

the mans Decree: Kai Ping / Chen Ping

Chapter 4551

“If you can’t defeat me, even if you summon your Mu family’s ancestors, what difference would it make? I’ll still win!”

Kai smirked coldly.

Mu Kunrong ignored Kai’s taunt, and suddenly, a terrifying power erupted from his body.

Boom!

In an instant, the formations surrounding the ring shattered violently.

Kai felt a force rushing toward him, hurling him backward in an instant.

The monks spectating nearby, who had been enjoying the spectacle, were caught off guard. The shockwave knocked them back as well.

Kai floated in midair, gazing down at Mu Kunrong with a slight frown.

At that moment, an intense aura began to emanate from Mu Kunrong.

This energy grew stronger, expanding outward until it enveloped his entire body.

Rumble...

Suddenly, the sky was filled with the sound of thunder.

The onlookers raised their heads and noticed a massive formation of dark clouds had appeared, covering the skies above Nanjin City.

Lightning crackled within the ominous clouds.

“Is the Mu Family Patriarch undergoing a tribulation now?”

“That’s impossible. He just emerged from seclusion. Could he be forcing a breakthrough with secret methods to raise his realm?”

“That seems likely. If he advances to the sixth level of the Mahayana Realm, Kai won’t stand a chance!”

The crowd speculated fervently, assuming the phenomenon was a tribulation cloud.

However, Kai quickly realized this wasn’t a tribulation, and Mu Kunrong was not attempting to ascend.

As the thunder roared and lightning danced across the sky, Mu Kunrong’s aura grew even more overwhelming, encompassing the heavens and the earth.

To everyone’s shock, Mu Kunrong’s body began to blur within this aura, appearing ethereal and indistinct.

“What’s happening?”

Mu Kunrong’s figure seemed to be fading away.

“Boy, prepare to die!”

His bloodshot eyes locked onto Kai, and with a final roar, Mu Kunrong vanished completely.

Boom!

The thunder in the sky roared louder, and flashes of lightning streaked across the air with increasing intensity.

Kai gripped the Dragon Slaying Sword firmly, his eyes unwavering and fearless.

No matter what tricks Mu Kunrong attempted, Kai was determined to face them head-on.

Mu Kunrong's body began to emit an intense radiance, so bright that it obscured him entirely from view.

The aura surrounding him surged like a raging tornado, tearing across the arena.

Only a faint outline of Mu Kunrong's figure remained visible, his facial features completely indiscernible.

Eventually, even that outline vanished as Mu Kunrong transformed into a blinding beam of light.

Boom!

The beam shot skyward, and a crushing aura descended from above, radiating immense power.

The oppressive force was overwhelming, causing many monks in the vicinity to retreat in panic. None of them wanted to risk their lives by staying too close.

Kai felt the aura's crushing weight, his expression turning icy cold.

The energy struck Kai's body like a hammer, sending him hurtling from mid-air.

He crashed into the arena with incredible force, shattering it entirely.

The once-solid ring crumbled into ruins, and the devastating aura continued to ripple outward, spreading chaos.

Luckily, most of the spectators had moved away in time, narrowly avoiding the devastating blast.

Kai's body disappeared into the ground, buried deep beneath the rubble.

Above, the dark clouds in the sky began to coalesce, gradually forming the shape of a massive human figure.

The figure, towering over a hundred feet tall, bore a striking resemblance to Mu Kunrong.

“Is that the ancestor of the Mu family?”

“This ancestor looks... unsettling.”

“Mu Kunrong sacrificed himself to summon the Mu family's ancestor—how ruthless!”

“He must have realized he couldn't defeat Kai and chose this desperate measure to survive.”

The onlookers murmured among themselves, their gazes fixed on the human figure formed by the black clouds.

The colossal figure slowly lowered its head, its gaze locking onto Kai, who lay buried deep in the shattered ground.

Chapter 4552

Kai shot into the sky, emerging effortlessly from the ground!

Despite the ferocity of the previous attack, it hadn't inflicted any harm on him.

“That looked impressive, but I wonder if it can handle a real fight,” Kai remarked disdainfully, his gaze fixed on the Mu family ancestor.

As he spoke, a brilliant golden light erupted from his body.

Activating his indestructible golden form, Kai transformed into a radiant, golden-armored god of war.

With the Dragon Slaying Sword raised high in his right hand, he charged directly at the Mu family ancestor.

Kai moved so fast that all anyone could see was a golden blur streaking through the void.

