Chapter 4561

Kai waved his hand, extinguishing the flames on the old Tibetan and the deer brother. Both gasped heavily, recovering from their ordeal.

All three of them were in the Mahayana realm. The middle-aged man in the green robe and the deer brother were both at the first grade of this realm, while the old Tibetan was stronger, reaching the third grade.

“What is the realm of the three of you in Beast City?” Kai asked.

The old Tibetan and the deer brother remained silent, but the man in the green robe replied, “We’re considered mid-level. Many in Beast City are above our realm.”

Hearing this, Kai took a deep breath. He finally understood why the beasts in the heavenly world seemed so weak—it was because they were hiding. The so-called three emperors and four kings of Yihe, who sounded so impressive, were only in the realm of crossing the calamity. Yet, within the beast tribe, they were still called emperors and kings!

It seemed the truly powerful beasts remained hidden.

“Then where is your Beast City?” Kai pressed further.

The middle-aged man in the green robe immediately shook his head and said, “I absolutely cannot tell you. Even if you kill me, I won’t say a word!”

“Just kill us!” the old Tibetan finally managed to say, his breathing steadying.

Kai ignored him and instead pulled out a map, placing it in front of the man in the green robe. “Do you see the place marked with a red circle? This must be your Beast City, right?”

The man in the green robe froze and looked at Kai in shock. “You… how do you have this map?”

Seeing his reaction, Kai knew he’d guessed correctly.

The man in the green robe quickly tried to cover up his mistake. “No, the red circle isn’t our Beast City. Stop guessing.”

But his response only confirmed Kai’s suspicion.

“Let me tell you something, boy,” the old Tibetan interjected. “Even if you know where Beast City is, it’s useless. You’ll never find it.”

“Really?” Kai asked, a sly smile spreading across his face. Kai smiled faintly. “Let me guess—why is it that we know the location but still can’t find it? Could it be that your Beast City exists in another spatial dimension?”

He paused, studying the reaction of the middle-aged man in the green robe.

When the man didn’t react, Kai realized his guess was wrong. The Beast City wasn’t hidden in another spatial dimension.

If it wasn’t in a separate dimension but still couldn’t be found, there was only one explanation: deception.

“It must be an illusion array,” Kai speculated aloud. “It’s designed to confuse anyone searching for Beast City. Even if they arrive at the right place, they’d be trapped in an illusion, unable to locate it—like being caught in a ghost wall.”

Kai continued, his tone confident. “Your city lord must be a master of illusion arrays. Crafting such a barrier wouldn’t be difficult for someone like that.”

This time, the green-robed man’s expression shifted noticeably.

Kai smirked. He knew he had guessed correctly.

“Boy, it doesn’t matter if you’ve figured it out,” the old Tibetan snarled. “Even if you’re right, you’ll never escape the illusion. If it weren’t for the three of us being here today, you’d still be trapped!”

Kai nodded slightly, acknowledging the truth in those words. It had taken some trickery to lure the three of them out; without that, breaking the illusion and escaping would have been nearly impossible.

“You’re right,” Kai admitted, “but now, you’ll do exactly what I say.”

With that, he pinched his fingers together, and a golden light flowed into the bodies of the three men. A moment later, a shimmering phantom emerged above their heads.

Kai reached out and grabbed the phantom with his palm, holding the very essence of their souls.

The three men were instantly stunned, their faces pale with shock.

Chapter 4562

They could die, and that would be the end of everything—but with their souls in Kai’s grasp, things became far more complicated. This was no longer a matter of life or death.

Kai had the power to torment them endlessly, subjecting them to a fate far worse than death itself.

“What do you want from us?” the old Tibetan shouted angrily at Kai.

“I only want you to take me to Beast City. That’s all,” Kai replied calmly.

“Impossible! If we take you to Beast City and the city lord finds out, our entire families will be wiped out,” the old Tibetan said firmly, his voice resolute.

“No one will know,” Kai countered. “I possess the aura of the beast tribe. I can blend in seamlessly with you. But if you refuse, I’ll have no choice but to burn your souls daily, making you live in constant agony.”

The green-robed man panicked, pleading hurriedly, “No, no, please! Old Zang, just agree to his demand. Beast City is massive, and there are many scattered cultivators around. He won’t stand out.”

Brother Deer also looked anxious and turned to the old Tibetan. “Old Zang, I think we should agree. If it becomes a problem, we can leave him outside the city and let him figure it out from there.”

The old Tibetan hesitated, glancing at the others before finally relenting. “Fine, we’ll take you to the city. But we’ll only bring you as far as the outskirts. After that, we’ll part ways, and no one will know we helped you.”

He added sternly, “And remember, Beast City has strict rules. Don’t even think about causing trouble there, or the law enforcement team will arrest you immediately.”

“No problem!” Kai nodded, satisfied.

For now, his only goal was to reach Beast City. Whatever happened afterward could be dealt with later.

Seeing Kai agree, the old Tibetan reluctantly rose to his feet, and the group took off into the air.

Time passed, though it was unclear how long. Kai couldn’t shake the feeling that the scenery around them remained unchanged, as if they were trapped in a loop, stuck in the same place. “The same place again!”

Kai exclaimed angrily. “You’re not playing tricks on me, are you? We haven’t moved at all!”

“Don’t be upset. We’re actually very close to Beast City, but you just haven’t noticed,” the green-robed man quickly explained.

He then gestured subtly for Kai to look at the old man. Following his gaze, Kai noticed a device resembling a compass in the old man’s hand. The pointer inside quivered constantly as the old man adjusted their direction, following its guidance.

“We’re still inside the illusion,” the green-robed man whispered to Kai. “Only that device in his hand can lead us out. Without it, even those of us who live in Beast City wouldn’t be able to leave its boundaries.”

He continued in a hushed tone, “The old man paid a hefty price to get that from the City Lord’s Mansion. Without it, the three of us wouldn’t have been able to escape either.”

It was clear the green-robed man was trying to curry favor with Kai, his fear of death evident in his demeanor.

Kai nodded silently and continued following the group as they flew onward.

After some time, a sudden flash of white light appeared before Kai’s eyes. Moments later, an enormous city unfolded in front of him.

Kai was taken aback. He had seen countless cities in the Heavenly Realm, even the imperial city of the Xiao Dynasty, which he had visited numerous times. Yet the city before him dwarfed them all.

This city was massive, far larger than anything he had ever encountered. Surrounding it were countless villages and towns of various sizes, forming a vibrant network around the central metropolis.

It resembled a small kingdom. The size of the city alone suggested it could accommodate hundreds of thousands of cultivators—a truly mind-boggling scale.

“This is Beast City. Take care of yourself,” the old Tibetan said, glancing at Kai.

Kai nodded in acknowledgment and, with a wave of his hand, returned the souls of the three men to their rightful owners.

Chapter 4563

As soon as their souls were returned, the three men vanished without hesitation, clearly unwilling to spend another moment near Kai.

Kai watched them leave and then turned his attention to the massive Beast City before him. It loomed on the vast land like a giant, bloodthirsty mouth, intimidating in its sheer size.

As he approached, still a distance away, a sudden fluctuation in spiritual energy disrupted his movements. To his alarm, Kai felt his body plummeting toward the ground.

For a moment, panic set in—his spiritual energy seemed blocked by some unseen force, rendering him unable to control his descent. Although his body was resilient enough to withstand the impact without injury, the thought of an embarrassing fall made him uneasy.

Just as he was about to hit the ground, a voice called out.

“Flying is prohibited within a hundred miles of Beast City. Didn’t you notice the observation point? If you attempt to fly within this range, the law enforcement team will come for you!”

Kai turned to see a young woman in red, sword in hand, addressing him. She was also descending from the sky, along with several other cultivators, all forced to land at the same point.

It became clear that he was the only one who hadn't known the rule.

"I got distracted and wasn't paying attention," Kai explained hastily, trying to mask his ignorance. He didn't want anyone to suspect he wasn't from Beast City; after all, no local would be unaware of such a basic rule.

Once on the ground, the group of cultivators began walking toward the city. Kai noticed that most of them were in the Tribulation Realm, with the young woman who had spoken to him being a third-grade cultivator in that realm—the lowest among them.

She glanced at him again and offered a warning. "It seems your realm isn't low either. Be careful from now on. If the law enforcement team catches you breaking the rules, you'll be lucky to escape with your skin intact."

Her tone was serious, and Kai nodded, making a mental note to tread carefully. "Thank you for the reminder. I'll be more mindful," Kai replied with a slight smile.

"What brings you to Beast City? Visiting relatives, meeting friends, or selling goods?" the girl asked curiously.

Kai thought for a moment before answering, "I'm here to sell a few things. And you?"

"I'm selling things too," the girl replied. "And while I'm at it, I'll visit my brother. He was arrested by the law enforcement team and imprisoned. He won't be released for another hundred years."

As she spoke about her brother, her expression grew somber, tinged with sadness.

