

the mans Decree: Kai Ping / Chen Ping

Chapter 4601

Kai sensed something unusual and abruptly opened his eyes, only to be startled by the old man standing before him.

His heart raced, and a flicker of fear crossed his eyes as he instinctively took a step back.

“You... who are you? How are you here?” Kai asked in shock. He had thoroughly scanned the area with his spiritual sense and found no one. The sudden appearance of this old man left him deeply unsettled.

Fixing his gaze on the old man, Kai’s mind filled with caution and unease.

“You’re asking me why I’m here? That’s my question for you! This is my home—what are you doing here?” the old man retorted, his expression displeased.

The old man wore a white robe, and though his hair was snowy white, his face appeared youthful. His sharp eyes carried an air of authority and irritation.

Kai was stunned. “Your home? Are you saying this is your home?” he asked incredulously.

Doubt filled his heart. He hadn’t expected this ancient tree space to belong to the old man before him.

“Of course! Not just this place—the entire Beast City is my home!” the old man declared, his tone tinged with pride and dominance.

He lifted his chin slightly, his eyes gleaming with arrogance, as if asserting his dominion over the territory.

Kai felt his mind reel. “You... Are you the city lord of Beast City?” he asked, his voice laced with disbelief.

The city lord of Beast City had been absent from public view for ages, and Kai hadn’t imagined he’d be hiding within this ancient tree space, cultivating while drawing on the spiritual power of other cultivators to fuel his progress.

A chill ran down Kai’s spine as he contemplated the city lord’s cunning and formidable strength.

“Yes, I am the city lord of Beast City. And who are you?” the old man demanded coldly. “Very few people can enter this ancient tree space.

Explain yourself clearly, and I may let you leave. But if you dare lie...” His voice turned icy. “You’ll remain here forever!”

The city lord’s words were heavy with menace, making Kai’s heart tighten. He realized he had to tread carefully with his response.

His mind raced, searching for the right explanation that might satisfy the city lord without provoking his wrath. It was clear that the illusion arrays surrounding Beast City had been constructed by the city lord to isolate it from the Heavenly World.

Now, after thousands of years, what would the city lord’s reaction be if an outsider entered Beast City?

Another troubling matter was that if Kai revealed the truth, it could implicate Liu Zhongnan and the others, leading to a punishment as severe as the annihilation of their entire clans.

After careful deliberation, Kai decided against telling the truth. If the city lord uncovered the facts himself, Kai could not be held responsible.

“Senior, my name is Kai. I am a casual cultivator and have no idea why I was able to enter this ancient tree space,” Kai explained.

“I only know that the spiritual power in my body is being absorbed by this tree, so I came to investigate.”

Kai’s tone was calm as he addressed the city lord.

“A casual cultivator?” The city lord’s lips curled into a faint smile. “You are the son of a dragon. You deliberately entered the prison and approached the ancient tree. Are you trying to claim the spiritual power it has accumulated for yourself?”

Kai froze, staring at the city lord in shock. How could the city lord know so much about him?

Was it the city lord who spied on him yesterday?

If so, then the city lord likely already knew some of his secrets.

“In this Beast City, nothing escapes my notice—least of all this ancient tree,” the city lord declared, his voice filled with authority.

“Since you are the son of a dragon and a true dragon, I will spare your life. But you should leave immediately!”

“Lord City Lord, this ancient tree is absorbing the spiritual power of others, causing many cultivators to—”

“Do you intend to challenge the laws of Beast City and correct the grievances of others? Such matters are beyond your control!” the city lord interrupted sharply, his expression darkening. “If you value your life, leave now!”

Chapter 4602

Kai sensed the city lord's murderous intent and immediately stopped speaking, retreating swiftly from the ancient tree space.

He knew he stood no chance against the city lord. The man had clearly reached the immortal realm, and his absence from the world was likely due to his focus on cultivating for ascension to the heavens.

Standing before the ancient tree and feeling the dense spiritual energy it contained, Kai let out a sigh.

With his current strength, there was no way he could claim the spiritual power of the ancient tree for himself.

"If I can't have the ancient tree, I'll see if the fairy stone vein Xiong Kuo mentioned is real," Kai murmured to himself.

Although disappointed, he decided to settle for the next best thing. Obtaining a vein of fairy stones would still be a great boon.

With the storage bag he had taken from Narota and the Demon Sealing League's hundred-year offering, Kai had enough resources to focus on cultivation for a time.

These resources would be sufficient for him to break through to the Mahayana realm.

Kai resolved to secure the fairy stone vein and dedicate himself to cultivation. His current strength was far too lacking, especially with hidden forces in the Heavenly World beginning to reemerge. He needed to grow stronger quickly.

As night fell, darkness gradually enveloped the sky.

Inside the cell, Kai judged the timing to be right and effortlessly walked out of the cell.

Xiong Kuo, upon witnessing Kai's casual departure as though the cell held no constraints, stared in shock, his eyes nearly popping out of their sockets.

Reaching the prison yard, Kai found no guards on duty.

The entire prison was encased in formations that were believed to make escape impossible.

For Kai, however, this was an advantage—it allowed him to leave without interference.

As for the formations surrounding the prison, Kai regarded them with complete indifference. They posed no obstacle to him at all. The illusion array surrounding Beast City was indeed formidable, beyond Kai's ability to break. However, the prison's protective array was another story—it was child's play by comparison.

Shrouded in white mist, Kai raised his palms and gently pressed forward.

A soft white light emanated from his hands, revealing the barrier protecting the prison. Without hesitation, Kai passed through the barrier effortlessly. The array didn't ripple or react, ensuring no alarms were triggered, and the guards remained unaware.

Meanwhile, Bai Cheng was waiting anxiously outside the prison. He feared Kai might not manage to escape. After all, the prison had stood for thousands of years, and no one had ever successfully escaped without permission.

If he failed to bring Kai to General Xing, Bai Cheng knew he would face questions and ridicule from the other guest officials.

As Bai Cheng paced nervously, a sudden fluctuation of energy caught his attention. Moments later, Kai's figure emerged slowly from the white mist.

Seeing Kai step out of the prison and bypass the array, Bai Cheng's face lit up with astonishment and disbelief.

"Mr. Chen, you really made it out?" Bai Cheng exclaimed, stepping forward.

"I said I could, and I did. Now, take me to see General Xing," Kai replied with a faint smile.

"Understood! Let's go!" Bai Cheng nodded, still stunned.

He led Kai to the general's mansion.

Inside the grand hall, General Xing sat calmly, surrounded by over a dozen guest officials, all waiting.

"General, Bai Cheng is likely spouting nonsense. It's this late, and he still hasn't brought the man," one of them remarked skeptically.

"Exactly! Dragons in Beast City? What a ridiculous claim!"

"A ninth-grade Tribulation Realm cultivator defeating a fourth-grade Mahayana Realm cultivator? Preposterous! Even if you tried to convince me under threat, I wouldn't believe it. If this Kai actually shows up, I'd like to challenge him myself and see if he can best me, a fourth-grade Mahayana Realm cultivator!"

The room buzzed with disbelief, as none of the officials gave Bai Cheng's claims any credit.

Chapter 4603

The situation seemed too unbelievable for the gathered guests, as nothing this extraordinary had occurred in their thousands of years of existence.

“Fine, we’ll wait an hour. If Bai Cheng still hasn’t brought the person by then, he’ll face immediate punishment,” General Xing declared, waving his hand.

Just as he finished speaking, Bai Cheng entered with Kai in tow.

“General, Mr. Chen has arrived,” Bai Cheng announced.

As General Xing and the guests turned their eyes to Kai, their initial reactions were ones of disappointment.

Despite being a dragon, Kai appeared entirely ordinary, lacking the aura of majesty they associated with the dragon race.

Nonetheless, they quickly discerned that Kai’s cultivation level was indeed at the ninth grade of the Tribulation Realm.

Kai scanned the hall, noting that all present were Mahayana Realm cultivators. General Xing stood out as the strongest, having reached the eighth grade of the Mahayana Realm. The others ranged between the fourth and fifth grades, with the weakest among them at the third grade. This reflected the considerable strength of General Xing’s retinue.

“Are you truly a dragon?” General Xing asked, his tone measured.

Kai nodded. “I am.”

“Could you release some of your dragon breath for us to confirm?” General Xing pressed further.

Without a word, Kai unleashed a restrained surge of divine dragon power. The faint echo of dragon roars reverberated through the hall as his aura expanded.

Kai carefully limited the intensity of his release, refraining from fully unleashing his dragon power or manifesting the golden dragon that could appear behind him.

He knew better than to expose his full strength to someone whose intentions he didn't fully trust.

"It's unmistakable. He is indeed of the Dragon Clan," General Xing affirmed, feeling the potent energy.

The other guests, too, sensed the unmistakable presence of the dragon aura emanating from Kai, leaving no doubt in their minds about his lineage. Since everyone present was from the beast tribe, and the dragon tribe was the most esteemed among them, their attitudes toward Kai shifted instantly. However, skepticism lingered.