“Ignorant child...” the Mu family ancestor growled, his eyes locking onto Kai.

Boom!

The ancestor stretched out a massive palm, which split into countless black-aura-infused hands, reaching out to capture Kai from all directions.

Unfazed, Kai ignored the encroaching palms and continued his charge, gripping the Dragon Slaying Sword tightly.

In comparison to the colossal form of the Mu family ancestor, Kai was as small as an ant.

Yet, he showed no fear.

With a powerful swing, Kai unleashed a blinding sword beam.

There were no elaborate techniques, no unnecessary flourishes—just a straightforward, devastating slash.

Boom!

The sword beam, imbued with overwhelming sword intent, surged toward the Mu family ancestor like a relentless tidal wave.

The ancestor glared at Kai and let out a cold, dismissive snort.

That snort was filled with utter disdain.

With a casual breath, the ancestor conjured a gray shield that materialized in front of him.

The shield intercepted the sword beam.

Rumble...

The impact of the sword beam on the shield created a deafening explosion.

Under the tremendous force of Kai's attack, the shield shattered instantly, disintegrating into nothing.

However, the power of Kai's sword beam also diminished and eventually dissipated before it could reach the Mu family ancestor. This exchange of attacks was a test for both sides.

Kai and the Mu family ancestor stood apart, their gazes locked from a distance.

"You dare to slaughter members of my Mu family? Do you understand the calamity you've brought upon yourself? It will lead to your utter annihilation!"

The ancestor's deep voice reverberated like a warning bell.

"Utter annihilation?"

Kai chuckled mockingly. "You think you're worthy?"

"Insolent wretch!"

The Mu family ancestor's fury erupted as he slammed his palm down.

This strike wasn't ordinary—it was infused with thunder and lightning, the sheer force capable of shaking the heavens and the earth.

“The power of thunder? How delightful...”

Kai grinned as the storm approached.

He remained rooted in place, activating the origin of thunder and lightning within his body. In his origin space, the lightning star began to glow brightly, radiating dazzling light.

Bolts of lightning flickered and danced around Kai's form.

The ancestor wasted no time, swinging his palm to unleash a barrage of lightning that crashed into Kai with ferocity.

Crackle! Sizzle!

One bolt after another struck Kai relentlessly, sending plumes of white smoke rising from his body.

Kai neither dodged nor flinched. Instead, the origin star in his body emitted a powerful suction, drawing in the energy from the arena.

The lightning star in his origin space flickered intensely, glowing brighter with each surge of energy.

The more lightning rained down, the more Kai absorbed.

What appeared to be a terrifying onslaught was, in fact, a treasure trove for Kai.

No one else understood this. To the spectators, it seemed Kai was enduring a merciless barrage, his body shrouded in smoke. They stared in shock, unable to believe their eyes.

Ji Yun, in particular, was overcome with emotion. Seeing Kai in such a state, his eyes turned red, and his fists clenched tightly as he prepared to rush to Kai's aid.

Meanwhile, the Mu family ancestor smirked confidently, certain no one could survive the relentless assault of his lightning.

But then, Kai suddenly shouted, "So comfortable!"

Wrapped in crackling electricity, Kai's voice rang out clear and strong.

The ancestor's smirk froze in an instant, his expression shifting to one of stunned disbelief.

Chapter 453

The ancestor of the Mu family could hardly believe his eyes. Kai, despite being in the Tribulation Realm, showed no fear of the thunder's power. Instead, he seemed to have absorbed the countless bolts of lightning!

The surrounding cultivators were dumbfounded, their jaws dropping in astonishment.

"Does Kai possess the origin of thunder and lightning?"

"Obviously! Didn't you see how he absorbed all the thunder and lightning that struck him?"

"This is insane—Kai is truly abnormal!"

The crowd erupted into murmurs of disbelief.

Realizing the situation was turning against him, the ancestor of the Mu family abruptly stopped his assault, dispersing the remaining thunder and lightning.

What was meant to be a lethal attack had instead become a resource for Kai, turning the ancestor's plan completely against him.

As the lightning dissipated, the golden light radiating from Kai's body grew even more intense.

"If you're done playing, then it's my turn..."

Kai smirked and extended his hand, where a visible bolt of lightning began to coalesce.

Fixing his gaze on the Mu family ancestor, Kai launched himself forward like a rocket, his body a blur of motion.

Boom!

The concentrated power of thunder in Kai's palm grew fiercer as he charged, his speed so immense that the surrounding void trembled, compressing the very space around him.