Kai gave her a brief glance but said nothing, continuing toward Beast City. He wasn't a native of the city and preferred to keep his words to a minimum. Talking too much could reveal his identity, which would be a dangerous mistake.

Seeing his silence, the girl quickly caught up to him. “What are you planning to sell in Beast City? Lately, fairy grass hasn’t been fetching a good price.”

“I’m lucky this time,” she continued without waiting for his response. “I managed to find some spiritual ore. I hear it’s very valuable in Beast City.”

As she spoke, she pulled a fist-sized piece of spiritual ore from her storage bag.

Kai stopped in his tracks, his eyes fixed on the ore. After inspecting it carefully, he asked, “Can this spiritual ore actually be traded in Beast City?”

“Of course!” the girl replied confidently. “This is a fairy stone, and it’s highly sought after in Beast City. I’ve heard the city lord himself has issued orders to purchase them.”

Kai recognized the ore immediately—it was indeed a fairy stone. He still had plenty of them from Narota’s storage bag, but he hadn’t expected to find the same stones here in Beast City.

“Did you find this fairy stone yourself?” Kai asked, his curiosity piqued.

“Yes, and it’s one of the better ones,” she said. “Now people are scouring the mountains for fairy stones. Have you noticed how many of them are entering the city? Most are here to sell stones like this.”

Chapter 4564

“I took a lot of risks to find such a large fairy stone, but it’s worth it,” the girl said with determination. “Once I sell it, I can help my brother and ease his suffering in prison.”

She then glanced at Kai and asked, “What are you planning to sell?”

“Oh, I’m selling fairy stones too, but mine aren’t as big as yours,” Kai replied, pulling out a smaller fairy stone to show her.

“Yours isn’t small either,” the girl said, examining his stone. “I know a place in Beast City that offers the best prices for fairy stones. Follow me.”

With a warm smile, she added, “By the way, I don’t know your name yet. I’m Yaomei.”

“My name is Kai,” he replied with a slight smile.

The two continued walking together. Since they were still a hundred miles away from Beast City, the journey would take some time.

However, they hadn’t gone far when Kai’s expression shifted. He frowned slightly, his posture growing alert.

Behind them, he could sense several presences locking onto their position.

Yaomei, on the other hand, appeared completely unaware of the danger. She continued smiling and chatting as they walked.

“Little sister,” a voice called out suddenly. Several figures emerged from behind them, blocking their path. “You stole the eldest son’s fairy stones and now dare to sell them in Beast City so openly. That’s audacious.”

Yaomei’s smile faded, but she didn’t show fear. Instead, she moved closer to Kai and retorted, “Who stole the eldest son’s fairy stones? I’m just heading to Beast City to see my brother. Don’t try to pin something like this on me.”

Then, with a smirk, she added, “I’m traveling with Brother Chen. If you upset him, you’ll regret it.”

The men shifted their gaze to Kai, their expressions hesitant. They were all cultivators at the fifth or sixth level of the Tribulation Realm, and Kai’s ninth-level cultivation was not something they could ignore.

Despite their wariness, it was clear they weren't ready to leave without accomplishing their mission. "We can't let that girl go without recovering the fairy stone!" one of the monks declared firmly.

Then, a bearded monk stepped forward and bowed to Kai. "Fellow cultivator, we are from Gaishibao. This girl stole the fairy stone that belongs to our eldest son. We must reclaim it and hope you won't interfere."

"You're lying!" the girl retorted, her voice filled with indignation. "I mined the fairy stone myself. It has nothing to do with your eldest son."

Turning to Kai, she added with a pitiful expression, "Brother Chen, don't believe their lies. They're just trying to bully me because I'm weaker than them."

Kai remained unfazed. "Whether you stole the fairy stone or mined it has nothing to do with me," he said plainly, brushing her hand off his sleeve and stepping aside.

The girl stood stunned as the monks from Gaishibao closed in around her.

"Hand over the fairy stone, and I'll let you go," the bearded monk demanded.

The girl glared at Kai, her eyes filled with betrayal. "You're really heartless. I stayed with you all this way, and this is how you treat me!"

Finally, with no other choice, she reluctantly pulled out the fairy stone and handed it over.

The bearded monk took the stone, then motioned for his men to restrain her.

"Let me go! I've already given you the fairy stone," she protested, struggling against their grip. "I need to get to Beast City to see my brother!"

Her pleas fell on deaf ears.

Kai, who had been watching silently, stepped forward and blocked the monks' path.

"Fellow cultivators," he said calmly, "the fairy stone has been returned to you. As a favor to me, let her go."

The bearded monk hesitated, locking eyes with Kai. Ultimately, he waved his hand in reluctant acquiescence, signaling his men to release the girl.

Confronted with Kai's superior strength, they had little choice but to comply.

As the monks departed, the girl collapsed to the ground, her tears streaming freely. She cried bitterly, looking as fragile as a flower drenched by rain.

Chapter 4565

"Why didn't you help me earlier? Now the fairy stone is gone, and without it, I can't see my brother!" the girl wailed, her tears falling as she directed her frustration at Kai.

Kai watched her cry and couldn't help but chuckle. "Let me guess—did you steal that fairy stone from someone else?"

"I…" The girl stammered, unable to answer. Her guilty expression said it all.

"Since you stole it, what's wrong with them taking it back?" Kai replied calmly. "Do you really think stealing is the way to help your brother? Should I start doing things my way just to suit my own comfort? Is that fair?"

Kai's sharp words left the girl speechless. Suddenly, she clutched at her collar nervously. "W-What are you trying to do? If you lay a hand on me, I'll fight you to the death!"

Kai raised an eyebrow. "Why are you so paranoid? I was just making a point. Besides," he added with a smirk, "your figure doesn't interest me."

The girl flushed red and snapped, "What's wrong with my figure?" She straightened her back and puffed out her chest in defiance, but her efforts seemed futile.

"Here's a suggestion," Kai said, tossing a small fairy stone her way. "Be my guide. You seem familiar with Beast City, and I'll reward you with this fairy stone. It's smaller than the one you lost, but it's still valuable."

The girl caught the fairy stone and stared at Kai in disbelief. Fairy stones were highly sought after in Beast City, and here Kai was, handing one over so casually.

"Let me make one thing clear," she said, her tone wary. "I'll take you to Beast City, but don't get any ideas. I'm not sharing a bed with you!"

Her words were laden with suspicion. As the saying goes, when someone is unusually generous, there's often a hidden motive. She couldn't shake the feeling that Kai had ulterior intentions—after all, what else could he want besides her body?

Kai shook his head, exasperated. "I already told you—I'm not interested in your body." "Interesting. You think I want to sleep with you? I don't. It's not like I lack female company," Kai said, exasperated.

"I don't believe you," Yaomei retorted, her tone full of doubt. She seemed overly confident in her allure, assuming Kai must be interested in her body.

Kai sighed helplessly, realizing his earlier analogy had given her the wrong impression.

“Zhongli, come out and join me,” Kai said, summoning his sword spirit.

In an instant, Zhongli appeared beside him. Her figure was graceful, her curves perfectly proportioned, and her presence exuded an air of nobility. The years spent by Kai’s side had only enhanced her elegance.

Standing next to Zhongli, Yaomei looked like a simple village girl in comparison.

“Master, are you feeling lonely?” Zhongli teased, leaning gently on Kai’s shoulder.

“I might be,” Kai said with a grin, then leaned in and kissed Zhongli without hesitation, right in front of Yaomei.

Afterward, he instructed Zhongli to return to the Dragon Slaying Sword.

Yaomei stood frozen, her expression one of shock and embarrassment.

“Now do you believe me? I’m not interested in you,” Kai said, his tone calm but firm.

Biting her lip, Yaomei nodded silently, her confidence clearly shaken.

Without another word, Kai followed her toward Beast City. The atmosphere was quiet, and Yaomei seemed to be brooding over the incident, her spirits dampened.

When they reached the gates of Beast City, Kai looked up in awe. The towering gate stood hundreds of meters high, flanked by two smaller gates on either side. The central gate was massive but tightly shut.

“The middle gate is reserved for the city lord. It only opens when he enters or leaves. Otherwise, it remains closed,” Yaomei explained as they approached.

The two smaller gates bustled with activity. Monks moved in and out while guards conducted periodic inspections.

Chapter 4566

“Why do we have to check before entering the city?” Kai asked.

“It’s to prevent other tribes from entering Beast City,” the youngest sister explained. “In the past, humans and demons who managed to get into Beast City were all imprisoned.

“Also, anyone with a violent temperament isn’t allowed entry to avoid causing trouble. There are many rules here. Since you don’t visit Beast City often, you’ll need to pay extra attention.”

Kai nodded thoughtfully. He was beginning to grasp the situation. Beast City was inhabited entirely by beast cultivators, with most of the surrounding areas dominated by them as well. However, it wasn’t unusual to find some human and demon cultivators mixed in. When the territory was originally divided, some from the human and demon tribes must have been caught within its boundaries.

