

the mans Decree: Kai Ping / Chen Ping

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Qiu Tu and Master Luan soared through the air and landed in front of Kai in an instant.

“Mr. Qiu, you’re finally here! Kai has broken the formation—it can’t hold him at all!”

Qian Yue’s eyes lit up, as if he had just seen his savior. His tense nerves relaxed, and a faint smile appeared on his face.

His youngest brother also let out a sigh of relief.

With Qiu Tu and Master Luan present, they no longer feared Kai.

“Qian Yue, don’t worry. Since you’ve pledged loyalty to the Qiu family, we’ll naturally protect you,” Qiu Tu declared confidently.

He completely forgot about his previous defeat at Kai’s hands.

Now, with Master Luan by his side, he was certain the two of them could take Kai down.

“So, you’re Kai? Breaking my formation is impressive, but don’t think it gives you the right to act arrogantly in front of me.”

“The formation you broke was merely a basic one. There’s nothing worth boasting about,” Master Luan sneered, glaring at Kai.

Kai chuckled calmly. “Boasting? If I wanted to show off, you’d already be dead.”

“You dare speak to me like that? You’re merely a first-grade cultivator in the Mahayana realm!” Master Luan roared.

“Even the Three Beast Generals show me respect. Who do you think you are?”

As a high-level formation master, Master Luan held great status in Beast City. The Three Beast Generals sought his favor, and no one dared challenge him.

Yet here was Kai, a mere first-grade Mahayana cultivator, daring to speak so boldly. Naturally, this enraged Master Luan.

“Oh? The Three Beast Generals? Are they really that powerful?” Kai scoffed.

Having broken through to the Mahayana realm, Kai’s strength had advanced dramatically. Facing the eighth-grade Mahayana strength of the Three Beast Generals, Kai remained completely unfazed.

“Boy, aren’t you being a bit too arrogant? Do you really think you can stand against the Three Beast Generals?”

“Let me tell you, the Qiu Mansion leads the Three Beast Generals. My father has already reached the peak of the eighth-grade Mahayana and will soon break through to the ninth grade!”

“Besides, our Qiu Mansion has three sixth-grade Mahayana cultivators and more than ten at the fifth grade. Dozens more fall below the fifth grade of the Mahayana realm. How could a mere first-grade Mahayana like you possibly challenge such power?”

Qiu Tu boasted about his family’s strength with a smug expression.

Their power was among the greatest in all of Beast City!

Though Qiu Tu recognized that Kai had some ability, one man’s strength was insignificant compared to the might of the entire Qiu Mansion.

Qiu Tu stared at Kai proudly, eager to see fear in his eyes.

In his mind, no matter how talented Kai was, no matter if he could fight beyond his level or wield a spiritual sword, he was still only a first-grade Mahayana cultivator.

Such a force like the Qiu Mansion was beyond Kai's ability to shake.

Kai silently met Qiu Tu's gaze, and the atmosphere grew tense in the stillness.

Seeing this, Qian Yue and his younger brother assumed Kai was terrified, grinning smugly.

"If this is all your Qiu family has to offer, then I alone am enough to wipe you out," Kai replied calmly.

Had he still been at the ninth level of the Tribulation Realm, he wouldn't dare utter such bold words.

But now, having broken through to the Mahayana realm, Kai knew that with his full strength, destroying the Qiu family wasn't impossible.

Fifth and sixth-grade Mahayana cultivators meant nothing to him.

The only one who posed any real threat was Qiu Wanqing, the eighth-grade Mahayana expert of the Qiu family.

It seemed Beast City had been isolated for too long and remained ignorant of the outside world.

For a group of fifth and sixth-grade Mahayana cultivators to be so arrogant... how laughable.

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“Hahaha! You’re unbelievably arrogant! Aren’t you afraid a strong wind might blow your tongue away?”

Qiu Tu burst into laughter.

The more brazen Kai acted, the more Qiu Tu looked down on him. In his eyes, those with true strength didn’t need to boast—only those bluffing would dare speak so boldly.

“Mr. Qiu, my hands are itching. Let me handle him!”

Master Luan, irritated by Kai’s arrogance, eagerly stepped forward, ready to strike.

He was determined to prove himself, especially after Kai had broken his previous formation.

If he couldn’t subdue Kai now, it would be a blow to his reputation.

“Master Luan, I’ll leave it to you,” Qiu Tu replied with a nod.

Master Luan’s gaze sharpened. His hands moved swiftly, forming intricate seals as he muttered an ancient, mysterious incantation.

Two enormous light orbs appeared in the air, slowly rotating and radiating a dazzling glow. They expanded into a vast, complex array, locking Kai firmly at its center.

“Hmph! Breaking one of my formations doesn’t mean you can overcome all of my techniques! Today, I’ll show you the power of a true formation!”

Master Luan’s voice dripped with pride and disdain, certain Kai would be powerless against this trap.

Yet, under the immense pressure of the formation, Kai remained calm.

He slowly closed his eyes, as if sensing something unseen. Then, in a sudden motion, he opened them, a sharp glint flashing within.

Raising his right hand, he lightly tapped the air with his fingertip and softly spoke, “Break.”

With that single word, the seemingly indestructible light barrier began to crack. Tiny fractures spread rapidly until it shattered like glass, dissolving into countless sparks of light.

Kai stood motionless, his sleeves billowing, his expression serene—as if the entire event had been nothing more than a minor inconvenience.

“W-What?!”

Master Luan’s face went ghostly pale. He stared in disbelief, unable to accept that the formation he took such pride in had been effortlessly destroyed by Kai! Unwilling to admit defeat, Master Luan once again gathered all his spiritual power. His hands moved rapidly, forming intricate seals in an attempt to construct an even more powerful formation.

Yet no matter how hard he tried or how complex and ever-changing the formation became, Kai always managed to spot a flaw in the most unbelievable way and effortlessly dismantle it.

“Master Luan, is this the extent of your formation skills?” Kai smirked faintly, his tone brimming with confidence and composure.

Master Luan’s face turned pale, then flushed with embarrassment. He realized that continuing any further would only make him a laughingstock.

With a helpless sigh, he withdrew all his spiritual power, his body trembling slightly—clearly shaken by Kai’s overwhelming strength.

“Master Qiu... I can’t stop him,” Master Luan admitted, lowering his head, his voice tinged with shame and frustration.

Qiu Tu's expression darkened. He had fully expected Master Luan to defeat Kai with ease, but the outcome had completely shattered his expectations.

Qian Yue and his younger brother were equally stunned. It was now clear that Kai's mastery of formations far surpassed Master Luan's.

Meanwhile, Xiong Kuo, his sister, and the youngest sister were overjoyed to see Kai so easily dismantle Master Luan's formation.

There was finally hope for their survival!

"You do have some skill," Qiu Tu admitted reluctantly, frowning at Kai.

"And you dare call yourself a master with such pathetic array techniques?" Kai mocked, his expression calm and dismissive.

Surprisingly, Master Luan didn't respond with anger. His eyes remained locked on Kai, a complex glimmer flickering within them.

Suddenly, a sinister smile crept across his face.

"Boy, you've fallen right into my trap..."

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Everyone stared at Master Luan, completely confused by his words.

At that moment, Master Luan reached into his sleeve and pulled out a pitch-black gourd.

The gourd was entirely black, adorned with intricate runes carved into its surface. Though it appeared delicate, it radiated an eerie and ominous aura.

Without hesitation, Master Luan uncorked the gourd and shouted at Kai, "Boy, let me show you the true power of my Heaven-Swallowing Gourd!"

In an instant, an overwhelming suction force erupted from the gourd!

Kai had no time to react. He felt the surrounding space tighten and freeze, rendering his body completely immobile.

It was as if time and space had come to a halt—no matter how he struggled, escape seemed impossible.

Moments later, darkness engulfed his vision, and he was forcefully sucked into the gourd by its immense suction.

“Kai! Kai!”

The youngest sister cried out in shock.

“Gone? Did Mr. Chen really get pulled into that gourd?” Xiong Kuo exclaimed, wide-eyed.

Even Qian Yue and his younger brother stared at Master Luan in disbelief, their eyes locked on the gourd in his hand.

How could such a small gourd instantly trap someone as powerful and arrogant as Kai?

It was simply unbelievable!

“Master Luan, this is...”

Even Qiu Tu was so stunned that he couldn’t form a complete sentence.

Master Luan, pleased with their astonished reactions, proudly sealed the gourd.

His earlier attempts at casting spells against Kai had been nothing more than a distraction. He had deliberately made Kai believe his formation techniques were weak, causing him to lower his guard.

Only then could this treasure—the Heaven-Swallowing Gourd—unleash its true power. With no way to escape, Kai was effortlessly subdued by Master Luan.

The more formidable Kai appeared at first, the more it highlighted Master Luan’s brilliance in defeating him.

This was merely one of Master Luan’s clever tricks!

“Mr. Qiu, this Heaven-Swallowing Gourd was crafted by my master with the combined efforts of dozens of formation masters,” Master Luan explained proudly.

