

the mans Decree: Kai Ping / Chen Ping

Chapter 4881

However, Musha had already expended most of his strength on the Celestial Ladder. Now, less than a third of it remained!

“You may be a celestial cultivator,” Wen Nanxing sneered, “but your power is only a tenth of what it was before. You are no match for me!”

Without hesitation, he threw a punch.

The sheer force of their clash sent a wave of pressure through the battlefield, making everyone tremble.

Even though the area where they fought was isolated, the shockwaves were still enough to strike fear into the hearts of those watching.

Nan Batian, Li Chunfeng, and the other celestial cultivators observed the battle with grave expressions.

Here, in the world of heaven and man, they had no advantage at all.

Wen Nanxing’s strength was undeniable—he wouldn’t hold the top position in the celestial world otherwise.

The peak of the Immortal Realm was barely distinguishable from true immortality.

With just that single punch, it was clear that none of them could withstand his power.

Lin Chong’s face grew even more serious. Though he ranked third among celestial cultivators, he realized he was still far behind Wen Nanxing.

If he had been the one facing that punch, he would have been obliterated instantly.

Wen Nanxing's strength was simply terrifying.

Meanwhile, the members of Huo Fen Sect—Wen Qing, Wen Shi, and the others—were thrilled to witness Wen Nanxing's overwhelming power.

Here, in the world of heaven and man, he was truly invincible!

Yet Wen Nanxing didn't stop. He followed up with another punch.

Though it appeared simple, this strike carried the force of the Great Dao itself. It was clear—Wen Nanxing had already grasped the essence of the Heavenly Dao and could ascend to the Celestial Realm at any moment!

Seeing this, Musha's eyes narrowed.

Without hesitation, he clenched his right fist and countered with a punch of his own.

A true battle between masters required no elaborate techniques—just pure, unshakable power!

Boom!

A terrifying force of the Great Dao surged from Musha's palm and exploded forward! As a celestial cultivator, Musha's ability to control the power of the Great Dao was fundamental. However, with his strength greatly diminished, the force he unleashed was far weaker than before.

Still, when his punch struck, the cage around them instantly caught fire. The moment their fists collided, the entire structure could no longer withstand the impact—it exploded!

Waves of terrifying energy blasted outward!

Faces turned pale as everyone scrambled to retreat.

The ground beneath them—Wuwang Land—began to collapse piece by piece. Only the Ladder to Heaven held it together, barely keeping the land from completely falling apart.

Some cultivators from Sun Moon City and Fire Burning Sect reacted too slowly. The overwhelming force swallowed them whole—not even ashes remained.

Seeing their fellow cultivators wiped out in an instant, everyone was horrified. Without hesitation, they retreated even further, watching from a safe distance. No one dared to step closer.

“Even with his power suppressed, Musha is still terrifying,” Li Chunfeng murmured, awestruck. “No wonder he made it to the fourth floor.”

“And he imprisoned himself there,” Shen Zhiyan added with a sigh. “That alone makes him far beyond our reach.”

All eyes remained fixed on the battle. The space where Musha and Wen Nanxing clashed had fallen into complete chaos—time and reality itself twisted and distorted.

Then—BOOM!

Another deafening explosion rang out, sending shockwaves rippling across the battlefield.

Once again, the spectators had no choice but to retreat.

At last, Wuwang Land could take no more—it began to collapse completely!

The spiritual energy of heaven and earth surged in, consuming what remained. Even the Ladder to Heaven could no longer hold Wuwang Land together.

Yet the destruction wasn't over.

The lingering shockwaves spread further. Taoist Wuji's gaze snapped toward Kai, still meditating within the Heaven and Earth Formation.

His expression darkened. "This is bad! The aftermath might reach Kai!"

Without hesitation, Taoist Wuji leaped into action, rushing toward Kai.

Lin Chong, Nan Batian, Li Chunfeng, Shen Zhiyan, the five domain masters, and the others immediately followed, forming a protective barrier around him.

Each of them unleashed their energy, creating a shield against the incoming devastation.

Yet Wen Nanxing showed no signs of stopping.

Punch after punch, he attacked relentlessly—his power seemingly endless!

Chapter 4882

Wen Nanxing had a plan—he was going to wear Musha down until he collapsed!

As a celestial cultivator, Musha couldn't recover his strength in the world of heaven and man.

Countless fist shadows surged toward him, each one carrying devastating power.

Musha, unfazed, stared coldly at the incoming barrage.

Then, he slowly spread his palms—before suddenly clenching them into fists!

Boom!

Strange runes flickered into existence on his hands.

The moment those runes ignited, a thousand Dao sounds rang across Wuwang Land.

The glowing symbols coiled around his fists like living creatures, distorting the very fabric of space and time—for just a brief moment, even reality itself seemed to freeze.

Wen Nanxing's pupils shrank. He recognized this aura immediately.

It was the presence of heavenly punishment—the pressure of heaven that only true immortals could summon!

“Heavenly Fist!”

Musha's frail body suddenly expanded by three feet. As he struck forward, the void itself cracked like a spider's web.

Wen Nanxing crossed his arms in defense, red-gold flames erupting around him.

But the instant the attack landed—clang!

A sharp, metallic sound rang out.

The impact was so intense that the spiritual energy within a hundred feet solidified into a visible mass—then shattered into dust.

Crack!

The sickening sound of bone snapping echoed through the battlefield.

Wen Nanxing's right arm fractured under the force, sending him stumbling backward seven steps. Each step left behind a charred imprint in the air.

Musha didn't let up.