The ancestor of the Mu family's expression turned grave as he prepared to meet the attack.

Boom!

He swung a massive punch at Kai, the force of it resembling a towering mountain, aiming to crush him entirely.

But Kai didn't flinch. He charged straight at the colossal fist, undeterred.

Bang!

The impact was explosive. The ancestor's powerful punch collided with Kai's body, shaking the void around them as though a landslide had struck.

Yet the massive fist shattered instantly under the force of Kai's rampage.

Kai had obliterated the attack with nothing but the sheer strength of his body!

The disparity in power was undeniable—a complete domination.

Though the ancestor's punch appeared overwhelming, in front of Kai, it was pitifully weak.

“Is that all the great ancestor of the Mu family can do?” Kai mocked with a cold smile. “Blame your Mu family descendants for their incompetence!”

Kai sneered coldly, his gaze sharp as he looked at the Mu family ancestor.

The ancestor's expression twisted with rage, his massive frame trembling violently.

Driven to madness, the ancestor raised his hands high, reaching deep into the boundless void.

The dark clouds, which had begun to dissipate, surged back with alarming speed, rolling like turbulent waves across the sky.

The world was plunged into an eerie darkness, as if the apocalypse had descended.

The oppressive clouds began to sink rapidly, and many cultivators felt an overwhelming pressure like never before.

All of Nanjin City became engulfed in the shadow of the dark clouds. If they descended fully, countless cultivators in the city would meet their end.

Panic spread among the crowd. No one had expected the ancestor of the Mu family to abandon all martial ethics.

Instead of confronting Kai directly, he chose to implicate everyone around him.

“Has he lost his mind? Why involve innocent cultivators in Nanjin City?” someone muttered in terror.

It was clear the ancestor of the Mu family was willing to destroy everyone in his desperation to kill Kai.

Boom!

The dark clouds continued their descent, emanating an aura so terrifying that many cultivators were forced to their knees, pinned to the ground under the immense pressure.

Some tried to flee, but they found themselves immobilized, unable to take even a single step.

“Do you really want to die together?” Kai asked coldly, his voice unwavering as he stared at the ancestor.

“Yes,” the ancestor roared, his voice filled with madness. “If I must die, so will you—and every last one of these witnesses to my family’s disgrace!”

The ancestor’s massive form began merging with the dark clouds, his presence intensifying their power.

Kai frowned, his expression growing serious. This was no ordinary fight; the Mu family ancestor had completely abandoned reason.

Kai unleashed bolts of lightning from his palms, hurling them into the dark clouds. But the moment they entered, the lightning was swallowed, unable to slow the descent of the oppressive storm.

As the clouds sank lower and lower, some cultivators could no longer endure the pressure, coughing up blood as their bodies failed.

Fear painted the faces of everyone present, their terror unmistakable.

Chapter 4554

Kai fought valiantly, but compared to the vast dark clouds spanning hundreds of miles, his efforts seemed insignificant, like an ant facing a mountain. He could feel the immense pressure bearing down on him, forcing his body to sink lower and lower in midair.

Just as despair began to creep in and the surrounding monks lost hope, a sudden roar pierced the air.

Roar!

In that instant, the little swallowing beast emerged from Kai's storage ring, its body glowing brilliantly.

The creature began to grow rapidly in size, its transformation astonishing. It raised its head, fixing its enormous eyes on the descending dark clouds, and let out another fierce roar. The fur on its body bristled as if charged with energy.

Then, with a gaping maw, the little swallowing beast unleashed an extraordinary suction force.

The once-unstoppable dark clouds, which loomed heavily over the land, were pulled directly into the beast's mouth.

In moments, the dark clouds that had stretched across hundreds of miles vanished entirely, devoured by the little swallowing beast.

The previously dim and oppressive world was bathed in light once again, with the brilliant sunlight returning to illuminate the earth.

The overwhelming pressure that had weighed on everyone vanished in an instant, leaving cultivators stunned but overjoyed.

The little swallowing beast licked its lips contentedly, yawned, and returned to Kai's storage ring as though nothing had happened.

In mere moments, the ancestor of the Mu family, who had sacrificed his life to merge with the dark clouds in an attempt to ensure mutual

destruction, had been completely thwarted—and consumed—by the little swallowing beast.

For a moment, there was only silence. Then, the gathered monks erupted into cheers.

They were alive, spared from certain death, and their hatred for the Mu family grew fiercer than ever.

