# Chapter 4581

The scene left everyone stunned. The silence was so profound that you could hear a pin drop. The monks dining downstairs stared wide-eyed at the spectacle before them.

Fighting was strictly forbidden in Beast City, and now someone had dared to break the rule. Not only that, but the target of the attack was none other than the young master of the Qiu family.

Who was bold enough to act so brazenly?

“You… you…”

Liu Zhongnan’s eyes widened in disbelief. His mouth hung open, but no words came out. He never imagined Kai would act so recklessly.

Without a moment’s hesitation, Kai had struck, leaving Qiu Yu no time to react.

This wasn’t the outside world—this was Beast City! Did Kai not realize the consequences?

It felt like watching a newborn calf fearlessly challenge a tiger.

“You dare to hit me? You’re courting death!”

Qiu Yu scrambled to his feet, his body unscathed but his pride in tatters.

Embarrassed and furious, Qiu Yu’s face burned red as he glared at Kai. His once-pristine clothes were smeared with grease, making him look more like a beggar than the pampered young master he was.

In Beast City, he was accustomed to being the one dishing out punishment, not receiving it.

The friends accompanying Qiu Yu quickly rushed downstairs to support him.

“Run! Run now! If the law enforcement team shows up, you’re finished!”

Liu Zhongnan finally snapped out of his shock and urgently whispered to Kai.

But before Kai could respond, heavy footsteps echoed from outside the restaurant.

“How dare you start a fight in Beast City? Such audacity!”

The restaurant doors burst open, and a white-robed monk strode in, radiating spiritual power and clutching a sword.

Behind him marched a dozen guards armed with spears, their expressions stern and unyielding.

At the sight of them, the crowd immediately parted, giving way.

In Beast City, only the guards of the City Lord’s Mansion were permitted to release their aura openly.

For anyone else, doing so casually would invite severe punishment. If you emit aura or use your spiritual sense to probe anything, you’ll also be arrested!

When the guards arrived, Qiu Yu pointed at Kai and shouted, “It was him! He hit me!”

Although Qiu Yu wanted to personally teach Kai a lesson, with the guards now present, he no longer needed to dirty his own hands.

“Mr. Qiu…”

The white-robed monk froze upon recognizing Qiu Yu. Someone dared to attack a member of the Qiu family in Beast City?

If it were a minor dispute between low-level monks, it might be understandable, but to target the Qiu family? That was sheer recklessness! Did this person have a death wish?

“Boy, you dare to cause trouble in Beast City? Surrender now!”

The white-robed monk pointed his sword at Kai, his tone sharp and commanding.

“I’ll go with you,” Kai replied calmly, without resistance.

Liu Zhongnan, standing nearby, was stunned by Kai’s willingness to comply. He knew that once Kai was thrown into prison, his chances of survival were slim.

“Wait a moment! Although he acted, he didn’t use spiritual energy—only physical strength,” Liu Zhongnan quickly interjected. “Besides, Mr. Qiu wasn’t injured, just knocked down. We’re willing to compensate. Could we avoid having him arrested?”

The white-robed monk glanced at Qiu Yu, silently seeking his opinion.

If the compensation offered was substantial, Qiu Yu might accept and spare Kai from imprisonment.

But Qiu Yu sneered, his anger unyielding. “I don’t need money. I want him thrown in jail to suffer!”

“Mr. Qiu…”

Liu Zhongnan tried to reason further, but Qiu Yu cut him off with a wave of his hand. “If you keep talking, I’ll have you arrested too!”

Seeing this, Liu Zhongnan dared not speak another word on Kai’s behalf.

“Come with us!”

The white-robed monk ordered before leading Kai away.

Qiu Yu, feeling triumphant, sneered as he left the restaurant with his followers.

# Chapter 4582

Liu Zhongnan was a bit worried and closely followed Kai, planning to bribe the white-robed monk once Qiu Yu left.

“Fellow Daoist Liu, head back to the inn and tell the youngest sister not to wander around. I’ll be out in a few days,” Kai instructed Liu Zhongnan.

The white-robed monk couldn’t help but chuckle at Kai’s words. He had never seen anyone so confident about being released from prison in just a few days—unless, of course, they were on the verge of death and their family paid a hefty ransom to buy their freedom. Newly imprisoned monks were highly valuable; letting one go was nearly impossible.

“Let me figure something out for you,” Liu Zhongnan said earnestly. “Just hang on in there and don’t say anything unnecessary! I’ll approach Elder Zang—he’ll surely find a way to get you out.”

He wasn’t particularly worried about Kai being jailed; what truly concerned him was the possibility of Kai revealing sensitive information. If word reached the City Lord’s Mansion, they’d all be in serious trouble.

“There’s no need to try and save me,” Kai replied firmly. “Just do as I say.”

Kai had entered the prison with a purpose: to investigate the ancient tree rumored to harbor the spiritual power of countless cultivators. If the stories were true, he intended to take it all for himself. Having someone pull him out prematurely would ruin his plan.

Kai knew that escaping the prison would be a trivial task for him; the formations surrounding it posed no threat. That's why he didn't want Liu Zhongnan to intervene.

Though puzzled by Kai's intentions, Liu Zhongnan had no choice but to follow his instructions.

Kai followed the white-robed monk into the prison, which was shrouded in a dense white mist. After a brief exchange with Captain Zhou, the monk handed Kai over.

Captain Zhou studied Kai for a moment, frowning slightly. "Why do you look so familiar? Have we met before?"

"I just have one of those faces," Kai said with a faint smile. "Maybe I remind you of someone." Kai didn't want Captain Zhou to recognize him. After all, he had visited the prison just yesterday and was arrested today. Anyone with half a brain would find that suspicious.

"Come with me," Captain Zhou said, leading Kai to the underground cell.

To Kai's surprise, he was placed in the same cell he and his youngest sister had visited the previous day. It seemed the deaths of many monks had freed up some space.

After locking Kai in, Captain Zhou said, "Listen, kid, there are no strict rules here. As long as you don't try to escape, you can do whatever you want. But don't even think about cultivating—there's no spiritual energy here. Just rest. You'll get three meals a day, so you won't starve. You'll also have a set time to go outside and get some fresh air. Honestly, it's more comfortable in here than out there."

If Kai hadn't known the true purpose of this prison, he might have believed it was a decent place to stay.

"I understand," Kai replied with a nod.

Once Captain Zhou left, a voice came from the next cell. “Fellow Daoist, why were you arrested? Your voice sounds familiar.”

The speaker was the brother of Kai’s youngest sister, but because of the wall between them, he could only hear Kai and not see him.

“I just beat someone up and got locked in,” Kai answered casually. “I don’t know how long I’ll be here. What about you, fellow Daoist? Why were you arrested?”

The man sighed heavily. “I met a female cultivator and suggested we become dual cultivation partners. We practiced once, but afterward, she demanded one hundred purple-gold spirit coins. I didn’t have that kind of money, so she accused me of assaulting her, and I got arrested. Such bad luck…”

Kai couldn’t help laughing at the story. No wonder the youngest sister hadn’t wanted to explain how her brother ended up in prison—this was hardly a tale to be proud of!

# Chapter 4583

“You’re really unlucky, but it’s not a big deal. You’ll probably be out in no time,” Kai said deliberately, trying to comfort the youngest sister’s brother.

The man sighed. “How is that possible? I’ll probably die in this prison before I ever get out. Right now, I can only hope my sister manages to collect enough purple-gold spirit coins to redeem me.”

“Does your sister have the money to redeem you?” Kai asked.

“No, but she seems to be involved with some rich young master. He looks very wealthy—he even tossed me a good pill to take without a second thought. If my sister can win him over, maybe she’ll have the money to get me out,” the man replied.

Unbeknownst to him, the “rich young master” he was talking about was Kai himself. Hearing this, Kai couldn’t help but laugh. “Aren’t you worried that the rich young master is just stringing your sister along and will run off after he’s had his fun?” Kai teased.

“It shouldn’t happen. My sister may be simple, but she’s not stupid. I just hope that man is sincere. As long as my sister has a good life, I’ll feel at ease—even if I can’t be redeemed,” the man said earnestly.

Just then, the cell door creaked open, and a tall, burly man with a face like a black bear was brought in. Shackles clinked on his feet, marking him as someone guilty of a serious crime.

The guard led the burly man straight to the youngest sister’s brother’s cell, unlocked the door, and pushed him inside.

“Hey, jailer!” the youngest sister’s brother shouted. “I’m still in this cell. Why are you putting someone else in here? Aren’t there plenty of empty cells?”

“What are you yelling about?” the guard snapped. “You won’t be needing this cell for much longer anyway, so it’s just as well that someone else uses it!” With that, the guard turned and left.

The youngest sister’s brother froze in surprise, his brows furrowing. “What does he mean by that? Am I about to be redeemed? Is my sister here to get me out?”

The thought brought a smile to his face. He stood up, his face filled with excitement.

“Ugh, you stink! How long has it been since you bathed? Or are you some kind of fox demon?” the burly man said with a frown, glaring at the youngest sister’s brother.

“I…” The youngest sister’s brother stammered, his heart pounding in fear.

After enduring relentless torture, most of his spiritual power had been drained, leaving him too weak to defend himself against the burly man. Though the rules of Beast City prohibited private fights, those rules didn't extend to the prison. Here, no one cared if inmates fought.

"Move aside," the burly man growled, grabbing the youngest sister's brother by the collar and tossing him aside.

Bang!

The youngest sister's brother hit the wall hard, crying out in pain.

"Why are you hitting people?" Kai's voice rang out suddenly.

