand over your storage bag, or I won’t be so polite,” Kai commanded sharply.

Though a cultivator in the Tribulation Realm was speaking to him, Luo Ta didn’t dare to utter a word in defiance. His gaze flickered nervously to Mr. Shi, who stood calmly beside Kai. Reluctantly, Luo Ta tossed his storage bag at Kai’s feet.

The memory of being reduced to ashes was still fresh, and Luo Ta had no desire to experience it again.

But just as the storage bag landed, an overwhelming, terrifying aura descended from the sky, sweeping across the area like a storm.

The immense pressure made the entire world seem distorted, as though reality itself had become unstable.

Under the crushing weight of the aura, many people collapsed to the ground, some even coughing up blood on the spot.

Even Luo Ta’s face turned deathly pale as he clenched his teeth to withstand the pressure.

This oppressive force was far stronger than anything Luo Ta had unleashed earlier.

Everyone turned their terrified gazes toward the source of the aura.

Who could it be this time?

The members of the Xiao Dynasty wore grim expressions, deeply worried that this might be another powerful figure backing the Demon Sealing League.

If that were the case, today’s outcome could be disastrous.

As the pressure intensified, a figure gradually emerged in the void—a regal old man with a white beard, dressed in a green robe, his eyes sharp and piercing.

“Who dares to act so brazenly in the Western Regions?” the old man said, his voice calm yet commanding.

“The Western Domain Lord...”

“Master!”

Xiao Yuanshan instantly recognized the figure and dropped to his knees in reverence.

Seeing this, the others from the Xiao Dynasty followed suit, their voices filled with awe and respect.

Zuo Tianzheng and the Northern Territory cultivators, unfamiliar with the Western Domain Lord, still bowed their heads when they heard his title.

After all, among the five domain lords, any one of them was regarded as a peerless figure in the Heavenly Realm—a dragon among men.

Chapter 4544

Kai wanted to see who the Western Territory Lord was, but he found that he couldn’t look directly at him! The overwhelming sense of oppression forced Kai to lower his head.

This was the second Territory Lord Kai had encountered. He had now met two of the five Territory Lords in the Heavenly Realm.

At that moment, Mr. Shi raised his head slightly and gave the Western Territory Lord a cold glance. With just that one glance, the Western Territory Lord was visibly shaken!

“I’m sorry to intrude. My apologies—please, carry on...” The Western Territory Lord spoke hurriedly before his body transformed into a streak of light and vanished in an instant.

Everyone was left stunned. The Western Territory Lord had arrived abruptly and disappeared just as quickly, as though he had never been there at all. Both the members of the Demon Sealing League and the Xiao Dynasty stood in utter confusion.

“Mr. Shi, what just happened...?” Kai lifted his head, only to realize the Western Territory Lord was already gone.

“Don’t concern yourself with him,” Mr. Shi said, patting Kai’s shoulder. “Focus on your cultivation and work on improving your strength as quickly as possible!”

“Understood!” Kai nodded firmly.

Mr. Shi then turned his attention to Xiao Feng and said, “I told you before—Kai is a great blessing for your Xiao Dynasty. Now, that blessing has arrived.”

With that, Mr. Shi waved his hand, and a ray of golden light sank into the void. Moments later, the golden light exploded, scattering fragments across the entire Xiao Dynasty.

“This light of fortune has enhanced your dynasty’s luck by three thousand years. During this time, no one will be able to overthrow your Xiao Dynasty!” Mr. Shi declared.

His words were directed not only at Xiao Feng but also at Zuo Tianzheng and the others, sending a clear message to the Demon Sealing League: stop targeting the Xiao Dynasty.

Overcome with joy, Xiao Yuanshan led the members of the Xiao Dynasty to kneel before Mr. Shi.

“Senior, you also resurrected the souls of over 100,000 soldiers from my Xiao Dynasty, didn’t you?” Xiao Feng asked, looking at Mr. Shi. Xiao Feng asked Mr. Shi directly, his tone filled with curiosity. After all, Mr. Shi’s voice just now was identical to the voice of the person who had resurrected the hundreds of thousands of soldiers.

It seemed clear now that the Wuji Taoist had not been responsible for the soldiers’ resurrection.