Seizing the moment, he raised his left hand. Nine thunderbolts roared down from the sky, twisting into chains that wrapped tightly around Wen Nanxing's limbs.

“Thunder Prison Tribulation!”

Musha's white beard fluttered wildly as he summoned the last of his strength. A single tear of blood slipped from his left eye.

“Even with only 30% of my power left... I will kill you, false immortal!”

Wen Nanxing threw back his head and let out a furious roar.

Behind him, the Fire Burning Sect's totem emerged from the void—a massive black sparrow, reborn from flames.

The giant bird spread its wings wide, casting a shadow over the battlefield.

Every feather burned with dark blue nether fire, disintegrating the thunder chains in an instant.

Musha groaned, blood bubbling at the corners of his mouth. The runes around him flickered unsteadily.

Wen Nanxing sneered.

“Hmph. The laws of the celestial world mean nothing here in the world of heaven and man!”

Without hesitation, he ripped open his chest—

And crushed his own heart.

The surge of blood energy burst forth, twisting into a massive blood dragon that coiled around him, roaring to life.

“Burning Heaven Technique!” Musha’s thunderbolts vanished before the blood dragon—melting away like snow under the scorching sun.

He staggered, his breath unsteady, as the blood dragon rushed toward him, carrying the power of annihilation.

The moment it pierced through his chest, the last trace of immortal power dormant within him finally erupted.

That lingering immortal energy transformed into a three-foot-long green blade.

Shing!

The blade shot through Musha’s back, slicing the blood dragon clean in half!

Wen Nanxing froze.

He lowered his gaze to his empty chest, where the blood-stained tip of a sword was embedded.

“Is this... the sword intent of heavenly punishment?”

Golden blood suddenly gushed from his seven orifices.

Panicked, he desperately gathered his spiritual power to heal the wound—only to realize that the sword intent was devouring his vitality.

“Impossible! You barely had any power left—”

Musha collapsed, his body hitting the ground with a dull thud.

Behind him, the remnants of the sword intent dissipated, revealing a barren landscape of white bones.

The world fell into a dead silence.

Wen Nanxing swayed but remained standing. His chest wound began to heal before everyone's eyes.

As he clenched his fist, red-gold flames reignited in his palm.

Then, he suddenly burst into wild laughter.

“So, you're completely drained! Today, I'll extract your immortal bone and forge it into a divine weapon!”

Musha's breathing grew faint.

Meanwhile, Li Chunfeng and the others were struggling just to withstand the lingering shockwaves of the battle.

Against Wen Nanxing, the peak of the immortal realm, all resistance was meaningless.

Even if Lin Chong and the others joined forces, it wouldn't be enough!

BOOM!

Just then—the entire world trembled.

A golden light burst forth, enveloping Kai inside the world formation.

In that instant, his eyes snapped open.

A sharp, unyielding determination burned in his gaze.

“So this is the center of the formation...”

Muttering to himself, Kai gripped the Dragon Slashing Sword tightly.

Then—he shot forward!

In the blink of an eye, his figure vanished completely within the world formation.

And then—

Rumble!

The formation began to collapse at an alarming speed.

As Kai re-emerged, he gazed at the crumbling formation.

A faint smile tugged at the corner of his lips.

Chapter 4883

The great formation of Heaven and Earth collapsed. Across every corner of the Heaven and Human Realm, golden lights shot into the sky—these were the celestial cultivators who had been trapped within the realm!

The golden lights filled the entire Heaven and Human Realm like a grand display of fireworks. Kai stared at the scene, stunned. He hadn't expected so many celestial cultivators to be imprisoned here!

In a secluded cave, the God Pattern Ancestor and the Array Demon were still playing chess. As the formation vanished, both sensed it—and a long-lost smile appeared on their faces.

“Brother, we’ve played this game for so many years. Now it’s time to settle the score and go home!”

The Array Demon smiled as he spoke.

“Home... I’ve been trapped here for so long, I thought I’d never return in this lifetime.” After finishing his words, the God Pattern Ancestor slowly placed a chess piece on the board.

The Array Demon froze for a moment, then looked at him in shock. “Brother, how did you beat me so fast? Why did this game last for so many years?”

“If we hadn’t spent all those years playing and competing, you might’ve died of loneliness long ago,” the God Pattern Ancestor replied with a smile.

The Array Demon couldn’t help but laugh. “Brother, thank you...”

Moments later, two golden lights flashed—and the cave was empty, leaving only the chessboard behind.

Perhaps, years from now, this cave would become a sacred place for future cultivators to explore.

Celestial cultivators raced against time to return to the Celestial Realm—they couldn’t remain even a second longer!

Taoist Wuji, Nan Batian, Li Chunfeng, Shen Zhiyan...

They gazed at the shattered Heaven and Earth formation, longing in their eyes.

But they knew they couldn’t leave yet. If they did, Kai would surely perish!

Against Wen Nanxing’s strength, even all of them together could barely hold on. If only Kai remained, he’d be crushed in an instant.

“Mr. Chen, run! We can’t hold on much longer!”

Lin Chong shouted to Kai.

The oppressive aura had already frozen them in place. With the great formation now broken, if Kai didn’t escape soon, Wen Nanxing would definitely overwhelm him!

“Don’t bother... none of you are getting away,” Wen Nanxing growled, his face twisted with ferocity.

The ancestor had ordered him to stop Kai from breaking the Heaven and Earth formation—but he had failed. He knew that if he didn't kill these people now, he would have no face left to see the ancestor!

Worse still, if the ancestor held him responsible, not only would he suffer, but the entire Huofen Sect might be wiped out!