Manager Liu, hoping to escape unnoticed amidst the commotion, tried to slip away quietly. However, he was quickly spotted by the crowd of monks.

Furious, they turned on him. Manager Liu was overwhelmed and lost his life almost instantly under their relentless attacks.

Kai descended slowly from the sky, and Pavilion Master Qian hurried forward to greet him.

“Mr. Chen, congratulations! That beast was truly remarkable!” Pavilion Master Qian exclaimed, his excitement evident.

Kai nodded slightly. “Pavilion Master Qian, do you know where the Mu family’s base is located?”

“Yes,” Pavilion Master Qian replied promptly. “It’s about 10,000 meters south of here.” “The Mu family’s residence isn’t far. May I ask, Mr. Chen, why you wish to go there?” Pavilion Master Qian asked, puzzled. “With Mu Kunrong gone, the Mu family is bound to collapse. They’ll disband on their own soon enough.”

Kai didn’t explain his reasons. Instead, he replied calmly, “Pavilion Master Qian, please take me there.”

Without pressing further, Pavilion Master Qian nodded and led Kai toward the Mu family’s residence.

The Mu family's estate was located just outside Nanjin City, and the journey took only two hours.

"Mr. Chen, that manor up ahead is the Mu family's base," Pavilion Master Qian said, pointing to a sprawling estate.

Kai glanced at the property, a luxurious compound of dozens of grand buildings—a clear testament to the Mu family's former wealth and influence.

"Wait here, Pavilion Master Qian. I'll be back shortly," Kai said before disappearing in a flash, heading directly into the manor.

Screams erupted almost immediately, echoing through the air.

Pavilion Master Qian stood frozen, watching in stunned silence as Kai unleashed devastation upon the Mu family. Members of the family fell one after another, reduced to ashes under the merciless strikes of Kai's Dragon Slaying Sword.

Within a quarter of an hour, Kai returned. Behind him, the once-grand estate of the Mu family was engulfed in flames, a sea of destruction.

In his hands were several storage bags, filled with the Mu family's resources.

"With Mu Kunrong gone, there's no point letting these resources go to waste," Kai said with a faint smile, securing the storage bags.

Pavilion Master Qian looked at Kai, his scalp tingling as a chill ran down his spine. He hadn't realized how ruthless Kai could be until now.

But Kai remained unbothered, adhering to the principles instilled by Mr. Shi: enemies were to be defeated, and their resources seized without hesitation. To Kai, this was simply a natural course of action, with no room for guilt.

“You’re absolutely right, Mr. Chen,” Pavilion Master Qian said with a forced smile, concealing his unease.

The two returned to Nanjin City, where Pavilion Master Qian spared no effort in entertaining Kai warmly. The image of Kai annihilating the Mu family was fresh in his mind, and he couldn’t shake the fear that if he displeased Kai, his Wantong Pavilion branch might suffer the same fate.

Chapter 4555

“Master Qian, you’ve spent many years in the South Region. You must be well-acquainted with the terrain around Tianmo Mountain,” Kai said.

He then pulled out a map from Rota’s storage bag. “I have a map with a location in the South Region marked on it. I wonder if you recognize this place?”

Master Qian examined the map, his gaze falling on the red-circled area. His expression shifted as his brows furrowed deeply.

“Mr. Chen, where did you get this map?” Master Qian asked, a note of concern in his voice.

Kai hesitated, unsure of how to explain. He wasn’t fully aware of Rota’s background or intentions.

Noticing Kai’s reluctance, Master Qian didn’t press further. Instead, he said, “The place marked on this map is a forbidden area in the South Region. No cultivator has ventured there for years.

“That area was once home to an ancient city, but during the war between gods and demons, the city was destroyed, and its inhabitants perished entirely.”

Kai frowned, puzzled. “Master Qian, why did it become a forbidden area? Many cities were destroyed during the war, with countless monks lost. Why is this place different?”

“It’s unusual,” Master Qian replied. “Monks who ventured there in the past never returned. Not even their remains could be found.

“Over time, the place gained a reputation as a forbidden area. No one dares to approach it now, especially since it’s on the South Region’s border and lacks any valuable resources.”

Kai listened intently, his gaze fixed on the marked location. His mind was racing.

This map couldn’t have marked that place without reason, especially if it had been in Rota’s possession. If it remained a forbidden zone, there had to be something hidden there.

Initially, Kai had planned to focus on cultivating with the resources he’d obtained. But hearing about the mystery surrounding this location ignited a spark of curiosity within him.