Mr. Shi only gave a faint smile in response but didn’t answer. In the next instant, his body vanished without a trace.

Kai was stunned. Everyone in the Xiao Dynasty was equally dumbfounded.

He just left like that?

What were they supposed to do about the members of the Demon Sealing League now?

At that moment, the Chiyun Demon Lord, hidden within Kai’s sea of consciousness, exhaled deeply. “Damn, the old man almost wet himself! That guy is terrifying,” he muttered.

“Senior, why are you so afraid of Mr. Shi? Do you know who he really is?” Kai asked, his curiosity piqued.

“Kid, don’t ask too many questions. Just focus on your cultivation like I told you,” the Chiyun Demon Lord replied curtly.

Then, in a sudden change of tone, he added, “Lend me your body. I need to vent by killing a few people, or I might explode from the stress!”

However, he stopped himself, knowing that if Mr. Shi had chosen not to reveal anything to Kai, there had to be a reason. If he said too much, it might cost him his life.

He had been scared out of his wits just moments ago, and now all he wanted was to release his pent-up tension.

“Senior, just don’t go overboard. I need my body intact,” Kai said with a sigh.

He was about to lend his body to the Chiyun Demon Lord when he noticed Zuo Tianzheng, Narota, and the rest of the Demon Sealing League suddenly turning to flee.

They ran faster than rabbits, their fear evident.

Even though Mr. Shi had already left, his words still lingered, striking fear into their hearts: Granting the Xiao Dynasty three thousand years of fortune and protection.

The weight of those words left no room for doubt. They dared not entertain any further schemes against the Xiao Dynasty.

Seeing them flee, Kai decided against lending his body to the Chiyun Demon Lord.

Chapter 4545

Everyone in the Xiao Dynasty breathed a collective sigh of relief, their faces lighting up with excitement. This was a true, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity! Building a friendship with Kai had turned out to be the wisest decision their dynasty had ever made.

“Mr. Chen, from now on, my Xiao Dynasty will erect a statue in your honor. Generations of our descendants will remember your kindness!” Xiao Yuanshan knelt before Kai with deep reverence.

“Emperor Xiao, please don’t—there’s no need to be so formal!” Kai quickly helped Xiao Yuanshan to his feet.

“Mr. Chen, you have so many storage bags now—why not check what treasures are inside?” Ji Yun reminded him with a grin.

Kai nodded and began opening the storage bags.

The resources in the storage bags from the members of the Demon Sealing League were abundant, especially Zuo Tianzheng’s bag, which contained the Demon Sealing League’s offerings collected over a hundred years!

These resources were more than enough for Kai to advance his cultivation. From now on, he wouldn’t need to worry about resources at all.

“Robbing resources is definitely the easiest way to get rich!” Kai said cheerfully.

“Mr. Chen, take a look at that gilded storage bag—it probably belongs to the big fool!” Ji Yun pointed to one of the distinctively colored storage bags in Kai’s hands.

Kai opened it and focused his consciousness inside.

Moments later, he was stunned. The storage bag contained countless crystals, each with a lavender hue. The energy within the crystals felt different from typical spiritual energy.

Kai pulled out one of the crystals and asked Xiao Yuanshan, “Emperor Xiao, do you recognize this crystal?”

Xiao Yuanshan carefully examined the crystal, then shook his head. “I’ve never seen anything like it. I’m not even sure if this is a crystal from the heavenly world.”

“This is an immortal stone,” a voice chimed in. “It’s the lowest-grade crystal in the heavenly world. Only cultivators who’ve just ascended to the heavenly realm use it. The energy inside is a mixture of immortal and spiritual energy, which makes it impure.” “Many cultivators preparing to

ascend also like using this type of crystal for practice. It helps smooth the transition in their cultivation techniques,” the Chiyun Demon Lord explained to Kai.

“You see, many cultivators begin their journey refining spiritual energy. When they ascend, they must adjust to absorbing immortal energy. This transformation from spiritual energy to immortal energy takes time and effort.”

The Chiyun Demon Lord continued his explanation.

“Immortal spirit stones may be considered trash in the heavenly world, but they are top-tier crystals for those preparing to ascend.”

After listening, Kai activated his Condensation Heart Technique and instantly absorbed the energy from the immortal spirit stone in his palm.