As Wen Nanxing's aura surged once again, Kai felt as if the weight of a thousand mountains was pressing down on him!

“Mr. Chen, this is as far as I can help you!”

Lin Chong saw Kai being suppressed too, and a look of determination flashed in his eyes.

With that, he clenched his fists, and his body began to expand—Lin Chong was about to self-destruct!

Seeing this, Kai quickly shouted, “Emperor Lin, don't!”

“Mr. Shi...”

Kai cried out, calling for Mr. Shi.

He didn't know whether Mr. Shi could hear him, but he believed—at his most critical moment—Mr. Shi would surely appear!

“Mr. Shi?” Wen Nanxing sneered coldly. “Calling your father now is useless!”

Kai ignored him and shouted again, “Mr. Shi!”

Boom!

Just as he finished yelling, the sky above suddenly split open, and a middle-aged man in a green robe slowly descended from the void!

“Mr. Shi...” Kai's eyes lit up in surprise the moment he saw him.

The instant Mr. Shi appeared, the overwhelming pressure vanished completely!

Everyone finally breathed a sigh of relief.

When the Lord of the Western Region saw Mr. Shi, his body trembled. “It’s him... it’s really him...”

His pants were soaked—he had wet himself again!

Wen Nanxing glanced at Mr. Shi and said coldly, “Who are you to interfere with the matters of my Huofen Sect?”

Chapter 4884

Mr. Shi ignored him and instead looked at Kai with affection in his eyes. “Did you break the great formation of Heaven and Earth?”

“Yes,” Kai nodded.

“Not bad.” Mr. Shi gently patted Kai’s head.

Wen Nanxing frowned. “Damn, I hate people like you—acting all mysterious. How dare you ignore me?”

With that, he suddenly stepped forward and threw a fierce punch at Mr. Shi!

The power of the Dao surged wildly!

Wen Nanxing put all his strength into this strike. He intended to destroy the arrogant Mr. Shi with a single blow!

Yet, as the punch approached, Mr. Shi didn’t even glance at him. He continued stroking Kai’s head, calm and composed.

As the force of the punch bore down, Mr. Shi casually waved his hand—without even looking.

Boom!

A gentle breeze swept through, and the terrifying power of the Dao vanished instantly—disappearing as if it had never existed.

At the same time, a gaping hole opened in Wen Nanxing's chest, revealing his internal organs!

In that moment—

Heaven and earth fell into dead silence.

Everyone stood frozen, eyes wide with shock and disbelief.

The Lord of the Northern Territory turned to look at the Lord of the Western Territory—who had wet his pants—and suddenly understood why.

Shen Zhiyan and the others were also stunned. As cultivators of the Heavenly Realm, they had seen much, yet they couldn't begin to comprehend Mr. Shi.

A man who appeared gentle and scholarly, completely without aura—yet with a simple wave, as if brushing away a fly, he had slain a peak Immortal Realm cultivator in an instant!

At that moment, Wen Nanxing's eyes were wide open, his face filled with disbelief. In a daze, he muttered, "How... how could this be?"

He simply couldn't accept that such a person existed in the Heavenly Realm.

He had always been the pinnacle of power in the realm—an unbeatable force!

How could someone like him be annihilated with a mere flick of the hand?

“This is impossible... absolutely impossible!”

Wen Nanxing’s mind couldn’t make sense of it.

Mr. Shi glanced at Wen Nanxing and said calmly, “What? You look like you’re not convinced.”

As he spoke, Mr. Shi gently clenched his palm. Wen Nanxing instantly felt a strange force vanish from his body, and the gaping wound in his chest was suddenly restored as if it had never existed.

“You’ve recovered. Then let’s fight again,” Mr. Shi said.

Everyone was stunned by the sight.

Musha’s eyes lit up with excitement—he finally understood this was the person Kai had told him about.

The one who could save his wife!

Even though Musha was on the verge of death, it was all worth it if his wife could be saved.

Wen Nanxing stared at Mr. Shi, and his expression twisted into pure fury.

He felt Mr. Shi was deliberately humiliating him!

“No one has ever humiliated me like this!”

With a roar, Wen Nanxing’s entire body contorted like a beast, black flames erupting around him.

A terrifying aura surged outward as both his body and soul ignited in a self-consuming blaze!

The overwhelming pressure rolled across the land, as if it would destroy the entire Heaven and Human Realm!

Taoist Wuji and the others frowned deeply at the terrifying transformation.

With burning hatred, Wen Nanxing hurled a punch at Mr. Shi!

This punch contained every ounce of his cultivation from a lifetime of training.

Had he used this earlier, Musha would have fallen instantly, and Lin Chong and the others wouldn't have stood a chance.

Everyone watching retreated in fear, stunned by the sheer destructive force!

Many disciples of the Huofen Sect were too slow to escape and perished on the spot.

Even Wen Qing and Wen Shi—his own children—were swallowed by the raging aura!

“Father...”

They cried out, but Wen Nanxing didn't seem to hear a word.

Chapter 4885

Wen Nanxing had gone mad, completely ignoring his own children as he watched Wen Qing and Wen Shi perish under the terrifying force of his burning soul.

Mr. Shi gave a faint smile, his eyes filled with disdain.

With a casual wave of his palm, the terrifying aura vanished once more, and Wen Nanxing's chest was suddenly struck by an invisible force—leaving a bloody hole.

Wen Nanxing stood frozen, staring down at the wound in his chest, speechless.

Once again, the world fell into a deathly silence.

Wen Nanxing had been killed—again.

“Why... why?”

Wen Nanxing cried out.

His face was filled with disbelief. He couldn't understand it.