The entire region was sealed off by powerful illusion arrays. Neither human nor demon cultivators could leave.

“You’ve got it wrong! I’m not human—how could I be human?”

The sound of a heated argument drew Kai’s attention. At the city gate, a towering, muscular man was quarreling with the Beast City guards.

“Look at my build and the aura of a beastman! How could I possibly be human?” the man protested.

The guards quickly surrounded him, but he continued arguing.

“No matter how much you reek of beastman aura, it can’t hide the faint trace of human energy within you,” the guard captain said coldly. “Don’t think you can fool us. Surrender now!”

Kai observed the man closely. Judging by his power, which was at the eighth level of the Tribulation Realm, he was undoubtedly a formidable figure.

“If you’re accusing me of being human, then I suppose I can’t enter the city,” the man muttered, turning as if to leave.

“Sorry, you’re not free to go,” the captain declared. “You’ll have to come with us.”

“Why should I? What if I refuse?” the man challenged, standing his ground. “You watchdogs are only at the fifth rank of the Tribulation Realm. Do you really think you can stop me?”

The sturdy man let out a booming laugh, and his aura erupted in an instant.

Boom!

The sheer force of his aura sent the surrounding guards flying. At the same time, his human aura was fully revealed, leaving no doubt—he was a human cultivator!

Without wasting a moment, the man dashed away, attempting to flee the area.

Surprisingly, the guards didn’t pursue him. Instead, they stood still, watching him escape.

“This guy is done for,” the youngest sister remarked, shaking her head. “If he’s human, why even bother trying to sneak into the city?”

As soon as she finished speaking, a sudden flash of white light streaked across the sky, targeting the fleeing man.

Pfft!

The white light struck him before he could react. The eighth-rank Tribulation Realm cultivator was pierced through instantly. His massive body collapsed to the ground, destroyed both physically and spiritually. He was dead in an instant.

Even in death, his eyes and mouth remained wide open in disbelief. Killing an eighth-rank cultivator in the Tribulation Realm so effortlessly was no small feat.

After the man fell, a figure in white descended gracefully from the city wall. The cultivator retrieved a storage bag from the man's lifeless body and, with a casual wave of his hand, reduced the corpse to ashes.

"Why bother..." the white-clad cultivator murmured softly before leaping back onto the city wall.

Flying was prohibited within a hundred miles of Beast City, yet this individual moved freely as if the rules didn't apply to him.

"Who is that? How can he fly?" Kai asked, confused.

"That's the gate commander of Beast City," his youngest sister explained. "Of course, he can fly. The city's rules are meant for ordinary cultivators, not for officials or soldiers of the City Lord's Mansion."

"So, the authorities can light fires while the people aren't even allowed to hold lamps?" Kai muttered, speechless.

Chapter 4567

"Hush! Keep your voice down, or you'll end up in jail," the youngest sister whispered urgently, signaling Kai to lower his voice.

"Why do they stop human and demon cultivators from entering the city?" Kai asked curiously.

“The human and demon cultivators are discontented and often conspire to gather forces and overthrow the City Lord. That’s why they’re banned from entering,” the youngest sister explained.

Kai nodded in understanding. This region was predominantly ruled by the beast tribe, and resources were naturally allocated in their favor. Humans and demons, being the minority, were inevitably left without adequate food or clothing.

Over time, such inequality would breed resistance, and the beast tribe would suppress it. This cycle wasn’t unique to this place—it was a pattern seen in the secular world, the heavens, and even beyond. It seemed to be an immutable law.

“Let’s go. It’s our turn now,” the youngest sister said, pulling Kai forward toward the city gate.

Kai concealed his true aura, letting only the presence of the beast tribe show. Despite his precautions, he couldn’t shake off his unease.

The memory of the sturdy man from earlier still lingered. He, too, had concealed his aura, yet he was discovered and killed.

Kai tread carefully, knowing full well that Beast City was no ordinary place. If trouble arose, no one would come to his aid. Even Mr. Shi might not be able to reach him here, which could spell disaster.

Kai’s heart raced as he followed his sister into the city. But once inside, he finally breathed a sigh of relief.

It seemed his disguise had gone undetected—for now. Otherwise, entry wouldn’t have been so smooth.

Not long after they entered, several monks in white robes appeared. They wore friendly smiles and seemed eager to assist.

However, as they approached, the youngest sister’s demeanor changed. She waved them off impatiently, saying, “Go away, go away! We already

have a place to stay, and we know the rules of Beast City. We don't need a guide!"

The youngest sister's sharp response left the monks stunned. Their smiles quickly vanished, and with a roll of their eyes, they walked away.

Kai, puzzled by the encounter, turned to the youngest sister. "What do those monks do?" he asked.

"They're scammers," she explained. "They pretend to guide newcomers and explain the rules of Beast City, but you can't trust them."

"These people prey on those unfamiliar with the city. Once they find someone, they'll squeeze them dry. Don't be fooled by their friendly faces—they're more deceitful than anyone else. Luckily, I'm here to guide you. Otherwise, they'd have taken every resource and treasure you own."

Kai frowned. "If they're such con artists, doesn't Beast City do anything about them? Isn't there a law enforcement team to maintain order?"

The youngest sister let out a bitter laugh. "The rules are for people like us. Those guys you just saw? They're paying tributes to the City Lord's Mansion. No one dares touch them."

Her frustration was evident, and Kai couldn't help but chuckle softly. "It seems the heavenly world isn't all that different from the secular one," he said. "The only difference is that cultivators here live longer. When it comes to human behavior, it's exactly the same."

"By your logic," Kai continued, "if someone has enough money, they could get your brother out of prison?"

"Of course," the youngest sister replied. "With enough purple gold spirit coins, my brother could be released on medical parole."

"But I don't have that kind of money. All I can do is scrape together a little to bribe the prison boss so my brother suffers less." Her voice trembled, and tears welled up in her eyes.

“How much do you need to get him out?” Kai asked gently.

“Five hundred purple gold spirit coins,” she said, shaking her head. “It’s an astronomical amount. I couldn’t earn that much in a lifetime.”

Chapter 4568

“Five hundred?” Kai nearly laughed out loud.

To him, five hundred purple gold spirit coins were nothing—a mere drop in the bucket. But for the youngest sister, it was an astronomical sum.

Whether in the secular world or the heavenly world, the gap between people was always evident.

Some would sell everything they owned just to scrape together enough for life-saving medical expenses, only to fall short and face despair.

Meanwhile, others could spend the same amount on a single bite of luxury, like caviar, without batting an eye.

Such disparities had existed throughout history and continued in every era.

“Five hundred purple gold spirit coins is certainly a lot,” the youngest sister admitted. “But that’s just how things work in Beast City. There’s no other way.

“I’ll sell this fairy stone and try to strike a deal with the prison so my brother won’t suffer as much,” she said, mistaking Kai’s reaction for shock at the amount.

“Alright, take me to a place where they offer good prices for fairy stones. Let’s go,” Kai said casually.

The youngest sister nodded and led Kai through Beast City, pointing out various landmarks as they walked. She seemed eager to educate him, knowing he was unfamiliar with the city.

She highlighted places that sold elixirs, weapon refinements, trade shops, quality inns, and even arenas where ring competitions were held.

Kai listened attentively, gaining a general understanding of Beast City from her explanations.

“Youngest sister, how do you know so much about Beast City? And why was your brother arrested?” Kai asked, his curiosity piqued.

It was clear she didn’t live in Beast City, yet her familiarity with it was impressive.

“My brother and I often come here to sell fairy herbs and spirit stones, so we’ve become very familiar with the city,” she explained.

“As for why my brother was arrested… it’s because…” she trailed off, hesitating as if unwilling to share the details.

Kai noticed her discomfort and quickly reassured her. “Alright, if you don’t want to talk about it, that’s fine. Let’s go.”

He didn’t press further. The reasons behind her brother’s arrest didn’t really concern him.

The youngest sister led Kai through a series of winding turns before stopping in front of an old courtyard nestled in a narrow alley. The courtyard had an ancient appearance, its wooden gate weathered by time.

“This is where you’ll get the highest price for fairy stones,” she said, pointing to the courtyard.

Kai glanced at the closed door, noting the lack of activity. “Doesn’t seem like anyone’s here,” he remarked.

The youngest sister didn't respond but walked up to the door and knocked in a specific rhythm—three long knocks followed by a short one.

After a moment, the door creaked open, revealing a child who looked no older than a teenager.

But Kai, familiar with the ways of the Heaven and Human Realm, knew better than to trust appearances. The "child" could very well be hundreds of years old.

The boy scanned the area cautiously before speaking. "The sky and the earth are boundless…"

"The deep sea is boundless…" the youngest sister replied without hesitation.

"Come in," the boy said, stepping aside to let them enter.