“Though it may seem small, this gourd contains hundreds of formation techniques, including the most mysterious spatial and temporal arrays.”

“Now that Kai has been sucked into it, even if he had three heads and six arms, he couldn’t escape. Inside, he’ll endure endless pain as wind blades tear at him.”

“Before long, he’ll beg me to let him out!”

Master Luan boasted, holding the gourd with pride.

Qiu Tu stared at the gourd in disbelief. “Master Luan, can this treasure really swallow the heavens and the earth?”

“Of course! But it’s limited to a hundred feet of space. Within that range, it can halt time and reshape space!”

Master Luan’s face was full of pride.

“Incredible! Absolutely incredible! This is beyond amazing!”

“I never imagined Master Luan possessed such a treasure. From now on, our Qiu family will rely on you!”

Qiu Tu’s tone was filled with admiration and newfound respect.

Master Luan smiled calmly. “Naturally.”

Turning to Qian Yue and the youngest sister’s brother, Qiu Tu ordered coldly, “I’ll send men over shortly. Continue mining the fairy stones.”

“Now that Kai is captured, these three are worthless. Kill them!”

Qiu Tu’s chilling words made it clear he intended to eliminate the youngest sister and Xiong Kuo.

Panicking, the youngest sister’s brother quickly stepped forward and pleaded, “Master Qiu, please let me handle them. I promise I’ll take care of them!”

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Qiu Tu glanced coldly at the youngest sister’s brother and nodded. “Fine, but don’t show any mercy. In the face of利益, family means nothing. If I find out you dared to let them go, I’ll tear you to pieces.”

“Don’t worry, Mr. Qiu. Since I’ve pledged loyalty to you, I won’t have second thoughts,” the youngest sister’s brother replied flatteringly.

Satisfied, Qiu Tu waved his hand dismissively, allowing him to take Xiong Kuo and the others away under guard.

Meanwhile, inside the treasure gourd, Kai found himself surrounded by a dark, void-like space.

Unfazed, Kai calmly activated his Sky Eyes and surveyed his surroundings with curiosity. “So, this really is a so-called treasure gourd...”

“Treasure gourd? Nonsense!” the Red Cloud Demon Lord scoffed. “This is just an ordinary gourd inscribed with formations. It’s neither a treasure nor a spiritual artifact!”

He sneered, clearly annoyed. “That fool dared to call this thing a Heaven-Swallowing Gourd? What a joke! If this is a Heaven-Swallowing Gourd, then what does that make my Swallowing Beast?”

The Red Cloud Demon Lord’s irritation was evident. He couldn’t stand anyone else using the title “Heaven-Swallowing”—in his eyes, only his Swallowing Beast was worthy of such a name.

Kai chuckled. “Why are you so worked up? I know this gourd was created by combining formation engravings with traces of space-time essence.”

“That’s the only reason I was sucked in. But the space origin within this gourd is pitifully weak, and the formation master who carved it was nothing special.”

“If they had truly turned this gourd into a self-contained world, I might be impressed. But this chaotic void? It’s only enough to scare children.”

Kai’s tone was light and mocking.

True cultivators proficient in the origins of time and space could create entire worlds—lush with mountains, rivers, and life.

The scale of that world depended entirely on the cultivator’s strength.

But this empty, chaotic space was far from that. It wasn’t a world at all. Such methods might work against cultivators who haven’t comprehended the origins of space or time.

However, against Kai—who had mastered divine patterns and grasped the origin of time—this childish trick was completely ineffective.

Though the small gourd was inscribed with hundreds of magic arrays, their power was insignificant. Kai could easily dismantle them.

Swish!

Suddenly, the surrounding void trembled, and countless sharp wind blades shot toward Kai from all directions.

“So, there’s a wind array engraved here too...”

Kai frowned slightly before activating his Indestructible Golden Body.

Golden light enveloped him, and when the wind blades struck, they shattered instantly, as if they were nothing more than a gentle breeze brushing against him.

“Wait... these wind blades aren’t coming from the array?”

Kai sensed the lingering spiritual energy in the air, and his frown deepened.

At first, he assumed the wind blades were products of the gourd’s wind array. Yet, despite their failure to harm him, the aura released upon their destruction felt... off. There was something unnervingly strange about it.

The broken wind blades dispersed into aura, then quickly reformed and launched another attack.

More disturbingly, these wind blades didn’t strike randomly—they constantly adjusted, seeking out Kai’s vulnerabilities.

In other words, these wind blades seemed to possess a form of intelligence rather than being mere lifeless attacks.

Activating his Tianming Eye, Kai traced the source of these wind blades back to a formation. Within it, he detected a core source of power.

It became clear that the formation’s creator had embedded their wind origin within it, granting the wind blades a semblance of spirituality.

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Facing the seemingly sentient wind blades, Kai's thoughts stirred as he recalled the Wind-Fixing Bead he carried with him.

This ancient treasure had long been renowned for its mastery over wind elements. It could freeze any storm in the world and even absorb the very essence of wind itself.

With a thought, Kai summoned the Wind-Fixing Bead. It slowly rose from his body, hovering above his head and radiating a soft blue glow, forming a stark contrast against the surrounding chaotic darkness.

"Let's see if this Wind-Fixing Bead can absorb all these peculiar wind blades," Kai murmured, curiosity and anticipation flickering in his eyes.

Guided by his will, the bead's blue light grew brighter, swirling like a vast vortex. Slowly, it began to rotate, generating a suction force that targeted the surrounding wind blades.

The blades, which had been circling and probing for weaknesses, suddenly shifted course. As if tugged by invisible strings, they veered toward the Wind-Fixing Bead.

Each blade that neared the bead was gently enveloped by the blue light, dissolving into strands of pure wind essence that the bead slowly absorbed.

The process was silent yet brimming with a mysterious force, leaving Kai quietly amazed.

Gradually, the number of wind blades dwindled until none remained.

The Wind-Fixing Bead now glowed warmer and clearer, as though it had absorbed the very spirit of the wind. Kai felt an even deeper bond with the bead, its connection to him becoming profoundly intimate.

He sensed that his comprehension and control over the wind element had undergone a significant transformation.

“So it wasn’t just an ordinary wind blade attack but a manifestation of the wind’s origin,” Kai realized, a wave of enlightenment rising within him.

“By channeling the Wind-Fixing Bead, I’ve glimpsed the essence of wind. This insight is far more valuable than merely escaping this gourd.”

Having absorbed every trace of the wind blades, Kai closed his eyes, calming his mind to fully immerse himself in the wind element now coursing through his body. Kai’s perception of wind had become sharper than ever, allowing him to sense even the faintest shifts in every breeze around him.

The essence of wind—the core of the five elemental origins—now felt tantalizingly within his grasp.

Within Kai’s origin space, the star representing the wind element glimmered faintly. Though its light was still dim, Kai understood that with the chance to fully absorb the wind’s essence, that star would shine brighter and stronger.

Meanwhile, outside the gourd, Master Luan was proudly flaunting his “masterpiece” to Qiu Tu, completely unaware that Kai was undergoing a profound transformation within.

Inside the gourd, Kai slowly opened his eyes, a confident gleam flashing within them.

Taking a deep breath, he seemed to draw in the entire space of the gourd into his lungs. Then, with a gentle push of his hands, the void along the gourd’s inner wall rippled. A small crack silently formed and began spreading rapidly.

“It’s time to leave,” Kai murmured.

His figure transformed into a stream of light, effortlessly piercing through the gourd and returning to the real world.

The once-celebrated “Heaven-Swallowing Gourd” now lay motionless on the ground, riddled with cracks and stripped of its former power.

Master Luan’s face turned ashen, his eyes wide with disbelief as he stared at the shattered gourd and Kai’s unscathed figure.

Kai’s sudden reappearance struck like a hammer, sending shockwaves through everyone present.

Qian Yue, who had been focused on mining fairy stones, froze in terror. He had never expected Kai to escape the so-called Heaven-Swallowing Gourd so effortlessly. His eyes now brimmed with fear and hopelessness.

Meanwhile, elsewhere, the youngest sister’s brother was leading her and the siblings Xiong Kuo into the dense forest nearby.

His sinister intention was clear—he planned to kill them all where no one could see.

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“Brother, don’t be so stubborn. Are you really going to kill the three of us?”

“You should escape with us instead...”

The youngest sister, eyes brimming with tears, pleaded with her brother.

“Enough! I finally have this opportunity. How could I give it up?”

“My whole life, we’ve been bullied. But now, if I join the Qiu family, I’ll have power in Beast City. Let’s see who dares to cross me!”

“Don’t worry, sister. I’ll handle this quickly. You won’t suffer.”

Her brother looked at her coldly, his eyes filled with cruelty and ruthlessness.

“Are you even human? You’d kill your own sister?”

Xiong Kuo’s face turned red with fury as he glared at the brother. He also had a sister and would rather die than harm her!

Bang!

The brother punched Xiong Kuo hard and sneered, “Shut up. The only reason I brought you here is because your sister is too beautiful. Killing her outright would be a waste. I want to enjoy myself first, then kill her!”