The Huofen Sect had always been the largest sect in the Heaven and Human Realm, and his strength was considered unmatched. How could someone like Mr. Shi suddenly appear?

He could have ascended to the heavens long ago, but he chose to remain—enjoying the worship and basking in his invincible reputation.

And yet... how did things turn out like this?

Where did this Mr. Shi come from?

In front of him, Wen Nanxing didn't even have the power to fight back.

He was utterly devastated—this despair was worse than death itself.

Even more hopeless than Wen Nanxing were the remaining Huofen Sect elites who had survived.

They stared ahead in a daze. These were all Immortal Realm experts, powerful enough to battle Lin Chong and the others!

“Run...”

At that moment, a single thought filled their minds.

More than a dozen Huofen Sect masters suddenly fled in all directions, unleashing their full strength in an attempt to escape.

“We can’t let them get away...”

Kai took a glance and prepared to give chase.

Lin Chong and the others also leapt forward to pursue.

But Mr. Shi raised his hand.

Puff!

In that instant, the fleeing Huofen Sect masters all exploded simultaneously—dying on the spot. These people weren’t even fleeing in the same direction, and many had already escaped varying distances.

Yet when Mr. Shi casually raised his hand, they all exploded and died at the same moment!

Their storage bags slowly floated back and landed in front of Kai.

“For you,” Mr. Shi said.

Kai wanted to laugh, but he held it in and silently collected the storage bags.

Meanwhile, Lin Chong and the others were completely numb with shock.

These were all Immortal Realm cultivators—any one of them could dominate a region in the Heavenly Realm.

Especially the five domain masters. As rulers of the five great regions, their mere presence determined the life and death of countless cultivators.

In the eyes of ordinary cultivators, these domain masters were like gods!

But now, in front of Mr. Shi, they weren't even as significant as ants.

Wen Nanxing looked at the fallen Huofen Sect masters, all wiped out in an instant, his face expressionless.

He wasn't dead yet—but there was no difference anymore.

Just as Kai, Lin Chong, and the others were celebrating, the entire Heaven and Human Realm suddenly plunged into darkness!

It was as if the end of the world had arrived—a dreadful aura slowly approached.

At the horizon, they saw a bronze coffin drifting toward them!

Seated upright atop the bronze coffin was a figure.

As the coffin drew closer, Kai recognized the person—it was Wen Haotian!

Lin Chong and the others stared at the approaching coffin and the man upon it, and each of them was drawn into a deep, oppressive void.

Even without releasing the slightest pressure, that simple glance from the man on the coffin sent them all into a bottomless abyss of fear.

That terror felt instinctual, as if it were born within them—triggered the moment they looked at him.

“You're here...”

Mr. Shi looked at Wen Haotian and smiled calmly.

“What must come will come,” Wen Haotian replied with a faint smile.

The two spoke as if they were old friends.

Chapter 4886

“Ancestor! Ancestor, save me! You’re finally here!”

As soon as Wen Nanxing saw Wen Haotian, his eyes lit up, and he shouted loudly.

“Now that my ancestor is here, you’re all dead... just wait and see!”

“Hahaha...”

Wen Nanxing laughed maniacally, eager to return the humiliation he had just suffered—twice over.

“Shut up. I can’t save you.”

Wen Haotian replied calmly.

Wen Nanxing froze, his face filled with disbelief. “Ancestor, why?”

“Because I am not his match.”

Wen Haotian looked directly at Mr. Shi.

“You’re surprisingly self-aware,” Mr. Shi said with a faint smile.

“If I had a bit more time—once the great formation of heaven and earth fully awakens—perhaps the outcome would be different.”

“Unfortunately, now isn’t the right time. I can only keep waiting.”

As soon as Wen Haotian finished speaking, his figure slowly faded, and the bronze coffin vanished along with him.

Mr. Shi simply watched without making a move, letting Wen Haotian leave.

“Mr. Shi, why didn’t you chase him?”

Kai was puzzled as he watched Wen Haotian disappear.

“One shouldn’t pursue a desperate foe. Even if I did catch up, it would be meaningless. Now that the great formation is active, he can move freely.”

Mr. Shi shook his head as he spoke.

Wen Nanxing stared blankly at the spot where Wen Haotian vanished. With that, his will was completely broken—his spirit utterly crushed.

Even when Kai retrieved the storage bag from him, Wen Nanxing remained motionless.

With his spirit dead, he was no different from a pile of ashes.

Kai couldn’t help grinning ear to ear as he examined Wen Nanxing’s storage bag—it was a huge windfall!

“Mr. Shi, can you heal this senior, Musha?”

Kai pointed to the seriously wounded and fading Musha.

Mr. Shi didn’t reply. He simply waved his palm gently, and Musha suddenly felt a surge of strength fill his body—he sprang up with energy restored!

Seeing that his body had fully recovered, Musha became overwhelmed with emotion and immediately knelt before Mr. Shi.

“Please, senior, save my wife!”

As he spoke, Musha took out his wife’s preserved body.

Because it had been well protected, her appearance remained lifelike, with no signs of decay at all.

“Mr. Shi, Senior Musha’s wife has been dead for a thousand years. Do you think it’s still possible to save her?”

Kai asked, looking at Mr. Shi.

Mr. Shi examined the body, frowning slightly. “She’s been dead for a thousand years—there’s a good chance she’s already reincarnated.”

“I can only try. If her soul hasn’t reincarnated, I can summon it back from the underworld.”

As he finished speaking, Mr. Shi waved his palm over the body. Instantly, the world trembled, and a strange portal opened before them!