"Who the hell are you to butt into my business? If you were in this cell, I'd beat you too!" the burly man retorted with a cold snort, hearing Kai's voice from the neighboring cell.

"Oh, really?" Kai replied calmly before kicking down the wall between their cells.

Though the prison walls were meant to serve as barriers, they were reinforced by formations that restricted the movements of imprisoned monks. However, to Kai, these formations were laughably simple—utterly useless against him.

The burly man stared in shock as Kai stepped into the cell.

The youngest sister's brother, who had been wailing moments ago, froze. His eyes widened in disbelief as he stared at Kai. "You… why are you here?"

"Why shouldn't I be here?" Kai replied with a slight smile.

Then, turning to the burly man, he added, "You, who haven't even fully evolved into a human, dare to act so arrogant?"

# Chapter 4584

“Boy, you’re just a Tribulation Realm cultivator, and yet you dare to speak so arrogantly?” the burly man roared.

Though his face still had traces of fur, it was obvious he had transformed from a black bear. His aura revealed he was at the second-grade Mahayana Realm—a level far beyond what a mere Tribulation Realm cultivator like Kai should be able to challenge.

“He’s a second-grade Mahayana Realm cultivator! You’re no match for him—don’t provoke him!” the youngest sister’s brother warned Kai anxiously.

“What’s so special about a second-grade Mahayana Realm? It’s still nothing,” Kai said dismissively before delivering a sudden punch.

The force of the blow sent the burly man flying backward, slamming him into the formation at the back of the cell. He crashed to the ground with a heavy thud.

“Pathetic,” Kai muttered coldly.

The youngest sister’s brother watched in shock, his face filled with disbelief.

“Boy, how dare you sneak attack me!” the burly man growled, rising to his feet, his expression twisted in anger.

He couldn’t believe a mere Tribulation Realm cultivator had dared to attack him first. As a second-grade Mahayana Realm expert, he considered himself far superior. Even if Kai had reached the ninth level of the Tribulation Realm, he shouldn’t have been a match for him.

“You’re asking for death!” the burly man bellowed, his face flushed with rage. He charged at Kai with a roar.

But as soon as he got close, Kai struck him again, sending him flying once more.

To Kai, a second-grade Mahayana Realm cultivator was nothing—dealing with him was as effortless as dealing with a child.

Bang!

The burly man hit the ground hard, letting out a scream. His thick skin and stubborn temperament drove him to stand again, rushing at Kai with unyielding determination.

Bang!

Bang!

Bang!

After several more punches from Kai, the burly man finally relented, panting heavily. Without access to spiritual energy in the prison, he had no way to replenish his strength. Exhausted and defeated, his resistance faded. The burly man felt utterly drained, his strength all but gone. Meanwhile, Kai stood over him, completely unfazed.

“Behave yourself, or I’ll kill you outright,” Kai said coldly, his foot pressing down on the burly man with contempt in his eyes.

The youngest sister’s brother watched the scene in shock, his jaw practically on the floor.

He couldn’t believe what he was seeing—a second-grade Mahayana Realm cultivator being subdued by Kai, a ninth-grade Tribulation Realm cultivator, as effortlessly as if he were a child.

Such a display of overwhelming strength, crossing the boundaries of cultivation levels, was far beyond what any ordinary cultivator could achieve.

At that moment, the youngest sister’s brother became even more convinced that Kai wasn’t just any cultivator—he had to be a young master from a powerful family.

If his sister was with Kai, she was truly reaching for the heavens.

“Fellow Daoist, spare me! Please, spare me! I surrender!” the burly man pleaded, his voice trembling as he begged for mercy.

In the face of absolute power, even the most stubborn individuals are forced to yield.

Pinned beneath Kai’s foot and completely unable to fight back, the burly man realized the sheer difference in their strength. He couldn’t even touch Kai, let alone put up a fight. Defeat was his only option.

“Stay in line from now on,” Kai warned, kicking the man aside.

The burly man scrambled to his feet, nodding furiously. “I’ll behave! I’ll behave, I promise!”

With that, he retreated to a corner of the cell, curling up like a frightened animal, his earlier arrogance nowhere to be seen.

The youngest sister’s brother finally got up, his gaze fixed on Kai. His eyes gleamed with a mix of excitement and disbelief.

“Fellow Daoist, how did you come from the next cell? Isn’t there a formation in the cells?” he asked, his curiosity overflowing. “And your strength in the Tribulation Realm—was that a lie? Are you hiding your true power?”

Kai shot him a brief glance but didn’t respond, turning and walking back to his cell instead.

Realizing Kai didn’t want to explain, the youngest sister’s brother wisely dropped the subject. Pressing further would only risk irritating him.

# Chapter 4585

The next morning, the formation in the cells deactivated automatically. The youngest sister's brother stepped out and called to Kai, "Time for the daily walk. We only get half an hour, so don't waste it."

Kai stood and followed him out of the cell. The burly man Kai had beaten the day before didn't stir; he remained curled up in the corner, fast asleep.

Once outside, the sunlight warmed Kai's skin, a welcome comfort after the dim confines of the cell. However, the prison was still shrouded in a dense white fog. The fog acted as a barrier—those outside couldn't see in, and the prisoners couldn't see beyond it.

One by one, other prisoners emerged from their cells. Most of them had sallow faces and emaciated frames, as if they had been utterly drained of vitality.

Kai observed the scene carefully. There were thousands of prisoners in the yard, but their cultivation levels were indiscernible. Their depleted states and exposed auras made it impossible to determine their realms.

The spiritual power of thousands of monks has been absorbed and stored, Kai thought to himself, his heart heavy with disbelief. The amount of spiritual energy contained in that ancient tree must be unimaginable.

Unfamiliar with the prison layout, Kai followed the youngest sister's brother toward a specific area.

"What are we doing?" Kai asked.

"Restoring spiritual power," the youngest sister's brother replied. "During this exercise time, there's only one place in the prison with spiritual energy. We go there to absorb it and replenish what we've lost. Everyone gathers there during this time every day."

Kai mulled over his words. It wasn't that the prison lacked spiritual energy entirely—it was being tightly controlled by a large formation. The

spiritual energy was released in just one spot for a limited time, allowing the prisoners to practice for only half an hour each day.

It's a calculated setup, Kai realized. By controlling access to spiritual energy and forcing the monks to practice in this way, they can more efficiently drain their spiritual power.

Kai also suspected the limited access to spiritual energy served another purpose: to prevent the prisoners from discovering the prison's true secret by using the ambient energy to grow stronger.

Following the youngest sister's brother, Kai arrived at an area where dozens of figures were already gathered, eagerly awaiting their chance to absorb spiritual energy. The stadium-sized area was already packed with cultivators, all greedily absorbing the spiritual energy from heaven and earth.

The youngest sister's brother quickly found a spot, sat cross-legged, and began practicing his cultivation technique, drawing in the thin spiritual energy.

However, with thousands of people competing for the same resource, the spiritual energy thinned noticeably in an instant.

Kai also sat down but didn't bother to absorb the spiritual energy. Instead, his gaze shifted toward the towering ancient tree that dominated the prison.

The tree stretched skyward, its lush branches and leaves spreading out as if to shelter the entire prison beneath them.

"Don't waste your time practicing. Come with me to see the ancient tree," Kai said, tugging at the youngest sister's brother.

"Half an hour won't make a difference anyway. With so many people absorbing the energy, it's barely effective."

"I still—"

Before he could finish, Kai tossed him a pill. “Take this instead,” Kai said.

The pill would restore his energy much faster than absorbing the increasingly diluted spiritual energy.

The youngest sister’s brother quickly pocketed the pill and nodded. “Alright! But I should warn you, under that ancient tree, there’s a group of unknown beasts. We’ll have to watch from a distance and stay hidden.”

“Unknown beasts?” Kai raised an eyebrow. “Could they be monsters from the outside world?”

“I don’t know,” the youngest sister’s brother admitted, shaking his head. “I’ve never seen them in Beast City. They might be from the outside world.”

As they approached the ancient tree, Kai marveled at its massive size. Even from hundreds of meters away, the trunk was easily over a hundred meters thick.

No wonder its roots spread throughout the entire prison, Kai thought, his awe growing.

They advanced cautiously until they were within a hundred meters of the tree. At that point, the youngest sister’s brother stopped, unwilling to go any closer.

Kai, however, continued to observe. Beneath the ancient tree, he spotted more than a dozen monks seated on the ground. But these monks were far from ordinary—they hadn’t fully evolved. Like the burly man from the cell yesterday, their faces still bore beast-like features, revealing their incomplete transformations.

# Chapter 4586

Kai’s attention was quickly drawn to one of the beastmen.

This figure, clad in white, had two horns protruding from his head and an air of arrogance in his handsome demeanor. The other beastmen surrounded him but maintained a respectful distance, clearly wary of him.

“Who’s the one with the horns?” Kai asked, pointing toward the man in the center.

The youngest sister’s brother glanced over and whispered, “That’s Baicheng. He claims to be a descendant of the dragon clan, but he’s just a big python. Still, he’s incredibly powerful, so no one dares to mess with him.”

“A descendant of the dragon clan?” Kai muttered, studying Baicheng closely. The horns on his head did bear a striking resemblance to those of a dragon.

If a dragon grows horns, it naturally transforms into a true dragon, Kai thought. This guy might actually have dragon blood.

“How did he end up here?” Kai asked.

“I don’t know,” the youngest sister’s brother admitted. “Maybe he wasn’t even caught. He and his group are always under that ancient tree whenever they’re let out. But we can’t go near them—if we try, we’ll definitely get beaten.”