Kai, a ninth-grade cultivator in the Tribulation Realm, had allegedly defeated Bai Cheng, a fourth-grade Mahayana Realm cultivator. The claim seemed implausible even for a dragon.

"I've heard that you, a ninth-grade cultivator in the Tribulation Realm, defeated a fourth-grade Mahayana Realm cultivator?" General Xing asked, his tone carrying a hint of doubt.

"Fellow Daoist Bai merely went easy on me," Kai replied humbly.

"I knew it! How could someone at the ninth-grade Tribulation Realm possibly defeat a fourth-grade Mahayana cultivator? Bai Cheng must have been intimidated by the dragon lineage and conceded out of fear," scoffed one of the fourth-grade guest cultivators.

"That's not true! Mr. Chen is just being modest. Even if I used all my strength, I couldn't match him," Bai Cheng interjected, his voice urgent. "If you doubt me, why don't you challenge Mr. Chen yourself? You're also a fourth-grade Mahayana cultivator; you'll see the truth in battle!"

The guest's eyes lit up with interest. "Fine. Let's fight! I'd like to see how a mere ninth-grade Tribulation Realm cultivator measures up to me."

"I'm not as strong as you think," Kai said with a faint smile, "but I could still beat you with one hand."

He knew that if he didn't demonstrate his strength, these people would continue to undermine him. In a society where power dictated respect, only overwhelming strength could earn their acknowledgment.

However, Kai also understood the challenges of such a duel. With his current limitations, relying solely on his dragon lineage wouldn't be enough to defeat a fourth-grade Mahayana cultivator decisively.

He couldn't afford to expose his hidden powers or reveal certain weapons, which meant he lacked the confidence to deliver a single decisive blow. A prolonged battle might lead to victory but wouldn't carry the same dramatic impact. Worse, it could risk exposing secrets he wasn't ready to share, complicating matters further.

Chapter 4604

"Senior, can you help me deal with this arrogant fool?" Kai pleaded with the Red Cloud Demon Lord.

The Demon Lord raised an eyebrow. "Just a fourth-grade cultivator in the Mahayana Realm? Can't you handle him yourself?"

Kai explained his reservations, and after listening, the Red Cloud Demon Lord nodded. "Alright, I'll help you, but I can't possess your body. I'm not a beastman, and attaching myself to you would make it too obvious."

"Then how exactly will you help me?" Kai asked, puzzled.

"Don't worry. If I say I'll help, I will. Just focus on the fight," the Red Cloud Demon Lord replied confidently.

Kai nodded reluctantly. Despite his concerns, he felt reassured. Facing a fourth-grade Mahayana cultivator, Kai knew he had to keep his composure.

The challenger, exuding arrogance, stepped forward with his aura flaring. The room filled with ripples of spiritual power as his energy

surged. “Boy,” he growled, “I’ll show you today that the gap between realms isn’t so easily bridged.”

Kai remained calm, narrowing his eyes slightly. “Please, enlighten me,” he replied, his voice steady.

Without further ado, the challenger darted toward Kai, his hand glowing with condensed spiritual power. He struck with ferocious intent, aiming directly for Kai.

The onlookers watched with bated breath, convinced Kai would struggle against the ferocity of the attack.

But Kai moved with precision. At the last moment, he sidestepped smoothly, allowing the attack to miss entirely.

The challenger froze momentarily, startled by Kai’s agility. He quickly regained his composure and launched another strike. This time, streams of spiritual power snaked toward Kai, coiling like living entities.

Kai smirked faintly. With a casual wave of his hand, an invisible force shattered the incoming spiritual streams with ease.

The room grew tense as the challenger’s expression darkened. He hadn’t expected Kai to neutralize his attacks so effortlessly. Gritting his teeth, he decided to unleash his strongest move. The guest let out a thunderous shout, his spiritual power erupting in a violent surge. Behind him, a massive phantom of a ferocious beast materialized, radiating an oppressive aura that struck fear into everyone present.

With both hands thrust forward, the guest directed the roaring phantom to charge at Kai.

The audience held their breath, their faces tense with worry for Kai.

Yet Kai remained unfazed. Calmly, he raised his right hand, and a golden light began to form in his palm. With a gentle push, the light

transformed into a radiant golden dragon that roared as it rushed toward the phantom beast.

The two forces collided with a deafening explosion, sending powerful energy ripples through the hall, causing it to tremble slightly.

All eyes were fixed on the clash, the tension palpable.

The golden dragon, fierce and unstoppable, tore through the phantom beast with ease, dispersing it into nothingness.

The fourth-grade Mahayana cultivator staggered backward under the force of the backlash, his face pale and shaken.

Kai, however, stood unmoving, his composure undisturbed, as if the clash had been nothing more than a minor inconvenience.

The hall fell into stunned silence, the weight of disbelief heavy in the air.

General Xing's eyes widened in shock as he stared at Kai. Moments ago, he had doubted Kai's abilities, but witnessing him effortlessly overpower a fourth-grade Mahayana guest left him reevaluating his assumptions.

The other guests were equally speechless. None had imagined that a ninth-grade Tribulation Realm cultivator could so decisively defeat someone at the fourth rank of the Mahayana Realm.

Kai broke the silence with a faint smile, offering a courteous, "Thank you."

The room's occupants snapped out of their daze, their initial skepticism replaced by awe.

It became clear to all that this seemingly unremarkable dragon had a strength far beyond what anyone had anticipated.

Chapter 4605

General Xing hurriedly stood up, exclaiming in surprise, “I didn’t expect Fellow Daoist Chen to be so extraordinary! Despite being only at the ninth level of the Tribulation Realm, he easily defeated a fourth-level cultivator of the Mahayana Realm!”

“Please, take a seat, take a seat...”

General Xing’s demeanor toward Kai shifted noticeably, and even the other guests now regarded Kai with newfound respect.

The fourth-level Mahayana cultivator who had accompanied Kai looked deeply embarrassed. Stepping forward, he said humbly, “I was rash earlier. Please don’t hold it against me, Fellow Daoist Chen.”

“It’s fine!” Kai responded with a casual wave of his hand.

“Fellow Daoist Chen, may I ask if you have any relatives or friends? And where have you been staying?” General Xing inquired.

He was keen to learn if Kai had any remaining kin. Recruiting a group of dragon-lineage cultivators could significantly bolster his standing compared to the other two generals.

“I have no fixed residence—I’m just a wandering cultivator,” Kai replied.

He couldn’t reveal his true identity. If General Xing discovered that he came from outside Beast City, it would only invite unnecessary trouble.

“Oh, so Fellow Daoist Chen is a wandering cultivator. Even so, reaching the ninth level of the Tribulation Realm with no formal backing speaks volumes of your exceptional talent,” General Xing remarked. “What are your plans for the future? Do you have a destination in mind?”

Kai gave a wry smile. “Where can I go? I’m still a criminal and bound for prison.”

“Prison?” General Xing was taken aback. “Didn’t I instruct Bai Cheng to secure an amnesty order and bring you out? Why are you still talking about prison?”

Unaware that Kai had escaped on his own, General Xing assumed Bai Cheng had used the amnesty order to free him.

“General, allow me to explain...” Bai Cheng quickly stepped forward and recounted the entire situation to General Xing. When everyone heard that Kai had escaped from prison on his own, they were utterly stunned.

The prison was protected by two layers of formations—one securing the cells and another surrounding the entire facility. How had Kai managed to bypass both formations silently and escape so effortlessly?

For thousands of years, no prisoner had ever managed to escape from this prison unaided.

“Are you also a formation master?” General Xing asked in astonishment as he looked at Kai.

“I’m no formation master,” Kai replied with a faint smile. “I just know a little about formations. The ones in the prison were nothing more than child’s play—they couldn’t stop me.”

Hearing this, the crowd frowned slightly.

Formation masters were exceedingly rare in the Tianren world. When the Beast City region was enclosed by its own formation, there were already very few formation masters available. The prison’s protective formations had been established over a thousand years ago, commissioned at great expense by the City Lord’s Mansion to reward the only formation master in the region at the time.

Yet Kai claimed these intricate formations were mere trifles. His statement struck many as overly arrogant.

Although Kai was a dragon and capable of defeating a fourth-level Mahayana cultivator while only in the ninth level of the Tribulation Realm, it didn't make him invincible.

Formation magic and alchemy were highly specialized arts—far more challenging than simply cultivating and advancing realms. They were also incredibly time-consuming, which is why most cultivators avoided them, preferring to dedicate their time to realm breakthroughs.

“Fellow Daoist Chen,” General Xing said, “my mansion is protected by formations. I wonder—can you identify them and perhaps even break through?”

“That’s no challenge at all,” Kai replied with a light smile. With a casual wave of his hand, a brilliant white light flickered briefly around the entire mansion, illuminating the dark night.

Just as quickly as it appeared, the light vanished.

Chapter 4606

“The formation around the general’s mansion has been broken,” Kai said casually. “It offered no real protection. If anyone were to attack the mansion, the formation would collapse instantly.”

“Broken just like that?” General Xing exclaimed, unable to believe it.

Muttering to himself, he raised his palm, and a ray of light shot forth as he attempted to activate the formation. However, after several tries, there was no response.