Kai watched this exchange in disbelief. The cryptic communication and the secretive atmosphere left him baffled.

Isn't this just a place to sell fairy stones? Why does it feel like I'm entering a covert base?

Once inside, Kai surveyed the courtyard with caution.

"Relax," the youngest sister said, noticing his unease. "This place is perfectly safe. And remember, in Beast City, no one dares to use force."

"This doesn't look like a regular place of business," Kai muttered, lowering his voice. "And why were you exchanging secret phrases with that kid? It feels like we're entering some underground lair!"

"Don't worry," she reassured him. "I'm familiar with this place. Everything's fine."

Seeing her confidence, Kai decided to drop the matter. He followed her into a small room, guided by the boy.

The room wasn't large, but Kai immediately noticed a shielding formation in place, adding to the mysterious nature of the establishment.

Chapter 4569

Upon entering the room, it became clear that nothing done inside could be detected, nor could anything spoken be overheard.

Kai found this perplexing. It was just a matter of selling a fairy stone—why all the secrecy? Even a shielding formation was in place!

Before long, a bloated middle-aged man entered and seated himself across from Kai and the youngest sister.

"Little sister, did you manage to get the fairy stone?" the man, whom she addressed as Uncle Qian, asked.

"Uncle Qian, I had it, but it was snatched back, and I barely escaped being captured," she replied regretfully.

Uncle Qian frowned, his tone reproachful. "If you didn't get the fairy stone, why are you here?"

"Uncle Qian, I may not have retrieved that fairy stone, but I still have others with me," she said, retrieving the fairy stone Kai had given her. "And my friend here also has fairy stones he'd like to sell."

At this, Uncle Qian shifted his attention to Kai, scrutinizing him intently.

Kai, puzzled by the prolonged stare, suddenly felt a divine sense envelop him. It was clear Uncle Qian was trying to probe his background.

Unwilling to allow this, Kai immediately unleashed his own divine sense, blocking the intrusion and sending it back to its source. His divine sense then pushed forward, entering Uncle Qian's body to investigate.

What Kai discovered made him frown for a moment before his expression relaxed. Hidden deep within Uncle Qian's body was the unmistakable aura of the human race.

This was startling—Beast City strictly forbade any race other than the beast race from entering.

Though Uncle Qian outwardly exuded the aura of a beastman, the human aura concealed within him was undeniable.

At the same time, Uncle Qian's face turned grim, and his gaze locked onto Kai.

He hadn't anticipated that Kai's divine sense would be so overwhelmingly powerful! It was important to note that Uncle Qian was a fourth-grade cultivator in the Mahayana Realm, while Kai was only a ninth-grade cultivator in the Tribulation Realm.

While spiritual consciousness wasn't always strictly tied to cultivation levels, the vast difference in their realms meant Uncle Qian's spiritual sense should not have been so easily overpowered. Yet, Kai's spiritual consciousness had not only deflected his but even entered his body to investigate.

This realization filled Uncle Qian's eyes with murderous intent.

Kai could clearly sense the sudden surge of killing intent. It seemed Uncle Qian was considering silencing him for good. Meanwhile, the youngest sister, oblivious to the tension, simply stood by, staring blankly.

"My friend," Kai said with a calm smile, "while your shielding formation may block some leakage of spiritual energy, it's not foolproof. If you make a move, it won't go unnoticed. You know the rules of Beast City better than I do, so I suggest you think carefully."

Hearing this, Uncle Qian's oppressive aura began to dissipate, and the murderous glint in his eyes gradually faded.

“What business do you have here?” Uncle Qian asked, his tone neutral but wary.

“Selling fairy stones,” Kai replied plainly.

“Uncle Qian, don’t worry! We’re really here to sell fairy stones. Kai is new to Beast City and doesn’t know much,” the youngest sister interjected, sensing the unusual tension and quickly trying to smooth things over.

Uncle Qian nodded slightly, taking the fairy stone from the youngest sister’s hand. After examining it briefly, he said, “Five purple gold spirit coins.”

“Uncle Qian, isn’t this stone worth seven purple gold spirit coins? Why is it only five now?” the youngest sister asked with a slight frown.

“That was before. Times have changed. Inspections have become stricter,” Uncle Qian explained. “If you go to the official purchasing points, this stone would fetch no more than three purple gold spirit coins.”

The youngest sister bit her lip in frustration but eventually relented. “Fine, sell it to you.”

Uncle Qian tossed five purple gold spirit coins to her and casually slipped the fairy stone into his storage bag.

Chapter 4570

“Please show me the fairy stones this friend intends to sell,” Uncle Qian said, directing his attention to Kai.

Kai reached into his storage bag with his spiritual consciousness and selected the largest fairy stone he had. It was massive—about the size of a millstone and weighing over ten thousand pounds!

Thankfully, in the celestial world, cultivators treated such weight as negligible, as light as a feather in their hands. In the secular world, however, moving such a stone would have required heavy machinery.

Kai wasn't particularly eager to part with his fairy stones, as they were valuable resources for his cultivation. He wasn't short of money but rather in need of such materials.

He retrieved the stone from the storage bag. The reason he hadn't transferred these stones to his storage ring was his concern about the little swallowing beast consuming them all.

As Kai revealed the stone, both Uncle Qian and the youngest sister froze in astonishment.

"This… this is enormous!" the youngest sister exclaimed, her mouth agape and eyes nearly bulging out of their sockets.

Uncle Qian's hand trembled slightly as he stepped closer, gently brushing his fingers over the stone's surface.

"How many purple gold spirit coins can you offer for this stone?" Kai asked calmly.

Uncle Qian didn't respond immediately. Instead, after examining the stone, his expression darkened. In a sudden and calculated move, he lashed out at Kai with a powerful palm strike!

The attack was swift and completely unexpected. The close proximity between the two made it nearly impossible for Kai to react in time.

Bang!

Uncle Qian's palm struck Kai squarely, sending him flying backward. He crashed heavily against the formation barrier.

Buzz!

The formation emitted a low hum, flashing white light briefly before shattering entirely. While it could shield sound and spiritual presence to some extent, it wasn't designed to withstand such a sudden and forceful aura burst.

"Uncle Qian, what are you doing?" the youngest sister cried out in shock, rushing to Kai's side.

She quickly helped him up, her face filled with concern. "Are you okay?"

Kai leaned against her for support, his expression a mix of pain and simmering anger. Kai took a deep breath, shook his head, and said, "I'm fine."

Although Uncle Qian's sudden attack caught him off guard, it was clear that Uncle Qian hadn't used his full strength. He was likely worried about exposing his aura, breaking the Beast City's rules, and attracting the attention of the law enforcement team. Additionally, Kai's physical body was exceptionally resilient, so while the strike knocked him back, it didn't cause any real harm.

Uncle Qian, however, looked surprised that Kai had emerged unscathed.

"Little sister, this man must be from the City Lord's Mansion! You've brought him here to harm me!" Uncle Qian said angrily, glaring at her.

"Someone from the City Lord's Mansion? That's impossible! I met him outside the Beast City!" the youngest sister replied, her expression a mix of disbelief and confusion. "Uncle Qian, do you have any proof that he's from the City Lord's Mansion?"

Uncle Qian's face darkened as he replied, "This fairy stone is proof enough. There's only ever been one fairy stone of this size in the entire Beast City. It was discovered by a cultivator in a cave eighty years ago. It was exhibited here briefly before being taken into private collection and never seen again!"

He pointed at Kai suspiciously. “Now this kid shows up with a stone like that? He must be a spy from the City Lord’s Mansion, sent here to investigate us!”

The youngest sister’s face shifted, and she quickly stepped back from Kai, putting distance between them.

“Are you really from the City Lord’s Mansion?” she demanded, her voice tinged with anger and betrayal.

Kai sighed inwardly, feeling exasperated at how the situation had spiraled. He hadn’t expected such a misunderstanding. If Uncle Qian’s claims were true, it seemed this Beast City had ties to the God Clan—after all, this fairy stone had come from Rota’s storage bag.

“I’m not from the City Lord’s Mansion. You’ve got it all wrong,” Kai explained, trying to diffuse the tension.

“Hmph, and why should I believe you?” Uncle Qian sneered, his eyes filled with distrust.

“Because of this,” Kai said calmly.

With those words, he unleashed a surge of energy, directing it straight toward Uncle Qian.

Chapter 4571

Uncle Qian saw that Kai was preparing to attack him, so he unleashed his aura, ready to fight back. However, the moment Kai’s aura enveloped him, Uncle Qian froze in place.

His eyes widened with shock as he stared at Kai in disbelief. The aura he had just released instantly dissipated, and an expression of excitement appeared on his face.

“Uncle Qian, you… what’s going on?” the youngest sister asked, puzzled by his reaction.

Uncle Qian pointed at Kai, seemingly on the verge of saying something, but stopped himself. His hand trembled slightly. “You… you’re actually…”

He swallowed his words and turned to the youngest sister. “Leave us for a moment. I need to speak privately with this Taoist friend.”