Kai smirked. “That tree doesn’t belong to him, and this is a prison, not their private estate. Why should they stop us?”

Without hesitation, Kai started walking toward the ancient tree.

Alarmed, the youngest sister’s brother rushed to stop him. “Don’t go! They’re too strong, and I have no idea how powerful Baicheng really is! If he’s as strong as they say, we’ll suffer a terrible loss!”

But Kai was resolute, and his determination was unshakable.

As Kai approached, Baicheng seemed to sense his presence and looked up. Their gazes locked, and in that instant, they both instinctively assessed each other's strength.

Seeing this, the beast monks under the ancient tree stood up one by one, readying themselves for a confrontation. As Kai and the youngest sister's brother approached the ancient tree, Baicheng gave a subtle signal with a wink, and in an instant, more than a dozen monks closed in around them.

The younger brother's face turned pale with fear. Without hesitation, he released his grip on Kai and hurriedly retreated, putting some distance between himself and the confrontation. Self-preservation was his priority—standing by Kai's side and risking a beating was simply not an option.

The group surrounding Kai consisted entirely of cultivators in the first and second ranks of the Mahayana Realm. They encircled him with menacing glares, their intent clear.

Kai scanned the monks coolly, the corner of his mouth curving into a smirk of disdain.

"Boy, this isn't a place for someone like you. Get lost!" a man with venomous, snake-like eyes hissed.

"Is this your private domain? I'll go wherever I please. What does it have to do with you?" Kai shot back, his tone dripping with contempt. "Locked up in jail and still acting like you're untouchable? Ridiculous."

The group of monks was momentarily stunned. They hadn't expected such brazen arrogance from Kai, a mere Tribulation Realm cultivator. His defiance in the face of a dozen Mahayana cultivators left them momentarily speechless.

Not only was he unafraid, but he had the audacity to insult them outright.

“You’re quite bold, kid,” the snake-eyed man said, his voice laced with anger. “Do you think you can act so fearlessly just because killing isn’t allowed in this prison? Let me tell you, there are countless ways to make your life worse than death here.”

The threat was chilling—death wasn’t the most terrible fate in the hands of these seasoned cultivators.

Kai’s smile didn’t waver. “If I’m not mistaken, you’re a snake demon, aren’t you? It must’ve taken you ages to cultivate to this point. Don’t throw it all away. Step aside and stay in your lane. If you really push me, I won’t hesitate to find your weak spots and chop you into pieces.”

The snake-eyed man’s face contorted with rage. “Boy, you’re courting death!”

With a furious wave of his hand, the group of Mahayana cultivators closed in on Kai, their expressions murderous.

# Chapter 4587

Soon, Kai’s gaze was drawn to one of the beastmen.

This particular figure stood out—a tall, striking man dressed in white, with two horns protruding from his head. His handsome features carried an air of pride, and although the other beastmen surrounded him, none dared to approach too closely.

“Who’s that guy with the horns?” Kai asked, pointing toward the man in the center.

The youngest sister glanced at him before lowering her voice to whisper, “That’s Baicheng. He claims to be a descendant of the dragon clan. But in reality, he’s just a big python. Still, he’s powerful—no one dares to provoke him.”

“A dragon clan descendant?” Kai murmured, surprised. His eyes narrowed as he studied Baicheng more closely. The horns did resemble those of the legendary dragon clan.

It was common knowledge that dragons sprouted horns before they fully transformed. If Baicheng had horns, perhaps there was truth to his claim.

“How did he get caught?” Kai asked, intrigued.

“I’m not sure,” the youngest sister admitted. “Maybe he wasn’t even captured. All I know is that every time they’re let out, they gather under the ancient tree.”

Her brother interjected, whispering, “We shouldn’t go near them. Anyone who does gets beaten. Stay away if you know what’s good for you.”

Kai smirked, glancing toward the ancient tree. “That tree doesn’t belong to him, and this is a prison, not his personal domain. Why should he dictate where we go?”

Without waiting for a reply, Kai began walking toward the ancient tree.

Alarmed, the youngest sister’s brother hurried to stop him. “Wait! Don’t go over there! They outnumber us, and we don’t even know Baicheng’s true strength. If he’s as strong as they say, we’ll suffer greatly!”

But Kai shrugged off the warning, his resolve unshaken.

As the commotion unfolded, Baicheng looked up, his piercing gaze locking with Kai’s.

In that instant, the air seemed to crackle with tension as their auras clashed, silently measuring each other’s strength.

The beast monks lounging under the ancient tree noticed the shift. Rising to their feet, they prepared for confrontation. Just as Kai and the

youngest brother approached the ancient tree, Baicheng gave a subtle wink.

In an instant, over a dozen monks surged forward, forming a tight circle around Kai.

The youngest brother's face turned pale with fear. Without a second thought, he let go of Kai and bolted several steps back. At a time like this, self-preservation outweighed everything. He couldn't afford to stand with Kai—if things turned violent, he knew he wouldn't survive.

The monks surrounding Kai were no ordinary opponents. Each was a cultivator in the first or second rank of the Mahayana realm, exuding auras of overwhelming power.

Despite their imposing presence, Kai merely swept his gaze over them, the faintest hint of disdain curling at the corners of his lips.

"Kid, this isn't a place for you. Turn around and leave," growled a man whose eyes glinted like those of a venomous snake. His voice was icy and full of menace.

Kai smirked. "Is this your kang? I'll go wherever I want. What's it to you?"

The monks froze in disbelief. They hadn't expected such insolence.

This was a prison—a place where strength dictated respect. Kai, merely in the Tribulation Realm, dared to speak so brazenly to a group of Mahayana cultivators? It was audacious, even suicidal.

"Boy," the snake-eyed man sneered, "you've got some nerve. Do you think you're untouchable just because killing is forbidden in this prison?"

His voice dropped, laced with malice. "Let me tell you—death isn't the worst fate here. There are plenty of ways to make you beg for it."

Kai chuckled coldly, his gaze locking onto the man. “A snake demon, huh? Must’ve taken you centuries to reach this level. I’d advise you to step aside. Push me too far, and I’ll find your vital points and turn you into a pile of minced meat.”

The snake-eyed man’s face twisted with rage. “You arrogant brat—!”

Before he could finish, he waved his hand, signaling the other monks to close in.

The group of over a dozen Mahayana cultivators moved as one, their collective power surging like an impending storm, aiming to crush Kai beneath their might.

But Kai stood his ground, unflinching. His eyes burned with a calm intensity, as if he had been waiting for this moment.

# Chapter 4588

The youngest sister’s brother watched nervously from a distance, his face pale with worry. Around them, other cultivators stood frozen, unwilling to step forward. None dared to challenge the authority of the group under the ancient tree, let alone involve themselves in this escalating conflict.

Under the ancient tree, Bai Cheng leaned back with a casual air, watching the scene unfold with growing interest. His white robes fluttered lightly in the breeze, his posture exuding the arrogance and poise of the dragon clan. Yet, when the dozen cultivators surged toward Kai, his expression faltered, his eyes narrowing in disbelief.

Kai moved.

In an instant, his figure blurred like a phantom, weaving effortlessly among his attackers. The sound of blows landing reverberated in rapid succession.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

One after another, the Mahayana Realm cultivators were sent flying, crashing heavily to the ground beneath the ancient tree. Dust clouded the air, mingling with groans of pain.

More than a dozen first- and second-grade Mahayana cultivators—powerhouses in their own right—had been utterly overpowered. And it wasn't just defeat; it was absolute domination.

The youngest sister's brother stared in stunned silence. The other onlookers were equally shocked, their disbelief palpable.

"How…?" stammered the snake-eyed man as he struggled to his feet. His gaze was fixed on Kai, equal parts fear and astonishment. He could tell that Kai hadn't even used his full strength. If he had, they would all be dead.

"How is this possible?" he muttered. "He's just a ninth-grade Tribulation Realm cultivator, and we're in the Mahayana Realm. Even if we're only first and second grade, our combined power should rival fourth-grade Mahayana cultivators. How did he…?"

Kai stepped forward, a cold smile playing on his lips. "Weren't you the one boasting about making me live a life worse than death?" His tone was light, almost mocking.

The snake-eyed man's confidence shattered. He turned instinctively toward Bai Cheng, seeking guidance.

Bai Cheng's expression had turned grave. His narrowed eyes sparkled with a mix of caution and intrigue as he observed Kai.

"Continue," Bai Cheng commanded, his voice calm but filled with authority.

The snake-eyed man hesitated, his brows furrowing. He knew how this would end, but Bai Cheng's words left no room for disobedience. Gritting his teeth, he waved his hand.

"Everyone, attack together! I refuse to believe he can keep this up against all of us!"

With a roar, the cultivators charged again, their auras surging as they unleashed their combined strength.

Kai's gaze turned icy. "Shameless," he spat, his voice laced with contempt. Without hesitation, he clenched his fists and stepped forward.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

With each punch, the air crackled like thunder. Kai's strikes were precise, devastating, and unstoppable. The cultivators had no chance to retaliate, their attacks nullified before they could even land.

The scene was a blur of motion, and when it cleared, the dozen cultivators lay crumpled beneath the ancient tree once more, groaning in defeat.

Kai stood tall, his figure radiating an unshakable aura of dominance. He turned his gaze toward Bai Cheng, his eyes glinting with challenge.

"Well?" Kai's voice cut through the silence.

Bai Cheng remained seated, his expression unreadable. For the first time, the arrogance of the so-called dragon clan seemed to waver. Under the stunned gaze of the crowd, Kai struck again.

This time, he held nothing back.