It was clear—the formation had indeed been broken by Kai.

“This...” General Xing’s eyes widened in disbelief. His face betrayed his shock as he grappled with how the intricate formation, created by an expensive formation master, could be undone with a simple wave of Kai’s hand.

This time, no one could deny Kai's capabilities.

"I never expected Fellow Daoist Chen to also be a master of formations. My apologies..." General Xing said, his tone a mix of awe and regret.

"Though Fellow Daoist Chen's cultivation level isn't high, I have never seen a formation master this powerful."

"Fellow Daoist Chen, you are truly young and promising—your future is limitless," the other guests chimed in, offering their flattery.

They all understood the immense value of winning favor with a formation master.

"Fellow Daoist Chen, your skill is remarkable, but..." General Xing hesitated, an embarrassed expression crossing his face.

He had spoken casually earlier and hadn't expected Kai to actually dismantle the formation protecting his mansion.

"General Xing," Kai said, smiling, "since I can break a formation, naturally, I can also create one. I'll set up a new, powerful formation for your mansion—one even a ninth-level Mahayana Realm cultivator couldn't break."

With that, Kai pinched his fingers together and began inscribing formation patterns in the air. The patterns glowed and flashed, and soon a radiant golden light enveloped the general's mansion. In moments, a formidable new formation was in place.

Kai's demonstration left everyone awestruck once again.

"Fellow Daoist Chen," General Xing said eagerly, "I would like to invite you to serve as an honored guest official under my banner. I promise you the best treatment, with all resources and funds at your disposal."

"As for your imprisonment, I'll have Bai Cheng secure the amnesty order tomorrow." "Although the prison isn't under my jurisdiction, I still have

the authority to release someone!” General Xing declared confidently, looking at Kai with anticipation.

He was determined to make Kai his guest official. Talents like Kai were rare, and having a formation master under his wing was nothing short of a heavenly gift. General Xing had no intention of letting this opportunity slip away.

“Since General Xing holds me in such high regard, I will gladly comply with your wishes,” Kai replied with a respectful bow.

Kai understood that to secure the fairy stone vein, he needed to ally with a powerful force in Beast City. He was unfamiliar with the city’s inner workings and had no knowledge of the overall strength of its cultivators. If the fairy stone vein truly existed, he couldn’t safeguard it on his own.

For now, cooperation was key. Aligning himself with General Xing would be the first step toward achieving his goal.

“Hahaha! Wonderful!” General Xing laughed heartily. “It’s an honor to have Fellow Daoist Chen join me!”

“Fellow Daoist Chen, you don’t need to return to the prison tonight. I’ll arrange the finest guest accommodations for you in my mansion,” General Xing offered.

“Thank you, General Xing, but there’s no need for that. I won’t be returning to the prison, but I do have friends waiting for me at the inn, and I need to meet with them,” Kai replied politely.

“Very well,” General Xing said. “You’re welcome to visit me anytime. Just be aware that the Beast City enforces a curfew at night—cultivators are not allowed to roam the streets.”

“However,” he added with a smile, “as a guest of my mansion, you’re exempt from this rule. Take this token—it will grant you unrestricted passage.”

General Xing handed Kai a token, its surface engraved with the character “Xing,” marking it as belonging to his household.

“Thank you, General Xing,” Kai said with a respectful bow.

With the token in hand, Kai left the general’s mansion and headed straight for the inn.

Chapter 4607

The streets of Beast City lay silent beneath the night’s shadow. The doors of the surrounding houses were tightly shut, as if their occupants feared the unknown lurking in the quiet.

Occasionally, a few patrolling guards passed by, their footsteps echoing clearly in the stillness.

At this moment, Beast City felt eerily quiet, like a slumbering beast, its terrifying power hidden until the moment it awakened.

Suddenly, the silence was shattered. Several figures appeared on the deserted street. Clearly drunk, they staggered along, talking loudly and disrupting the tranquility of the night.

“Mr. Qiu, the girl tonight was amazing—and not just her looks, her strength too! Only Mr. Qiu is worthy of someone like her,” one of them exclaimed.

“That’s right! Brother Yu isn’t just anyone. Forget one girl—he could handle ten without breaking a sweat,” another chimed in.

“I remember Brother Yu once played around with a girl in the Mahayana Realm! She was almost killed by him in the process!” added a third, laughing.

These men were Qiu Yu's companions, fresh from a night of drinking. It was Qiu Yu's status that allowed them to wander so freely and loudly through the curfew-bound streets.

Flattered by their praise, Qiu Yu licked his lips and said smugly, "A girl in the Mahayana Realm is nothing special. Just wait—I'll find someone in the Immortal Transformation Realm next!"

His words instantly startled his companions, who shrank back nervously, glancing around.

"Are you serious? The Immortal Transformation Realm?" one whispered. "You've got to be joking!"

They knew such boasts could be dangerous. There were no female cultivators of the Immortal Transformation Realm in Beast City, but if there were, even a single word overheard could seal their fates.

"Who dares to make such noise in the streets?"

Just then, three patrolling guards spotted Qiu Yu and his group, quickly surrounding them.

But the moment the guards recognized him, their expressions changed to alarm.

"Are you blind? Don't you know who I am?" Qiu Yu barked angrily, glaring at them.

"Mr. Qiu! Our apologies! We didn't realize it was you!" the guards stammered, bowing hurriedly.

The three guards quickly apologized.

After all, Qiu Yu's father was one of the three Beast Generals of Beast City. With such a powerful identity, Qiu Yu didn't have to follow any rules.

Rules were made for others, not for someone like him.

“Get out of my sight, and keep your eyes open next time!” Qiu Yu snapped. Seeing the guards’ submissive attitude boosted his ego, and with a dismissive wave of his hand, he allowed them to leave.

A smug smile spread across his face as he basked in the pleasure of wielding his authority.

But just as the guards were turning to leave, Qiu Yu noticed a figure approaching from the opposite direction.

As the person drew closer, Qiu Yu recognized him—it was Kai, the man who had beaten him up at the inn!

For a moment, Qiu Yu was stunned. Shouldn’t this guy still be in prison?

Kai also noticed Qiu Yu and his group. He paused briefly but showed no fear. Holding General Xing’s token, he had no reason to worry about being on the street despite the curfew.

“You little punk! Not only did you escape from prison, but you’re also brazenly breaking the curfew!” Qiu Yu shouted. “What are you all standing around for? Arrest him!”

At his command, the three guards immediately moved to surround Kai.

“You’ve violated the curfew,” one of them said coldly. “Come quietly with us, or we’ll have to use force!”

Standing to the side, Qiu Yu crossed his arms and smirked, thoroughly enjoying the scene.

Kai, however, ignored the guard’s words and calmly took out General Xing’s token.

The moment the guards saw the token, they froze. Then, realizing what it meant, they quickly stepped aside.

“Our apologies...” one guard muttered.

Chapter 4608

Anyone carrying General Xing’s token was undoubtedly a distinguished guest of the general’s mansion—someone far beyond the authority of ordinary guards to challenge.

When the three guards stepped aside and respectfully apologized to Kai, Qiu Yu was visibly baffled.

“What are you doing? Why aren’t you arresting him?”

Qiu Yu’s voice echoed harshly through the quiet streets, drawing even more attention to his outrage.

“Mr. Qiu, we’re sorry,” one of the guards explained. “He has General Xing’s token, which makes him a guest of the general’s mansion. As such, he isn’t violating the curfew, and we have no right to detain him.”

Qiu Yu froze, staring at Kai in disbelief.

Kai casually walked past him, holding the token, his eyes glinting with a hint of provocation.

“Damn it! No wonder this guy got out of prison—it’s Xing pulling the strings! This is a direct affront to the Qiu family,” Qiu Yu muttered furiously.

Clenching his fists, he snarled, “I’ll report this to my father. There’s no way I’m letting this slide!”

He stormed off, seething with anger.

...

At the Inn

The youngest sister was in the middle of a heated argument with her brother, who had just been released from custody.

Her face was flushed with frustration, and her voice trembled as she fought back tears.

“Brother, you’re free now! Why are you still waiting for Kai? We should have left this place long ago!”

“It’s already dark, and you can’t leave the city at this hour. If you get caught again, I swear I won’t come to your rescue this time!” she yelled, her anger evident.

After his release, her brother had come to the inn to find her. At first, she was overjoyed to see him, eager to leave Beast City and head home together.

But despite her pleas, her brother remained adamant about waiting for Kai, showing no intention of leaving. “Sister, this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Don’t be foolish.”

“If we build a connection with Kai, we’ll never have to worry about anything again.”

“It doesn’t matter whether you like him or not; you need to find a way to secure him.”

“Once you two share a bed, it’ll be settled, and our futures will be guaranteed.”

The youngest sister’s brother urged her with an eager tone, his eyes brimming with anticipation and excitement. He seemed utterly convinced of Kai’s potential.

During the past few days, he had learned more about Kai and the rumored fairy stone vein. Determined to follow Kai, he saw this as their golden ticket.

If the vein truly existed, aligning themselves with Kai would mean a lifetime of unlimited resources. However, he also understood that with their current strength, the two siblings would be unqualified to follow someone like Kai. They would likely be seen as burdens.