“This type of stone is useless to ordinary cultivators,” the Chiyun Demon Lord went on. “Most can only refine spiritual energy, not immortal energy, so for them, these stones are inferior to spirit stones.”

“Immortals, on the other hand, can only absorb the immortal energy in these stones, making fairy stones a better choice for their cultivation.”

“And yet,” the Chiyun Demon Lord snorted, “these so-called ‘immortals’ dare to boast while practicing with such pitiful crystals!”

“But for a freak like you, who can refine both spiritual and immortal energy, this stone is a treasure. It’s perfectly suited for you!”

The Chiyun Demon Lord’s voice carried a hint of amusement.

Thanks to Kai’s unique Condensation Heart Technique, capable of refining almost anything, the immortal spirit stone was far from wasted in his hands.

Kai couldn’t hide his excitement. Moments later, he pulled a worn, yellowed map from Narota’s storage bag.

Studying it closely, he immediately recognized it—it was a map of the Tianren Realm, with the five major regions clearly marked.

However, in one corner of the southern region, a specific area was encircled in red.

Kai stared at it for a long time but couldn't discern what made the marked area special.

“Emperor Xiao,” Kai called out, “how familiar are you with the geography of the Tianren Realm?”

“I know a little,” Xiao Yuanshan replied. “But the war between gods and demons altered the landscape of the realm. May I ask what Mr. Chen is looking for?”

Chapter 4546

“Xiao Huang, take a look at this red circle. What do you make of it?” Kai spread the map out before Xiao Yuanshan.

Xiao Yuanshan examined it carefully but eventually shook his head. “I’m not sure. This area seems to belong to the territory of Tianmo Mountain, a place I rarely visit.”

“However, I do know that before the war between gods and demons, this region was home to many ancient cities, and the territory was vast.”

“But after the war, many ancient cities in the Tianren Realm were destroyed. If that war hadn’t happened, my Xiao Dynasty wouldn’t have been significant in the grand scheme of things.”

“But since this map highlights this area with a circle, there must be something special about it.”

“I think so too,” Kai agreed. “I’ll check it out when I have time.”

He then folded the map and put it away.

For now, though, Kai decided not to rush into exploring the marked location. Instead, he focused on cultivating using the resources he had obtained in the Xiao Dynasty.

Meanwhile, Xiao Yuanshan used the opportunity to rebuild the imperial city. With three thousand years of luck on their side, the Xiao Dynasty no longer feared retaliation from the Demon Sealing League. At the Demon Sealing League Headquarters, the atmosphere was grim.

Zuo Tianzheng and his group had fled back in disgrace. Luo Ta sat in the leader's seat, while Zuo Tianzheng and the other senior members stood along the sides, their heads lowered in shame.

The defeat had been devastating. Even the Domain Lord's presence had terrified them into retreat. What more could they do?

Luo Ta, seated in the main chair, kept pouring wine into his mouth. As someone who had already faced death once, the memory of that fear lingered heavily.

He didn't dare return to the Ten Palaces just yet. After all, he had no idea how to explain the situation to the Lord of the Ten Palaces.

The tension in the headquarters was suffocating.

After a long silence, Luo Ta finally stood, drawing the attention of everyone present.

"Follow me to the Ten Palaces..." he said, his voice heavy with resignation.

"Master Luo, I...what use would it be for me to go?" Zuo Tianzheng stammered, unwilling to face the Ten Palaces himself.

He, too, dreaded what awaited them. "Palace Master!"

“You must go. Such a powerful individual exists in the Tianren Realm, and you failed to report it. This is negligence of duty!” Luo Ta snapped angrily at Zuo Tianzheng.

“Lord Luo,” Zuo Tianzheng retorted, unwilling to shoulder the blame, “wasn’t it Master Zhou who warned you there was someone strong backing Kai? But you dismissed it, claiming you could kill them with one punch!”

“How dare you!” Luo Ta bellowed, his face red with rage. “I only said that offhandedly! Don’t twist my words. Now stop arguing and follow me to the Ten Palaces!”

Reluctantly, Zuo Tianzheng was dragged along to the Ten Palaces by Luo Ta.

When they arrived, the Palace Master of the Ten Palaces was already waiting for them.