The youngest sister hesitated, her confusion evident. “Uncle Qian, this Kai isn’t from the City Lord’s Mansion—you have to believe me!”

She thought Uncle Qian still doubted Kai and was planning to attack him.

“Go on. We’ll just talk—it’ll be fine,” Kai reassured her with a calm tone.

Reluctantly, the youngest sister turned and left the room. Once she was gone, Kai raised his hand and swiftly formed a series of intricate patterns in the air. In moments, a shielding array enveloped the room, far more powerful than the one initially present.

Uncle Qian’s excitement grew as he watched. “Daoyou, I never expected you to be a human cultivator! This is incredible…” he exclaimed.

The aura Kai had released earlier carried a distinct trace of human energy, something Uncle Qian immediately recognized. It was this realization that made him stop and trust Kai wasn’t associated with the City Lord’s Mansion.

After all, humans weren’t allowed in Beast City, let alone in the City Lord’s Mansion.

“You’re a human cultivator as well. Why are you hiding in Beast City, and why are you dealing in fairy stones?” Kai asked, his tone curious.

“Daoyou, you wouldn’t know… the living conditions for our human race have become unimaginably harsh,” Uncle Qian replied, his voice heavy with emotion. “It’s unfortunate that most resources are controlled by the beast tribe,” Uncle Qian began. “We’ve joined forces with cultivators from the demon tribe to form a resistance alliance. Together, we aim to fight the oppression of the beast tribe and secure a place for our survival.”

“I buy fairy stones in Beast City to earn profits from reselling them. This allows us to purchase more resources for the resistance alliance. However, all fairy stones are controlled by the City Lord’s Mansion. They acquire them at an extremely low cost and make huge profits from reselling them.”

Uncle Qian’s gaze sharpened as he asked, “Where did you get your fairy stones? This large one—did you mine it yourself?”

Kai shook his head. “I stole it.”

“Stole it?” Uncle Qian exclaimed, his face filled with shock. “Who did you steal it from? Beast City forbids fighting! And anyone who owns such a massive fairy stone would surely be a powerful cultivator. How could you, with only a ninth-grade Tribulation Realm cultivation, manage to take it?”

Uncle Qian had a point—no ordinary cultivator could seize such a large fairy stone.

“I had help,” Kai replied. “I didn’t take it from Beast City. It was stolen in the Xiao Dynasty.”

“The Xiao Dynasty?” Uncle Qian frowned, his expression puzzled. “I’ve never heard of such a dynasty.”

“I’m not from Beast City,” Kai explained. “I came here from outside.”

Kai’s revelation caused Uncle Qian’s eyes to widen, and his entire body trembled.

“You… you came in from the outside? That’s impossible! No one has entered Beast City from the outside in countless years. We’ve tried numerous ways to escape this region, but every attempt has failed!”

Uncle Qian shook his head, his disbelief evident. “For thousands of years, no outsider has ever made it into Beast City. How could you possibly have done it?”

Chapter 4572

“Believe it or not, that’s all I can say,” Kai replied, clearly seeing that Uncle Qian still didn’t trust him.

“Then… can you at least tell me how you got in?” Uncle Qian asked hopefully.

Kai shook his head. He couldn’t reveal that someone else had brought him in.

Uncle Qian sighed deeply, the excitement on his face fading into a somber expression. It was clear he longed to escape this place. After all, the beast tribe ruled here, while the human and demon races were at the bottom of the hierarchy.

Resources were scarce, and survival often meant taking on dangerous tasks. One misstep could lead to imprisonment. It was no surprise that Uncle Qian and others dreamed of resisting.

“Daoyou, I can’t afford your fairy stone, and I must advise you to leave Beast City as soon as possible. Whether you truly came from the outside or not, it’s too risky to stay here for long,” Uncle Qian warned. “Your human aura will eventually give you away. And after dark, the city goes under curfew. Only the City Lord’s guards are allowed to roam outside.”

“I’m not asking you to buy my fairy stones,” Kai clarified. “I want to buy fairy stones from you.”

He placed a large bag of purple-gold spirit coins on the table.

Uncle Qian looked at the money in confusion before asking, “Daoyou, you’re only in the Tribulation Realm. What do you need fairy stones for? They’re practically useless for cultivators below the Immortal Transformation Realm. Ordinary spirit stones are far more practical.”

“It doesn’t matter,” Kai said calmly. “If I want them, I must have a reason. You buy fairy stones to profit, right? Selling them to me directly achieves the same result.”

He pushed the bag of coins closer. “I can pay you in advance. Use it to help me purchase fairy stones here in Beast City.” Kai took out yet another large bag of purple-gold spirit coins, placing it on the table.

Uncle Qian stared at the coins in shock, momentarily speechless. He couldn’t help but wonder about Kai’s background, though he knew asking would be futile. If it weren’t for the human aura Kai had revealed earlier, Uncle Qian would have assumed he was someone from the City Lord’s Mansion—after all, only they could possess such wealth.

“Alright, I’ll help you,” Uncle Qian finally said after a brief hesitation. He quickly collected the coins and tucked them away.

Once the coins were secured, Uncle Qian opened his storage bag, revealing a collection of fairy stones he had previously purchased.

“These are all I have for now. I’ll buy more for you when I can,” Uncle Qian said. “If you need a large quantity of fairy stones, you might want to consider working with an official purchasing point.”

“Don’t official purchasing points have to hand over their fairy stones to the City Lord’s Mansion?” Kai asked.

“They do,” Uncle Qian confirmed. “But the City Lord doesn’t track exactly how much is handed over. I can give you the address of a purchasing point. The person in charge there and I have a secret arrangement—they won’t hand everything over.”

Kai immediately understood. It was a classic case of embezzlement. Not that it mattered to him; as long as he could acquire the fairy stones, he didn't care how they were obtained.

After discussing the details, Kai left.

Outside, the youngest sister approached him. "What were you talking about with Uncle Qian? Why did it take so long?"

"Nothing much, just bargaining," Kai said with a slight smile.

She eyed him curiously. "That big fairy stone you have—how much is it worth? It looks valuable. Is it worth five hundred purple-gold spirit coins?"

Kai chuckled and shook his head. "No, but I just gave you one hundred purple-gold spirit coins," he said.

Chapter 4573

"Ah, only a hundred? Uncle Qian is getting stingier by the day!" The youngest sister pouted in disappointment before turning to Kai.

"Can you lend me a purple-gold spirit coin? I want to visit my brother and bribe the guards so he'll suffer less," she asked hesitantly.

"How much?" Kai inquired.

The youngest sister hesitated briefly before gritting her teeth. "Five will do."

"I'll give you ten," Kai said, tossing her ten purple-gold spirit coins.

Her face lit up with joy as she eagerly pocketed the coins. "Thank you!" she exclaimed, leading Kai straight toward the prison.

The prison in Beast City was located in the southwestern part of the city. Since flying was prohibited, they had to walk for over an hour to reach it.

When they arrived, Kai noticed that the area around the prison was barren, with no buildings in sight. The entire prison was enveloped in a thick white mist that obscured its interior.

The youngest sister guided Kai through the mist until they found the prison entrance.

“Stop!” a deep voice bellowed.

A tall monk clad in silver armor emerged from the mist, a long sword in his hand. The guard, standing over eight feet tall with broad shoulders and a stocky frame, looked like an immovable mountain. His face was rough and stern, and Kai could sense the faint aura of a Mahayana Realm cultivator emanating from him.

Kai was startled. Are all the prison guards Mahayana Realm cultivators? Isn’t that overkill?

“Captain Zhou, it’s me!” the youngest sister called out, waving at the guard.

The monk looked down at her and smirked. “Ah, youngest sister. Here to see your brother again?”

“Yes, I am,” she replied, pulling out the ten purple-gold spirit coins Kai had given her and offering them to Captain Zhou.

The captain glanced at the coins before shoving them back into her hand.

The youngest sister blinked in surprise, her expression shifting to one of embarrassment. “Captain Zhou, this is all I have. Please, can’t you make an exception?”

Captain Zhou’s smile faded as his expression turned icy. “The inspections have been strict lately. If you don’t have enough, don’t bother coming.”

With that, he turned and left. Captain Zhou began to turn away, preparing to leave.

“Captain Zhou, wait! I have five more. I’ll give them to you—this is all I have left!” The youngest sister hastily produced her last five purple-gold spirit coins.

After accepting the fifteen coins, Captain Zhou glanced at them briefly and said, “Fine. Come with me.”

He led Kai and the youngest sister inside.

After passing through a long corridor, they finally entered the prison courtyard.

The first thing Kai noticed was a towering ancient tree standing at the center of the yard. The tree emanated faint waves of energy that hinted at its mysterious nature. Unable to use his spiritual sense in this place, Kai could only observe with his eyes. Judging by its appearance, the ancient tree must have been tens of thousands of years old.