Thus, he desperately wanted his sister to become Kai's woman. He believed that if she spent the night with Kai, their relationship would be cemented, and Kai would have no choice but to keep them around.

In his mind, this would also secure Kai as his brother-in-law, making their connection unshakable.

"Brother, what nonsense are you talking about? Are you seriously trying to sell me out? What did Kai do to you that's making you push me into his arms?"

"I remember when you first met Kai, you warned him not to approach me and told me to stay cautious around him."

The youngest sister looked at her brother incredulously, unable to understand his sudden change of attitude.

"Stop overthinking and just trust me," her brother said dismissively, unable to provide a full explanation.

After all, the fewer people who knew about the fairy stone vein, the safer it would be. If word got out, it could lead to life-threatening consequences.

"I won't listen to you! Tomorrow at dawn, I'm leaving. You can stay or go, but if you get caught again, don't expect me to help you!"

Frustrated and angry, the youngest sister threw herself onto the bed and turned her back on him, refusing to engage further.

Chapter 4609

The youngest sister's brother sighed and slumped into a chair. His sister was simply too stubborn. He needed to find another way to make her see reason.

Just then, the door suddenly swung open!

Both siblings were startled, their nerves on edge. Who would barge into their room at this hour?

As they instinctively prepared themselves for the unexpected, they saw Kai step inside.

"You two haven't left yet?" Kai asked, genuinely surprised.

He hadn't expected the youngest sister and her brother to still be here. With her brother released from prison, Kai assumed they would have left the Beast City immediately.

After all, the youngest sister's sole purpose for coming to the city had been to rescue her brother. Now that her mission was complete, there seemed no reason for them to stay.

"Brother-in-law, how... how are you out? And during a curfew, no less? How can you still walk freely in the streets?" the brother asked, visibly shocked.

"Answer my question first—why haven't you left yet?" Kai countered.

"I was worried about you, so we decided to stay and wait for news," the brother replied hurriedly.

"And my sister misses you so much she couldn't sleep. If we left and she never saw you again, she'd be heartbroken!"

"Brother, stop talking nonsense! Shut up!" the youngest sister interjected, visibly flustered.

She was well aware that Kai had no romantic interest in her. He already had someone like Zhongli by his side—a woman more beautiful and graceful than she could ever hope to be.

More importantly, she had witnessed Kai and Zhongli sharing intimate moments right in front of her. How could she possibly entertain the thought of pursuing him after that?

Kai looked at the youngest sister's brother, instantly seeing through his ploy. Clearly, the brother was fabricating excuses, likely because he wanted to follow Kai to the fairy stone vein in hopes of claiming a share for himself.

However, Kai chose not to expose him. Instead, he smiled and said, "If you miss me that much, then relax and take a nap. I'm feeling a bit sleepy too."

"Who wants to sleep with you!" the youngest sister retorted, rolling her eyes in exasperation. She turned to leave the room, but her brother quickly stopped her. "Sister, where do you think you're going? It's so late at night—you should just stay here and rest!"

The brother quickly stopped the youngest sister from leaving and then turned to Kai with a grin plastered across his face. "Brother-in-law, I'll stand guard outside the door for you. Don't worry, I won't hear a thing!"

Before leaving, he leaned close to Kai's ear and whispered, "Brother-in-law, my sister's a bit stubborn. Just be firm with her. Women are like that—they resist at first, but once you take control, they'll stop struggling and listen to you."

Kai's eyes widened in shock at the brother's words. He couldn't believe what he was hearing. At this point, he was certain: this guy was a shameless pervert, and it was no surprise he'd ended up in jail!

"Brother..."

Although the brother had spoken in a low voice, the youngest sister heard him clearly. She was so furious she nearly lashed out at him on the spot!

Sensing her anger, the brother quickly fled the room, shutting the door behind him.

The youngest sister turned to Kai, her expression icy. "I appreciate your help in rescuing my brother, but if you try to force yourself on me, I would rather die than give in."

"Relax, I'm not that kind of person," Kai replied calmly and then laid down on the bed without another word.

The youngest sister stared at him lying there, her emotions swirling.

She had spoken boldly, but in truth, if Kai were to act against her, she wouldn't resist. Deep down, part of her secretly wished he would take the initiative.

Yet, to her dismay, Kai didn't seem to understand her feelings at all. Instead, he summoned Zhongli, and the two of them began to act intimately right before her eyes.

The youngest sister could only stand there, frozen, her emotions a tangled mess of embarrassment and disappointment.

Meanwhile, her brother stood outside the door, listening to the muffled sounds coming from within. He was overjoyed, his face lighting up with glee.

"That's my sister for you! She really pulled it off. Looks like she's won over this rich man. Now she won't have to worry about anything ever again!"

He leaned against the door, lost in his fantasies of a prosperous future, thoroughly pleased with himself.

Chapter 4610

The Next Morning

When the youngest sister stepped out of her room, she was startled to see her brother asleep at the door.

This guy really stayed here all night!

“Sister, you’re up. Last night...”

As soon as her brother noticed her, he quickly stood up, ready to ask something. But before he could finish, the youngest sister shot him a glare and walked away without a word.

Kai stretched lazily as he emerged from his room.

“Brother-in-law, you’re really something,” the youngest sister’s brother said with a grin. “I heard everything last night! My sister acts cold, but she’s fiery underneath!”

“You were so loud! This time, you can’t deny it—you really are my brother-in-law!”

Kai chuckled, unfazed, while the youngest sister’s brother seemed genuinely relieved to have bonded with him.

“Brother, stop talking nonsense and shut up!” the youngest sister snapped, her face turning crimson. “We’re leaving and won’t come back to Beast City again!”

“Leave? Where would you even go? You’re Kai’s woman now—you have to follow him!” her brother replied confidently.

“Whether I go or stay is none of your business!” she retorted angrily before storming out of the inn.

The youngest sister's brother stood there, dumbfounded. Why was she still acting like this when everything was already settled?

"Why don't you go after her?" Kai asked calmly.

"This..." The youngest sister's brother hesitated, torn between two choices.

He had just secured a connection with Kai—letting go of this opportunity felt unthinkable. But he also couldn't watch his sister leave the city and vanish without a trace. For a moment, the youngest sister's brother looked flustered and unsure.

"What are you waiting for? Go after her!" Kai said, exasperated at the sight of him hesitating.

With that, Kai took the lead and went after the youngest sister. Seeing this, her brother finally snapped out of it and hurried to follow.

Now, he was determined to stick with Kai.

The three of them headed straight for the city gate, ready to leave. The youngest sister planned to return home, while Kai was determined to find Xiong Kuo's sister and gather information about the fairy stone vein.

However, as they neared the gate, a pair of eyes watched them intently from the shadows.

"Mr. Qiu, that Kai guy is heading out of the city. He might be trying to escape," a subordinate reported inside a quaint building.

"So, he's trying to run," Qiu Yu said with a dark expression. "I didn't think he'd actually manage to sneak out of the prison."

He turned to the subordinate. "Go inform Captain Zhou—that fool doesn't even know someone escaped from his prison!"

Qiu Yu's face twisted with anger. When he had encountered Kai holding General Xing's token the previous night, he assumed the general had authorized Kai's release. But after investigating, he discovered no one had set Kai free. The truth was clear—Kai had escaped on his own.

A prison break was a serious crime, punishable by death, and Qiu Yu was confident Kai would try to flee the city. To prepare, he had ordered his men to keep watch at the gates.

Sure enough, when he spotted Kai attempting to leave, Qiu Yu immediately sent word to Captain Zhou, knowing the captain would be held accountable for the prison escape.

But Qiu Yu's grudge ran deeper than the jailbreak. News of Kai beating him up had spread throughout Beast City, turning him into a laughingstock. As the young master of the Qiu family, he was used to being admired and respected. Now, he was the subject of ridicule and whispers.

Being defeated by a mere cultivator in the Tribulation Realm was a humiliation he couldn't bear. If Kai had died under torture in prison, it might have salvaged some dignity. But now, Kai had not only escaped but was also on the run.

Chapter 4611

The cyan blade gleamed with dazzling brilliance, slicing cleanly through the center of the massive energy-formed hand. Qin Xiaolin's figure abruptly retreated as the giant hand disintegrated into smoke and vanished into the air.

This time, Qin Xiaolin failed to gain any advantage and was instead defeated by a single strike from Kai, leaving everyone astonished.

Narrowing his eyes, Qin Xiaolin's murderous intent deepened. Without uttering a word, he launched another attack on Kai.

Whether Kai was injured or not, Qin Xiaolin had no intention of giving him any respite. If he couldn't kill Kai in one strike, he would exhaust him to death. With his strength as a Wuzong master, Qin Xiaolin firmly believed Kai wouldn't have the endurance to outlast him.

Clenching his hand into a fist, Qin Xiaolin unleashed a powerful punch from dozens of meters away. A translucent wave of energy shot rapidly toward Kai. The speed was so incredible that onlookers only saw a white streak of smoke between the two fighters, like the trail of an airplane cutting through the sky.