“Luo Ta, your soul disappeared and then reappeared. What happened?” the Palace Master demanded. “I thought you were dead!”

As a member of the temple, Luo Ta’s soul lamp had extinguished when he perished—a clear sign of death.

When the Ten Palace Master saw the soul lamp go out, he was stunned. But its sudden re-ignition left him baffled, wondering if there had been a malfunction.

“Palace Master, I was killed, but that person resurrected me,” Luo Ta admitted without hesitation.

“Killed you, then resurrected you?” The Palace Master’s eyes widened in shock. “What happened? Are there truly such powerful beings in the Tianren Realm?”

Luo Ta recounted the events in detail, ending with a pointed remark: “Palace Master, Zuo Tianzheng’s inadequate investigation caused me to underestimate the enemy and suffer this loss.”

Clearly, Luo Ta was eager to shift the blame onto Zuo Tianzheng.

“Who could kill you so easily and then bring you back to life? What kind of person are we dealing with, and how strong are they?”

The Palace Master ignored the question of fault, focusing instead on the figure Luo Ta had described. His curiosity about this mysterious individual was evident.

Chapter 4547

“Reporting to the Palace Master, I only heard others refer to him as Mr. Shi. As for his identity, I’m unclear, and regarding his strength, I have no idea,” Luo Ta replied nervously.

“You don’t know his strength? What’s the point of your position if you can’t assess such things?” the Tenth Palace Master snapped coldly.

Luo Ta trembled, his fear evident. At this moment, Zuo Tianzheng spoke up: “Although I don’t know Mr. Shi’s exact strength, even the Lord of the Western Region fled as soon as he saw him.”

“What? The Lord of the Western Region appeared?” The Tenth Palace Master’s expression darkened in surprise.

“Yes,” Zuo Tianzheng confirmed. “When the Lord of the Western Region arrived, he took one look and immediately ran away.”

“Those old relics from the Immortal Realm haven’t concerned themselves with the affairs of the Tianren Realm for years, being entirely focused on ascending to higher realms. Why would they suddenly show up? And to be scared off? How is that possible? Could there be a

cultivator in the Tianren Realm stronger than those in the Immortal Realm?”

The Tenth Palace Master frowned deeply, lost in thought. Something about the situation didn’t sit right.

After a moment, he asked, “If Mr. Shi is truly that powerful, how did you manage to survive?”

“Palace Master, it wasn’t an escape. He allowed us to leave. Mr. Shi said he wouldn’t help Kai kill anyone,” Luo Ta explained hurriedly.

“That’s... peculiar,” the Tenth Palace Master murmured, still unable to discern the connection between Mr. Shi and Kai.

“Enough for now. You’re dismissed. The Demon Sealing League must continue its plans to gain control of the Tianren Realm as quickly as possible,” he ordered.

“The Heaven and Earth Array won’t hold forever. Once it breaks, the monks trapped outside the Tianren Realm will return. When that happens, we—the Ten Palaces—will no longer need to hide. The Tianren Realm is our rightful base of operations!”

The Tenth Palace Master’s tone was resolute as he addressed Zuo Tianzheng.

“We will do our utmost to fulfill your expectations, Palace Master!” Zuo Tianzheng responded with a sigh of relief.

Though the situation had been grim, the Tenth Palace Master had chosen not to punish him, easing the weight of Zuo Tianzheng’s anxiety.

The Xiao Dynasty.

Kai, with an abundance of resources at his disposal, immersed himself in rigorous training.

At the same time, Kai shared some of these resources with the Xiao Dynasty. The dynasty had suffered significant losses in the recent battle, both in resources and skilled fighters, and needed to rebuild its strength quickly.

For several consecutive days, Kai focused on intense cultivation, occasionally calling upon the sword spirit Zhongli to spar with him.

Constant cultivation could become monotonous, so these sparring sessions offered a welcome change of pace.

While Kai was training, the sword spirit Zhongli also dedicated himself to cultivation. Zhongli had retained a trace of sword intent within his body, and with his recent recovery, his strength had grown significantly.

This growth in Zhongli's power indirectly enhanced Kai's abilities as well.

At this point, Kai could confidently handle a fifth-grade cultivator in the Mahayana realm without much difficulty.