Greed and malice flickered in his eyes as he shoved Xiong Kuo aside and slowly approached Xiong Ying.

Terrified, Xiong Ying backed away, despair clouding her eyes. She clung tightly to the youngest sister, who trembled and begged, “Brother, please! Let them go! They’re innocent!”

“If you touch my sister, I’ll never forgive you. I swear it!”

Xiong Kuo shook with rage, roaring as he saw the brother advancing on his sister. But he was powerless to stop him—their spiritual powers had long been sealed. Now, they were no different from ordinary people.

“Little sister, get out of my way. If you weren’t my blood, I would’ve toyed with you too.”

“I lost so much giving you to Kai. I thought he had influence and you’d live well with him, but he turned out to be worthless.” The youngest sister’s brother shoved her aside, sending her crashing hard to the ground!

Staring at him in disbelief, tears streamed down her face as her heart shattered.

She had endured countless hardships to save her brother, never imagining he would become this kind of person.

He cared nothing for her well-being—worse than a beast!

A cold sneer curled on her brother's lips as he reached for Xiong Ying.
“You beast! We won't let you get away with this!”

“Hahaha! So what if I'm a beast? I've never had a beauty like you. Even if I die after playing with you once, it's worth it!”

Without hesitation, he lunged at Xiong Ying, pinning her beneath him!

His bloodshot eyes gleamed with madness as he viciously tore at Xiong Ying's clothes.

Xiong Ying struggled with all her strength, screaming for help, but in this desolate mountain, who could save her?

Watching his sister suffer, Xiong Kuo's eyes burned with fierce determination.

Though he knew he was no match for the youngest sister's brother in his current state, the need to protect his sister ignited a surge of courage within him.

Suddenly, he broke free from the oppressive grip of his sealed spiritual power. Though weak, it was enough to fight back.

“I swear on my blood—I will protect you to my last breath!”

Xiong Kuo roared, awakening an ancient power deep within him. His eyes blazed red, and faint flames flickered around his body.

It was a protective force passed down from his ancestors, awakening in his moment of desperation.

Seeing this, the brother's face briefly flickered with shock before twisting into a sneer. “You think that pathetic power can stop me?”

With a dismissive wave of his hand, he struck Xiong Kuo aside.

Xiong Kuo, barely freed from his restraints, had yet to fully recover!

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“Brother, stop! Please, stop!”

The youngest sister ran over, frantically pulling at her brother, trying to free Xiong Ying.

But in his frenzied state, how could her brother release Xiong Ying?

“Get out of my way!”

With a brutal slap, he struck his sister, sending her crashing to the ground, coughing up blood.

Yet, he didn’t spare her a glance—his focus remained solely on Xiong Ying beneath him.

At that moment, Kai caught the faint sound of someone crying for help. His brows furrowed sharply.

He instantly recognized the voice—it was Xiong Ying!

Kai’s clothes stirred without wind, and soon the surrounding forest rustled as leaves began to swirl.

He had activated the power of the Origin of Wind. A strange gust howled through the once still forest, rising into a fierce windstorm, scattering leaves everywhere.

The youngest sister’s brother froze, his actions halting as confusion spread across his face.

To his shock, the raging wind condensed into sharp wind blades, slicing toward him.

“W-What’s happening?!”

Panic gripped him as he frantically dodged the deadly blades, completely abandoning his assault on Xiong Ying.

Seeing the chance, Xiong Ying scrambled to her feet and rushed to the youngest sister.

“Youngest sister! Are you okay?!”

Xiong Ying’s face was filled with worry as she checked on her.

Meanwhile, Xiong Kuo stared at the wind blades in disbelief.

How could such a powerful storm suddenly form, let alone produce deadly wind blades?

This was no natural wind—it was clearly controlled by someone!

But who could be helping them in this desolate place?

As Xiong Kuo struggled to make sense of it, a figure slowly emerged from the shadows.

“Mr. Chen...”

Xiong Kuo’s eyes widened in shock. He hadn’t expected Kai to appear here.

Xiong Ying and the youngest sister were equally stunned, their eyes brimming with tears of relief.

Even the youngest sister’s brother was dumbfounded, staring at Kai in disbelief.

“You... weren’t you sucked into the gourd and trapped inside?!” The youngest sister’s brother stared in disbelief.

At that moment, Qiu Tu, Master Luan, and Qian Yue also arrived, having been shaken by the sudden, powerful wind.

“That broken gourd trying to trap me? What a joke.”

“If it weren’t for the wind source inside the gourd, I would’ve escaped long ago,” Kai scoffed with a disdainful smile.

Master Luan’s face flushed red, then turned pale. Moments ago, he had bragged about the gourd’s power, only to be humiliated now.

“Master Luan, hurry up and cast the formation! Capture him!” the youngest sister’s brother urged.

But Master Luan ignored him, his expression turning grave as he stared intently at Kai.

Kai’s eyes shifted to Xiong Ying. Her torn clothes revealed large patches of fair, delicate skin, smooth as if bathed in milk.

With her flushed cheeks and disheveled appearance, even Kai felt his blood stir.

No wonder the youngest sister’s brother had completely lost control.

Nearby, the youngest sister looked battered—blood dripped from the corners of her mouth, and her face was ghostly pale.

“Did he do this?” Kai asked coldly, looking at the youngest sister and Xiong Ying.

Both girls nodded with grievance in their eyes, fueling Kai’s rising fury.

After everything the youngest sister had endured to save her brother, this was how he repaid her?

“You deserve to die...”

Kai growled through clenched teeth, spitting out each word.

Just those three words sent the youngest sister's brother trembling in fear. He quickly darted behind Qiu Tu and Master Luan.

Step by step, Kai advanced, his oppressive aura making it hard for the youngest sister's brother to breathe.

“Move.”

Kai's icy voice cut through the air as he glared at Qiu Tu and Master Luan.

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Qiu Tu froze, wanting to speak, but the overwhelming murderous intent radiating from Kai silenced him. Reluctantly, he stepped aside.

Master Luan also quickly backed away. For the sake of the youngest sister, confronting Kai now wasn't worth it.

To them, the youngest sister was less than an ant.

“Master Qiu! Master Qiu!”

Panicked, the youngest sister's brother called out desperately, but Qiu Tu didn't even glance at him.

Seeing Qiu Tu and Master Luan abandon him, terror surged through him like a tidal wave.

He stumbled backward until he could retreat no further, his back pressed against a large rock. His face turned as pale as paper, his eyes wide with despair and fear.

“B-Brother-in-law... no, no... Chen... Kai! Please spare me! I-I was wrong! I shouldn’t have hurt Xiong Ying! I shouldn’t have turned against my own sister!”

His voice quivered, thick with desperation and regret.

But Kai remained unmoved. His icy gaze seemed to freeze the youngest sister’s brother to his core.

“Your sins can’t be erased with mere apologies. You didn’t just harm Xiong Ying and your sister—you destroyed your own soul and humanity.”

Kai’s voice was cold and merciless, like a death sentence.

Hearing this, the youngest sister’s brother’s legs buckled, and he collapsed to his knees.

“Sister! I was wrong! Please, save me!”

In his fear, he could only beg his sister for help.

The youngest sister stared at him, tears falling once again. Her heart ached for his wickedness, yet she feared Kai’s unshakable resolve.

She knew that no amount of pleading could change Kai’s decision.

“Kai, I... I’m willing to give my life in exchange for my brother’s. Please, just give him a chance to change.”

Suddenly, she dropped to her knees, hands clasped tightly, her tear-filled eyes pleading for mercy.

The youngest sister couldn’t be as heartless and cruel as her brother. No matter what, he was still her brother, and she couldn’t abandon him.

Kai’s expression softened slightly but quickly hardened again.

“Little sister, I understand your compassion, but justice and evil cannot be blurred by personal feelings. Your brother’s actions have crossed my bottom line.”

With those words, Kai moved like a phantom, appearing before the youngest sister’s brother. He slowly raised his hand, crackling with lightning—ready to deliver a fatal strike.

“No! Please, don’t! Kai, I was wrong! I truly was wrong!”

The youngest sister’s brother screamed in despair, but it was too late.

A flash of lightning burst forth, engulfing his entire body. All that remained were charred clothes and the lingering scent of burnt flesh.

His life ended in that instant.

Kai lowered his hand and looked at the youngest sister with a complicated gaze.

“I hope this teaches you a lesson. Greed and evil, once indulged, will drag people into the abyss.”

“Some mistakes can be forgiven, but some people never should be. Don’t blame me...”

The youngest sister could only cry helplessly. How could she blame Kai? This was entirely her brother’s fault.

On the side, Qiu Tu and Master Luan stared at the spot where the youngest sister’s brother had vanished. Their expressions grew increasingly grim.

Kai’s strength and methods repeatedly shattered their understanding.

But the most terrified was Qian Yue. He had thought that joining the Qiu family would bring wealth, fine clothes, and endless luxury.

Now, he realized how wrong he had been.