From within the passage came eerie, shrill cries—like wails from the depths of hell.

Everyone was frozen in shock. They had never witnessed such a gateway, nor heard such bone-chilling sounds!

Those voices were the real cries of hell.

Soon, a soul slowly emerged from the passage. When Musha saw the spirit, he was so overcome with emotion he couldn’t speak.

It was his wife—her soul had returned!

Within just a few breaths, the woman who had been dead for a thousand years slowly opened her eyes.

“Wife... wife...”

Musha rushed forward and hugged her tightly.

“Husband... where are we?”

To Musha's wife, those thousand years had passed like a moment's sleep.

Musha was so overwhelmed he couldn't even reply.

"No reincarnation for a thousand years... they must be true soulmates."

Mr. Shi looked at the couple with a rare flicker of envy in his eyes.

Kai noticed the emotion in Mr. Shi's gaze and curiously asked, "Mr. Shi, do you... have a wife?"

Mr. Shi glared at him. "How can a cultivator be bound by emotions? That's called a dual cultivation partner—a relationship built for boosting cultivation, nothing more!"

"You brat—always caught up in feelings and wasting your energy on women. No wonder your cultivation is so slow!"

Chapter 4887

"You should be more cautious in the future. The number of women around you is merely for fleeting pleasure. Once you ascend to the Heavenly Realm, you'll face even greater challenges!"

"I'm leaving now. After I reach the heavens, I may not be able to help you so easily. It will all depend on your own efforts!"

"Remember, you must cultivate diligently..."

As Mr. Shi finished speaking, his body slowly turned into thousands of white lights and gently dispersed in front of everyone.

"Mr. Shi..."

Kai called out, but there was no reply.

Meanwhile, on the ninth floor of the ladder, a young man looked up at the sky and shouted, “Master, he’s gone. Hurry and come out!”

An old man cautiously peeked out from the void, his expression full of anxiety. “Disciple, are you sure he’s really gone?”

“He’s truly gone!” the young man nodded.

“You nearly scared me to death,” the old man sighed in relief, patting his chest. Then he said, “Disciple, let him go. Let Kai pass.”

“Master, the river has flooded Jinshan—how can we just let him go?” The young man frowned slightly.

“I said let him go! Why are you talking so much nonsense?” The old man smacked the young man on the head and vanished again.

The young man pouted. “.....”

In the World of Heaven and Man...

Musha gradually calmed down and looked at Kai with deep gratitude. “Mr. Chen, since I promised to serve you for three hundred years, I won’t go back on my word.”

“I’ll take my wife back to the heavens now and help her slowly recover her lost memories.”

“When you arrive in the heavens, feel free to seek me out if you ever need assistance.”

“Take care, Senior Musha!” Kai nodded.

In the current Heavenly World, Kai was already an unrivaled force—he no longer needed Musha’s help.

Musha nodded, held his wife close, and turned into a golden beam of light, soaring into the sky.

As they watched Musha disappear, Nan Batian, Li Chunfeng, and Shen Zhiyan all showed expressions of envy.

They were once immortals in the heavens, but had been imprisoned in the Ladder to Heaven. Now that they had the chance to return, of course they longed to go back and take a look.

Seeing their expressions, Kai smiled and said, “Seniors, I no longer face any threats here in the Heavenly World. You should return to the heavens. If I ever need help, I’ll call upon you.”

Nan Batian, Li Chunfeng, and Shen Zhiyan exchanged glances—they knew Kai was granting them freedom. The three knelt before Kai and said, “Mr. Chen, we will never forget your kindness today. Whenever you need us, we’ll be willing to go through fire and water!”

Kai was deeply moved. He stepped forward to help them up and express his gratitude.

But just as they finished speaking, the three turned into golden light and vanished into the sky in an instant!

“...Damn.”

Kai was speechless.

“Emperor Lin, I’m also returning to the heavens now. Thank you for taking me in all these years—I’m truly grateful!”

“One day, when you ascend to the heavens as well, I’ll play chess with you and take you on a tour of all the celestial mountains!”

Taoist Wuji looked at those who had left and could no longer hold back his emotions.

After being trapped for thousands of years, who wouldn’t long to return?

“Master, if fate allows it, I’ll definitely come find you for a game of chess!” Lin Chong smiled softly.

“Master...”

Lin Keting knew that Taoist Wuji was heading back to the heavens.

This parting might last a very long time—given her current strength, it would take quite a while before she could ascend.

She threw herself into Taoist Wuji’s arms, tears streaming down her cheeks.

“Silly child, all good things must come to an end. But I’m satisfied knowing you’ve found a good husband.”

“You’d better get pregnant with Kai’s child soon, or some other woman might steal that excellent bloodline!”

Taoist Wuji laughed heartily.

“Master, what are you even saying...” Lin Keting blushed.

But before she could say more, Taoist Wuji had already transformed into a golden light and departed.

One by one, the immortals who had been trapped in the Heavenly World were returning to their original realms.

After waiting for thousands of years, they were all eager to leave.

“My dear son-in-law, now that you’re out of danger, the five of us old fellows should return home and resume our cultivation in peace.”

The Lord of the Northern Territory stepped forward and spoke to Kai.

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“Thank you for your help, Masters. I have nothing to offer in return, but I’d like to ask the five Domain Masters for a favor,” Kai said sincerely.

“We’re all family—if you need help, just say the word!” the Lord of the Western Region replied quickly.

Having been frightened twice by Mr. Shi, he was ready to agree to anything Kai requested. He certainly didn’t want to end up like the leader of the Fire Sect!