The dozen Mahayana cultivators were sent flying, their bodies crashing heavily to the ground. Blood sprayed from the mouth of the snake-eyed man as he struggled to breathe, his eyes wide with sheer terror. The

others were no better, groaning in pain, their injuries severe enough to prevent them from standing.

Kai exhaled softly, his expression calm, almost indifferent. The power he had used was unmistakably that of a beastman—carefully calculated to conceal his human identity. If he had unleashed his full strength, none of them would have survived.

A suffocating silence fell over the clearing.

Thousands of cultivators stood frozen, their expressions a mix of shock, awe, and disbelief. This was a place where strength dictated respect, and for years, no one had dared challenge the dominance of those beneath the ancient tree.

Yet now, a single Tribulation Realm cultivator had dismantled their power in an instant.

The eldest sister's brother rubbed his eyes, unable to believe what he had just witnessed. Slowly, a glimmer of excitement and hope crept into his expression. He stared at Kai, his face lighting up as if seeing a savior for the first time.

For years, the prisoners here had lived under oppression, hopelessly bound by fear. But Kai's overwhelming display of strength had ignited a spark within them—a possibility that escape, or at least defiance, might not be impossible.

"This guy… he's not ordinary. There's more to him than meets the eye," the eldest sister's brother muttered under his breath, his voice trembling with a mixture of awe and anticipation.

The cultivators around him murmured among themselves. No one dared to approach the ancient tree anymore, let alone confront Kai.

It was unheard of—a dozen first- and second-grade Mahayana Realm cultivators brought down by a single ninth-grade Tribulation Realm monk. It wasn't just shocking—it was incomprehensible.

“This kid… he’s something else,” someone whispered in the crowd, their voice carrying a mix of fear and admiration.

Meanwhile, high above the scene, Captain Zhou stood outside the shimmering light curtain of the formation that encased the prison.

Dressed in his guard uniform, his sharp eyes scanned the chaos with a calm, calculating gaze. Captain Zhou was the overseer of this prison, responsible for maintaining order and ensuring no disturbances threatened its security.

Fighting was common here; prisoners venting their frustrations through brawls was nothing new. Unless someone was killed, he rarely intervened. But this…

Captain Zhou’s brow furrowed slightly.

“This kid isn’t simple,” he murmured to himself.

Though his expression remained neutral, a flicker of curiosity lit his eyes as he continued to observe the scene.

Kai’s power was too precise, too controlled for a mere Tribulation Realm cultivator. There was a hidden depth to him—something Captain Zhou intended to uncover.

For now, though, he simply watched, waiting to see how the situation would unfold.

# Chapter 4589

Every prisoner in this facility was a resource for the City Lord’s Mansion. Their lives held value—not out of compassion, but for the utility they provided. If any of them died, it would be a waste of the City Lord’s resources, and Captain Zhou would be held accountable.

Standing outside the formation's shimmering barrier, Captain Zhou had seen everything: how Kai had effortlessly defeated more than a dozen Mahayana cultivators.

A flicker of recognition crossed his face as a memory surfaced. "Damn it… I remember now. This kid came to the prison to visit someone."

Turning to a guard beside him, he asked, "Why is he in here?"

The guard straightened and replied, "He beat up Qiu Yu, the son of the Qiu family. Got arrested on the spot."

Captain Zhou's brows furrowed. "Beat Qiu Yu? Sounds like he's deliberately stirring the pot."

"I wouldn't know, Captain," the guard said with a shrug. "But after this kid was locked up, Boss Liu—the one who trades in fairy stones—sent over 500 purple gold spirit coins."

Captain Zhou's expression shifted, intrigued. "Boss Liu? That miser actually paid up? For this kid?"

"Exactly," the guard confirmed. "It's strange. Liu Zhongnan doesn't part with a single coin unless it's worth his while. This must mean the kid's identity is anything but ordinary."

Captain Zhou narrowed his eyes, scrutinizing Kai as if trying to unravel his secrets. "Interesting. If Liu's willing to shell out that much, there's no way this kid's just some random Tribulation Realm cultivator. Could he be tied to Liu's family somehow?"

The guard hesitated before leaning closer. "Captain, should we intervene? If he gets into a fight with Bai Cheng…"

Before the guard could finish, Captain Zhou waved him off impatiently. "No need. Let them fight it out." His tone was dismissive, but there was a glimmer of satisfaction in his eyes. "Bai Cheng's been strutting around

here, acting high and mighty, for far too long. If this kid can take him down a peg, I'd be happy to watch."

The guard frowned. "But Captain, if Bai Cheng gets hurt, won't we have to explain it to the City Lord's Mansion?"

Captain Zhou snorted. "Explain what? I didn't throw a punch. Besides, the City Lord hasn't been seen in ages. Who knows what's going on over there?"

The guard remained uneasy but said nothing more. Zhou, on the other hand, crossed his arms and watched the scene unfold with growing interest.

For now, Kai's true identity remained a mystery, but Zhou could tell one thing for certain: this so-called Tribulation Realm cultivator was no ordinary prisoner. Captain Zhou snorted coldly, his expression icy.

The guards around him immediately fell silent, their faces pale with fear. None of them dared utter another word.

Beast City had long been in chaos. The absence of the City Lord had thrown its governance into disarray, leaving the city under the rule of the three Beast Generals. While nominally loyal to the City Lord, the generals were notorious for their constant infighting, each vying for control and influence.

This discord had trickled down to the city's officials and enforcers. Corruption thrived, and those in power seized the opportunity to line their pockets.

Captain Zhou was no exception. As the captain of the prison guards, he had turned his position into a lucrative business. Bribes flowed freely—whether for releasing prisoners, arranging private visits, or turning a blind eye to certain activities.

Then there was Liu Zhongnan, the official in charge of purchasing resources. The man had built a fortune by skimming profits and selling fairy stones on the black market.

All of this was possible because the City Lord, the one figure who could restore order, had not been seen for a long time.

In his absence, figures like Qiu Yu—the son of one of the Beast Generals—acted with impunity. Even if Qiu Yu had broken every rule in the book, his father, as the executor of those very rules, would ensure his son faced no consequences.

And now, the same corrupt system had thrown Kai into this chaos. Kai, unaware of the attention he was drawing, walked steadily toward Bai Cheng.

The air seemed to crackle with tension as the two locked eyes. Bai Cheng's lips curled into a faint smile, his gaze brimming with fighting spirit.

It had been a long time since anyone had dared challenge him.

The other prisoners looked on in stunned silence, their gazes shifting between Kai and Bai Cheng. Most of them didn't care who won or lost; they were just eager to watch the fight. But there was an undercurrent of hope—if Kai could defeat Bai Cheng, perhaps the oppressive reign under the ancient tree would finally end.

The youngest sister's brother stood off to the side, fists clenched tightly. He prayed silently, his heart pounding in his chest.

Kai and Bai Cheng now stood face-to-face, the tension between them so thick it was almost tangible.

And then, just as the first blow seemed imminent, a shrill bell shattered the stillness.

DONG! DONG! DONG!

The sound echoed through the prison grounds, harsh and unrelenting.

It was the signal to return. All prisoners were required to return to their cells the moment the bell rang.

The crowd's excitement deflated like a punctured balloon. The gathered prisoners began to disperse reluctantly, casting lingering glances at Kai and Bai Cheng as they trudged back to their cells.

Kai paused, his gaze never leaving Bai Cheng.

"You got lucky," Kai said with a faint smile.

Bai Cheng chuckled softly, the anticipation in his eyes undimmed. "The bell won't save you forever."

The tension between the two lingered, unbroken, as they turned and walked in opposite directions. The fight had been postponed, but the clash was inevitable.

And somewhere outside the formation, Captain Zhou watched with growing interest.

"This is going to be fun," he murmured to himself, a sly grin playing at his lips.

# Chapter 4590

Even the younger sister's brother widened his eyes in shock, staring at Kai in disbelief.

Kai had actually altered the rules of the prison. What kind of background did he have to achieve such a feat?

Even Bai Cheng was taken aback. He hadn't expected that Kai's actions would not only avoid summoning more guards but also result in an extended release time.

“Young man, it seems you have some backing, but you’ve offended the wrong person. In ten minutes, I could kill you a hundred times!” Bai Cheng threatened, his voice filled with menace.

Kai smiled calmly. “Are you a dragon?”

“Yes, I am a dragon. And what are you?” Bai Cheng replied smugly, his pride evident.

“Why do I feel like you don’t resemble a dragon at all? More like a burrowing snake,” Kai said with a playful grin.

“What did you say?” Bai Cheng’s face twisted in anger. “Are you blind? Can’t you see the dragon horns on my head? How dare you deny I’m a dragon! I’ll make you witness the power of my dragon clan!”

With that, Bai Cheng leaped forward, launching an attack on Kai.

The void trembled, and the wind surged wildly.

Kai observed Bai Cheng’s assault and felt the energy emanating from him. The smile on Kai’s face only grew brighter.

“How dare you call yourself a dragon? Such shamelessness!” Kai sneered.

Then, his body sprang into action.

Bang!

The moment their bodies collided, a thunderous sound echoed through the air.

The two figures separated, landing back-to-back.

The crowd watched intently, but no one could tell who had the upper hand. Neither seemed injured.

Kai and Bai Cheng turned to face each other again. Kai still wore a faint smile, while Bai Cheng's expression had turned grim.

"Damn it… the horn… the horn is gone!" a cultivator suddenly exclaimed, pointing out that the dragon horn on Bai Cheng's head had disappeared. At that moment, all the monks turned their eyes to Bai Cheng, their faces filled with shock.