Bang!

Kai condensed his Qi into a blade once more, but this time, the blade's light was significantly stronger—proof he hadn't used his full power in the previous strike.

With a deafening clash, Kai's blade slashed into the energy wave. Although he managed to neutralize most of its force, a portion still struck his chest with tremendous impact.

Kai's body lurched backward, then hurtled through the air. His feet skidded across the ring, carving two deep grooves into its surface before he finally came to a stop at the edge.

Frowning slightly, Kai realized the true power of a martial arts master. Qin Xiaolin's Qi force was on a completely different level compared to that of ordinary warriors.

Unlike ordinary warriors, whose Qi force is developed through repetitive training and physical exertion, martial arts masters possess the ability to release Qi force at will. Reaching the level of external Qi release is a sign of mastery. However, due to the inherent limitations of martial arts training methods, a master's Qi force typically cannot sustain its full strength for long or maintain such high levels of condensation. Compared to the spiritual power of immortal cultivators, Qi power lags far behind. This is why Kai, despite being only in the Bigu stage, can easily kill two martial arts masters.

However, Qin Xiaolin's Qi power is vastly different from that of other martial artists. It is nearly equivalent to the spiritual power of immortal cultivators. No wonder Long Wu had warned Kai that martial artists in the Martial Arts Realm are not so easy to handle. Reaching this level elevates martial artists to an entirely new plane of power.

It's no surprise that many martial artists dream of reaching the Martial Arts Realm, dedicating their lives to this goal. Yet, achieving it is no simple task. Alongside rigorous practice and natural talent, one also requires fortuitous opportunities.

"You've withstood two of my attacks—you're the strongest grandmaster I've encountered since leaving my retreat. Your physical body is more formidable than I expected. You must have used some kind of elixir to refine it. If you hand over the elixir to me, I might consider sparing your life," Qin Xiaolin said, his gaze fixed enviously on Kai's exposed bronze skin.

"You'll let me go?" Kai sneered, the corners of his mouth curling up. "I killed your son and your nephew. Do you really expect me to believe you'll spare me?"

"When you've reached my level of cultivation, familial ties are nothing but burdens. Once I achieve immortality, I won't have to worry about lacking heirs. If you truly possess an elixir that can refine the body and you give it to me, I swear to let you go..."

Qin Xiaolin's words left everyone stunned. None of them expected him to forsake vengeance for his son in pursuit of a mere elixir.

Chapter 4612

"I hold General Xing's token. As his guest, do you still dare to touch me? Aren't you afraid of his wrath?" Kai asked coldly.

"Hahaha! Afraid? Of him? That Xing guy is nothing! Even if I kill you, what could he possibly do to me?"

“If he dares to make a move against me, my father will crush him!” Qiu Yu laughed loudly, showing no fear of General Xing.

Kai realized that General Xing’s reputation was meaningless to Qiu Yu. Clearly, General Xing’s power and status among the three Beast Generals weren’t the highest.

“Do you think you can seek revenge on me with just these few men?” Kai asked, glancing at Qiu Yu’s followers with a disdainful smile.

The handful of third-grade cultivators at the Mahayana realm posed no threat to him.

“Don’t get cocky! If it weren’t for my carelessness last time, you wouldn’t have beaten me. Today, I’ll subdue you and throw you into prison!” Qiu Yu snapped angrily.

As he finished speaking, Qiu Yu made the first move. A flash of light appeared in his hand, revealing a sword radiating biting cold. Its runes glowed ominously, brimming with powerful energy.

Like a streak of lightning, Qiu Yu charged at Kai, his sword forming intricate patterns in the air as it aimed for Kai’s vital points.

But Kai remained calm. With a small step, he moved deftly, evading Qiu Yu’s attack with ease.

Infuriated by the miss, Qiu Yu swung his sword again, unleashing waves of sword energy like sharp blades sweeping toward Kai.

Kai sneered, quickly forming seals with his hands while murmuring under his breath. A transparent shield materialized before him. The sword energy struck the shield, disintegrating into specks of light that vanished instantly.

“Is this all you’ve got? And you think you can take revenge on me?” Kai mocked with a smirk. Seeing this, the monks behind Qiu Yu exchanged glances before unleashing their unique techniques.

One monk waved his hands, summoning dark clouds to cover the sky. Lightning bolts crackled and struck down toward Kai.

Another monk exhaled a stream of fire from his mouth. The flames transformed into a massive fire snake, its gaping maw lunging toward Kai.

A third monk wielded a giant axe, its surface gleaming with radiant light. With a powerful swing, he sent a colossal blade of energy hurtling toward Kai.

Yet, Kai remained unfazed in the face of their combined assault.

He formed seals with his hands once more and shouted, “Break!” The shield before him flared brilliantly. The lightning, fire snake, and axe blade collided with it in a series of deafening roars but failed to penetrate.

“Is that all you’ve got?” Kai mocked with a scornful smile.

Qiu Yu’s anger boiled over. He raised his sword high and roared, “Ice Soul Sword Rain!” With a slash of his blade toward the heavens, the dark clouds above transformed into countless ice swords that rained down on Kai.

Each ice sword carried immense power, descending like a deadly storm.

Kai glanced at the falling ice swords, a flicker of disdain crossing his eyes.

In an instant, a surge of fiery energy erupted from his body, manifesting as a colossal flame dragon that coiled protectively around him.

As the ice swords struck the flaming dragon, they melted instantly, turning to harmless water.

“You... you’re using demon fire! You’re not a beastman—you’re a demon cultivator?” Qiu Yu exclaimed, his face filled with shock.

It was common knowledge that only beastmen could enter Beast City, with guards meticulously inspecting everyone at the gates.

To think Kai, a demon cultivator, had not only evaded detection but infiltrated the city undetected!

Chapter 4613

If Kai hadn't unleashed this fire, Qiu Yu would never have realized his identity as a demon cultivator.

It seemed Kai had concealed his true nature far too well!

What Qiu Yu didn't know was that Kai possessed the powers of three races. Whether it was the beast tribe, demon tribe, or human race, traces of all three resided within him.

Now, Qiu Yu's assumption that Kai was merely a demon cultivator was far too simplistic.

"You're done fighting. Now it's my turn," Kai said coldly.

In a flash, his figure vanished. Qiu Yu and his allies were stunned and began frantically searching for him.

Suddenly, Kai reappeared behind one of the cultivators. A brilliant light flared as the Dragon Slaying Sword materialized in his hand, thrusting toward the unsuspecting monk's back.

Sensing the danger, the cultivator spun around, swinging his axe to counter the attack.

But Kai neither dodged nor flinched. His Dragon Slaying Sword clashed directly with the axe, sending sparks flying.

In an instant, the axe shattered under the might of the Dragon Slaying Sword.

The monk's face twisted in horror, but before he could react, the sword pierced through his chest.

Eyes wide with disbelief, the cultivator stared at Kai before collapsing lifelessly to the ground.

“You... you actually killed him!” Qiu Yu bellowed in fury.

“Hmph! You want to kill me, but you expect me not to fight back?” Kai retorted with a sneer.

“You little brat! Today, I’ll—” Qiu Yu began, his face contorted with rage, as though ready to engage Kai in a desperate battle.

But before he could finish, Kai vanished once more.

A blinding white light streaked through the air, and a crushing force, as heavy as a mountain, slammed into Qiu Yu's group.

One by one, the cultivators were struck in the chest, as if hit by meteors, and sent flying backward.

When they crashed to the ground, the impact left massive craters where they landed.

Qiu Yu stared in stunned disbelief at the scene before him.

He couldn't comprehend how Kai, with his strength at the ninth level of the Tribulation Realm, could overpower his allies, who were all at the third level of the Mahayana Realm.

The difference in their power levels should have made such an outcome impossible! Moreover, Qiu Yu's side had the advantage in both numbers and strength, with high cultivation realms among them.

Yet the outcome was entirely one-sided!

It didn't make sense!

“Now it’s your turn,” Kai sneered at Qiu Yu.

Qiu Yu’s body trembled slightly as he stared at Kai. He hadn’t expected Kai’s strength to surpass theirs so decisively.

It seemed he had gravely underestimated Kai. Clearly, Kai wasn’t a beastman, but how much of his true power had he concealed?

Step by step, Qiu Yu retreated, clearly preparing to flee.

Bang!

Just as he turned to run, Kai’s figure blurred, and in an instant, he delivered a powerful kick.

Qiu Yu couldn’t dodge in time and was sent flying by the blow, landing heavily in the dirt and creating another deep crater.

“You’re just a weakling... pathetic,” Kai sneered from above, hovering in the air and looking down at the defeated figures with disdain.

Fear flickered in the eyes of Qiu Yu and his group as they gazed at Kai.

But they knew all too well—since Kai had revealed his true identity, he had no intention of letting them leave alive.

“If we want to survive, we have to fight with everything we’ve got. This guy clearly intends to kill us all!”

Qiu Yu’s expression hardened. After his declaration, he leapt to his feet.

The other monks also understood the grim reality. If they didn’t go all out, death was inevitable.

One by one, they took to the skies, joining Qiu Yu in facing Kai at a distance.