“Most of the Fire Sect has been destroyed. I hope the five Domain Masters can head there and rescue the leader of the Refining Sect, who is currently trapped within.”

“In addition, the Fire Sect’s resources can be freely divided among the five of you,” Kai added.

“No problem!” the Lord of the Western Region responded without hesitation—and then immediately took off running.

There were only a few stragglers left in the Fire Sect, but it surely still held a mountain of resources. The sooner he got there, the better the spoils.

“Damn, no martial ethics...” Kai muttered.

Seeing this, the other Domain Masters quickly followed suit and dashed after him.

“Mr. Chen, are you going to keep climbing the ladder, or head back to Sun Moon City for some rest?” Lin Chong asked.

“You go back first. I’ll climb a few more levels to gain some experience,” Kai replied.

“Alright...” Lin Chong nodded in understanding.

.....

Fifth level of the ladder.

Ning Zhi and Su Yuqi were seated on the ground. In front of them sat an elderly man in a black robe. His hair and beard were snow-white, and his face was full of deep wrinkles.

He was the guardian of the fifth level.

Ning Zhi and Su Yuqi had initially come to explore the world of the fifth level and collect resources.

But when they arrived, they discovered the fifth-level world was gone. Only a lonely hall remained—along with the guardian who resided there.

When they tried to leave, they were immediately subdued by the old man and now sat obediently, chatting with the strange figure.

“I wonder if Kai will make it to the fifth level? If he doesn’t, are we stuck here forever?” Ning Zhi muttered with a tinge of regret. He wished he had followed Kai earlier.

“Don’t worry, Junior Brother. I’m still trying to break free!” Su Yuqi encouraged him.

“You two little ones, stop struggling. It’s quite nice having company—why not just stay here and chat with me for a while?” the old man said with a mysterious smile. “For so many years, no one has reached the fifth floor. I’ve been bored out of my mind!”

The old man chuckled as he spoke.

Just then, a flash of white light lit up the hall, and Kai appeared!

“Brother Chen, save us!”

Seeing Kai, Ning Zhi quickly called out.

Before Kai could react, the old man suddenly appeared right in front of him.

“You there, young man—what’s your name?” the old man asked.

“My name is Kai,” Kai replied.

“Kai?”

The old man was briefly stunned. Then, with a flattering smile, he pulled out a storage bag and offered it to Kai.

“So it’s Mr. Chen! This is a little something I’ve saved up over the years—please, take it!”

Kai looked surprised and asked, “Are you the guardian of this fifth floor?”

“Yes, yes, that’s me!” the old man nodded eagerly.

“I can help you break the prison seal and set you free. Will you let me pass?” Kai offered.

“No need, no need!” the old man waved his hands. “The higher-ups already told us—if we make you happy, we’ll be set free. No need to trouble Mr. Chen!”

“You want to pass the level, right? Well, you’ve already cleared it! You can go straight to the sixth floor!” he said with an ingratiating smile.

Kai blinked, a little confused by the sudden shift.

“Brother Chen, save us!” Ning Zhi called out again.

Kai pointed toward Ning Zhi and Su Yuqi. “What about them?”

“Friends of Mr. Chen?” the old man asked.

“Yes,” Kai nodded.

“Then go together, go on up!”

As he spoke, a staircase suddenly appeared in the hall.

“Mr. Chen, just head up these stairs—you’ll reach the sixth floor!” the old man said.

Kai stared at the staircase, slightly dazed. What was going on? Since when did climbing the ladder become this easy? He didn’t even need to leave—he could head straight to the sixth floor from inside the hall!

Without further hesitation, Kai took Ning Zhi and Su Yuqi and made their way to the sixth floor.

Chapter 4889

The Sixth Floor!

As soon as Kai and his companions stepped onto the sixth floor, they felt weightless, unable to stand steadily!

In front of them stood a woman dressed in a Tianshui-green silk skirt, its hem embroidered with silver lotus patterns. As she walked, it was as if green waves rippled and lotuses bloomed with every step.

A lotus-colored silk ribbon cinched her waist, from which hung a white jade pendant that swayed gently with her steps, producing a soft, spring-like ding-dong sound.

She wore a scarlet gauze robe, as thin as a cicada’s wing, revealing the snow-colored inner garment with its subtle dark patterns. Gold-threaded cuffs, adorned with tiny pearls, shimmered as sunlight danced across them.

Her black hair flowed like a waterfall, styled into an exquisite bun. A golden phoenix hairpin, clutching a pearl, was inserted at an angle. As she tilted her head, the pearl hanging from the phoenix's mouth caught the light, making her painted-like features glow, her eyes gleaming with life.

Her skin was fairer than snow, her lips red like cinnabar, and the corners of her eyes lifted slightly. Her gaze held the clarity and allure of an autumn lake. A pair of jadeite earrings added a touch of liveliness.

In her hand, she held a mud-gold peony fan, half-covering her jade-like face, revealing only a pair of affectionate eyes. Her smile was enough to haunt one's dreams.

"Mr. Chen, I've been waiting for you a long time..."

Her voice was as melodious as wind chimes, carrying a mesmerizing charm that left Kai and Ning Zhi transfixed.

"Are you the guardian of this floor?"

Kai asked in surprise, confused as to why there was a woman on the sixth floor.

"Yes, I've been here for a thousand years—alone for a thousand years—finally, a man has arrived."

"I wonder... would Mr. Chen be willing to play with me?"

Her gaze was alluring, impossible to resist.

"I want to know why you were imprisoned here," Kai asked curiously.

The others had been locked up for peeking at women bathing or groping them... but the guardian of the sixth floor was a woman. That puzzled Kai even more.