Regret overwhelmed him. He wished he had chosen to mine fairy stones with Kai instead of siding with the Qiu family.

But it was too late. He couldn't escape the consequences awaiting him.

Desperately, Qian Yue glanced at Qiu Tu and Master Luan. He knew Kai wouldn't spare him, and his only hope now was to rely on them.

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"Now it's your turn. Do you know what kind of person I despise the most?"

Kai's icy gaze locked onto Qian Yue.

At this moment, Kai's heart was burning with fury. He had once trusted Qian Yue, even considered giving him a hand up.

But he never expected his goodwill to be trampled on, and in the end, Qian Yue betrayed him without hesitation!

"I... I don't know..."

Qian Yue avoided Kai's eyes, his voice trembling.

"I hate traitors the most. And everyone who betrays me faces only one consequence—death."

As Kai uttered the word "death," a terrifying killing aura engulfed Qian Yue.

Qian Yue's body trembled, and he instinctively stumbled back two steps.

Yet, glancing at Qiu Tu and Master Luan beside him, Qian Yue forced himself to stay firm.

“You’re all talk! With Young Master Qiu and Master Luan here, you won’t dare to kill me!”

“They won’t just stand by and watch. If you make a move, you’ll be the one to suffer!”

“Hmph!”

Kai scoffed coldly, his eyes filled with contempt. He didn’t take Qiu Tu or Master Luan seriously at all.

“You two—get lost.”

Kai’s chilling words were directed at Qiu Tu and Master Luan.

The two exchanged a glance. Qiu Tu’s expression darkened as he spoke coldly, “Kid, Qian Yue now belongs to my Qiu Family. If you want to kill him, I won’t allow it.”

“I don’t care if you’re Criminal Daorong’s guest official. If you anger me, you’ll face consequences you can’t bear.”

“You killed my brother—that’s settled. But if you back off and leave the Immortal Spirit Stone Vein, I’ll let you and these three leave unharmed. From now on, we’ll stay out of each other’s way.”

Despite his threatening tone, Qiu Tu wasn’t confident.

After seeing Kai easily escape the Heaven-Swallowing Gourd, Qiu Tu no longer trusted Master Luan’s abilities.

And after clashing with Kai before, it was obvious he wasn’t a match. Now that Kai had broken through to the Mahayana realm, even if they joined forces, their odds of winning were slim.

Yet, abandoning Qian Yue and fleeing would humiliate Qiu Tu.

If word spread, who would still respect the Qiu Family?

So, Qiu Tu tried to intimidate Kai, hoping to scare him off.

Kai burst into laughter at Qiu Tu's words.

"What's wrong? Are you scared?" Kai mocked, laughing coldly.

He knew Qiu Tu's arrogant nature well. If Qiu Tu truly believed he could win, he would never offer a truce.

If Qiu Tu had the upper hand, he would have aimed to kill Kai mercilessly. Talk of "well water not offending river water" was proof that Qiu Tu lacked the confidence to defeat him.

"What a joke! Why would I be afraid?" Qiu Tu sneered, forcing himself to appear calm. "With Master Luan by my side—and myself, of course—how could we lose to you, a mere First Grade Mahayana cultivator?"

"I'm giving you a chance. If you don't take it, don't blame me for being ruthless!"

Kai smirked, his voice dripping with mockery.

"You two are nothing to me. Even if all three of you attacked together, I'd still crush you!"

His blatant disdain ignited Qiu Tu's fury.

As a noble son of the Qiu Family, how could he tolerate such humiliation?

"A scholar may be killed, but never humiliated..."

"Qian Yue! Master Luan! The three of us will kill this arrogant bastard today! He's too damn cocky—I've had enough!"

Qiu Tu roared, pulling Qian Yue into the fight. After all, more fighters meant more strength.

“Agreed!”

Both Qian Yue and Master Luan nodded, ready to attack.

“Mr. Chen, let me help you!”

Xiong Kuo stepped forward, standing beside Kai.

Though he hadn’t fully recovered after breaking free from his spiritual restraints, he couldn’t watch Kai face three opponents alone.

“You’d better stay back and protect Youngest Sister and Xiong Ying. These three clowns? I can handle them myself.”

Kai ordered Xiong Kuo to fall back, his confidence unwavering.

Chapter 4650

“You’re courting death!”

“Kill him!”

Qiu Tu roared and lunged at Kai, thrusting his sword forward.

Immediately, Qian Yue and Master Luan joined the assault, launching a coordinated attack.

With Qiu Tu’s furious shout, the fierce battle erupted.

Sword light flashed like lightning, slicing through the air. Qiu Tu’s long sword gleamed coldly, its tip crackling with dense spiritual power as it shot straight for Kai’s chest, whistling through the wind.

Kai remained calm. His figure blurred like a phantom, smoothly dodging the strike with a subtle sidestep.

In the same instant, his right hand shot out, crackling with lightning. His fist smashed toward Qiu Tu's side ribs.

Boom!

The explosive clash between Kai's fist and the sword's energy sent shockwaves through the air.

Qiu Tu staggered backward, overwhelmed by the force, his face paling slightly.

Kai, on the other hand, stood firm like a mountain, his sharp gaze growing even colder.

At that moment, Qian Yue and Master Luan launched their offensive.

Qian Yue, wielding a gleaming short blade, moved with sly agility—circling Kai like a cunning fox, waiting for the perfect moment to strike.

Meanwhile, Master Luan swiftly formed hand seals, chanting under his breath. A chilling aura spread from his body, coalescing into a dark vortex that twisted ominously, threatening to drag Kai in.

Yet Kai showed no fear.

In a sudden burst, he leapt into the air like a tiger descending from the mountains. With a sweep of his left hand, a towering wall of fire ignited from thin air, blocking Qian Yue's blade.

Then, pushing off the ground with explosive force, Kai shot toward Master Luan like an arrow loosed from a bow.

“Hmph! Child's play!”

Master Luan sneered coldly. His hand seals shifted, causing the dark vortex to spin violently. A powerful suction force erupted, trying to pull Kai into its depths.

But Kai was ready. Spiritual energy surged through him, forming a golden shield around his body that resisted the vortex's pull.

Seizing this moment, Qian Yue darted in from Kai's blind spot, his short blade glinting coldly under the sun as it aimed straight for Kai's back. Just as the short blade was about to pierce Kai's skin, his body shifted in an uncanny motion, effortlessly dodging the strike. In the same instant, his right hand snapped forward like a claw, seizing Qian Yue's wrist.

"Ah!"

Qian Yue screamed in pain as a crushing force gripped his arm, leaving him paralyzed and unable to resist.

Without hesitation, Kai twisted sharply. Crack! Qian Yue's wrist snapped.

"Pathetic!"

Kai scoffed coldly, tossing Qian Yue aside like discarded trash.

Realizing the situation was spiraling out of control, Master Luan dropped all restraint. His hands weaved complex seals, and dark tentacles slithered out from the swirling black vortex, lunging toward Kai like venomous serpents.

Kai's eyes narrowed, and his spiritual power surged explosively. With a sweeping motion of his hands, golden flames erupted from his palms, instantly reducing the black tentacles to ash.

Without pause, Kai's figure shot upward like a streak of golden lightning, hurtling straight toward Master Luan.

Master Luan's expression shifted to terror—he hadn't anticipated Kai's overwhelming strength.

But it was too late to flee.

Kai's fist, blazing with golden flames and coiled with dragon-like energy, slammed directly into Master Luan's chest.

Boom!

Master Luan was launched into the air like a broken kite, crashing to the ground with a sickening thud.

Blood spurted from his mouth, and his face turned deathly pale. He was gravely injured.

Seeing both Qian Yue and Master Luan incapacitated, a chill ran down Qiu Tu's spine.

He understood now—he was no match for Kai. If the fight continued, his death was certain.

Yet, as the young master of the Qiu Mansion, surrender was not an option.

“Don't get cocky, boy!” Qiu Tu barked, forcing bravado into his voice. “The Qiu Mansion has countless masters. Even if I die here today, you won't escape alive!”

Chapter 4651

Kai sneered when he heard the threat. “Hmph, so what if the Qiu Mansion has countless masters? Today, I'll start by killing you, a worthless coward!”

With that, Kai's figure surged forward like an enraged lion, leaping toward Qiu Tu.

Terrified, Qiu Tu turned and fled, but how could he match Kai's speed? In a flash, Kai appeared in front of him and launched a punch.

“Bang!”

The blow struck like lightning, landing squarely on Qiu Tu's chest.

Qiu Tu felt a massive force crush him, sending him flying like a kite with a broken string. He crashed to the ground, coughing up blood. His scattered gaze revealed his severe injuries—he was utterly defeated.

Watching from the sidelines, Xiong Kuo, Yaomei, and Xiong Ying couldn't hide their admiration.

None of them had expected Kai to be so powerful, single-handedly defeating three formidable opponents.

Xiong Kuo glanced at Kai's commanding figure, silently feeling fortunate for his decision to follow him. Had he chosen differently, he might have shared Qiu Tu's fate.