Confused by their reactions and murmurs, Bai Cheng quickly reached up to touch his head—only to discover his dragon horn was missing!

"Your fake dragon horn wasn't glued on properly," Kai teased, holding up the dragon horn he had snatched.

Seeing the horn in Kai's hand, Bai Cheng's expression darkened with embarrassment.

"Hahaha! This is hilarious—turns out he's a fake dragon!" someone laughed.

"Unbelievable! I really thought he was a dragon after being bullied for so long," another chimed in.

"Sticking a fake horn on your head to play dragon? That's insane," a third mocked.

Monks who had suffered under Bai Cheng's tyranny couldn't hold back their laughter, openly ridiculing him.

Even Captain Zhou, who had been watching silently, was momentarily stunned. "What the… Bai Cheng is actually a fake dragon?"

He had been tricked into believing Bai Cheng was a true dragon. After all, the dragon race held the highest status among the entire beast clan.

Amid the laughter and mockery, Bai Cheng's face turned crimson with rage. He roared, "You're dead, boy!"

His shout was accompanied by a series of dragon roars, and a surge of terrifying energy emanated from his body.

Within that energy was a faint trace of true dragon power, making the dragon roars sound authentic and commanding.

“It seems you’ve reached the Jiaoshe stage—you’re close to transforming into a real dragon,” Kai observed calmly. “But you’re not there yet. You’re still not a true dragon, so stop pretending and bullying others.”

However, Bai Cheng wasn’t listening. He launched a furious punch, causing smoke, dust, and spiritual energy to erupt in a chaotic storm.

Boom!

Flying sand and rocks filled the air as Bai Cheng revealed his true form—a 100-meter-long white Jiaoshe. With his gaping maw, he lunged toward Kai, exuding a terrifying presence.

The sight left all the monks breathless with worry for Kai.

Amid the chaos, Bai Cheng’s massive form moved swiftly through the storm of debris. But in an instant, his figure vanished entirely!

# Chapter 4591

As the smoke and dust gradually cleared, everyone was stunned to see Bai Cheng kneeling before Kai.

Kai still wore his calm, confident smile.

In Bai Cheng’s eyes, there was a mix of fear and reverence. His fighting spirit had completely vanished as he knelt with visible respect.

The sight left all the cultivators bewildered. They exchanged confused glances, unsure of what had just transpired.

“You… are you from the true dragon clan? Or perhaps the golden dragon clan…” Bai Cheng muttered, his voice so low it was barely audible.

His heart was a storm of shock and unanswered questions.

Bai Cheng hadn’t knelt of his own free will. Instead, he was overwhelmed by the sheer power of the dragon aura Kai had just released, forcing him to submit without resistance.

Earlier, Bai Cheng had revealed his true form, planning to use the trace of dragon energy he had painstakingly cultivated to intimidate Kai.

But to his astonishment, a brilliant dragon crystal had appeared near Kai’s chest. From it burst a dragon aura thousands of times more potent than anything Bai Cheng could muster.

In that moment, Bai Cheng had even seen a majestic golden dragon coiling behind Kai, its presence so overwhelming that the dragon energy within Bai Cheng dissipated instantly in fear.

Unable to withstand the crushing pressure, Bai Cheng had fallen to his knees, utterly shaken.

“It’s not easy to reach this stage of cultivation,” Kai said, his tone now that of a wise elder. “Since you’ve managed to condense dragon energy, you’re on the verge of becoming a true dragon. Treasure this opportunity.”

Bai Cheng bowed deeply, his voice filled with conviction. “Disciple will follow your teachings.”

His fear turned to exhilaration. Kai’s words implied that he wouldn’t be killed, and the possibility of earning favor from a true dragon offered him hope. Such guidance could be invaluable in achieving his own transformation.

Captain Zhou, watching the scene unfold, frowned slightly.

He couldn’t comprehend what had just happened or why Bai Cheng, who had been so arrogant moments ago, now knelt in submission before Kai. “Time’s up! Get back to your cells!”

A guard’s voice rang out, breaking the tension.

Hearing this, Kai turned and began walking toward the cell, showing no urgency to uncover the secrets of the ancient tree—there was plenty of time for that.

The other monks followed closely behind, and several even hurried to catch up, eager to stay near Kai.

Seeing this, the younger sister’s brother walked proudly beside Kai. After all, in the entire prison, he was the only one allowed such proximity, a fact that stirred envy among the other monks.

Bai Cheng, still on the ground, waited until Kai’s figure had completely disappeared before cautiously rising to his feet.

Back in the cell, the younger sister’s brother eagerly approached Kai, curiosity gleaming in his eyes. “Brother-in-law, what just happened? Why did Bai Cheng suddenly kneel to you?”

“Don’t call me brother-in-law. Who said I’m your brother-in-law?” Kai quickly corrected him.

“I’m not saying it randomly. You are my brother-in-law. Don’t worry, if we get out of here and my sister doesn’t follow you, I won’t acknowledge her as my sister anymore.”

He grinned and added enthusiastically, “Let me tell you, my sister is amazing! She’s beautiful, elegant, and generous. And, most importantly, she’s still a virgin!”

“You can have her, and it won’t stop you from finding other women. What man doesn’t have a few dual cultivation partners these days?”

At that moment, it was clear he was trying to solidify his connection to Kai, recognizing that Kai's display of strength and influence meant he wasn't an ordinary cultivator—he likely had a powerful backing.

Kai could only smile bitterly at the younger brother's words. It seemed that his imprisonment wasn't entirely unjust—this guy might truly have committed that crime with the female cultivator.

# Chapter 4592

"If you want to get out of here, then keep quiet," Kai said, his tone resigned, as he addressed the younger brother.

Hearing this, the younger brother immediately clammed up, not daring to utter another word. He was genuinely afraid Kai might decide not to help him.

Kai settled back in the cell quietly. A faint suction in the air began to draw spiritual power from his body, seemingly unnoticed.

Pretending to remain oblivious, Kai sat still. After all, there was no spiritual energy in the prison, making cultivation impossible.

While he carried resources that could aid his practice, Kai wasn't about to let them be absorbed by the strange force in the cell. For now, he focused on understanding the mystery of the ancient tree.

The next day, it was time to step outside for fresh air.

As Kai and the younger brother left the cell, they were greeted by the sight of hundreds of monks gathered at the doorway, waiting to see them.

Kai walked out calmly and headed straight for the ancient tree.

The crowd of monks followed him, eager to practice beneath the tree, where the spiritual energy was far more abundant than elsewhere in the prison.

Bai Cheng was already waiting beneath the tree with a group of his followers, ready to welcome Kai.

After the events of the previous day, Bai Cheng was thoroughly humbled. As a Jiao snake still striving to transform into a dragon, he now found himself in the presence of a true golden dragon—a member of the most exalted branch of the dragon clan. To Bai Cheng, this was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

“Disciple welcomes the Holy Ancestor,” Bai Cheng said respectfully as Kai approached.

Though technically still a snake, Bai Cheng addressed Kai with the reverence reserved for the most revered members of the dragon clan.

Among dragons, Jiao snakes striving to transform into dragons were looked down upon. Some were born into the noble dragon clan, while others had to struggle relentlessly to evolve into one.

“My name is Kai. You can just call me by my name,” Kai replied, his tone calm.

Bai Cheng froze in surprise, not expecting such humility.

In his experience, dragons were proud and lofty beings, often exuding an air of superiority. Yet Kai displayed none of that arrogance.

“I prefer to keep my identity private,” Kai added with a faint smile. Kai approached Bai Cheng and spoke in a low voice.

He was careful to conceal his identity as a dragon, deliberately masking his aura with that of the beast clan and refraining from unleashing the full force of his dragon power.

During their earlier fight, Kai had only released a faint trace of dragon energy—yet even that small revelation had left Bai Cheng utterly shaken.

“I understand, Mr. Chen,” Bai Cheng replied with a nod of respect.

“Keep everyone away from the ancient tree. No one is allowed to approach,” Kai instructed.

“Yes, understood!” Bai Cheng responded, immediately summoning his followers to enforce the order.

“Stay back! No one is permitted near the ancient tree. Anyone who tries will face severe consequences!” Bai Cheng commanded with authority.

Although Bai Cheng knew he wasn’t a true dragon, his strength still ranked among the highest in the prison. Moreover, his loyal followers gave him an edge. The rest of the prisoners, though numerous, were disorganized and unfamiliar with one another, making it easy for Bai Cheng to maintain control.

Seeing Bai Cheng’s men blocking the way, the monks exchanged uncertain glances. None dared to challenge him and eventually retreated to their original spots.

“I’m going through. If you dare stop me, my brother-in-law won’t let you off!” the younger brother declared boldly, stepping forward to confront Bai Cheng.

“Brother-in-law?” Bai Cheng asked, momentarily taken aback.

“Yes, Kai is my brother-in-law. We’re together, so step aside!” the younger brother demanded.

Bai Cheng looked to Kai for clarification, clearly puzzled.

Kai, unfazed, replied calmly, “You’re not allowed near the ancient tree either. Find somewhere else to wait.”

“What?” The younger brother was stunned, completely at a loss. He couldn’t understand why Kai was barring him from approaching the ancient tree.

# Chapter 4593

“Didn’t you hear what Mr. Chen said? Stay away!” Bai Cheng snapped coldly at the younger brother.

Left speechless, the younger brother could only grumble inwardly as he wandered off to find another spot.

Meanwhile, Kai stood beneath the towering ancient tree, gazing up in awe.