The woman smiled faintly. “It’s better not to talk about the past... best not to mention it...”

Her vague answer only deepened Kai’s curiosity. “Why not?”

The woman let out a gentle sigh. “Everyone makes mistakes. When they do, they should strive to correct them. After all, no one is perfect—not even gods.” “I’m someone who values love and friendship, so I’ve done some things that were a bit over the line...”

At this point, the woman shook her head. “It’s better not to talk about it!”

“Senior, don’t tell me you were imprisoned here by Old Man Jinxian for touching a girl’s butt?”

Kai asked bluntly.

If this woman were into other women, that might actually make sense!

“No, I just couldn’t help myself for a moment... I touched the Golden Immortal’s butt and ended up imprisoned here,” the woman said shyly.

“...What the—”

Kai was momentarily speechless.

Even Ning Zhi and Su Yuqi had dark lines on their faces, completely baffled by how such a bold woman could exist.

“Mr. Chen, I’m willing to offer myself and serve as your slave. Will you rescue me from this sea of suffering?”

The woman looked at Kai with deep affection as she made her plea.

“I...” Kai stared at her delicate face and pitiful expression—he was genuinely tempted.

This woman was just too seductive.

“Yu Ji, I already released you from the prison seal, and yet you still dare to seduce me? Do you want to stay trapped on this floor forever?”

Just as Kai was about to fall for her charms, a loud voice echoed through the space.

“I wouldn’t dare, I wouldn’t dare...”

Yu Ji quickly waved her hands in panic. Then, the stairs to the seventh floor appeared. “Mr. Chen, you may go up now. I was only joking—please don’t take it seriously!”

Kai glanced at Yu Ji, instantly realizing that she was trying to get something from him—just didn’t want it to be too obvious.

Without a word, Kai continued on to the seventh floor, with Ning Zhi and Su Yuqi following close behind.

Chapter 4890

The seventh floor was a vast star field—silent, lifeless, and without the slightest trace of breath or living creatures.

Only a man stood there, dressed in a robe, holding a cane in his hand.

This floor represented a realm that cultivators of the Heavenly Realm had never reached.

Kai couldn’t tell how powerful this seemingly disabled man with a cane truly was.

“Senior, do we need to fight in order to pass this level?”

Kai asked.

“No, you can proceed directly to the eighth floor from here. I’m only standing here out of curiosity... I wanted to see who could make the owner of the Ladder to Heaven take things so seriously.”

“But from what I see, you’re only in the Mahayana realm—not particularly remarkable...” the man said with interest.

“Senior, I may not be very capable myself, but I have a master backing me. Even the Golden Immortal destined to climb the ladder fears my master,” Kai replied casually.

“Perhaps... You may go up now.”

The man stepped aside, allowing Kai and the others to move on to the eighth floor.

But just as Kai was about to ascend with Ning Zhi and Su Yuqi, he suddenly stopped.

The man looked slightly surprised and asked with a puzzled expression, “Mr. Chen, is something wrong?”

“Senior, it seems you’ve forgotten something,” Kai said calmly.

“Forgotten what?” The man asked, confused.

“Senior, you forgot to give me a gift,” Kai said matter-of-factly.

“A gift?” The man looked stunned.

“Senior, if it weren’t for me, you wouldn’t be able to leave this ladder so easily, right?” Kai reminded him.

The man: “.....”

Ning Zhi and Su Yuqi looked at Kai, completely speechless.

Everyone else had begged the guardians to let them pass to the next level, but Kai... had actually blackmailed one.

“I’ve been trapped here for many years—I don’t have much in the way of resources...” the man said awkwardly. The man took out a storage bag and handed it to Kai.

Without even checking its contents, Kai tucked it away and proceeded to the eighth floor.

However, when Kai arrived, he found the eighth floor to be in complete chaos. There was no visible world—no guardian, not even a trace of life.

“What’s going on?” Ning Zhi asked, surprised.

Kai also couldn’t understand why the guardian of the eighth floor had vanished.

Just as they were all feeling puzzled, a new staircase appeared, leading them directly to the ninth floor.

“That’s it for the eighth floor?” Kai said, clearly disappointed.

“Isn’t it better that no one’s there?” Ning Zhi replied.

“I was hoping to get some resources from the guardian...” Kai muttered.

Ning Zhi was speechless.

Since there was no one around, Kai had no choice but to bring Ning Zhi and Su Yuqi up to the ninth floor.

Soft light bathed the ninth floor, creating a calm and comforting atmosphere.

A boy, who looked no older than a teenager, stood quietly in a yellow robe, waiting for their arrival.

At a glance, Kai could tell the person in front of him wasn't really a child.

Though he appeared youthful, he had probably lived for thousands of years.

"Senior, may I ask—where is the guardian of the eighth floor?" Kai asked the young-looking figure.

"He ran off—afraid you'd demand resources from him," the boy replied calmly.

Kai looked a bit embarrassed, but still asked curiously, "Then why didn't you run away?"

"If I ran, you'd never pass the Ladder to Heaven and would never reach the heavens," the youth replied.

As he finished speaking, a soft white light descended. "You can ascend to the heavens through this path. I'm only here to guide you. As for the dangers that await in the heavens—that's not my concern."

Seeing the glowing beam of light, Ning Zhi's eyes lit up in excitement. "Can we go too?"

"Of course. You're Mr. Chen's companions, so you may go as well. But once you reach the heavens, surviving with your current strength will be difficult," the youth said truthfully.

Chapter 4891

But Ning Zhi didn't listen—his eyes were glowing with excitement.