Yaomei's eyes gleamed with admiration. She had never encountered such a brave and powerful man before, and her heart couldn't help but stir. However, she knew this wasn't the right time to express her feelings, so she carefully buried them within.

Meanwhile, Xiong Ying, though impressed, felt worry rising within her. Even knowing Kai's strength, she had been tense throughout the battle. Only when he finally triumphed did she relax, her admiration growing even deeper.

As the saying goes, beautiful women are drawn to heroes. If Kai were to make any request of her now, no matter how unreasonable, Xiong Ying would likely comply without hesitation.

"I don't even need weapons to deal with the likes of you," Kai scoffed, glaring at the defeated trio lying on the ground.

Qiu Tu and his companions, battered and broken, looked at Kai with pure terror in their eyes, as if they were staring at a devil incarnate. Especially Qian Yue—he had placed all his hopes on Qiu Tu and Master Luan for protection.

Now it was clear he had overestimated them. With Kai's current strength, even the three beast generals might not be a match for him!

"Kai... Mr. Chen, Grandpa Chen... please spare me! Spare my life!"

Dragging his severely injured body, Qian Yue crawled to Kai's feet, pleading desperately for mercy.

At this moment, pride and dignity meant nothing to him—staying alive was all that mattered. He begged incessantly, even calling Kai "Grandpa" in his desperation.

Qiu Tu was no longer an option for help. Both he and Master Luan had been incapacitated by Kai's devastating strikes.

As for the Qiu Mansion? Qian Yue's current standing was so insignificant that even if reinforcements arrived, they likely wouldn't lift a finger to save him.

Regret consumed Qian Yue. He had never imagined Kai's strength would be so overwhelming.

If only he hadn't betrayed Kai and revealed the location of the fairy stone vein to Qiu Tu. If only he had stayed loyal, he could have shared in the spoils and reaped untold riches!

But regrets held no currency in this world.

"Qian Yue, do you finally see the error of your ways?"

Kai looked down at him, his tone calm but piercing.

"Yes, yes, I see it now—I was wrong, terribly wrong!" Qian Yue cried. "I'll serve you faithfully, Mr. Chen. I'll mine the fairy stones for you. I won't take a single one for myself. You can have everything I extract. Just please, spare my life!"

Qian Yue kowtowed repeatedly, willing to do anything to save himself.

But Kai's expression remained cold and unmoved. Instead, the murderous intent radiating from him grew even more intense.

Chapter 4652

"Didn't you say you'd leave me a whole body? Why are you begging now?"

Kai stared at Qian Yue and asked coldly.

"Mr. Chen, I was just talking nonsense back then! Please don't take it seriously!" Qian Yue stammered, panic evident in his voice. "Forgive me this time—for the sake of us both being human cultivators!"

Internally, Qian Yue cursed his own misjudgment. He had never imagined Kai would be this powerful or that events would spiral out of control so drastically.

"Qian Yue, I gave you a chance and a choice, but you chose poorly. Not all mistakes in life can be undone," Kai said, his voice steady and unyielding.

"If you hadn't betrayed me and sided with the Qiu Mansion, your future would have been limitless. I would've even given you a great opportunity.

What a pity... what a waste."

Kai shook his head, disappointment etched across his face.

"Mr. Chen, I was wrong! Spare me! Please—"

Before Qian Yue could finish his plea, Kai's palm struck his head with deadly precision. In an instant, Qian Yue's skull burst apart, his lifeless body crumpling to the ground.

Qiu Tu and Master Luan, witnessing the gruesome scene, trembled in terror.

With Qian Yue dead, they knew it was only a matter of time before they faced the same fate.

Master Luan, in particular, felt a surge of despair. He had no personal grudge against Kai—he had only attacked him to aid the Qiu family. Now gravely injured, he could do nothing but await his end.

As Kai's gaze turned toward him, Master Luan quickly fell to his knees and kowtowed desperately.

“Fellow Daoist, we have no personal enmity! I only acted under Qiu Tu's orders!” he pleaded. “If you're willing to spare my life, I'll give you all the treasures I possess!” “I know you're highly skilled with formations. I have four formation jade slips here, all retrieved from ancient ruins.”

“Since I lack expertise in formations, I haven't been able to comprehend them. I'm willing to give them all to you!”

Master Luan, trembling in fear, pulled out a storage bag to save his life.

The bag contained some cultivation resources, but its most valuable items were the four formation jade slips, discovered in ancient, abandoned ruins years ago.

Formation masters were exceedingly rare in the heavenly world. Even if others acquired these jade slips, they were practically useless—few could decipher or utilize them. Although Master Luan was skilled in formations, the intricate records on these jade slips eluded his understanding. For years, he had carried them, hoping one day to unravel their secrets.

But now, with his life hanging by a thread, there was no point in keeping them.

Desperation forced Master Luan to offer all the treasures he possessed, hoping it would be enough to satisfy Kai. He gambled that Kai, a master of formations himself, would take interest in the ancient jade slips.

At this moment, resistance was no longer an option for Master Luan—not because he lacked courage, but because he understood the truth: they were like ants before an elephant.

And how could ants challenge an elephant?

Master Luan had accepted this reality the moment Kai emerged from the Heaven-Swallowing Gourd. Yet, despite knowing this, he had clung to the hope that the combined efforts of several opponents might overpower Kai.

The outcome, however, was a crushing defeat.

“I’ve heard these formation jade slips contain records of ancient formations, but my knowledge is too shallow to decipher them. You, Daoist friend, will undoubtedly succeed where I have failed. With these jade slips, your formation skills will surely reach new heights.”

Master Luan handed over the storage bag with both hands, his demeanor now entirely deferential—an absolute contrast to his earlier confidence.

While Kai wasn’t particularly interested in the general resources within the bag, the mention of ancient formation jade slips piqued his curiosity. Without hesitation, he reached out to take it.

Chapter 4653

Seeing Kai accept the storage bag, Master Luan secretly breathed a sigh of relief.

If Kai wanted the bag, it likely meant his life would be spared.

After all, there’s a saying: when someone accepts your offering, they are less inclined to harm you.

Master Luan wiped the cold sweat from his forehead, feeling slightly more at ease.

Kai examined the storage bag, pulled out a formation jade slip, and sent his divine sense into it.

However, the jade slip seemed to have certain restrictions. Kai's divine sense was unable to penetrate it, leaving him clueless about the formation it contained.

“There's something unusual here—it's even blocking my divine sense!”

Kai was momentarily surprised but quickly increased the strength of his divine sense.

In his sea of consciousness, a seemingly disorganized starry sky began to form. The stars, flickering between brightness and darkness, spread across the entire expanse of his mind.

“What is this?” The Red Cloud Demon Lord, startled by the sudden vision, couldn't hide his shock.

Kai observed the scene and quickly deduced the truth. “This is a formation diagram embedded within the jade slip. It needs to be cracked before the divine sense can fully enter.”

Using his advanced knowledge of formations, Kai began deciphering the diagram.

What had stumped Master Luan for years was unraveled by Kai in moments.

As the formation was cracked, Kai's divine sense seamlessly entered the jade slip.

Suddenly, he felt a wave of dizziness, and a vast expanse of pure white engulfed him.

Within this blank space, he couldn't sense any spiritual power or detect the formation's presence.

“What kind of formation is this? Why is it completely imperceptible?”

Kai frowned in confusion.

Immersed in the white void, he focused, determined to uncover even the faintest hint about this enigmatic formation.

As time passed, Kai felt an inexplicable force welling up in his heart, as though it resonated with the fundamental laws of heaven and earth.

“This... Is this the legendary Great Formation of Heaven and Earth?”

Kai was stunned. He realized he might have stumbled upon one of the most forbidden and mysterious aspects of the heavenly world.

The Great Formation of Heaven and Earth was said to have been constructed by ancient powers, using heaven and earth as its fabric and stars as its chess pieces. This grand formation severed the connection between realms, preventing monks left behind in the heavenly world from returning to their original plane.

Although Kai didn't know who created this formation or their original intentions, he understood that its power was far beyond his current cultivation level.

“No wonder even my divine consciousness couldn't penetrate it. How could such a formation be discerned by ordinary means?”

He marveled at the revelation, a mixture of shock and excitement coursing through him.

Kai recognized the formation's potential. If he could fully comprehend and master it, he might be able to dismantle it and allow the stranded monks—ancestral divine pattern masters, array demons, and others—to return to the heavenly world they longed for.

After exploring the jade slip for some time, Kai discovered that it only contained a fragment of the Great Formation of Heaven and Earth.

“Could the four jade slips together form the complete formation?”

Curious, Kai retrieved another jade slip, but no matter how much effort he exerted, his divine consciousness couldn't penetrate it.

Gazing at the jade slip in his hand, Kai felt a pang of frustration but also understood that forcing the matter was futile.

“Forget it. The opportunity hasn't arrived yet, and forcing it won't help.”

Sighing, he set the jade slips aside and turned his attention to Master Luan, who knelt nearby with a face full of hope.