Suddenly, a collective roar erupted from the group, shaking the air. From each of their mouths, they spat out vibrant, glowing gems.

The gems shimmered in a dazzling array of colors, painting the sky in brilliant hues.

Chapter 4614

Kai immediately recognized the orbs—they were the beast pills within these cultivators' bodies!

Though these cultivators could transform into human form, their essence remained that of beasts, and the beast pills were an integral part of their existence.

These beast pills were akin to the dragon crystals of the dragon clan.

Suspended in midair, the pills radiated a black mist that seemed to churn and coalesce, brewing something ominous.

“As expected of the son of a beast general. You still have a few tricks up your sleeve,” Kai muttered, his gaze turning serious as he observed the scene.

Soon, the air grew colder. The black mist enveloped the beast pills completely, obscuring their original colors.

“Attack!” Qiu Yu bellowed.

At his command, the cultivators poured immense spiritual energy into their beast pills, causing vibrant beams of light to burst forth, piercing through the dark mist.

As the lights shattered the black fog, they took the form of beasts.

These manifested beasts were diverse in shape, and some of them were entirely unfamiliar to Kai.

It seemed these were the true forms of the cultivators standing before him.

Once the beasts emerged, the remaining black mist transformed into a colossal net, rapidly descending upon Kai.

Now, Kai faced not only the ferocious beasts but also the inescapable, restrictive web that closed off his ability to evade.

“Boy, we’ve sacrificed our beast pills for this. Using them like this will cost us a century of cultivation, but you’ve left us no choice. I’ll drag you down with me if I have to!” Qiu Yu growled, his voice filled with venom.

“It seems you’ve really pulled out all the stops,” Kai replied with a faint smile. “But by sacrificing your beast pills, aren’t you just leaving yourselves vulnerable? If I take those beast pills, won’t you become ordinary beings, unable to practice anymore?”

Qiu Yu sneered coldly. “Dream on! If you want to take our beast pills, you’ll have to kill the original spirit beasts tied to them first!”

“Original spirit beasts? What nonsense!”

As Kai finished speaking, the dragon crystal on his chest began to shimmer. With a surge of dragon power, a faint golden dragon appeared behind him, its presence growing more distinct with each passing moment.

The power emanating from Kai intensified, and the golden dragon became increasingly vivid, radiating an awe-inspiring aura.

“What... what is that?”

Qiu Yu froze in shock, his eyes locked on the dragon.

“A dragon? A golden dragon? Could he actually be a dragon?” someone exclaimed in disbelief.

“Impossible! He’s clearly a demon cultivator! How could he be a dragon—let alone a golden dragon? This must be some kind of trick! It can’t be real!” Qiu Yu shouted, unwilling to accept the sight before him.

Among the beasts, fear and reverence for dragons were deeply ingrained instincts. Now, with the golden dragon manifesting behind Kai and the unmistakable power of the dragon filling the air, Qiu Yu and the others were visibly shaken.

Still, Qiu Yu clung to his denial. He refused to believe Kai was a dragon—let alone the rare and noble golden dragon.

“It’s a deception,” Qiu Yu muttered to himself. “It has to be!”

But as Qiu Yu and his group directed their original spirit beasts to attack Kai, something unexpected happened: the beasts hesitated, their bodies trembling in fear.

Then came the golden dragon’s thunderous roar.

In an instant, the spirit beasts broke free of their masters’ control, turned tail, and fled. One by one, they retreated back into their respective beast pills, disappearing entirely.

Even the massive black net woven from mist was shattered by the dragon’s roar, disintegrating into nothingness.

All that remained were the beast pills, now hovering aimlessly in midair.

Qiu Yu and the others stood dumbfounded, unable to comprehend what had just occurred.

Especially Qiu Yu. He had insisted that Kai’s display was mere trickery. But how could a simple trick frighten away their spirit beasts?

Chapter 4615

Qiu Yu was utterly baffled at this moment!

He had always believed Kai to be just an ordinary cultivator, but who would have thought he was actually a demon cultivator?

And now, he had transformed into a dragon!

This ever-changing identity left Qiu Yu feeling as if everything was unreal.

“Quick! Recall the beast pills immediately!”

Someone finally snapped out of their shock and shouted.

But just as they were about to retrieve their beast pills, a powerful suction force surged forward. In an instant, all the beast pills were drawn toward Kai!

Unsurprisingly, every single beast pill landed in Kai’s hands. Without hesitation, he threw them all into his storage bag.

“Our beast pills! They’re gone...”

Qiu Yu and the others were so furious that they nearly coughed up blood.

Without the beast pills, their cultivation was doomed. Even if they managed to steal someone else’s, it was uncertain when they’d be able to merge with them again.

“I warned you, but you didn’t listen. You can’t blame me for this,” Kai said, casually pocketing the beast pills while wearing a faint smile.

At this point, Qiu Yu and his group were utterly powerless. With their beast pills gone, their strength had plummeted, leaving them no match for Kai.

Seeing Kai’s mocking gaze, Qiu Yu’s arrogance melted away.

“If you return the beast pills, I’ll pretend none of this happened and won’t trouble you again,” he offered. “I can even buy them back with purple gold spirit coins. Just name your price.”

“You want to buy the beast pills?” Kai asked.

“Yes, I’m willing to pay as long as you return them to us,” Qiu Yu affirmed.

“Alright, one beast pill will cost you one thousand purple gold spirit coins,” Kai replied.

Qiu Yu was momentarily stunned before blurting out in disbelief, “Are you serious?”

Though a thousand purple gold spirit coins was an astronomical amount for ordinary cultivators, for someone like Qiu Yu, it was nothing more than a drop in the ocean.

He hadn’t expected Kai to ask for such a low price—it was almost laughable! “Of course it’s true. Do you think it’s too expensive?”

Kai asked with a faint smile.

“No, no, it’s not expensive at all. I can pay you,” Qiu Yu replied hurriedly, shaking his head. He quickly retrieved a storage bag and tossed it to Kai. “Here are 10,000 purple gold spirit coins—enough to buy back our beast pills!”

Kai took the bag, glanced inside, and chuckled. “More than enough... absolutely enough.”

With that, he retrieved a few beast pills and casually threw them back to Qiu Yu and the others.

Overjoyed, Qiu Yu eagerly caught the pills. He couldn’t believe his luck—Kai had actually returned the pills so easily. To Qiu Yu, this was a bargain. Even if the price had been 10,000 purple gold spirit coins

instead of just 1,000, he would have gladly paid it. After all, without the beast pills, their cultivation would be crippled.

Without wasting any time, Qiu Yu and the others swallowed the beast pills. After consuming them, they exhaled deeply, relieved to regain what they had lost.

“I hope we never cross paths again in Beast City,” Qiu Yu said, throwing Kai a glance that carried a hint of threat before turning to leave.

“Wait a moment!” Kai’s voice stopped him in his tracks.

“What now?” Qiu Yu turned back, his expression wary.

“I sold you the beast pills, true, but I never said you could leave. Those beast pills are quite valuable. If I absorb them myself, my strength would skyrocket. So, I’ve decided to take them back,” Kai said, a sly smile playing on his lips as he stepped closer.

“What? You already sold them to us! We paid you!” Qiu Yu exclaimed, frowning in disbelief.

“Indeed, I sold them, and you paid. But now, I’ve changed my mind. I still want the beast pills, so I’ll be taking them back. There’s no contradiction here—I’m simply being honest,” Kai replied nonchalantly, continuing to close the distance.

“You...”

Qiu Yu was so furious he could hardly breathe. How could anyone behave so shamelessly?

Chapter 4616

Before Qiu Yu could finish speaking, Kai swung the Dragon Slashing Sword without hesitation.

Puff!

One of Qiu Yu's men was instantly cleaved in half by the blade, so swiftly that he didn't even have time to scream.

Kai's sudden attack sent shockwaves through the group, leaving Qiu Yu and the remaining monks paralyzed with fear. They huddled together, their terrified eyes fixed on Kai.

With cold precision, Kai used the Dragon Slashing Sword to extract the beast pill from the corpse of the fallen monk. Holding the pill in hand, he turned his gaze toward Qiu Yu and the others.

The sight was enough to terrify the group into action. They spun around and bolted, desperate to reach the safety of Beast City. They knew that if they could make it back to the city, they might survive.

But just as they began to run, a fierce gust of wind surged behind them. In the blink of an eye, a razor-sharp sword blade sliced through their bodies.

The monks' upper bodies collapsed to the ground, while their lower halves continued to run for a few steps before crumpling as well.

The gruesome scene was too much for Qiu Yu. His legs gave out, leaving him frozen in place, unable to move. His trembling form was the only one left standing.

Kai calmly retrieved the beast pills from the fallen monks, his cold gaze finally settling on Qiu Yu.

Extreme fear overtook Qiu Yu, making his entire body shake uncontrollably.

"If you hadn't chased me out of the city, I wouldn't have thought of killing you outside its walls. But you came out here willingly, walking to your own death," Kai said icily.

“No... don’t kill me! If you kill me, you’ll regret it!” Qiu Yu stammered, desperation in his voice.