“You know the drill. Go on your own and follow the rules,” Captain Zhou said to the youngest sister.

“I understand, Captain Zhou, I promise! I’ll leave before an incense stick burns out and won’t wander or cause trouble,” the youngest sister assured him, nodding quickly.

“Good,” Captain Zhou replied curtly before walking away.

The youngest sister then guided Kai to an entrance and began descending a dimly lit corridor.

The passage was damp, with walls lined with intricate, sprawling tree roots. As they walked, Kai couldn’t help but wonder why this prison was built around the ancient tree and why the tree was enclosed within its center.

After walking some distance, rows of cells came into view. Each cell was fortified with formations designed to prevent the prisoners from escaping.

“Brother…” the youngest sister called softly as she stopped in front of one of the cells.

From within, a man’s voice responded with a mixture of excitement and desperation. Pushing aside his long, disheveled hair to reveal his face, he looked at her with tears streaming down his cheeks.

“Sister, you’ve finally come! Are you here to get me out? Please, take me out of here! I’ll die if I stay in this place any longer,” he cried bitterly.

Kai observed the man closely. He was emaciated, his skin sallow, and his spirit completely drained. It was clear that his spiritual power had been nearly exhausted.

Chapter 4574

The cell was dark, damp, and overrun with tangled tree roots. The environment was harsh, making it impossible to sense even the faintest trace of spiritual energy.

Kai noticed something peculiar—beyond the absence of spiritual energy, there was a faint but persistent suction force within the prison. It wasn’t strong, barely perceptible, but it was there, subtly draining spiritual energy from him.

“Brother, I’m so sorry… I don’t have the money to get you out. I’m so sorry…” the youngest sister said, her voice heavy with guilt as she looked at her brother in distress.

Hearing her words, her brother fell silent. After a long pause, he forced a weak smile and said, “Sister, you don’t need to visit me anymore. I know the guards extort you every time you come.”

“Focus on living your own life. I can’t protect you anymore, so you must take care of yourself,” he added, his tone laced with resignation.

“Brother, don’t talk like that! You’ll get out of here—don’t lose hope!” she pleaded, trying to lift his spirits.

Her brother shook his head. “I won’t make it out. Haven’t you noticed there are fewer and fewer people in these cells?”

It was only then that the youngest sister realized how empty the surrounding cells were. On her last visit, many prisoners had still been confined there. Now, they were all gone.

“Where are the other prisoners? Have they all been released?” she asked, confusion and worry etched on her face.

“They’re dead. Every single one of them,” her brother replied grimly.

“Dead? How? Why would they die?” the youngest sister asked, struggling to comprehend.

Even without food or water, it was unlikely for cultivators to die so easily, especially in the Tribulation Realm, where lifespans extended to thousands of years.

“I don’t know. They just died… one by one. And I don’t think I’ll last much longer either,” her brother said, shaking his head in despair. “Are all those dead cultivators dried up, as if their spiritual power was completely drained?” Kai suddenly asked, breaking the silence.

Hearing his voice, the youngest sister’s brother noticed Kai for the first time. He glanced at him warily before turning to his sister. “Who is this man?”

“Brother, this is Kai. I met him on my way to Beast City,” she explained. “If he hadn’t lent me money, I wouldn’t have been able to visit you today.”

Her brother frowned, his expression hardening. “Why would he lend you money? He must have some ulterior motive. You can’t trust people so easily—you’re too naive and easily deceived. Most people who approach you are just after your looks!”

“Brother, it’s not like that!” she replied, her cheeks flushing with embarrassment. “Kai isn’t interested in me. The women around him are far more beautiful than I am.”

Her brother’s eyes narrowed as he studied Kai. “Listen, boy, don’t even think about harming my sister. If I ever get out of here and find out you’ve mistreated her, I’ll kill you myself!”

Kai chuckled softly. “Do you really think you’ll make it out of here?”

The youngest sister’s brother froze, then sighed deeply. “I don’t know if I’ll ever leave this place. But if you truly care for my sister, promise me you’ll take good care of her. She’s been through so much already.”

“Brother, what are you saying?” The youngest sister flushed with embarrassment, avoiding Kai’s gaze.

Kai’s tone grew serious. “You should focus on taking care of yourself. I have a pill here—take it later. It’ll help sustain you for a while.”

He handed over the pill before continuing, “This cell is strange. There’s a faint, inexplicable suction force here. It’s draining the spiritual power from everyone inside.”

Chapter 4575

“I believe those monks died because their cultivation was completely drained,” Kai said, handing a pill to the youngest sister’s brother.

“Suction? Why can’t I feel it?” the youngest sister asked, puzzled.

Her brother nodded in agreement. “Yes, I can’t sense the suction either, but I can tell my body is deteriorating. Those monks who died—they looked like mummies.”

“Where is the suction coming from?” the youngest sister asked again.

Kai shook his head. “I don’t know. Spiritual sense doesn’t work here, so it’s difficult to pinpoint the source.”

As Kai prepared to inspect the cell more closely and question the youngest sister’s brother further, a voice echoed from outside.

“Time’s up!” Captain Zhou called out.

“Brother, hold on. I’ll find a way to get you out of here,” the youngest sister said, gripping her brother’s hand tightly.

Her brother nodded, his eyes filled with hope.

“Don’t forget to take the pill; it’ll help you last longer,” Kai reminded him.

Without hesitation, her brother swallowed the pill. Almost immediately, his complexion improved, and his strength seemed to return slightly. Seeing this, the youngest sister sighed in relief.

As they left the cell, Kai glanced once more at the towering ancient tree before leaving the prison with the youngest sister.

“It’s getting late. We need to leave the city quickly. If the gates close, we’ll be in trouble,” the youngest sister said, looking at the darkening sky.

“Does Beast City forbid outsiders from staying overnight?” Kai asked in surprise.

“Not exactly,” she explained. “But there’s a strict curfew at night. If we stay in the city, we’d have to rent a room at an inn. Otherwise, anyone caught outside after curfew is arrested.”

“And the inns here are too expensive, so we usually leave the city and find a place to stay for the night. The next day—” “Just enter the city,” the youngest sister explained to Kai.

“Why not just stay in an inn? If we leave the city, we’ll waste time queuing to get back in tomorrow,” Kai replied with a grin. “Besides, money’s not an issue. Let’s stay at the best inn tonight!”

Seeing his determination, the youngest sister didn’t argue further and led him to find an inn.

Before night fell completely, they arrived at a luxurious inn. The youngest sister paused at the entrance, hesitating.

“What’s wrong?” Kai asked.

“This is the best inn in Beast City. It’s really expensive—three purple gold spirit coins for a single night,” she explained.

“Only three purple gold spirit coins? I thought it’d be more,” Kai replied nonchalantly and walked in.

Left with no choice, the youngest sister followed him inside.

“Daoyou, are you here to stay?” a waiter asked, approaching them.

“Yes, we need two of your best rooms,” Kai said, tossing a small bag of purple gold spirit coins onto the counter. The bag contained dozens of coins.

The waiter’s face lit up with a wide smile. “Of course! I’ll arrange it right away!”

“Wait!” the youngest sister interjected. “We only need one room, not two.”

The waiter paused in confusion but quickly nodded. “Understood. One room it is.”

Kai looked at her curiously. “Only one room? Aren’t you afraid of me?”

“Afraid of you? Why would I be?” the youngest sister replied confidently.

“Aren’t you worried I might try to sleep with you?” Kai asked, genuinely surprised. He remembered how cautious she had been when they first met.

“If you really wanted to do something, even if we had two rooms, it wouldn’t stop you,” she said with a smirk.

Kai chuckled. “Fair point!”

Soon, the arrangements were made, and the room was ready for them.

Chapter 4576

As expected of a grand inn, the room was equipped with both a spirit-gathering array and a shielding array, ensuring that the cultivators staying within wouldn’t be disturbed.

“Get some rest early. Take me around Beast City tomorrow,” Kai said to the youngest sister.

“Alright,” she replied and, without hesitation, began undressing.

“What are you doing?” Kai asked, startled by her actions.

“Taking off my clothes. Don’t you undress before going to bed?” she said casually, continuing to remove her garments until she lay on the bed in just her underwear.

Kai was left speechless. He suspected she might be trying to manipulate him, using her actions to entice him.

The faint fragrance of her youthful body, combined with her close proximity, made it difficult for Kai to remain indifferent. However, there

was no personal connection between them. Succumbing to temptation simply to vent would lead to complications he wasn't prepared for. If he gave in, he feared he'd become entangled in her schemes, especially involving her brother.

Left with no other choice, Kai summoned Zhongli, the sword spirit, and spent the night in her embrace.

The youngest sister, however, couldn't sleep at all, kept awake by the noise throughout the night.

By morning, she shot Kai a fierce glare, clearly aware that he had done it on purpose.

After leaving the inn, Kai went straight to the location provided by Uncle Qian to find the official fairy stone purchasing site.