“Although you acted under Qiu Tu's orders, I'll spare your life today because of your genuine interest in studying formations,” Kai declared, his voice carrying an undeniable authority.

“However, while you may escape death, you won't escape punishment. You attacked me, and I can't let that go unaddressed. Otherwise, others will think I, Kai, am easy to bully. As punishment, I'll cripple your hands.”

Chapter 4654

With a swift motion, Kai pointed his finger, and a flash of light streaked through the air. Master Luan felt a searing pain in his arms before losing all sensation.

Collapsing to the ground, his eyes reflected a mix of fear and relief. He understood he deserved this punishment but felt grateful that Kai had spared his life. Though his hands were crippled, they could heal in a decade. Life, however, once lost, could never be regained.

“Thank you, Mr. Chen...”

Despite the pain, Master Luan was overcome with joy. Summoning a sudden burst of energy, he staggered to his feet and fled, fearing Kai might change his mind and end his life.

Once Master Luan disappeared into the distance, Kai shifted his gaze to Qiu Tu.

Qiu Tu's entire body trembled. Witnessing Master Luan's escape after offering his treasure, Qiu Tu reasoned that if he too knelt, begged for mercy, and surrendered his possessions, he might avoid death.

Although Qiu Tu was a son of the Qiu family and valued his pride, he knew survival took precedence. With everyone else either dead or incapacitated, no one would witness his humiliation. Begging for mercy was undoubtedly the wisest choice. As the saying goes, a man who knows when to yield is a true hero.

"Mr. Chen, spare me! Please, spare my life!"

The moment Qiu Tu made up his mind, he fell to his knees and begged. Seeing that Master Luan had lost his hands but escaped with his life, a flicker of hope ignited within him.

He kowtowed repeatedly, the arrogance and fierceness once etched on his face replaced by sheer terror.

"Mr. Chen, I am willing to give up everything I own—just let me live! Here, this is my storage bag, filled with treasures I've accumulated over the years. It's all yours if you spare me!"

His hands trembled as he held up the storage bag, his last hope clinging desperately to it as if it were his lifeline.

Kai, however, merely stared at him coldly, his gaze devoid of compassion.

In a calm, measured voice, he spoke, each word resonating with an unshakable authority: “Qiu Tu, do you really think your treasure can buy your life?”

Qiu Tu froze, confusion flashing across his face. He had believed Kai would treat him as he had Master Luan, sparing him in exchange for his possessions. But the next words that left Kai’s lips sent an icy chill down his spine, as though he had fallen into an endless abyss.

“Why not?” Qiu Tu asked, his voice tinged with confusion.

Kai smirked, his tone dripping with mockery. “Because if I kill you, your treasures will still be mine.”

Qiu Tu’s face turned ashen. He couldn’t believe what he was hearing. Wasn’t it standard practice to exchange treasures for one’s life? Why was Kai disregarding this unwritten rule?

He tried to beg for mercy again, but no sound escaped his lips. His fear had paralyzed him.

In a flash, Kai appeared before Qiu Tu, his palm descending with a force that carried an overwhelming murderous intent, aimed directly at Qiu Tu’s vital points.

“I want you to understand that you are nothing compared to me, and your Qiu Mansion is worthless in my eyes,” Kai said, his voice echoing in Qiu Tu’s ears like the pronouncement of a death sentence.

Qiu Tu felt a crushing power envelop him. He attempted to evade the blow, but it was too late. The palm, as unrelenting as a collapsing mountain, struck his chest with devastating force.

With a deafening “bang,” Qiu Tu’s body flew backward like a kite with its string snapped, landing heavily on the ground.

His chest caved in, and blood poured from his mouth, soaking the ground beneath him.

His wide eyes stared into the void, filled with disbelief and resentment. Even in his final moments, he seemed to question why Kai had been so ruthless, denying him even the smallest chance of survival.

“You...you...” Qiu Tu stammered, managing only those two broken words before his head slumped, and the life drained from his body.

Kai stood motionless, gazing at Qiu Tu’s lifeless form, his expression unchanging, as if the scene before him was of no consequence.

Chapter 4655

Xiong Kuo was stunned by what he had just witnessed. He never expected Kai to kill Qiu Tu so decisively. After all, Qiu Tu was the young master of Qiu Mansion!

Qiu Mansion wasn’t just any place—it was the residence of Qiu Wanqing, one of the three beast generals. Qiu Wanqing was a cultivator of the Mahayana realm at the eighth grade, commanding an army of no less than a hundred Mahayana cultivators. Yet Kai had dared to kill Qiu Tu outright. Was he truly unafraid of Qiu Wanqing’s wrath?

Xiong Ying, too, was deeply shaken. Watching Kai eliminate Qiu Tu without a hint of hesitation left her in awe. But unlike Xiong Kuo, her feelings leaned more toward admiration. From the moment she first met Kai, she had thought of him as unremarkable. Now, however, her opinion had transformed into profound respect.

Every shift in her perception of Kai was driven by the sheer force of his strength.

Though Xiong Ying was beautiful, she was merely a small cultivator in the Tribulation Realm. Her beauty was her greatest asset, but in the treacherous world of heaven and man, that alone offered no protection. In fact, it often invited trouble.

This recent ordeal was proof enough—Xiong Kuo's so-called friends had betrayed him, driven by their lust for Xiong Ying. They had even plotted to possess her. If not for Kai's intervention, her fate would have been sealed.

Xiong Ying's gaze toward Kai shifted constantly, her admiration growing deeper. At this moment, a thought formed in her heart—she hoped Kai would accept her. If he did, she could find safety and protection under his formidable strength.

The youngest sister, however, was trapped in her own internal struggle. With her brother dead, she was now alone in the world. Living in Beast City as a young woman without anyone to rely on would inevitably lead to her becoming a plaything for other male cultivators.

She, too, longed to follow Kai and wished for his protection. But she was painfully aware of her own shortcomings. Whether in strength or beauty, she couldn't compare to Xiong Ying.

Even with the sword spirit Zhongli by her side, she fell short. Though her appearance might be considered average, in front of Kai—a man surrounded by so many remarkable beauties—she felt utterly inadequate. “Let's go. I'll take you into the city to find a safe place for now. This fairy stone vein isn't secure—others likely know about it,” Kai said to the three.

Since Qian Yue had informed Qiu Tu, and Qiu Tu had involved people from the Qiu Mansion, it was certain that the location of this fairy stone vein had spread within the Qiu Mansion.

If Xiong Kuo and the others stayed here, they would undoubtedly be in danger.

“Mr. Chen, you just killed Qiu Tu, and now you're planning to walk openly back to Beast City. Aren't you worried about retaliation from the Qiu Mansion?”

“How about I take you to a more secluded place? I know of a very hidden spot,” Xiong Kuo suggested, concern evident in his voice.

“No need. The Qiu Mansion won’t dare to retaliate. And if they do, I’ll destroy the entire Qiu Mansion myself,” Kai replied casually.

A first-grade cultivator in the Mahayana realm declaring his intent to destroy the mansion of an eighth-grade Mahayana cultivator would ordinarily sound like a ridiculous boast.

But coming from Kai, it felt completely believable.

The strength Kai had displayed was so overwhelming that Xiong Kuo and the others couldn’t even comprehend the true extent of his power.

Without delay, the group hurried toward Beast City. With Kai carrying the token of Xing Mansion, they passed through the city gates smoothly, avoiding any inspection.

Kai led them directly into Xing Mansion.

As they stood before the grand structure, Xiong Kuo and the others were momentarily stunned.

This was the mansion of Xing Daorong, one of the three beast generals. While they had never been inside, they were all familiar with its imposing exterior.

In Beast City, aside from the City Lord’s Mansion at its center, the mansions of the three beast generals were the most extravagant and impressive structures in the entire city.

Chapter 4656

Bai Cheng noticed Kai returning with three strangers in tow, his face showing confusion. “Mr. Chen, who are these people?”

Kai offered a faint smile. “They’re my friends. They’ll be staying here temporarily. Is General Xing around?”

Bai Cheng nodded. “Yes, General Xing was looking for you earlier. Something seems to have happened at Qiu Mansion.”

Hearing this, Kai immediately understood. The chaos at Qiu Mansion likely stemmed from his recent actions—killing Qiu Tu was bound to stir up trouble.

Turning to Bai Cheng, Kai instructed, “Take them to rest. I’ll go see General Xing.”

Without delay, Kai made his way to the meeting room. As he pushed open the door, he found several commanders seated, their expressions shifting to respect the moment he entered. They rose in unison, a silent acknowledgment of his power.

Since Kai’s breakthrough to the Mahayana realm, his status had undergone a dramatic transformation. No one dared to underestimate someone capable of enduring tribulation akin to the Immortal Realm’s trials.

“Kai! There you are. Come, have a seat.” General Xing Daorong stood, guiding Kai to a seat beside him—a clear display of favor and respect.

In the world of Heaven and Man, strength spoke louder than words, and Kai’s rise demanded acknowledgment.

Settling into the chair, Kai met General Xing’s gaze. “General Xing, what did you want to discuss with me?”