Seeing Kai’s intense expression, Pavilion Master Qian grew nervous. “Mr. Chen,” he began urgently. “Mr. Chen, you’re not seriously planning to go to that place, are you? I strongly advise against it. The area is barren, with no resources to gain—there’s no point in taking such a risk,” Pavilion Master Qian said, his tone full of concern.

However, the more Pavilion Master Qian tried to dissuade him, the more determined Kai became.

“Thank you for your advice, Pavilion Master Qian, but I still want to check it out for myself,” Kai replied firmly.

He then produced a storage bag filled with the resources he had seized from the Mu family.

“Pavilion Master Qian, please help me deliver these resources to Guanghai Palace,” Kai said.

Kai had already obtained plenty of resources from the Demon Sealing League members, so he intended for the Mu family's spoils to benefit Guanghan Palace instead.

Seeing Kai's resolve, Pavilion Master Qian sighed and stopped trying to dissuade him. Taking the storage bag, he nodded. "Rest assured, Mr. Chen, I'll see to it that these resources reach Guanghan Palace."

Kai then departed from the Wantong Pavilion branch, instructing Ji Yun to remain in Nanjin City while he headed toward the marked location on the map alone.

The destination wasn't far from Nanjin City, so there was no need to use an airship. Moreover, Kai didn't want to draw unnecessary attention. Taking an airship to such a mysterious and forbidden area would be far too conspicuous.

If the forbidden zone truly held hidden resources or relics, Kai preferred to investigate discreetly and claim them for himself. The fewer people who knew about it, the better.

After bidding farewell to Ji Yun, Kai began his journey.

Although Tianmo Mountain was home to many demon cultivators and monsters, Kai had traversed the region multiple times and knew it well. His familiarity with the terrain, combined with his current strength, left him unafraid of any challenges.

At his level of cultivation—already at the fifth stage of the Mahayana realm—ordinary demons or monsters were hardly a threat. Any who dared provoke him would simply be courting death.

In the entire celestial world, few cultivators surpassed the fifth level of the Mahayana realm. The peak of the Mahayana realm was almost synonymous with invincibility.

As for the cultivators who had reached the Immortal Realm, they had long since detached themselves from worldly concerns, focusing solely

on cultivation and their eventual ascension to immortality. Such beings rarely appeared in the mortal world.

Chapter 4556

After flying for two days and nights, Kai felt exhausted. He landed on the ground and began to replenish his spiritual power. Fortunately, with ample resources on hand, Kai wasn't worried about depleting his energy.

After restoring his strength, Kai studied the map carefully once again. "It says we've reached the circled area, but nothing seems different here."

Kai looked around. The dense jungle and the roars of monsters made this place seem no different from the rest of Tianmo Mountain. There was nothing unusual in sight.

He leapt into the air and flew forward again.

However, Kai didn't notice a nearly invisible barrier hidden in the void, seamlessly blending into the environment. As he passed through the barrier, nothing seemed amiss at first.

But the moment he crossed it, his body suddenly plummeted, and everything around him turned pitch dark. Frowning, Kai retreated rapidly, unsure of where he had wandered. He needed to withdraw immediately.

Yet after pulling back for a long while, the scenery remained unchanged — a vast expanse of gray.

Kai stopped, steadied himself, and took a deep breath to stay calm. He scanned the area, but everything was still wrapped in a gray mist, devoid of any landmarks. He couldn't tell where he was anymore.

"Is this some kind of alternate dimension? Thank goodness I have the Tianming Eye; otherwise, I wouldn't see a thing."

A glow appeared on his forehead, revealing a third eye — the Tianming Eye. He activated it and looked around.

To his dismay, even with the Tianming Eye open, everything remained gray and featureless. Panic began to creep in.

“What is this place? Why can’t I see anything?” Kai muttered in frustration. Kai scanned his surroundings with his Tianming Eye, extending his consciousness as far as possible. He hoped to detect something — even the presence of a monster.

However, despite stretching his consciousness to the limit, he couldn’t sense anything. It felt as though he was the only being in this world. It was like the primordial chaos, where heaven and earth were fused into one.

After a while, Kai calmed himself and chose a direction to walk. The gloomy space was eerily silent, with only the sound of his footsteps and heartbeat echoing in the void.

He walked for nearly an hour, feeling as if this endless space had no boundaries. Realizing that continuing like this was futile, Kai came to a stop.