“My father won’t let you go, and neither will my brother! My brother is a renowned sword cultivator in Beast City. His blade is much faster than yours!”

Qiu Yu tried to leverage his family’s power, hoping to intimidate Kai into sparing him.

“Are you threatening me?” Kai asked, his expression darkening.

Without waiting for an answer, Kai unleashed a flash of sword light, faster than the eye could follow.

Puff!

The blade pierced through Qiu Yu’s chest, pinning him to the ground.

Pain erupted through Qiu Yu’s body. Terror filled his wide eyes as he looked up at Kai’s cold, unfeeling stare. He wanted to scream, to beg for mercy, but he couldn’t move. He could only tremble in silence, trapped in his final moments. “I hate being threatened the most,” Kai said coldly, gripping the Dragon Slaying Sword as he looked down at Qiu Yu, who was pinned to the ground.

Though impaled, Qiu Yu wasn’t dead. As a Mahayana cultivator, such an injury wasn’t enough to end his life. Moreover, Kai had no intention of killing him outright—he wanted to torture him first.

With deliberate cruelty, Kai pulled the Dragon Slaying Sword from Qiu Yu’s body and swung again, severing both of his legs.

Now, Qiu Yu lay on the ground, legless and helpless. Blood poured from his wounds as his anguished screams echoed through the air.

The horrifying sound reverberated in the silence, but there was no response. Any monks who might have passed by had likely been scared

away by the gruesome sight. After all, no one wanted to invite trouble that didn't concern them.

Kai watched Qiu Yu writhe in pain and couldn't help but laugh.

He had gradually adapted to the harsh, unforgiving laws of the world of heaven and man. Here, the strong ruled, and cruelty was the only way to instill fear.

The concept of "conquering with virtue" was nothing more than a fabricated notion from the secular world, designed to manipulate and control the weak. In this brutal realm, such ideals held no value.

Qiu Yu stared at his severed legs, overwhelmed with regret. Why had he provoked Kai? Why had he chased him out of the city for something as trivial as saving face?

Now, in exchange for his arrogance, he faced the possibility of losing not just his legs, but his life.

Kai, however, had no intention of letting him live. He knew all too well that someone like Qiu Yu would stop at nothing to seek revenge if he survived. Cutting the grass without removing the roots would only invite disaster later.

"Since you're in so much pain, I'll grant you a quick death," Kai said, raising the Dragon Slaying Sword to deliver the final blow.

"Stop!"

A furious shout rang out, shattering the tension.

In the distance, more than a dozen figures approached rapidly, led by Captain Zhou, the prison guard. His tall, imposing figure made him stand out even from afar.

Chapter 4617

“Captain Zhou, help me! Help!”

Seeing Captain Zhou arrive, Qiu Yu cried out desperately.

Moments ago, he had resigned himself to death, but now hope flickered in his eyes. Captain Zhou’s timely arrival might just save his life.

Captain Zhou surveyed the gruesome scene—the dead monks and the legless, bloodied Qiu Yu. His brows furrowed deeply.

“You’re quite bold. Not only did you escape from prison, but you also dared to attack others—even Mr. Qiu?” Captain Zhou said coldly, his sharp gaze fixed on Kai.

Kai returned his glare with a frosty look. “This has nothing to do with you. Leave now, or you’ll bring disaster upon yourself.”

“My prison escape will be dealt with soon enough. By now, Baicheng has likely delivered the amnesty order to the prison,” Kai added, his voice calm yet threatening.

“Even if there’s an amnesty order, it doesn’t justify your escape, let alone attacking others,” Captain Zhou retorted, his voice rising in anger.

“So, you’re determined to capture me?” Kai asked, his aura turning deadly.

The atmosphere grew tense. If Captain Zhou insisted on fighting, Kai wouldn’t hesitate to kill him. After all, Captain Zhou was merely at the fourth level of the Mahayana realm—no match for Kai.

Outside Beast City, Kai faced no restrictions and could fully unleash his power. Unlike within the city, where he had to carefully limit himself, here he was free to act.

“Of course I’m going to capture you,” Captain Zhou declared firmly. He raised his long knife and charged at Kai.

Kai's eyes glinted with icy disdain as he watched the attack. Shaking his head, he said coldly, "If you're so eager to die, don't blame me for showing no mercy."

Captain Zhou led the charge, followed closely by more than a dozen guards. Weapons drawn, they quickly spread out, forming a formation to trap Kai in the center.

"You lunatic! You won't escape today!" Captain Zhou roared. He swung his long knife, sending a sharp wave of energy slicing toward Kai.

But Kai stood still, his expression calm and unwavering, as if the attack didn't concern him at all.

As the sword energy surged toward him, Kai calmly raised the Dragon Slashing Sword, effortlessly dissipating the attack.

"Is that all you've got?" he sneered, a faint smile of disdain curling at his lips.

Captain Zhou's expression darkened. He hadn't expected his attack to be neutralized so easily.

Meanwhile, as Captain Zhou and his men continued their assault, Qiu Yu quietly crushed a jade slip in his hand. It was a distress signal to summon help from his family.

Qiu Yu didn't care whether Captain Zhou could defeat Kai; he only prayed the captain could hold out long enough for reinforcements to arrive.

Captain Zhou, his face grim, barked, "Form the formation!"

The dozen guards immediately obeyed, shifting positions as radiant beams of light connected them. The lights coalesced into a powerful formation that emitted a crushing pressure, bearing down on Kai like a mountain.

Despite the mounting pressure, Kai remained composed.

With a slight tremor of the Dragon Slashing Sword, a surge of overwhelming power radiated from it.

“Break!” Kai commanded softly.

He swung the sword, unleashing a dazzling arc of light that cleaved through the formation.

A deafening explosion echoed as the sword light collided with the formation. The structure quaked violently, its glow flickering erratically before shattering entirely under the force of Kai’s strike.

The guards were flung backward, blood spilling from their mouths as they hit the ground.

Terror filled their eyes as they stared at Kai, their confidence shattered and replaced with dread.

Captain Zhou, too, was stunned, his heart sinking as he realized he had gravely underestimated Kai’s strength.

Yet, retreat was no longer an option.

Gritting his teeth, he tightened his grip on his long sword and launched himself at Kai with renewed determination.

Kai’s gaze turned icy, a flash of murderous intent gleaming in his eyes.

With a swift movement, he vanished and reappeared instantly in front of Captain Zhou.

Chapter 4618

Captain Zhou saw only a blur before Kai appeared directly in front of him. Before he could react, the Dragon Slashing Sword plunged into his chest.

In a desperate attempt to block, Captain Zhou swung his sword, but Kai's speed was overwhelming, and his strength unstoppable. The defense crumbled instantly.

Puff!

The Dragon Slashing Sword pierced through Captain Zhou's chest, blood surging from the wound. His eyes widened in disbelief, his face frozen in shock.

Kai withdrew the sword and cast a cold gaze at Captain Zhou. "I warned you not to invite a fatal disaster upon yourself."

Qiu Yu, lying on the ground, witnessed the entire scene.

Seeing Captain Zhou impaled by Kai's blade, any flicker of hope Qiu Yu had vanished.

He had thought salvation was within reach, but now despair engulfed him.

If only Captain Zhou could have held Kai off for a few moments, it might have been enough time for his family to arrive and save him.

But instead, Captain Zhou was cut down in mere seconds, as effortlessly as a chicken being slaughtered.

Even the high-priced formation that Captain Zhou and his guards had meticulously trained with was shattered by a single swing of Kai's sword.

"I was wrong... Please, don't kill me!"

Captain Zhou coughed up blood, his eyes filled with regret and despair.

He had known Kai wasn't weak, especially after witnessing his fight with Bai Cheng. But he had never imagined Kai's power would be so overwhelming.

If he had known, he would never have pursued him.

Escaping from prison might have earned Kai a punishment, but compared to losing his life, Captain Zhou now saw that punishment as trivial.

Kai stared at the regretful Captain Zhou, a sinister smile creeping across his face as an idea formed.

"I can spare your life," Kai said, his tone calm yet chilling, "but you'll have to do something for me."

"What... what is it?" Captain Zhou stammered, blood still trickling from his mouth.

"Kill him," Kai said, pointing the Dragon Slashing Sword at the trembling Qiu Yu lying nearby.

"This..."

Captain Zhou froze, hesitation etched on his face.

"You have three seconds to decide," Kai added coldly. "Will it be your life or his?" Kai spoke coldly, his tone as sharp as the blade in his hand.

Captain Zhou felt the chilling murderous intent emanating from Kai. Reluctantly, he picked up his knife and began walking toward Qiu Yu, each step heavier than the last.

"Mr. Qiu, I'm sorry. You won't survive this anyway," Captain Zhou said helplessly, his voice tinged with despair. "I have an elderly mother and children to care for. Please understand."

Qiu Yu's eyes widened in shock. "Captain Zhou, if you kill me, do you know what will happen? My father will slaughter your entire family and annihilate your clan!"

He hadn't expected Kai to force Captain Zhou into such a choice. It was a cruel, cunning move.