The establishment was a two-story building with a sign at the entrance. Similar official purchasing centers could be found on several main streets in Beast City.

Upon entering with the youngest sister, a staff member immediately approached. "Fellow Daoist, are you here to sell fairy stones?"

"Yes," Kai replied, "but before proceeding, I'd like to meet the person in charge."

"This is an official purchasing store. We are honest and fair. There's no need to speak to the manager; the purchase prices are standardized," the clerk responded dismissively, his tone dripping with condescension. Kai! Just to sell a fairy stone, asking to see the person in charge was clearly a tall order, and the clerk had no intention of agreeing.

"I have a large number of fairy stones here, so I must see your shopkeeper," Kai explained firmly.

"How many could you possibly have? Ten or twenty at most?" the clerk scoffed, his tone filled with disdain.

Kai didn't bother responding. Instead, he opened his storage bag, revealing countless fairy stones, including several rare, large pieces.

The clerk was stunned. His attitude shifted immediately.

"Fellow Daoist, please head upstairs! I'll fetch our shopkeeper right away," he said with newfound politeness, leading Kai and his companion to the upper floor before hurrying off to summon the shopkeeper.

Moments later, the shopkeeper arrived. However, as soon as Kai saw him, he froze.

The shopkeeper turned out to be none other than the green-robed middle-aged man Kai had previously captured. This man, who was terrified of death, had once pleaded desperately for his life.

Likewise, the green-robed man was momentarily stunned upon seeing Kai, his face filled with disbelief.

"Boss, this Daoist friend has a significant quantity of fairy stones to sell," the clerk informed him.

Snapping out of his shock, the green-robed man quickly masked his recognition of Kai and said, "Fellow Daoist, since you have such a large quantity of fairy stones, let's discuss the details in a private room."

He was clearly trying to avoid any public exposure, fearing that if their past encounter became known, it could lead to their destruction.

"Alright," Kai agreed, following the green-robed man into a secluded room equipped with a shielding array, a space clearly meant for high-profile negotiations.

Once inside, the green-robed man's demeanor shifted. "Why are you here?" he hissed angrily. "Didn't I make it clear after bringing you to Beast City that we wouldn't acknowledge each other again, and you wouldn't come looking for us?"

Chapter 4577

“I’m here to discuss fairy stones, nothing else!” Kai declared firmly to the middle-aged man in the green robe.

“If you’re here to sell fairy stones, just go to the front desk for the transaction. There’s no need to seek me out!” The green-robed man responded curtly and turned to leave, clearly intending to distance himself from Kai.

It was evident he wanted no further association with Kai. After all, their dealings carried the risk of losing their lives—not to mention implicating their entire families.

“I’m not selling; I’m buying!” Kai interjected.

“Buying fairy stones?” The green-robed man was visibly taken aback before replying, “I purchase fairy stones here—I don’t sell them. If you want to buy fairy stones, you’ll have to head outside Beast City. Buying them privately within the city is illegal; you’ll be arrested and imprisoned.”

Kai said nothing but tossed a bag of purple-gold spirit coins onto the table in front of the man. “Consider this a deposit. I need a large quantity of fairy stones,” Kai stated.

The green-robed man glanced at the spirit coins. Though the glitter of wealth briefly lit up his eyes, he still shook his head firmly. “I told you, we’re not selling. No matter how much you offer, it’s not happening.”

“Uncle Qian sent me,” Kai mentioned, revealing his connection.

“Old Qian?” The green-robed man frowned in irritation. “That guy has no discretion—always spilling secrets…”

“I don’t have any fairy stones to sell right now. The last batch I acquired has already been handed over to the City Lord’s Mansion.”

Kai studied the man closely. It was clear he wasn't interested in striking a deal.

"Fine. If you won't sell, I'll find someone else. But if I get caught, I'll make sure to name you!" Kai picked up his bag of spirit coins and turned to leave.

The green-robed man's expression changed immediately. He rushed to stop Kai, sighing helplessly. "Daoyou, let's not act rashly. We can work something out, can't we?"

"If you name me, you'll die too. What's the point of dragging us all down?"

"I'm not afraid," Kai retorted. "At worst, I'll die alone—but your entire clan will pay the price." Kai's threat clearly unnerved the green-robed middle-aged man. "Stop it! I was just joking earlier," the man stammered, trying to placate him. "You want fairy stones, right? Fine, I'll get them for you. Just tell me how many you need!"

"I want as many as possible. Name your price, and I'll pay the highest rate. You'll definitely turn a profit," Kai replied firmly.

With that, he tossed the bag of purple-gold spirit coins into the man's hands.

"No problem. I'll help you acquire them, but it may take some time. I'll have to notify the City Lord's Mansion first," the green-robed man explained.

"That's fine—I can wait," Kai said, knowing he wasn't planning to leave Beast City anytime soon.

"Since we're working together, let's be honest with each other," the green-robed man continued. "My name is Liu Zhongnan. I'm the shopkeeper of this acquisition store. It's a semi-official position."

"My name is Kai," he replied, shaking hands with Liu Zhongnan.

“Fellow Daoist Liu, how many fairy stone purchasing stores are there in Beast City? Aren’t you affiliated with the City Lord’s Mansion?” Kai inquired.

“There are over ten legitimate purchasing stores in the city,” Liu Zhongnan explained. “As for me, I’m only loosely connected to the City Lord’s Mansion. I help them collect fairy stones, but they don’t provide me with any resources.”

“Basically, I work for them for free. The one perk is that I can operate discreetly and intercept some fairy stones for myself. If anyone is caught purchasing fairy stones privately, they’re arrested and imprisoned.”

Liu Zhongnan’s explanation made Kai think of the towering ancient tree in the prison. Curious, he asked, “Fellow Daoist Liu, you’ve been in Beast City for a while. Do you know why there’s a massive ancient tree in the middle of the prison? And why its roots spread throughout the cells? Why not relocate the prison to avoid it?”

Chapter 4578

“Have you been to the prison? Where did you go, and what were you doing there?” Liu Zhongnan asked, his tone laced with curiosity. He knew Kai was an outsider unfamiliar with Beast City and couldn’t understand why he had visited the prison.

“I have a friend whose brother is imprisoned, so I went to check on him,” Kai explained.

“The prison…” Liu Zhongnan began, but he suddenly stopped, glanced around cautiously, and said, “This isn’t the place to discuss it. Let’s go to a restaurant where we can talk more freely over a meal.”

Kai nodded. “Alright.”

He understood the hesitation—there could be surveillance in the acquisition store, and Liu Zhongnan, being loosely tied to the City Lord's Mansion, might not have complete freedom here.

The two men left the store together, both wearing polite smiles. Since they had decided to work together for mutual benefit, it made sense to maintain a friendly demeanor.

Before continuing, Kai turned to the young woman beside him and said, "Little sister, wait for me at the inn. I'll handle a few matters and see if I can help rescue your brother."

Hearing this, the young woman's face lit up with excitement. "Alright, I'll wait for you at the inn!" she replied eagerly before departing.

As she walked away, Liu Zhongnan watched her retreating figure and smirked. "Fellow Daoist Chen, you're quite lucky. From my observation, that young lady is likely still a virgin!"

Kai sighed, clearly annoyed. "Fellow Daoist Liu, stop joking around. Let's just go."

Shaking his head, Kai followed Liu Zhongnan to a restaurant. The establishment was grand and bustling with wealthy patrons, its opulence evident in every detail.

"Boss Liu!" A waiter greeted Liu Zhongnan warmly as they entered. It was clear Liu Zhongnan was a regular.

"I've brought a friend today," Liu Zhongnan announced. "Prepare the best food and wine for us. Also, get us the Tianzi private room!" Liu Zhongnan casually tossed a handful of spirit coins to the waiter, who immediately promised to ensure their comfort and led them into the restaurant.

The waiter guided Kai and Liu Zhongnan upstairs to the second floor, ushering them into a luxurious private room.

The moment Kai stepped inside, he felt a surge of rich spiritual energy flowing into his body. It was a refreshing and invigorating sensation, leaving him deeply comfortable.

He quickly realized there must be a formation embedded in the room, responsible for the remarkable energy. The merchants in Beast City truly knew how to cater to their clientele.

“This Tianzi box is unique in the entire restaurant,” Liu Zhongnan remarked. “Ordinary people aren’t even qualified to dine here.”

He gestured for Kai to take a seat and continued, “We’ll eat and chat here. You can rest assured no one will overhear us in this place.”

Kai glanced around the lavish room and said, “It seems that, with enough money, life in Beast City can be quite luxurious.”

“Of course,” Liu Zhongnan replied with a smile. “But after so many years of isolation, resources in Beast City are running dangerously low. That’s why we’ve started taking risks and venturing to the outside world.”

“Do you know why your city lord is buying so many fairy stones?” Kai asked, his curiosity piqued.