Looking around, he decided to try searching for an exit underground. If the surface was shrouded in gray darkness, perhaps the ground would offer a clue.

When he squatted to examine the ground, he was shocked to find no footprints behind him. Logically, after all that walking, there should have been a trail of deep footprints. Yet, there was nothing.

Surprised by this, Kai stomped down hard, leaving a half-meter-deep footprint. But then something strange happened — the footprint slowly vanished right before his eyes.

Seeing this, Kai exhaled sharply and smirked. “So, this is an illusion array. It’s designed to trap me without my knowledge. Whoever set this up is quite skilled.”

Given his mastery of array techniques and his possession of the origin of illusion, it was clear that the person who ensnared him in this illusion array was exceptionally powerful.

Chapter 4557

Kai drew the Dragon Slaying Sword and thrust it into the ground. If someone intended to trap him with an illusion array, he would shatter it by force and prove that no illusion could hold him captive.

The Dragon Slaying Sword sank effortlessly into the soil. With a powerful lift, Kai gouged a deep trench in the ground. He wanted to see if the illusion array would restore the gash.

Just as he lifted the sword, a stream of liquid suddenly spurted from the ground. Kai quickly stepped back to avoid being splashed. To his shock, the liquid was blood — bright red and pungent with a metallic odor, standing out starkly in the gray space.

Kai was baffled. Why would blood spurt out just from striking the ground?

Could it be...?

His eyes widened as a strange thought struck him. What if he wasn’t standing on land at all, but on the body of an enormous monster? If that were true, his sword strike must have pierced the creature’s skin, causing it to bleed.

Realizing this, Kai leapt into the air, unwilling to stand on the ground any longer. If there was indeed a colossal monster beneath him, the sheer size of it was unimaginable.

But as Kai hovered, a wave of weakness suddenly washed over him, leaving him drained and powerless.

“What’s going on? I just replenished my strength!” he muttered in confusion, unable to understand why his spiritual power was depleting so rapidly.

Panicked, he activated the Condensation Heart Technique to restore his strength. After all, he had plenty of resources.

Yet to his shock, despite activating the technique, not a single trace of spiritual power flowed back into him. He couldn’t recharge!

Whether it was spiritual stones, fairy grass, or beast pills, none of them could be absorbed. Kai was shocked. If he couldn’t replenish his energy, the spiritual power in his body would eventually run out. At that point, he wouldn’t even have the strength to walk, let alone fly.

Kai no longer dared to fly and landed on the ground. Whether or not there was a monster beneath his feet, he had no choice but to walk. Flying consumed too much spiritual power.

“It seems I need to find the formation’s core to break this illusion,” Kai thought. He knew he had to conserve his energy and couldn’t afford to brute-force his way out.

Gripping the Dragon Slaying Sword, Kai advanced cautiously. As long as no immediate danger appeared, he avoided using any spiritual power.

He didn’t know how long he walked — time and space had lost all meaning. Kai refrained from releasing his spiritual consciousness and moved as an ordinary person would, taking each step with extreme care, afraid of waking the monster beneath him.

If the monster awoke, he would surely be doomed.

“Kid, no need to be so cautious. There’s no monster under your feet,” the Red Cloud Demon Lord’s voice echoed.

Kai ignored him, pretending the Red Cloud Demon Lord didn't exist and hadn't spoken.

"Damn, you're really ignoring me? Fine, I won't bother with you anymore!" the Red Cloud Demon Lord fumed, clearly annoyed by the silent treatment.

Yet, Kai continued to walk step by step, his expression weary.

After covering more ground, everything remained shrouded in darkness. But suddenly, a faint light appeared ahead — like a candle flickering in the night, offering a glimmer of hope.

Kai smiled and hurried toward the light.

Chapter 4558

Soon, a grand and majestic palace appeared before Kai. The light was coming from within the palace.

Kai stepped inside and, after a brief glance around, continued deeper into the structure. The light emanated from the main hall. Although the doors and windows were tightly shut, the light seemed to penetrate everything.

He pushed open the doors of the main hall and entered. In the center of the hall stood a candlestick with a lit candle.

Strangely, this small candle's light was visible from a long distance and even pierced through multiple layers of walls.

Kai, unbothered by this peculiarity, walked toward the candlelight.

"Is anyone here?" he called out as he advanced.

Since there was a lit candle, someone had to be present.

“There’s no one here... only you,” an old voice echoed from all directions within the hall.