Amid his training, Kai received a voice transmission from the Palace Master of Guanghan Palace—the head of the Mu family had come out of retreat.

Realizing the implications, Kai quickly bid farewell to the Xiao Dynasty and set out for Nanjin City.

He knew that once the head of the Mu family discovered his son's death, he would undoubtedly seek vengeance. If Kai wasn't found, the Mu family might turn their anger toward Guanghan Palace instead.

Kai, accompanied by Ji Yun, immediately boarded an airship and traveled to Nanjin City at top speed.

In Nanjin City, Mu Kunrong, the head of the Mu family, was seated in the local branch of Wantong Pavilion.

Pavilion Master Qian was personally hosting him.

Despite the Mu family's significant influence in the region, Mu Kunrong knew better than to provoke Wantong Pavilion unnecessarily.

"Master Mu," Pavilion Master Qian began, "every cultivator in Nanjin City is aware that your son participated in a competition here."

"While it's true that Kai killed your son, it was a fair duel, overseen by Wantong Pavilion. The battle was witnessed by many cultivators, and wagers were even placed on the outcome."

"Your desire for revenge is understandable, but if you wish to uphold your reputation, you can challenge Kai in the arena and defeat him there. Doing so will not invite criticism."

Chapter 4548

"If you lead an attack on Guanghan Palace, it will cause significant destruction, and you still won't achieve justice for your son," Pavilion Master Qian urged, trying to dissuade Mu Kunrong.

Having just come out of retreat, Mu Kunrong was unaware of Kai's whereabouts. His initial plan was to eliminate Guanghan Palace before pursuing Kai.

However, Pavilion Master Qian of Wantong Pavilion stepped in to intervene, inviting Mu Kunrong to discuss the matter. The Mu family relied on Wantong Pavilion in various ways, and Mu Kunrong was reluctant to sever ties with them.

"Palace Master Qian, I'll give you this courtesy, but what happens if Kai doesn't show up?" Mu Kunrong asked coldly.

"Master Mu, rest assured. I have already sent word to Guanghan Palace, and I am confident they have informed Kai as well," Pavilion Master Qian replied.

“If Kai does not appear within three days, you may proceed with your attack on Guanghan Palace, and I will not stand in your way,” he promised solemnly.

For now, Pavilion Master Qian could only buy time, hoping Kai would arrive before disaster struck. If the Mu family launched an assault on Guanghan Palace, the losses would be catastrophic.

“Fine. I’ll wait here for three days. If Kai doesn’t show up, don’t blame me for being ruthless,” Mu Kunrong declared before finishing the tea in front of him and leaving.

Watching Mu Kunrong leave, Pavilion Master Qian exhaled in relief.

“Mr. Chen, I’ve done all I can. The rest is up to you...”

Pavilion Master Qian had been secretly tasked by Kai to safeguard Guanghan Palace, but as a branch master of Wantong Pavilion, his influence was limited. All he could do was delay the inevitable and hope Kai resolved the issue in time.

“Ji Yun, pick up the pace...” Kai’s face was tense as he urged Ji Yun aboard the airship.

“Understood,” Ji Yun responded, immediately accelerating their speed. With an abundance of resources at his disposal, the consumption of the airship’s energy was negligible for Kai.

The airship soared at high speed, but Kai showed no interest in the scenic views of Tianmo Mountain. After all, he had flown over these mountains more than once.

“Master, don’t be so anxious. Try to relax a little...” Zhongli murmured softly as she nestled in Kai’s arms.

Kai gave her a slight smile before playfully pinning her beneath him.

After two days and three nights of travel, the airship arrived over Nanjin City on the third day.

The moment the airship appeared, Pavilion Master Qian was informed immediately. In the Southern Region, only Kai could freely fly an airship of this kind over Nanjin City.

For others, traveling by airship required going through Wantong Pavilion, and piloting an airship in the Southern Region demanded their approval. However, Kai's status granted him the freedom to travel unhindered, and Wantong Pavilion would never interfere with him.

As Kai's airship descended into the square of Nanjin City, Pavilion Master Qian personally led a delegation to greet him.

"Mr. Chen, we meet again," Pavilion Master Qian said with a warm smile as he approached.