The tree’s sheer size dwarfed him, making him feel insignificant in its presence. Gently placing his hand on its trunk, Kai refrained from probing further.

He wasn’t certain if the ancient tree was protected by a formation. If he recklessly used his spiritual sense to investigate and alerted the City Lord’s Mansion, it could spell trouble.

Kai suspected that few people were aware of the tree’s true secret. If he uncovered it, those in power would never allow him to leave the prison alive.

After carefully examining the tree, Kai gestured for Bai Cheng to approach.

Seeing the signal, Bai Cheng hurried over.

“Why were you arrested?” Kai asked directly.

“I… I wasn’t arrested,” Bai Cheng replied hesitantly.

“You weren’t arrested?” Kai raised an eyebrow. “Then why are you here?”

“I was sent here to guard this ancient tree and prevent anyone from approaching it without permission,” Bai Cheng explained truthfully.

“But there are prison guards, aren’t there? Why can’t they guard the tree? Why send you?” Kai asked, puzzled.

Hearing the question, Bai Cheng glanced around cautiously before lowering his voice.

“Mr. Chen, you might not know this, but the prison guards are under General Yan’s jurisdiction. However, this ancient tree is of utmost importance to the City Lord’s Mansion. To ensure its security, General Xing specifically sent me and my men here.

This way, we monitor the prison guards, and they monitor us. It creates a system of checks and balances to prevent anyone from tampering with the ancient tree.” “General Yan? General Xing? What’s going on? Are these generals not on good terms?”

Kai frowned, confused by Bai Cheng’s explanation.

Seeing Kai’s expression, Bai Cheng realized that he genuinely didn’t understand. He asked, “Is this Mr. Chen’s first time in Beast City?”

“Yes,” Kai replied with a nod. “I’ve spent my time cultivating in the mountains and forests around Beast City. This is my first time entering it.”

“No wonder,” Bai Cheng said, understanding. “Mr. Chen might not know, but Beast City is currently governed by three great Beast Generals. The City Lord hasn’t appeared in a long time.”

He continued, “The three generals—General Yan, General Xing, and General Qiu—each have their own responsibilities. However, they also don’t trust each other, so they keep each other in check.”

“I serve as a guest official under General Xing’s command. Guarding the ancient tree in this prison was a direct order from him.”

“The prison guards, on the other hand, answer to Captain Zhou, who isn’t aligned with us. In fact, Captain Zhou has always been hostile toward me and looks for chances to oppose me.”

Bai Cheng carefully explained the political tension within Beast City’s leadership.

After listening, Kai began piecing things together. It became clear to him that the change in the prison rules yesterday, extending their outdoor time, wasn’t random.

Moreover, when he fought Bai Cheng, the guards didn’t intervene. It seemed deliberate—Captain Zhou likely intended for the two to clash.

“Where has the City Lord of Beast City gone?” Kai asked.

“I don’t know,” Bai Cheng admitted, shaking his head. “All I know is that the City Lord hasn’t been seen in a very long time.”

After all, Bai Cheng was just a guest under General Xing. It wasn’t surprising that he wouldn’t have access to the deeper secrets of the City Lord’s Mansion.

“Then what’s so special about this ancient tree? Why does it require dedicated guards? Do you know?” Kai pressed further.

Bai Cheng froze for a moment, his expression turning complicated. It was clear he was grappling with whether or not to share certain information.

# Chapter 4594

After a moment of thought, Bai Cheng spoke slowly, “Mr. Chen, this ancient tree is quite peculiar. It absorbs the spiritual power of the monks here. My guess is that the City Lord’s Mansion collects all the spiritual energy gathered by the tree and uses it for their own benefit.”

“I’ve been observing this for a while. Almost every day, monks in the cells die—completely drained, as if turned into mummies.”

“This is just my own speculation. I’m not certain if it’s accurate,” Bai Cheng added cautiously, clarifying that his insights came from personal observation rather than direct knowledge.

Kai nodded. “Your analysis seems right. That’s probably why they treat this ancient tree with such importance.”

Bai Cheng hesitated before asking, “Mr. Chen, why were you arrested? If needed, I could leverage my connection with General Xing to request a pardon for you.”

“I had an altercation with someone named Qiu Yu. Apparently, he’s General Qiu’s son,” Kai replied calmly.

“You clashed with Qiu Yu?” Bai Cheng exclaimed, visibly surprised. “That guy is notorious for being a spoiled playboy, and he’s vindictive. He won’t let this go easily.”

“But don’t worry, Mr. Chen. I’ll speak with General Xing and see if he can help get you out of here. Staying in this prison is risky. Even if the ancient tree doesn’t drain you, Qiu Yu might arrange for trouble to come your way.”

Kai, however, appeared unfazed. “It’s fine. This prison can’t hold me.”

The calm confidence in his voice left Bai Cheng momentarily stunned.

The formations surrounding the prison were meant to keep inmates contained, but Kai wasn’t concerned in the slightest. To him, those formations were trivial.

“Mr. Chen, you’re skilled in formations as well?” Bai Cheng asked, astonished.

“I know a little,” Kai replied nonchalantly. “The formations here in the prison are simple. I could break them with just a wave of my hand.”

Though spoken casually, Kai’s words sounded almost arrogant to Bai Cheng. If Bai Cheng hadn’t already known about Kai’s identity as a dragon, he might have dismissed the claim as mere bragging. Kai’s status as a member of the dragon clan, especially the prestigious golden dragon lineage, made his words carry significant weight.

“Keep watch for me. Don’t let anyone disturb me. I want to uncover the secrets of this ancient tree,” Kai instructed Bai Cheng.

“Mr. Chen, feel free to explore, but please be cautious. Don’t damage the ancient tree under any circumstances. If something happens to it, I truly can’t bear the consequences,” Bai Cheng said earnestly.

“Don’t worry, I won’t harm the tree,” Kai replied with a faint smile.

Bai Cheng nodded and moved to stand guard, ensuring no one approached the ancient tree. Meanwhile, Kai gently pressed his palm against the tree trunk, channeling a stream of divine power into it.

He needed to probe its mysteries and could only do so by infusing his divine consciousness into the tree.

As soon as his consciousness connected with the ancient tree, Kai felt a sudden lightness in his body. His soul was whisked away, entering a void-like dimension.

All around him was an endless expanse of white—completely empty and featureless.

Kai quickly realized this was no illusion. His soul had truly ventured into a separate space.

Within this void, spiritual energy surged like a boundless ocean. The energy enveloped his soul, leaving him feeling rejuvenated and incredibly comfortable.

“Is this the ancient tree’s internal space? The immense spiritual power here must have been absorbed from the monks in the cells,” Kai speculated, his excitement evident.

The sheer density of spiritual energy in this space was astonishing, and Kai was tempted to cultivate here. The accelerated growth he could achieve was undeniable.

However, he was also acutely aware that the period for the wind was limited to just half an hour. No matter how potent the spiritual energy was, the brief timeframe would barely allow him to make significant progress.

# Chapter 4595

Kai had to figure out a way to remain beneath the ancient tree for an extended period!

To avoid drawing suspicion, he retracted the power of his consciousness and allowed his soul to return to its place. Standing before the ancient tree, Kai looked on in astonishment.

There were no formations within the ancient tree. The force that absorbed the spiritual power of countless cultivators wasn’t the work of any external formation—it was the tree’s own innate ability!

Ancient trees capable of absorbing others’ spiritual power were exceedingly rare in the world of Heaven and Man. In fact, this was the only one Kai had ever encountered!

Just as Kai’s soul returned to his body, a white light began to condense within the tree’s space, gradually forming into the figure of an old man. Slowly, the old man opened his eyes, as if awakening from cultivation.

The space inside the ancient tree seemed vast and empty, yet the old man, sitting cross-legged within it, exuded a sense of unparalleled harmony with his surroundings.

It felt as though he was the master of this space, its very existence a manifestation of his power.

“How curious that a mere Tribulation Realm cultivator could find his way into my space,” the old man remarked, raising his white eyebrows in surprise.

His gaze, sharp and penetrating, seemed to see through everything in Beast City. The entire city unfolded before his eyes, as if laid bare.

“This boy carries the aura of a human demon, along with traces of all three tribes. Remarkable—truly a prodigy!”

The old man’s expression grew contemplative as curiosity flickered in his eyes.

He pinched his fingers together, and the spiritual light above his head flickered, gradually forming a picture.

This image began with Kai’s arrival in Beast City. It detailed everything: his separation from Liu Zhongnan and the others, and all his subsequent actions within the city.

Even what transpired in private—like the time Kai met with Liu Zhongnan to plan the acquisition of the fairy stone—was clearly visible. Despite the shielding formations surrounding the room where they plotted, the old man had seen everything.

From visiting the restaurant to his confrontation with Qiu Yu, nothing escaped the old man’s scrutiny.

Had Kai witnessed this, he would have been utterly shocked. Everything he had done in Beast City was fully exposed to the old man’s omniscient gaze! Even the scene of Kai sharing an intimate moment with the sword spirit, Zhongli, in the inn did not escape observation!

Later, Kai entered the prison and faced off against Bai Cheng in a fierce battle.

When the golden dragon manifested behind Kai and unleashed its power, the old man's expression visibly shifted.

"So, he's a son of the dragon… No wonder," the old man murmured.

With a gentle wave of his hand, the image dissolved into nothingness. He closed his eyes once more, resuming his cultivation as though he had never awakened.

Meanwhile, under the ancient tree, Kai frowned. His body felt oddly uncomfortable.

"This is strange… Why does it feel like someone is watching me?" Kai muttered, puzzled.