Kai froze, looking around, and asked, “If you aren’t human, how can you speak human language?”

The voice paused, then chuckled. “I am not human. I am a god — a god who controls your life and death. Now that you are here, your fate is in my hands.”

As the words faded, a powerful force enveloped Kai, draining his spiritual power. He struggled desperately, his energy depleting with each effort.

The force didn’t seem intent on killing him, just on exhausting his strength until he could no longer resist.

“Let me go! Who are you?” Kai cried out, his eyes filled with fear.

“I told you, I am the god here. Now that you’ve entered my domain, you must obey me!” the old voice declared, filled with pride. Kai continued to plead for mercy and struggle desperately, but his spiritual power was draining rapidly. Eventually, he was too weak to move. He collapsed to the ground, gasping for breath, cold sweat covering his forehead.

The oppressive force vanished, and the candlelight in the hall grew brighter. Slowly, three figures materialized. One of them, an elderly man in a robe, looked down at Kai with a proud expression.

“Which one is this?” the old man asked a middle-aged man in a green robe beside him.

“Zang Lao, this is number 9,847 — just a few more to reach 10,000,” the middle-aged man replied.

“These humans are so foolish. The more forbidden a place, the more they want to explore it. The more we deny them entry, the more curious they become,” Zang Lao said, chuckling. “At this rate, we’ll reach 10,000

within three years. Then, we can refine the Wanxin Pill. What a wonderful prospect.”

Kai lay on the ground, observing the trio. He realized they lacked the aura of human cultivators; instead, they radiated demonic energy. Moreover, they were not physically present — these were mere phantoms.

This confirmed that Kai was trapped in an illusion array. These three were projecting illusions, keeping their real bodies safely outside the formation.

“Brother Lu, go extract this kid’s heart. Be careful — if he dies first, the heart will be worthless,” the man in the green robe ordered.

Brother Lu nodded, a gleaming knife in his hand, clearly well-practiced in this gruesome task.

As Brother Lu approached, Kai smiled and pushed himself up from the ground.

“You still have the strength to stand?” Zang Lao asked, surprised.

Chapter 4559

“Standing up is nothing. I can still manage it...” Kai waved his hand gently, and suddenly, thousands of radiant beams of light burst forth from all directions! The light instantly shattered the surrounding grayness. At the same time, the three figures were enveloped by the glow, frozen in place.

“This... How is this possible? Haven’t you used up all your spiritual power?” Zang Lao’s eyes were filled with shock.

Just moments ago, Kai had clearly exhausted his spiritual power and couldn’t even stand. How could he now unleash such a terrifying aura?

Holding the Dragon Slaying Sword, a sneer crossed Kai's face. "Who said that just because my spiritual power is depleted, I have to lie down and wait for others to kill me?"

"Fine, fine. Let's see how much power you can still muster," Zang Lao retorted.

Suddenly, the gray fog in the hall churned violently, condensing into a massive ghostly face. With a deafening roar, it charged at Kai!

Kai stared at the monstrous, howling visage with disdain in his eyes. Even now, they still believed he had only spiritual power within him.

But they had no idea.

In addition to spiritual power, Kai possessed far greater forces: The power of the dragon. Primal energies from various sources. The strength of the three tribes. And the immortal power coursing through his body.

All these powers resided in one man—an unimaginable feat.

Kai had intentionally depleted his spiritual power to draw the enemy out. This illusion array was formidable, but Kai had devised a plan to lure them into revealing themselves.

Even earlier, when the Red Cloud Demon Lord addressed him, Kai had ignored it for the same reason.

When the enemy thought Kai had no power left, they finally revealed themselves. Yet, to Kai's surprise, they seemed far weaker than he'd expected.

"It's pointless. The moment you appeared, everything here lost its meaning to me!"

With those words, Kai swung the Dragon Slaying Sword.

A golden dragon materialized, its radiant form... The dragon roared, flames surged, and sword beams streaked through the air like meteors! “This...” Old Man Zang and the others were stunned.

They had underestimated Kai, never imagining such terrifying power lay hidden within him.

The group tried to flee, but it was already too late. The gray ghostly face was pierced by the sword beams, vanishing instantly. In the same moment, the three figures were engulfed by flames from the devastating attack.

Amid their screams, they too disappeared into the fiery blaze.

As the surroundings distorted, the palace before Kai vanished.

Kai found himself standing on solid ground, surrounded by lush green mountains and clear waters. He was back in the Demon Mountain, and the oppressive grayness had disappeared.