Kai disembarked from the airship, returned the smile, and shook Pavilion Master Qian's hand.

Suddenly, Pavilion Master Qian froze mid-motion, staring at Kai in astonishment. "Mr. Chen, you... you've reached the ninth level of the Tribulation Realm?"

Kai nodded calmly.

Pavilion Master Qian's expression was one of utter disbelief. Just a few days ago, Kai had killed Mu Qing and departed from Nanjin City. Yet now, he had already advanced to the ninth level of the Tribulation Realm.

The speed of his cultivation progress was faster than a rocket!

"Mr. Chen, you are truly extraordinary. At this rate, ascending to the heavens is merely a matter of time," Pavilion Master Qian praised enthusiastically.

“Pavilion Master Qian, I deeply appreciate your efforts in holding back the Mu family. Without your intervention, Guanghan Palace would have faced serious trouble,” Kai said, expressing his gratitude.

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Clearly, Kai had contacted the Palace Master of Guanghan Palace and was aware that Pavilion Master Qian was the one holding Mu Kunrong back.

“I only borrowed Wantong Pavilion’s influence, but dealing with Mu Kunrong will require Mr. Chen himself.”

“However, I’m not sure if Mr. Chen is confident in handling Mu Kunrong’s fifth-grade Mahayana Realm strength...”

Pavilion Master Qian asked this because he knew that Kai could fight beyond his level.

Kai had now reached the ninth-grade Crossing Tribulation Realm. Whether he could defeat Mu Kunrong, who was in the fifth-grade Mahayana Realm, only Kai could say for sure.

“Fifth-grade Mahayana Realm...”

Kai smiled faintly. “I might be able to take him out in an instant...”

Pavilion Master Qian was briefly stunned by Kai’s words, his eyes filled with envy.

A ninth-grade Crossing Tribulation Realm cultivator claiming he could defeat a fifth-grade Mahayana Realm cultivator instantly! If anyone else had said this, Pavilion Master Qian would dismiss it as boasting.

But hearing it from Kai, he believed it without question.

“Mr. Chen, do you need to rest?” Pavilion Master Qian asked.

“No need,” Kai replied with a shake of his head.

“In that case, I’ll inform Mu Kunrong right away, and we can head to the arena now,” Pavilion Master Qian said.

Under Pavilion Master Qian’s guidance, Kai proceeded to the arena in Nanjin City.

The news of Kai’s arrival spread quickly, and many cultivators flocked to the arena to witness the battle.

At the same time, Wantong Pavilion opened its betting pool.

Nanjin City, located at the far end of the southern region, offered few recreational activities beyond cultivation. This martial arts betting event was a favorite pastime for the cultivators.

As soon as betting began, many cultivators placed their bets.

Given the previous encounter, many were aware of Kai’s ability to defeat opponents above his level, prompting a large number to bet on him.

However, Mu Kunrong, a fifth-grade Mahayana Realm cultivator, was renowned across the Tianren Realm, and plenty of people still wagered on his victory.

“Master, Kai is here!”

Liu, the Mu family’s general manager, spoke to Mu Kunrong.

“Alright, I didn’t expect he’d actually dare to show up. This time, I will tear him to pieces and avenge my two sons!”

Mu Kunrong stood up abruptly, his teeth clenched in anger.

“Master, Kai can fight above his level. You should be cautious,” Liu warned.

“Hmph! He may be able to fight beyond his level, but can he really defeat me?”

“I’m a fifth-grade Mahayana Realm cultivator. Who in all of Nanjin City can possibly defeat me?” Mu Kunrong declared confidently.

“Indeed, no one here is a match for the master,” Liu flattered.

Soon, Mu Kunrong led the Mu family entourage to the martial arts arena.

By then, the arena was packed with spectators.

Kai was already waiting on the platform, his face showing no trace of fear.

A fifth-grade Mahayana Realm cultivator? He could handle that with ease.

When Mu Kunrong saw Kai, his eyes turned blood-red, filled with murderous intent.

This was their second encounter. In their first meeting, Mu Kunrong had appeared only as a phantom.

Ultimately, the Southern Territory Lord destroyed the phantom, injuring Mu Kunrong’s real body.