Xing Daorong leaned forward, his tone grave. “Our spy reported that Qiu Mansion raised white sails—mourning banners. Both of Qiu Wanqing’s sons are dead. Especially Qiu Tu... he was slain just outside Beast City. Qiu Wanqing is beside himself with rage.” The general’s eyes narrowed. “You wouldn’t happen to know anything about this, would you?”

Kai's expression remained calm as he nodded. "I do. I killed Qiu Yu and Qiu Tu. In fact, I only just returned after dealing with Qiu Tu."

As if confirming a suspicion, Xing Daorong's brows furrowed slightly. "So it was you. I had my suspicions." "Why did you kill Qiu Tu?" Xing Daorong asked, his gaze sharp and probing.

Faced with the question, Kai decided to reveal the truth. Since he planned to mine the fairy stone vein with Xing Daorong, there was no point in hiding anything. Trust was essential for their cooperation.

As Kai recounted the events, the meeting room erupted in disbelief.

"What? The fairy stone vein still exists?" "Incredible! I thought it had disappeared ages ago!" "Thank heavens the Qiu Mansion didn't get to it. If they had mined those stones, they'd have attacked us long ago!"

The commanders murmured in excitement and astonishment, the discovery sparking a fervent buzz.

Xing Daorong's face mirrored their shock, but his expression soon turned to exhilaration. The idea that Kai had killed Qiu Tu to protect the fairy stone vein filled him with a sense of relief and anticipation.

The revelation also carried an unspoken promise: Kai trusted him enough to share this invaluable secret. This meant one thing—Kai was willing to let the Xing Mansion mine the vein together.

"You made the right call," Xing Daorong said firmly. "The fairy stone vein doesn't belong to the Qiu Mansion. For Qiu Tu to conspire to seize it... he deserved his fate!"

With a resolute tone, he added, "If Qiu Wanqing dares to cause you trouble over this, I will not stand idly by."

"Thank you, General Xing," Kai replied, bowing his head in gratitude.

Xing Daorong waved a hand dismissively. “You’re a guest of my Xing Mansion. Protecting you is my duty. There’s no need for thanks.” He hesitated briefly, then asked, “But regarding the mining of the fairy stone vein...”

Kai nodded, understanding the unspoken question. “General Xing, I returned without delay because I want to cooperate with you. I’ll need your support to mine the vein. But there’s one pressing concern—since Qiu Tu knew the location, the Qiu Mansion must know it too. Qiu Wanqing may act soon to seize the vein for himself.”

Hearing this, Xing Daorong shot to his feet, determination flashing in his eyes. “You’re absolutely right. We can’t let Qiu Wanqing beat us to it!”

Chapter 4657

“Everyone, gather the troops immediately. Kai will lead the team, and we’ll head to the location of the fairy stone vein,” Xing Daorong commanded.

“This time, I’ll personally oversee things. If Qiu Wanqing dares to challenge me, I’ll fight him myself!”

Once Xing Daorong issued his order, the commanders promptly complied.

Within minutes, hundreds of soldiers and dozens of guest officials, including Bai Cheng, had assembled.

Kai wasted no time, leading his men out of the city in a grand display of force.

Along the way, monks quickly stepped aside, uncertain about what was happening. Even the city gate guards kept their distance, too fearful to question the soldiers.

No one dared to stop or interrogate troops from the Xing Mansion—it would be akin to courting death.

As Kai led the procession out of the city, the mood in the Qiu Mansion was tense.

In the main hall, Qiu Wanqing stood trembling beside Qiu Tu's lifeless body.

Qiu Yu's death had been bearable—he was a troublemaker who indulged in pleasures and brought little value. But Qiu Tu's death was a crushing blow. Qiu Tu had been strong and capable, the ideal successor in Qiu Wanqing's eyes.

Now, with both sons gone, Qiu Wanqing struggled to contain his grief.

“Master, Xing Daorong has just left the city with a large force!” the Qiu Mansion's steward reported, stepping forward.

Qiu Wanqing's expression darkened as he gritted his teeth. “He must be heading for the fairy stone vein.”

“My son died because of that vein. I won't let it fall into Xing Daorong's hands. Gather our forces immediately—we're going too!”

Qiu Wanqing had pieced everything together. Qiu Tu must have informed him about the fairy stone vein before his death. Now, Xing Daorong's sudden departure only confirmed his suspicions.

In no time, Qiu Wanqing assembled his own force of hundreds and marched out of the city in a grand display of strength.

The sight left the monks in Beast City bewildered, with no clue as to what was unfolding. “Damn, what's going on? Two of the three Beast Generals of Beast City have left, fully armed, and they've taken all their soldiers with them!”

“I can’t remember the last time any of the three Beast Generals left the city, let alone two at once. What’s happening today?”

“Something big is brewing... something big is definitely going to happen in Beast City.”

On the streets, cultivators murmured in confusion, their curiosity growing, though none knew the cause of the commotion.

With Qiu Wanqing leading his men out, only one of the three Beast Generals remained in Beast City: General Yan, known as Yan Shuangying.

Naturally, Yan Shuangying had not missed the fact that Xing Daorong and Qiu Wanqing had left the city with their troops.

“General, both Xing Daorong and Qiu Wanqing have marched out, taking all their soldiers,” a servant of the Yan Mansion reported.

Yan Shuangying narrowed his eagle-like eyes, his tone sharp. “Strange... What game are those two playing? Beast City has been restless lately. Captain Zhou was mysteriously killed outside the city, and the Qiu Mansion is flying mourning banners. What’s going on?”

The servant hesitated before suggesting, “General, now that both families are gone, why don’t we seize the opportunity to take over Beast City? Once it’s done, they won’t be able to take it back!”

“Silence!” Yan Shuangying barked, his voice firm. “Do you think the City Lord doesn’t exist? He may not have shown himself in years, but he’s still there.”

He twirled the iron balls in his hand thoughtfully. “I have no interest in being the City Lord. I’m content as General. Let those two fools fight it out for the title. You keep gathering information, but stay neutral—don’t interfere or assist either side. Understand?”

“Understood,” the servant replied with a nod before leaving the room.

Yan Shuangying chuckled softly, his grip tightening on the iron balls. “Two fools... haven’t they heard the story of the snipe and the clam, and how the fisherman reaps the reward?”

Chapter 4658

On the outskirts of Beast City, there lay a vein of fairy stone.

Xing Daorong had already arrived with his men and stationed multiple layers of guards around the vein. Any approach would be detected immediately.

As he gazed at the glimmering fairy stone within the vein, Xing Daorong’s eyes sparkled with excitement.

“I’m rich, I’m rich...” he muttered, before breaking into loud, uncontrollable laughter. “Hahaha... Let’s see how Qiu Wanqing dares to challenge me now!”

“General Xing, don’t celebrate too early,” Kai cautioned. “I suspect the Qiu Mansion has already sent people. We need a strategy to deal with them.”

“Yes, yes, you’re right,” Xing Daorong nodded, his expression sobering. “We have to keep Qiu Wanqing out. If he takes control of this vein, the entire Beast City will be his.”

“General Xing, who is stronger between you and Qiu Wanqing?” Kai asked.

“We’re evenly matched. It’s hard to say who would win,” Xing Daorong admitted.

“In that case,” Kai suggested, “you should lead the men to guard the vein while I oversee the mining. If we work quickly, we might be able to extract all the fairy stones in just a few days.”

Kai surveyed the site carefully. This fairy stone vein wasn't particularly large—most of the larger veins had been mined long ago. Its small size was likely why it had remained hidden for so many years.

“Good idea,” Xing Daorong agreed, then turned to Baicheng. “Baicheng, you’ll lead a team to assist Kai with the mining. Ignore anything happening outside; your only focus is extracting the stones.”

“Understood,” Baicheng replied with a nod.

After giving his instructions, Xing Daorong left Kai and Baicheng to oversee the mining while he and his men stationed themselves on the hilltop to guard against any sudden attack from Qiu Wanqing.

But just as Xing Daorong finished making his arrangements, he felt the ground beneath him tremble slightly. Hundreds of people approached in a mighty procession, led by none other than Qiu Wanqing.

Seeing this, Xing Daorong immediately ordered his men to prepare the battle formation.

Qiu Wanqing ascended to the top of the mountain, halting in place as he glared coldly at Xing Daorong, his eyes brimming with murderous intent.

“Xing Daorong, what are you doing here?” Qiu Wanqing demanded, though he clearly already knew the answer.

Xing Daorong, recognizing the question’s pretense, snapped back angrily, “I’ll do whatever the hell I want. What business is it of yours?”

“Is this mountain yours? Then why are you here?”

Xing Daorong’s direct challenge momentarily stunned Qiu Wanqing, who quickly recovered and erupted in fury.

“Xing Daorong, were you raised on garbage? Let me tell you, there’s a fairy stone vein here—discovered by my son!”

“Now my son has been killed, and I’ve heard it was done by a guest official from your Xing Mansion. I suggest you hand him over and leave immediately.”