However, since he was in the prison surrounded by prisoners and monks, none of them were allowed to release their divine consciousness for exploration.

Kai was confident no one would dare attempt to probe him. Even if they did, his powerful divine consciousness would cause any intruder to suffer a backlash before they could delve too far.

Moreover, his sea of consciousness housed the formidable Chiyun Demon Lord, a demon of the Eighth Heaven. No ordinary spiritual power could explore Kai's sea of consciousness undetected.

"Boy, you're being watched…" Chiyun Demon Lord suddenly said.

"Who is it? How come I didn't sense anything in my sea of consciousness? And why didn't you block it?" Kai asked in surprise.

"Damn it, they're not using spiritual power to probe your sea of consciousness. How could I block it?" Chiyun Demon Lord replied, exasperated.

# Chapter 4596

Typically, if someone wants to understand another person's situation, they use the power of consciousness to explore the other person's sea of consciousness. By doing so, they can uncover details about the individual.

This method is primarily used by those with strong consciousness to probe those with weaker consciousness. If the difference in strength is significant, the person being probed often doesn't even realize it.

But if someone isn't exploring the sea of consciousness, how else can they learn about another person's details?

"If they're not exploring my sea of consciousness, then where are they probing?" Kai asked, startled.

"How should I know? Don't forget, I'm just a remnant soul dwelling in your sea of consciousness—not the almighty demon king I once was," replied the Red Cloud Demon Lord.

"If you want answers, help me collect my bones and resurrect me. Once reborn, I'll make you the master of this world of Heaven and Man."

Kai could tell that the Red Cloud Demon Lord sounded irritated. It was likely due to Kai's lack of progress in locating the demon lord's scattered bones.

But Kai couldn't blame himself. The world of Heaven and Man was unimaginably vast, and even the Heavenly Demon Mountain alone stretched on endlessly. Searching for scattered bones in such an enormous area was akin to finding a needle in a haystack!

Nonetheless, Kai had already enlisted Wantong Pavilion to assist with the search. With its many branches in the southern region and countless disciples, the pavilion would have a much easier time locating the bones than Kai could manage alone.

"Don't worry. I haven't forgotten about finding your bones," Kai reassured the Red Cloud Demon Lord.

Still, Kai knew better than to let the demon lord manipulate him. After all, he needed to rely on the demon lord's help for now.

"It's time to head back to the cells!" the guard's voice suddenly boomed.

The prisoner monks all stood and obediently began returning to their cells.

Kai, too, left the ancient tree and prepared to follow the others.

"Mr. Chen, I'll go ask General Xing for an amnesty order. That way, you won't have to suffer in prison," Bai Cheng whispered to Kai.

"You can ask for the amnesty order," Kai replied, "but don't use it to get me out. Use it for him instead!" Kai pointed toward the youngest sister's brother, who stood not far away, and said firmly.

Bai Cheng glanced in the direction Kai indicated, nodded, and replied, "Got it."

As Kai made his way back to the cell, the youngest sister's brother trailed closely behind, complaining, "Brother-in-law, why didn't you let me stay under the ancient tree? I wanted to see what's so special about it."

"Shut up. If you want to leave this place, follow me quietly and stop talking," Kai snapped, clearly annoyed by being called "brother-in-law."

Sensing Kai's irritation, the youngest sister's brother grew silent, not daring to utter another word.

Once back in the cell, Kai handed him another pill.

"Take this and recover properly. I think you'll be able to leave tomorrow," Kai said.

The youngest sister's brother eagerly swallowed the pill and asked excitedly, "Really? How am I getting out tomorrow? Are you going to break me out?"

Having witnessed Kai's strength, the youngest sister's brother had begun to hope for an escape.

"No," Kai replied. "There should be an amnesty order issued tomorrow that will allow you to leave."

"An amnesty order?" the youngest sister's brother exclaimed in surprise. "Only the three Beast Generals of Beast City have the authority to issue one. Do you have some connection with them?"

"That's none of your concern," Kai said firmly. "Stop guessing and get some rest. You're leaving tomorrow."

Hearing this, the youngest sister's brother obeyed and lay down to rest.

However, as Kai finished speaking, the strong man who had been huddled silently in a corner suddenly dropped to his knees before him.

"Fellow Daoist, can you secure an amnesty order for me too?" the strong man pleaded. "If you help me, I swear I'll repay you, even if I have to work like a beast of burden for the rest of my life."

"You're a bear, not a beast of burden," the youngest sister's brother sneered, emboldened by Kai's presence.

With Kai around, the youngest sister's brother had no fear of the strong man.

# Chapter 4597

The sturdy man knew the youngest sister's brother was mocking him, but he didn't dare react in Kai's presence.

Ignoring the taunts, he turned to Kai and pleaded, "Daoyou, please, take me with you!"

Kai glanced at him and sneered. “Why should I? We’re neither friends nor family.”

Hearing this, the sturdy man hurriedly said, “Daoyou, I also have a sister. I can offer her to you—she can be your wife, and you’ll be my brother-in-law…”

Kai’s face twisted in disbelief. “What the—”

The youngest sister’s brother burst out laughing. “Are you serious, you big black bear? Your sister’s probably as ugly as you are! And you still want to steal my brother-in-law?”

The sturdy man’s face darkened, but he forced a bitter smile and said, “My sister may not be beautiful, but… I have a secret to share.”

“What secret?” Kai asked, his interest piqued.

The sturdy man hesitated, glancing nervously at the youngest sister’s brother, as though he didn’t want him to hear.

“It’s fine. Just say it,” Kai insisted.

The sturdy man leaned in and whispered, “Daoyou, I know the location of a spiritual vein mine filled with fairy stones. With prices for fairy stones soaring, this mine is a treasure trove.”

“To be honest, I got arrested because I was caught selling too many fairy stones to private buyers.”

“If you take me out, I’ll tell you the location, and we can split it.”

Kai raised an eyebrow, clearly surprised. If the man was telling the truth, such a mine would be an enormous resource—far more efficient than purchasing fairy stones bit by bit with purple gold spirit coins.

However, doubt lingered in Kai’s mind about the sturdy man’s claim.

“Humph,” the youngest sister’s brother scoffed. “Stop spouting nonsense. There are no spiritual vein mines left in Beast City—they were mined out ages ago.”

“Only scattered fairy stones remain, and finding them is sheer luck. How could there possibly be a mine still intact?” “If such a mine really existed, the City Lord’s Mansion would have seized it long ago!”

The youngest sister’s brother snorted, clearly skeptical of the sturdy man’s claim.

Having lived in Beast City for so long, he had never heard even a rumor about such a spiritual vein mine.

“Just because you’ve never heard of it doesn’t mean it doesn’t exist,” the sturdy man shot back. “Do you even know what lies beneath Beast City?”

The youngest sister’s brother froze, momentarily at a loss for words, though his expression remained doubtful.

“How can I trust that you’re telling the truth?” Kai asked, looking at the sturdy man intently.

“Daoyou, you can verify it for yourself,” the sturdy man replied. “My name is Xiong Kuo, and my sister is Xiong Ying. I’m the only one who entered Beast City to make this trade.”

“After you leave here, take something from me to find my sister. She’ll confirm that everything I’ve told you is true.”

Xiong Kuo spoke in a hushed tone, his demeanor serious.

Kai studied him closely, sensing no deceit. Finally, he nodded and said, “Alright, if you’re not lying, I’ll help you get out of this prison.”

“Don’t worry. I’m not lying!” Xiong Kuo assured him. “Here, take this jade pendant. Go a hundred miles southwest of Beast City, and you’ll find a large tree. My sister is hiding in a hollow within the tree.”

“Give her this jade pendant and explain the situation. She’ll prove my words are true.”

Xiong Kuo handed over the jade pendant with care.

“Fine,” Kai said, taking the pendant and nodding.

The youngest sister’s brother, who had been listening, grew visibly nervous. If Kai could only take one person out, would he choose Xiong Kuo instead?

After all, his sister’s worth paled in comparison to the prospect of a spiritual vein mine filled with fairy stones.

“Don’t worry. You’ll leave tomorrow,” Kai said with a slight smile, noticing the youngest sister’s brother’s unease.

Hearing this, the youngest sister’s brother finally relaxed.

Kai then settled down to rest, his mind already planning his next steps.

# Chapter 4598

At the heart of Beast City stands a magnificent city within a city—the awe-inspiring and enigmatic City Lord’s Mansion, a symbol of power and grandeur in the eyes of its inhabitants.

The City Lord’s Mansion resembles a colossal beast rooted at the city’s core, radiating an imposing and unshakable aura.

Surrounding the mansion to the east, west, and south are three opulent residences. Their lavish design is breathtaking.

The walls are constructed from precious jade, glowing softly under the moonlight. The roofs, adorned with vibrant glazed tiles, shimmer with a dazzling brilliance. The intricately carved doors and windows depict

auspicious beasts in mid-gallop or mythical flora in bloom, every detail a testament to unparalleled luxury.

These three mansions form a defensive triangle around the City Lord's Mansion, creating an impenetrable barrier.

Strategically positioned, they complement one another, forming a cohesive whole. Any intruder attempting to breach the City Lord's Mansion must first contend with the formidable defenses of these outer residences—a clear demonstration of their vital role.

These residences are home to the three beast generals who serve under the city lord. Their dwellings double as critical fortifications for the City Lord's Mansion.

As night fell, silence blanketed Beast City. The streets lay quiet, and the city seemed at rest, save for the steady patrols of the guards.

The rhythmic echo of their footsteps filled the empty streets, deepening the stillness of the night.