Had it not been for that injury, Mu Kunrong would have emerged from retreat sooner, and his sons would still be alive.

Mu Kunrong leapt onto the platform and landed with precision.

“Boy, today I will skin you alive, tear out your tendons, and make you die in unimaginable agony,” he threatened, his glare cold and lethal.

“I can die any way you want, but only if you’re capable of killing me,” Kai retorted with a disdainful smile.

“Very well, I’ll show you how capable I am!”

As Mu Kunrong finished, his aura erupted violently.

“Wait...”

Just as Mu Kunrong was about to strike, Pavilion Master Qian’s voice rang out.

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“Master Qian, what do you mean? Are you going to interfere?”

Mu Kunrong questioned Master Qian.

“Master Mu, you misunderstand. How could I interfere? I just need to activate the ring’s formation to prevent your fight from harming anyone else.”

As Master Qian spoke, he waved his hand, and the stone pillars surrounding the ring began to glow, enclosing the platform in a protective barrier.

“There’s no need for all this trouble. One move is all I need to kill this brat!”

Mu Kunrong snorted dismissively. He didn’t see a mere Tribulation Realm cultivator like Kai as a threat.

With the ring’s formation activated, Mu Kunrong fixed his gaze on Kai, his aura surging fiercely.

“Go to hell!”

Mu Kunrong launched a punch at Kai.

With the power of a fifth-grade Mahayana Realm cultivator, this punch was overwhelmingly destructive.

The enormous fist engulfed the entire ring, leaving Kai no choice but to confront it head-on.

“Pathetic...”

A smirk of disdain curled at Kai’s lips as the Dragon Slaying Sword in his hand glowed with golden light.

Swish!

A surge of sword energy shot into the air, colliding with Mu Kunrong’s fist.

The deafening impact shook the entire arena.

Without the formation’s protection, the blast’s aftermath would have claimed the lives of many cultivators.

The arena’s void became a chaotic swirl, and both Kai and Mu Kunrong vanished from sight.

The force of their clash had shattered the very fabric of space.

As the void gradually stabilized, the two figures reappeared before the crowd.

Everyone stared wide-eyed, eager to see who had the upper hand.

Kai stood calmly, the Dragon Slaying Sword still in his hand.

When their gaze shifted to Mu Kunrong, they were shocked.

Mu Kunrong’s right arm had been severed, with blood still gushing from the wound.

His face was ashen, his eyes filled with disbelief and rage. In addition to his anger, Mu Kunrong was deeply shocked.

That attack had instantly revealed Kai's true strength.

Despite being a fifth-grade Mahayana Realm cultivator, his arm had been severed by Kai, a mere Crossing Tribulation Realm cultivator!

Such an unimaginable event left Mu Kunrong in disbelief.

"Boy, you really do have some skills!"

Missing an arm, Mu Kunrong now regarded Kai with a new sense of wariness.

"You're just too pathetic..." Kai shook his head slowly.

He didn't boast of his own abilities; instead, he dismissed Mu Kunrong's weakness.

"With that sword strike, I aimed to end your life. You won't survive this, so face the reality."

"If you kneel, beg for mercy, and offer me some resources, I might consider sparing you," Kai said lightly.

Kai's words were a deep humiliation to Mu Kunrong.

The onlookers gaped in astonishment. A cultivator in the Crossing Tribulation Realm was openly humiliating a fifth-grade Mahayana Realm master. The world truly had changed!

Without witnessing it firsthand, no one would have believed it.

"Boy, the Mu family has a heritage spanning thousands of years. As its head, I would never dishonor my ancestors!"

"Think you're so powerful? I'll risk everything to fight you today..."

Mu Kunrong declared, then squatted and began drawing a pattern on the ground with his own blood.

The pattern was strange, resembling a monstrous figure.

Kai frowned. Why would he start drawing now?

There was clearly a scheme at play, but Kai couldn't yet determine what it was.

When Liu, the chief steward, saw the pattern, he was visibly shaken.

"Master, no... Don't do this!" Liu pleaded desperately.

His fear was evident, but Mu Kunrong waved him off and knelt before the pattern.

"Ancestors of the Mu family, summoned by my blood, I beg for your aid!"

Mu Kunrong knelt with reverence, muttering incantations to himself.