“Otherwise, don’t blame me for showing no mercy!”

Qiu Wanqing’s voice boomed like thunder, echoing across the mountains for miles.

Hearing this, Xing Daorong sneered, his gaze filled with disdain and mockery, as though ridiculing Qiu Wanqing’s arrogance.

“Qiu Wanqing, your son lacked skill and met his end because of it. He got what he deserved!”

“And as for my guest official, someone like you has no right to criticize him!”

“As for the fairy stone vein—hmmph! The treasures of heaven and earth belong to those destined to find them. Whoever discovers it claims it. Do you think our Xing Mansion is a soft target for you to bully?”

Xing Daorong stood firm, showing no fear of Qiu Wanqing.

Qiu Wanqing’s face turned ashen with rage, his beard bristling and eyes blazing like a furious lion. His entire body radiated a terrifying murderous intent.

“Xing Daorong, you’re digging your own grave! If you don’t give me an explanation today, you won’t leave this place alive! I’ll show you the price of crossing the Qiu family!”

As he spoke, Qiu Wanqing’s aura erupted, blanketing the entire mountain in an oppressive, terrifying energy.

Chapter 4659

Xing Daorong sneered as a spear materialized in his hand. With a swift wave, the wind and clouds surged violently, and the surrounding air seemed to solidify. A powerful aura emanated from him, pressing down on those nearby like an unmovable mountain.

“If you think you can take Xing Daorong’s life, let’s see if you have the ability! Today, we settle this once and for all!” Xing Daorong declared coldly.

At his words, the troops from both sides withdrew, clearing an open battlefield.

Xing Daorong and Qiu Wanqing locked eyes, their gazes ablaze with fighting spirit, as though they intended to devour each other.

“Come on! Let’s end this today!” Qiu Wanqing roared, leaping forward like a tiger descending from the mountain, charging directly at Xing Daorong.

With both hands clenched into fists, he unleashed his violent true energy. His fists, resembling bolts of lightning, tore through the sky as they aimed for Xing Daorong’s chest.

Xing Daorong snorted disdainfully. Rather than retreat, he advanced. His spear lunged forward like a dragon, targeting Qiu Wanqing’s vital points with precision.

He moved with incredible agility, weaving across the battlefield as though he were a phantom. The spear in his hand seemed alive, every strike carrying the force to split mountains and crush rocks. Each thrust aimed directly at Qiu Wanqing’s throat, heart, and other critical areas.

In an instant, the two clashed. Shadows of the spear and the force of Qiu Wanqing’s fists intertwined, sending rocks flying and dust billowing into the air.

Each movement was executed with immense power and skill, as though the combatants intended to level the entire mountain. Their figures

darted across the battlefield, resembling flashes of lightning—swift and almost impossible to follow.

“Boom!” A deafening explosion erupted as the two were forced to step back, the ground beneath them cracking from the impact of their clash, shaking the earth itself.

The onlookers were gripped with terror. Such raw, destructive power was a rare sight in the world. They retreated farther, fearing they might be caught in the crossfire of this devastating battle.

Qiu Wanqing roared again, his true energy surging wildly. Encased in the sound of thunder and wind, his fists carried the might of the heavens as he charged once more at Xing Daorong.

Each punch seemed to harness the force of nature itself, colliding with Xing Daorong’s spear in a series of deafening clashes that reverberated across the mountains. Xing Daorong refused to be outmatched. He wielded his spear with precision, the tip gleaming with cold light like a silver dragon soaring through the air. Each strike was precise and lethal, leaving no room for error.

The battle between the two grew increasingly ferocious, with every move calculated to kill, every strike fraught with danger.

Their figures darted across the battlefield at incredible speeds—sometimes leaping high into the air, other times diving low to the ground—resembling a deadly dance of life and death.

Dark clouds gathered overhead, and thunder rumbled, as if even the heavens and earth were shaken by the magnitude of their clash.

Suddenly, Xing Daorong let out a powerful shout. His spear carved a brilliant arc through the air, like a meteor streaking across the night sky, aiming directly for Qiu Wanqing’s head.

Qiu Wanqing scoffed coldly, twisting his body just in time to narrowly avoid the lethal strike.

But Xing Daorong's spear seemed almost alive, twisting midair to redirect its trajectory toward Qiu Wanqing's waist.

Caught off guard, Qiu Wanqing managed to dodge sideways, but not entirely. The sharp edge of the spear tore through his clothes, leaving a deep, bloody gash.

Roaring in pain and anger, Qiu Wanqing shaped his hands into claws and lunged at Xing Daorong's chest, seeking to leverage his strength in close combat.

Xing Daorong snorted dismissively and leapt backward, evading the attack with ease.

With a swift motion, he spun his spear and launched a relentless assault. The spearhead rained down like a storm of needles, each strike rapid and precise, threatening to pierce Qiu Wanqing's body.

Qiu Wanqing, unwilling to concede, countered by weaving his hands through the air, forming a series of Qi barriers to block the onslaught.

Yet Xing Daorong's spear, like the first light of dawn, pierced through the layers of defenses with unyielding force, driving toward Qiu Wanqing's vital points.

The battle raged on, an unrelenting exchange of blows that seemed to alter the very fabric of the world around them.

Their movements on the battlefield were swift and dynamic—sometimes colliding with ferocious intensity, other times maneuvering past one another in a seamless, silent contest of wills.

Chapter 4660

As time passed, the battle between the two intensified. The fluctuations of spiritual energy surged like turbulent waves, enveloping the entire mountain.

The surrounding soldiers retreated one after another, fearing they would be caught in the devastating force.

Finally, after a ferocious clash, both fighters were sent flying backward, crashing heavily to the ground. They spat blood, clearly gravely injured, and their bodies skidded along the dirt before coming to an unsteady halt.

Xing Daorong struggled to rise, wiping blood from the corner of his mouth. His eyes remained resolute.

He sneered, “Qiu Wanqing, you fought fiercely today, but neither of us won. This battle is nothing more than a draw.”

Qiu Wanqing, pale as a sheet and blood trickling from his lips, forced a cold smile. “Hmph, I feel the same. This fight was exhilarating! But don’t think the matter of the fairy stone vein ends here. Our conflict is far from over!”

The two locked eyes, fury and resentment simmering in their gazes.

Though the battle had ended, both men understood that the real struggle had only just begun. Their deep-seated animosity could not be resolved through a single fight.

At this, the soldiers from both sides approached to support their respective generals. Hundreds of troops faced each other with hostility, and the mountaintop was steeped in a tense, oppressive atmosphere.

Xing Daorong and Qiu Wanqing both stepped back, prepared to let their soldiers take over the fight. Neither was willing to abandon the fairy stone vein, and since their duel ended in a stalemate, they decided to let their forces determine the victor.

Just as the soldiers on both sides braced for battle, the tension so thick it seemed to freeze the air, a cold, resolute voice suddenly broke the silence.

“Wait!”

All eyes turned toward the source of the voice.

Kai had appeared at some point, his expression calm yet commanding. His gaze was sharp, filled with an unshakable determination.

He walked to the front lines, where the two armies faced off, and fixed his eyes on Qiu Wanqing. His tone was steady but rang out with authority.

“Qiu Wanqing, I am the one who killed both of your sons.”

The words hit like a thunderclap, leaving everyone present stunned and speechless. Qiu Wanqing’s eyes turned blood-red as he glared at Kai, his expression filled with unrestrained fury, as if he wanted to devour him alive.

“What did you just say? You killed my son?”

His voice, hoarse with rage, echoed like a thunderclap, while the murderous aura emanating from him surged violently, distorting the very air around him.

Kai’s expression remained calm as he replied evenly, “Yes, it was me. He tried to seize the fairy stone vein by force. He brought it upon himself.”

Qiu Wanqing let out a chilling laugh, his eyes sweeping over Kai with disdain. Realizing Kai was merely a first-grade Mahayana cultivator only fueled his anger further.

“You? A mere first-grade Mahayana cultivator? How dare you spout such arrogance in my presence! Today, your blood will honor my son’s memory!”

With those words, Qiu Wanqing’s figure blurred as he prepared to charge at Kai.

But before he could act, Xing Daorong stepped forward, positioning himself as a shield between them.

“Qiu Wanqing, if you want to harm him, you’ll have to go through me first!”

Xing Daorong’s voice was resolute, leaving no room for argument. His spear, already in his grip, gleamed coldly, ready for another fight.

Kai, however, gave a faint smile and spoke calmly, “General Xing, I appreciate your protection, but I am confident in dealing with an injured eighth-grade Mahayana cultivator.”

Xing Daorong was momentarily taken aback by Kai’s bold claim but soon nodded and stepped aside. He knew Kai was a man of hidden depths, and his confidence was not unfounded.

Qiu Wanqing, watching this, was enraged beyond words.

“Fine! Let’s see what tricks you, a first-grade Mahayana cultivator, can pull!”

Before the words had fully left his mouth, Qiu Wanqing charged at Kai like a runaway beast, his monstrous anger and murderous intent radiating in waves.