“I don’t,” Liu Zhongnan admitted. “Our job is strictly to acquire them. Whatever the city lord does with the fairy stones isn’t our concern.”

After a brief pause, he added, “It’s likely for cultivation. I’ve heard rumors that our city lord has reached the realm of immortality.”

“Immortality?” Kai murmured, momentarily stunned. The thought that Beast City’s leader might be such a formidable figure sent a chill down his spine. Staying in the city might be far more dangerous than he’d anticipated.

“It’s just hearsay,” Liu Zhongnan said, sensing Kai’s unease. “The city lord rarely appears in public. Most of the city’s affairs are managed by the three Beast Generals under him.”

“Zang Lao is actually a guest official under one of those Beast Generals. Without that connection, he’d never have been able to obtain something like the guiding artifact.”

At this point, Liu Zhongnan seemed to have dropped all pretense and was openly sharing information with Kai.

Chapter 4579

“I was just asking you about the ancient tree in the prison. Why is it so…” Kai began, intending to inquire further about the mysterious ancient tree. He had an unsettling feeling that something was off about it.

However, before he could finish, a commotion erupted outside the door.

“Mr. Qiu, the Tianzi box is already occupied by a guest. How about I arrange the Dizi box for you instead?” the waiter pleaded.

“Are you kidding me? I want the Tianzi box! Whoever’s inside, kick them out!” a sharp voice retorted.

A moment later, the door to the Tianzi box was kicked open.

Several young monks strode in, with the flustered waiter trailing behind them. These young men were dressed in fine clothes, their appearance betraying their wealthy backgrounds.

The one leading the group, holding a folding fan in his hand, exuded arrogance. His rebellious demeanor made it clear he was used to getting his way.

“I was wondering who dared to occupy the Tianzi box,” the leader said coldly as his gaze landed on Liu Zhongnan. “Turns out it’s Boss Liu.”

“Ah, Mr. Qiu,” Liu Zhongnan said hurriedly, standing up. “What brings you here today?”

“I’m here with a few friends,” Mr. Qiu replied, his tone polite but laced with authority. “We prefer this Tianzi box. I trust Boss Liu will kindly give up the space for us.”

Although the words sounded courteous, the commanding undertone left no room for negotiation.

“Mr. Qiu, I’m here discussing business with a friend. We won’t be staying long. Perhaps you could—”

Before Liu Zhongnan could finish, one of Mr. Qiu’s followers snorted and interrupted him.

“Boss Liu, Mr. Qiu asked you to leave out of respect. Don’t think too highly of yourself just because you collect fairy stones for the City Lord’s Mansion. If you annoy Brother Qiu, I’ll slap you a few times and throw you out myself!”

Liu Zhongnan’s face darkened, his brows furrowing in anger. The humiliation of being intimidated in front of Kai was unbearable.

“Who do you think you are?” Liu Zhongnan retorted, his tone icy. “This is Beast City. Anyone reckless enough to use their aura to attack will be arrested and thrown in jail.”

“Even if Brother Qiu slapped you twice, do you really think anyone would dare arrest him and throw him in jail?” The young monk grinned smugly and added, “Boss Liu, do you think you’d be arrested if I slapped you a few times?”

Mr. Qiu stepped forward arrogantly, standing directly in front of Liu Zhongnan.

Faced with Mr. Qiu’s blatant provocation, Liu Zhongnan clenched his fists in anger but ultimately chose to swallow his pride.

“Fine, let’s go,” Liu Zhongnan said helplessly, signaling for Kai to follow him.

Meanwhile, Mr. Qiu and his group took their seats in the Tianzi private room, clearly pleased with themselves.

The waiter quickly arranged another private room for Liu Zhongnan and Kai. Although it wasn't as luxurious as the Tianzi box, it was still decent.

"Damn it, that Qiu Yu is outrageous!" Liu Zhongnan fumed as he sat down. "He thinks he can break the rules of Beast City just because his father is one of the three Beast Generals."

Kai glanced at Liu Zhongnan and smiled faintly. "That guy didn't seem particularly powerful. If you want, I can teach him a lesson for you."

"No, no!" Liu Zhongnan quickly waved his hands in alarm. "You absolutely can't make a move in Beast City. If you're caught and thrown in jail, you're as good as dead."

"It's just two slaps," Kai said nonchalantly. "Surely that's not enough to get a death sentence?"

"You wouldn't be sentenced to death, but once you're in jail, getting out is nearly impossible," Liu Zhongnan replied in a low voice. "And before long, you'd be drained dry."

"Drained dry?" Kai repeated, his expression shifting to one of surprise.

Liu Zhongnan immediately realized he'd let slip something he shouldn't have. Panicking slightly, he waved his hand dismissively and said, "Forget it. Just follow the rules and make sure you don't get thrown in jail."

Kai wasn't convinced. "Are you hiding something from me? When I asked you earlier about the towering ancient tree in the jail, you avoided answering. Is there something unusual about the tree? Has a formation been cast in the jail?"

His sharp questions made Liu Zhongnan visibly uneasy.

Chapter 4580

“Oh, stop asking and just eat!” Liu Zhongnan tried to deflect Kai’s questions.

“If you won’t tell me, I’ll reveal your trips outside the city!” Kai threatened, leveraging Liu Zhongnan’s secret excursions.

Hearing this, Liu Zhongnan sighed in resignation. “Fine. The truth is, the Beast City prison isn’t really a prison—it’s a massive soul-sucking formation.”

“The ancient tree is designed to absorb the spiritual energy of the monks in the cells. Once their spiritual energy is completely drained, they die.”

“The absorbed energy is stored in the ancient tree and then used by the City Lord’s Mansion for cultivation.”

“Resources in Beast City are scarce, so the City Lord’s Mansion relies on this method to maintain their power.”

“This is a closely guarded secret of the City Lord’s Mansion. If Zang Lao hadn’t told me, I wouldn’t have known either. Don’t go spreading this around,” Liu Zhongnan warned, his tone serious.

“If this secret gets out, the city will descend into chaos. Who would willingly let themselves be arrested and thrown into prison knowing this?”

Kai listened carefully, and everything suddenly clicked into place. He now understood why Beast City’s rules were so strict and why even minor infractions led to imprisonment.

This dark secret explained the lifeless exhaustion he’d noticed in the monks he had seen in the prison, including the younger brother of the girl he’d met.

Even the faint pulling sensation he'd felt in the cells wasn't a coincidence—it was the ancient tree draining the spiritual energy from the prisoners.

The process was so subtle and insidious that the monks likely died without ever realizing what had happened.

Kai's curiosity about the ancient tree grew stronger. However, he knew that with its location at the center of the prison, getting close to it would be nearly impossible during a routine visit.

The limited time allowed for visitors wouldn't give him the opportunity he needed.

Kai frowned slightly, deep in thought.

If he wanted to get close to the ancient tree, his only option might be to deliberately violate the Beast City's rules and get himself thrown into jail.

Once inside, he could wait for the right moment to escape after studying the ancient tree.

Kai weighed his options carefully, formulating a plan. Breaking through the formation around the prison and escaping was an easy task for Kai. However, he barely paid attention to the meal, his thoughts preoccupied with the ancient tree. That tree, capable of absorbing and storing the spiritual power of monks, was far more valuable than any resource he had ever encountered.

After dinner, Kai followed Liu Zhongnan out of the private box.

Just as they exited, they crossed paths with Qiu Yu and his group, who were leaving the Tianzi box. Both parties headed down the staircase together, with Kai and Liu Zhongnan in front and Qiu Yu's group trailing behind.

“Move aside! Get out of the way! You’re as slow as a pig!” one of the young monks shouted arrogantly, demanding that Kai and Liu Zhongnan clear the path.

Though Liu Zhongnan was visibly angry, he stepped aside to avoid trouble.

Kai, however, stood his ground. Turning to face the shouting monk, he asked coldly, “Is this your house?”

“No!” the monk replied.

“Then why are you yelling? What right do you have to demand I make way? If you call me ‘dad,’ I might consider it,” Kai retorted with a smirk.

“You—” The monk’s face flushed with anger, and he started moving toward Kai, ready to strike.

But before he could act, Qiu Yu held him back. “Don’t fall for it! He’s provoking you on purpose. If you attack first, you’ll be the one in trouble.”

Realizing the trap, the monk stepped back reluctantly.

Qiu Yu sneered at Kai. “Who do you think you are? Didn’t you see Liu Zhongnan step aside without a word? If you bow and respectfully call me ‘Master,’ I might consider sparing you a beating.”

Clearly planning to handle things himself, Qiu Yu stepped forward.

“Spare me?” Kai said mockingly, grabbing Qiu Yu by the collar with lightning speed.

With a powerful heave, Kai hurled Qiu Yu down the staircase.

Bang!

Qiu Yu’s body crashed onto a table below, shattering it and leaving a deep dent in the ground.

Had he been an ordinary person, the fall might have killed him outright.