Yet, in the eastern mansion, a light remained burning, standing in stark contrast to the surrounding darkness.

Inside the illuminated hall, the atmosphere was tense. Seated in the center was a towering monk, eight feet tall. This was General Xing, one of the three esteemed beast generals.

General Xing's piercing eyes, sharp and unyielding like copper bells, seemed to see straight into the depths of one's soul. His presence exuded a commanding authority that few dared to challenge.

Clad in a black robe embroidered with golden patterns, every subtle movement caused the fabric to gleam faintly, enhancing his noble and extraordinary aura.

“Bai Cheng, are you certain about this?” General Xing asked, his deep voice resonating through the hall. “Are there truly dragon cultivators in the prison? And do they belong to the Golden Dragon Clan?”

General Xing’s voice, deep and commanding, resonated through the hall, tinged with doubt and curiosity.

He furrowed his brow slightly, his sharp gaze fixed on Bai Cheng, as though searching for a flaw in his words or demeanor.

Seated below, Bai Cheng leaned forward, his tone resolute. “General Xing, how could I dare lie to you? Everything I’ve said is the truth.”

A sense of urgency flickered in his eyes, his posture betraying his earnest hope that the general would take him seriously.

He knew his claim sounded extraordinary, but withholding such information could lead to even greater chaos down the line.

General Xing’s expression remained skeptical, his frown deepening. It was evident that Bai Cheng’s account had yet to fully convince him.

At that moment, one of the guest officials interjected, his tone dripping with ridicule. “General Xing, this city hasn’t seen a genuine dragon cultivator in millennia, let alone a Golden Dragon. Bai Cheng is likely mistaking a mere dragon snake flaunting fake horns for something grander. Perhaps he’s become delusional from obsessing over dragons.”

A smirk tugged at the corner of the guest official’s lips, his disdain evident. His words elicited murmurs of agreement from the other officials, their quiet voices creating a ripple of doubt through the hall.

Bai Cheng’s face flushed with anger as he shot back, his voice raised. “Don’t slander me! I saw it with my own eyes—there’s no mistake!”

His clenched fists trembled at his sides, and his fiery gaze made it clear he was on the verge of an outburst.

He hadn't expected his truthful account to be dismissed so easily, much less mocked.

Another guest official spoke up, his tone skeptical. "What Bai Cheng claims does sound implausible. He says the other party was just a ninth-grade Tribulation Realm cultivator, yet Bai Cheng himself is a fourth-grade Mahayana Realm cultivator. And somehow, he was defeated by a mere ninth-grade Tribulation Realm cultivator? How could such a thing happen?"

# Chapter 4599

As the guest official spoke, he shook his head, his expression filled with disbelief.

Bai Cheng, sounding both helpless and aggrieved, said, "What I'm saying is true. If you don't believe me, I can bring Mr. Chen here in person. However, the general must issue a pardon order—he's still in prison."

His tone carried a mix of frustration and urgency. Without the pardon, there was no way to bring Mr. Chen out.

"Bai Cheng, I think you're just trying to trick the general into issuing a pardon so you can rescue someone you want to save," another person interjected, his voice dripping with suspicion. His piercing gaze seemed intent on uncovering Bai Cheng's true intentions.

"I'm not! I truly mean to bring Mr. Chen here so you can see him for yourselves!" Bai Cheng shouted, his voice firm and filled with determination.

His words echoed through the hall, an earnest plea against the doubts surrounding him. Yet, the strangeness of his claims made skepticism inevitable.

"All right, enough bickering!"

General Xing's stern voice cut through the tension, his expression dark with frustration. "You are all my allies and should stand united. How can you fight amongst yourselves like this? The other two generals are quietly building their own forces, plotting to push us out. If we don't work together, we'll lose our place in Beast City and be forced to roam the wilderness!"

General Xing's words hit like a hammer, silencing the room. A somber atmosphere replaced the earlier squabbling as worry flickered across everyone's faces.

They knew all too well that survival in Beast City depended on General Xing's protection. Losing his favor would mean hardship and danger.

"Bai Cheng, here is the pardon order. Take it tomorrow and bring this Mr. Chen to me. I want to see this so-called dragon cultivator myself. If a ninth-grade Tribulation Realm cultivator can defeat someone at the fourth-grade Mahayana Realm, that's a genius I've never encountered."

With that, General Xing flicked his wrist, and a beam of white light shot through the air. Bai Cheng reached out and caught it, revealing a small token in his palm.

The token emitted a soft glow, its surface engraved with intricate, mysterious runes. This was the pardon order, a symbol of authority capable of freeing prisoners from Beast City's prison.

With the amnesty order in hand, Bai Cheng immediately vowed, "I'll bring Mr. Chen tomorrow..."

He clutched the amnesty tightly, as if holding onto his last hope, silently swearing to himself that he would make everyone believe in his words.

The following morning, just as dawn broke, Bai Cheng hurried toward the Beast City prison, the amnesty order firmly in his grip.

His steps were brisk, his eyes filled with urgency—his sole focus was to get Mr. Chen out as quickly as possible.

Upon reaching the prison gates, Captain Zhou intercepted him.

“Bai Cheng, your job is to tend to the ancient trees, not to enter the cells,” Captain Zhou said sharply, folding his arms across his chest and barring the way. His tone carried a hint of suspicion, and his gaze scrutinized Bai Cheng closely.

Bai Cheng hastily replied, “Captain Zhou, I’m here to release a prisoner under General Xing’s orders.”

“To release a prisoner, you’ll need an amnesty order. Do you have one?” Captain Zhou asked, his expression unmoving. He didn’t reach for the amnesty but instead eyed Bai Cheng warily, as though assessing the truth of his claim.

“Of course!” Bai Cheng answered firmly, producing the amnesty order without hesitation. The token glowed faintly in his hand, its radiance undeniable.

Captain Zhou’s brows furrowed as he stared at the amnesty. Though he clearly disliked the situation, he reluctantly stepped aside to let Bai Cheng pass.

The amnesty order held indisputable authority within Beast City. Issued by any of the three beast generals, it was a decree no one could challenge.

This very power was why figures like Qiu Yu dared to stir trouble—they knew that even imprisonment posed little threat. With a beast general as his father, Qiu Yu could always count on an amnesty order to secure his release.

# Chapter 4600

Captain Zhou was secretly displeased but had no choice but to watch as Bai Cheng approached the cell.

As Bai Cheng stepped inside and saw Kai, his face lit up with a joyous smile. “Mr. Chen, I got the amnesty order! I can take you out now,” he announced excitedly, his eyes brimming with anticipation, as though he could already picture the astonished reactions from others upon seeing Mr. Chen.

“I’m not leaving. Use the amnesty order to take him instead,” Kai replied calmly, gesturing toward the youngest sister’s brother.

Kai’s expression remained composed, showing little concern about his own release. His focus was entirely on ensuring the safety of the youngest sister’s brother.

Bai Cheng hesitated before speaking with difficulty. “Mr. Chen, this amnesty order was specifically arranged for you. General Xing wants to meet you.

“I explained your situation to General Xing, but no one believed me. They insisted I bring you to the general’s mansion.

“If I use this order for someone else and you don’t go, I’ll be accused of lying. General Xing might never trust me again,” he said, his voice tinged with helplessness and anxiety.

Hearing this, the youngest sister’s brother grew visibly nervous. Fear flickered in his eyes as his body trembled. He clung tightly to Kai’s clothes, as though holding onto his last hope.

Kai considered the situation for a moment before speaking decisively. “Take him out with the amnesty order first. Wait for me outside the prison tonight, and I’ll go to the general’s mansion with you.”

Determination flashed in Kai’s eyes. He couldn’t stand by and let the youngest sister’s brother remain imprisoned, and he knew he didn’t need the amnesty order to leave the prison himself.

Reluctantly, Bai Cheng agreed and left with the youngest sister's brother in tow. Before leaving, Kai shared the address of the inn where his youngest sister was waiting for him.

After expressing heartfelt gratitude to Kai, the youngest sister followed Bai Cheng, her steps quick and filled with anticipation. Her heart overflowed with the hope of freedom and deep appreciation for Kai.

Captain Zhou was taken aback when he saw Bai Cheng return without Kai. He had assumed Bai Cheng would prioritize releasing Kai with the amnesty order, so seeing someone else freed left him puzzled.

A flicker of doubt appeared in Captain Zhou's eyes as he silently speculated about the nature of the relationship between Bai Cheng and Kai.

After escorting the youngest sister to freedom, Bai Cheng remained stationed under the ancient tree with his men. Despite his unease about whether he could successfully escort Kai to the general's mansion later that night, he dutifully stayed on guard.

As night fell, Kai returned to the ancient tree. This time, with confidence gained from his previous experience, he wasted no time sending his spiritual consciousness into the tree.

In an instant, Kai's soul was transported to a realm of chaos, surrounded by dense spiritual energy.

The spiritual energy was like a tangible mist, glowing softly and enveloping him in an almost otherworldly atmosphere, reminiscent of a mystical fairyland.

Recognizing the rare opportunity before him, Kai began absorbing the spiritual energy with urgency. Though half an hour wasn't long, he poured all his focus into the process, rapidly enhancing his cultivation.

Eyes closed tightly, Kai immersed himself fully in drawing in the spiritual power, his aura growing stronger with each passing moment.

Unlike traditional methods that required converting spiritual energy into usable power through magic, this direct absorption was far more efficient—an invaluable boon for cultivation.

Amidst Kai's fervent efforts, a soft white light began to coalesce nearby. Slowly, it formed the figure of an elderly man, who eventually stood before Kai, his presence commanding and mysterious.