The illusion was shattered—Kai had returned to reality.

Before him, the three figures now lay sprawled on the ground, their faces pale and their bodies visibly injured. Destroying their phantoms had clearly dealt a blow to their physical forms as well.

Fear flickered in their eyes as they stared at Kai, uncertain of what he might do next.

“You monsters have harmed so many people here,” Kai said coldly. “Which one of you created this illusion?”

The three exchanged uneasy glances but remained silent. Though fear gripped them, none dared to speak.

Kai was surprised by their silence. Despite their obvious terror, they refused to answer.

“If you won’t talk, I have plenty of ways to make you,” Kai said with a smirk.

As he spoke, the power of the dragon surged within him. With a casual wave of his hand, a terrifying aura spread through the air, leaving the trio frozen in shock.

“You... you’re not human!” the old man exclaimed, staring at Kai in disbelief.

“Who said I’m not human?” Kai retorted with a sly grin.

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“But... but the aura within you feels like that of the terrifying Beast Race...” The old man Zang asked, his voice filled with confusion.

“Then take a look at this,” Kai replied coldly.

As he spoke, he unleashed a demon flame that ignited around the trio, crackling ominously.

“Demonic energy? Are you a demon cultivator?” The green-robed middle-aged man exclaimed in shock.

The three were utterly bewildered. They had never encountered someone who carried the aura of all three major races within their body. It was unthinkable. Now, they couldn’t even determine if Kai was human or not.

“Are you going to answer my question or not?” Kai demanded, his tone icy.

“This... this illusion array was...” The green-robed man began to explain, but before he could continue, the old man Zang shot him a glare and barked, “Shut up! Do you want to doom us all?”

The harsh words silenced the green-robed man immediately.

Kai's expression darkened. Without hesitation, he sent a flame streaking toward the old man Zang, engulfing him in fire.

Screams erupted as the flames burned, their intensity terrifying even to hear.

The green-robed man broke out in a cold sweat, his body trembling uncontrollably as he watched.

"Speak! If you don't, you'll suffer the same fate!" Kai commanded coldly.

"We won't tell! Just kill us already!" Brother Lu gritted his teeth, shaking his head defiantly.

Boom!

Another burst of fire engulfed Brother Lu, his agonized howls filling the air like the cries of the damned.

The green-robed man trembled violently now, his fear written all over him.

Kai knew this man was the weak link.

"If you don't talk, I'll burn you alive for three days and three nights, letting you experience the unending agony of the flames," Kai threatened, stepping closer and locking eyes with him.

The green-robed man couldn't meet Kai's gaze. His body trembled as he began to cry, pleading, "Please... let me go. I was only following orders."

"The illusion array—it wasn't mine..." "It's not me who tricked you into coming here. This has nothing to do with me," the green-robed man stammered.

"Then tell me, who are you?" Kai asked calmly, his tone deceptively soft.

He knew he needed to approach this carefully, step by step, to uncover the truth.

“I... I...” The green-robed man glanced nervously at his burning companions on either side, swallowed hard, and said, “We’re from Beast City.”

“Beast City?” Kai’s brow furrowed slightly. “I’ve never heard of such a place. Where is this Beast City?”

“This... this... I can’t say...” The man shook his head hastily. “We left in secret. If the city lord finds out, we’ll all be executed. Please, let me go! I have an eight-thousand-year-old mother and a three-hundred-year-old child. I beg you...”

The green-robed man kowtowed repeatedly, his desperation evident.

Kai almost laughed aloud at the absurdity.

An eight-thousand-year-old mother? That was plausible—cultivators in the heavenly realm could live up to eighteen thousand years. But a three-hundred-year-old child? What kind of nonsense was that?

“Fine,” Kai said, suppressing a chuckle. “I won’t ask where Beast City is, but surely you can tell me what it’s all about. I’m curious. I’ve been to Demon Mountain dozens of times and never seen a city in this area.”

Kai chose his words carefully, not wanting to push too hard.

“After the war between gods and demons, Beast City was hidden,” the green-robed man explained. “None of its inhabitants are allowed to leave without permission.”

“The city lord set up this illusion array to prevent anyone from stumbling upon Beast City by accident.”

“But we secretly used the array to hunt humans and refine the Wanxin Pill,” the man admitted, his tone softening as he noticed Kai seemed willing to listen.

“Are all the inhabitants of Beast City beastmen, or are there others?” Kai pressed.

The green-robed man shook his head. “No...”