"Punishing my clan is a problem for the future," Captain Zhou replied with a bitter smile. "Right now, I need to save my own life."

With a heavy heart, he raised his long knife and swung it toward Qiu Yu.

Ding!

A sharp, crisp sound echoed as a streak of white light intercepted the blade. The knife in Captain Zhou's hand shattered into two pieces, and the force pushed him several steps back.

Before anyone could react, a figure moved with astonishing speed and appeared before them in the blink of an eye.

"Brother!"

Qiu Yu's eyes welled with tears as he recognized the newcomer.

It was his elder brother, Qiu Tu.

Qiu Tu stood tall, his long hair flowing like a waterfall in the wind. His entire body radiated spiritual energy, swirling around him like mist. A long sword rested on his back, complementing his commanding presence as a seasoned swordsman.

From the aura exuding from Qiu Tu, it was clear he was at the fifth level of the Mahayana realm.

His sharp gaze swept over Qiu Yu's pitiful state, and a flicker of displeasure crossed his face. Then his eyes settled coldly on Captain Zhou.

Under Qiu Tu's piercing gaze, Captain Zhou trembled. In a desperate attempt to explain, he stammered, "Master Qiu, I was only trying to—"

Swish!

A blinding flash of white light cut through the air.

Before Captain Zhou could finish his sentence, Qiu Tu's sword had already struck.

Captain Zhou's body split cleanly in two, and he collapsed lifelessly to the ground.

Qiu Tu's sword seemed untouched, as though it hadn't even moved. The speed of his strike was so fast that most onlookers hadn't seen it at all.

Chapter 4619

Captain Zhou was from the City Lord's Mansion, yet Qiu Tu showed no hesitation in killing him. This act alone reveals that Qiu Tu is even more ruthless than Qiu Yu.

"Did you harm my brother?"

After slaying Captain Zhou, Qiu Tu turned to Kai with a cold glare and asked.

"Why don't you guess?" Kai replied with a faint smile.

Although Qiu Tu was a fifth-grade Mahayana Realm cultivator, Kai showed no fear. Even if Qiu Tu proved formidable, Kai was confident in his ability to protect himself.

"Brother, it was him! He attacked me, took the beast pills from our people, and crippled my legs," Qiu Yu cried bitterly. "You must avenge me... please!"

“Don’t worry,” Qiu Tu said, his voice icy. “He won’t leave here alive, and I’ll find a way to heal your broken legs.”

“Heal?”

Kai smirked. With a casual wave of his hand, a flash of white light turned Qiu Yu’s severed legs into powder.

“Now that they’ve turned to dust, I’d like to see how you plan to reconnect them,” Kai said mockingly.

“You...”

Qiu Tu hadn’t expected Kai to be so audacious. A mere Tribulation Realm cultivator, standing fearless before a fifth-grade Mahayana Realm—where did this confidence come from?

“Die!”

Qiu Tu roared in fury as the long sword on his back unsheathed itself. The blade released a sharp, surging energy, slicing through the sky and shaking the void with its sword intent.

“A spirit sword?” Kai remarked with mild surprise. “I didn’t expect you to wield one as well—especially one with a sword spirit!” It is important to understand that it is incredibly difficult for a spirit sword to develop a sword spirit. Even when a sword spirit is present, awakening its consciousness is a complex process.

Without enlightenment, a sword spirit remains like a lifeless machine, devoid of emotion.

In contrast, Zhongli, the sword spirit of Kai’s Dragon Slaying Sword, is entirely different. He has transcended his spirit form, now possessing a complete mind and personality akin to a living being.

“I’m surprised you can recognize a spirit sword,” Qiu Tu remarked coldly. “Consider it an honor—you’ll die under my spirit sword today!”

The sword in Qiu Tu's hand surged with powerful energy, its intent weaving through the air like an intricate net.

Kai's eyes narrowed slightly as he raised the Dragon Slaying Sword. With a decisive swing, his sword unleashed a beam of light that tore through the void, colliding directly with Qiu Tu's attack.

A deafening explosion echoed as the two beams clashed and dissipated simultaneously, leaving the void eerily still.

Kai felt a faint numbness in his palm, but his composure remained unshaken. Across from him, Qiu Tu stared wide-eyed, disbelief etched across his face.

He hadn't anticipated that Kai could withstand his assault, let alone match it.

His shock deepened as he thought, The sword in my hand is a spirit sword, complete with a sentient sword spirit. How could this be possible? Could his sword be...

Qiu Tu's piercing gaze locked onto the Dragon Slaying Sword, scrutinizing it intensely. Waves of shock coursed through him as he realized that this seemingly unremarkable Tribulation Realm cultivator was wielding a spirit sword as formidable as his own.

"You... your sword is a spirit sword too?" Qiu Tu's voice trembled with disbelief. He couldn't comprehend how someone of such a lower cultivation level possessed such a rare treasure.

Kai smiled faintly, holding the Dragon Slaying Sword steady. The blade seemed to hum in response to its master's confidence.

"Yes," Kai said calmly. "This is the Dragon Slaying Sword. It has accompanied me for many years, and its sword spirit has fully awakened."

As he spoke, the sword began to emit a brilliant light. The faint figure of Zhongli, the sword spirit, materialized, radiating an ancient and majestic aura that filled the surrounding space.

Chapter 4620

Although Zhongli did not fully appear, his invisible sword intent permeated the air, solidifying it as though time itself had come to a halt.

Qiu Tu's expression shifted dramatically. He understood the implications of a sword spirit gaining sentience—it meant not only a significant increase in the sword's power but also the seamless fusion of the sword master's will with the weapon, creating a synergy that few could rival.

Although Qiu Tu also possessed a sword spirit, it seemed to lack an intangible quality, a unique essence that set it apart.

“Hmph! Even if you have a spirit sword, so what? Today, I, Qiu Tu, will kill you right here!”

Qiu Tu roared, and spiritual power surged wildly within him. The spirit sword behind him let out a deafening dragon's roar, its runes glowing fiercely as a tidal wave of sword intent erupted, piercing the heavens.

Kai, unfazed, smirked coldly. He raised the Dragon Slaying Sword, its tip pointing skyward.

A more imposing sword intent burst from Kai, colliding mid-air with Qiu Tu's. The clash created dazzling sword lights that lit up the entire sky in a kaleidoscope of colors.

“A duel of sword intent—it all comes down to whose sword is sharper and whose will is stronger!”

Kai's voice echoed amidst the blinding sword light. The Dragon Slaying Sword shone ever brighter, its brilliance almost overwhelming.

Finally, the figure of the sword spirit Zhongli emerged fully, wielding a long sword of his own. In the void, he engaged in a fierce battle with Qiu Tu's sword spirit.

The two sword spirits were opposites in form and presence—one exuded majesty and simplicity, while the other was sharp and domineering. With each clash, the resulting roar seemed to shake the heavens and threaten to rend the world apart.

Sword lights streaked across the void, crisscrossing in a spectacle of destruction. Every beam carried the force to level mountains and rivers.

Qiu Tu's face betrayed shock and mounting despair.

He had believed that, with his fifth-grade Mahayana cultivation and the power of his spirit sword, Kai would be easily crushed. Yet reality had dealt him a devastating blow.

The strength of Kai's sword will and the might of his sword spirit far exceeded his wildest expectations.

"This... how is this possible?!" Desperation laced Qiu Tu's voice. He could feel his sword intent rapidly depleting as the battle wore on, while Kai seemed to wield an inexhaustible reserve. Each of Kai's attacks grew fiercer, sharper, and more overwhelming.

It was no surprise—Kai had absorbed countless sword intents from the Sword Washing Pond of the Refining Sect. In a pure contest of swordsmanship, Qiu Tu found himself steadily falling behind.

On the sidelines, Qiu Yu was frozen in terror, his face pale and his body trembling.

He had believed that with his brother's help, vengeance would come swiftly and easily. But the brutal reality unfolding before him crushed his hopes entirely.

Never before had he witnessed such a terrifying battle, nor had he imagined Kai to be so powerful.

“Brother... save me...” Qiu Yu’s voice cracked with fear, tears streaming down his face. He tried to plead for Qiu Tu’s help, but the intensity of the sword duel left Qiu Tu unable to spare him even a glance.

At last, following a thunderous clash, Zhongli’s blade struck down Qiu Tu’s sword spirit. The radiant runes on Qiu Tu’s sword dulled, their light extinguished.

Qiu Tu’s face turned ashen. He had poured endless effort into nurturing his sword spirit, treating it almost like his own child.

Now, it was gone—slain by Zhongli. The once-magnificent spirit sword in his hand had been reduced to nothing more than a lifeless blade.

“You... destroyed my spirit sword! I will kill you!” Qiu Tu roared, clutching the now-ordinary weapon tightly.

Despite its diminished power, Qiu Tu raised the sword high, its tip catching the light and reflecting a cold, menacing gleam.

Surrounded by flames, Qiu Tu’s body began to rise slowly into the air.

As his aura surged to its peak, he released the sword.

Even without a spirit, the blade radiated a brilliant white light. The light split and multiplied—tenfold, then a hundredfold—until the air was filled with dazzling swords poised to strike.