"If we go to the heavens, can we come back?" Kai asked.

"I don't know. Whether you can return depends on your own abilities. If you become the master of the universe, you can travel through any

universe at will. If you become a true god in the heavens, you can move freely between worlds.”

“But with your current strength, surviving in the heavens will already be difficult—coming back is out of the question.”

Though the boy’s words weren’t pleasant to hear, they were undeniably true.

Kai felt a bit awkward, then looked at the boy and asked, “Thank you, senior. Since you stayed behind to guide us, did you prepare a gift for me?”

“Don’t start with that—I’ve got nothing. My master never gives me anything good.”

As soon as the boy finished speaking, his figure vanished instantly—probably afraid Kai would keep pressing him for gifts.

Watching the boy disappear, Kai smiled faintly, then turned his gaze to the white beam of light before him, hesitating.

He wasn’t sure whether he should go to the heavens now or remain in the world of Heaven and Man for a while, training until he had the power to ascend on his own.

If he went now, he had no idea whether he’d be able to return.

There were still people he hadn’t said goodbye to.

And Su Yuqi hadn’t been found yet—Kai couldn’t bear to leave just like that.

While Kai was lost in thought, staring into the light, Ning Zhi gave Su Yuqi a subtle wink.

Without warning, Su Yuqi slashed at Kai with her sword!

Flames blazed along the blade, and the sudden attack caught Kai completely off guard.

He never imagined that the two people who had journeyed with him all this time would turn on him in an instant.

Puff!

A deep gash opened across Kai's back, and blood sprayed out. He staggered, nearly collapsing to the ground.

“Brother Ning, what are you doing?!”

Kai looked at Ning Zhi, his face full of disbelief.

“Kai, I won't let you ascend to the heavens. I'm going to kill you!”

Ning Zhi roared, his eyes filled with fury and murderous intent.

Sensing the intensity of that killing intent, Kai frowned. “Are you really Ning Zhi?”

“Hahaha, yes, it's me...”

Ning Zhi removed his mask.

Seeing the familiar face, Kai laughed, “Even if you hurt me, you're not my equal!”

“Kai, I may not be able to defeat you, but my sister can!” Ning Zhi declared, turning to Su Yuqi, “Senior sister, finish him!”

Without a word, Su Yuqi swung her sword at Kai.

Kai's eyes suddenly narrowed as he unleashed the Dragon Slashing Sword, sending forth a fearsome surge of sword intent!

Boom!

The surge shattered, and Kai's form was immediately blown backward!

At that moment, Kai's injured state had significantly weakened his strength.

Ning Zhi's face broke into a grim smile—he had been waiting for this moment.

“You're asking for death!”

Furious, Kai's indestructible golden body began to envelop him, as a terrifying spiritual power surged through his veins.

Su Yuqi attacked again with her sword, but Kai remained as calm as still water. He calmly observed her strike before the Dragon Slashing Sword in his hand erupted into dazzling golden light.

With a roar like a dragon, a golden dragon materialized behind Kai and then charged directly at Su Yuqi, trailing a brilliant sword light!

Su Yuqi's sword light was instantly overpowered, and she was sent flying backward!

Kai was right—despite his injuries, he was unmatched!

As Su Yuqi was propelled backward, Kai leaped forward. The Dragon Slashing Sword in his hand followed his momentum in a powerful slash.

“Die...”

At that moment, Kai held nothing back—even if his opponent was a woman!

But just as his sword was about to cleave Su Yuqi in two, the mask on her face suddenly fell away!

A face so familiar to Kai appeared before him that he could hardly believe it. Stunned, Kai's Dragon Slashing Sword halted instantly!

Chapter 4892

“Yuqi?”

Kai stared at Su Yuqi in disbelief, his eyes filled with confusion and shock.

Puff!

While Kai was still stunned, Su Yuqi’s long sword had already pierced through his body!

Gazing at the blade embedded in him, Kai asked in disbelief, “Yuqi, why... why would you do this?”

There was no anger or resentment in his eyes—only sadness and confusion.

Su Yuqi met his gaze, and her brows furrowed slightly. Her expression turned visibly conflicted.

Swish!

She withdrew her sword and quickly stepped back.

Kai collapsed to the ground as blood poured from the wound like a fountain.

“Yuqi...” he muttered, struggling to rise. But searing flames engulfed the wound on his abdomen, making even movement unbearable.

Seeing this, Ning Zhi burst into laughter. “Hahaha, Kai! I bet you never imagined you’d end up like this!”

“We’re going to heaven—enjoy your journey to hell!”

Ning Zhi grabbed Su Yuqi and pulled her toward the glowing white light that marked their path upward.

Su Yuqi turned back for one last look at Kai, her expression showing a trace of pain and hesitation.

“Junior Brother... did that man know me?” she asked softly.

“Senior Sister, you don’t know him at all. He’s a bad man. Killing him was revenge—for me, your junior brother,” Ning Zhi lied, coaxing her as they stepped into the light together.

“Yuqi...”

Kai’s cry echoed weakly, but he was powerless to stop them.

All he could do was watch as Ning Zhi and Su Yuqi disappeared into the white light.

The world darkened before Kai’s eyes as his body finally gave out, and he fell unconscious. He had no idea how much time had passed before he slowly opened his eyes—only to find himself lying inside the familiar halls of Yuding Sect.

Surrounding him were familiar faces: Lin Chong, Lin Kefan, Lin Keting, Hua Yueying, Liu Ruyan, Yihe, Yisha, Huofeng, Bai Qian, Yu Jiameng, Gao Qilan, Ji Yun...

Everyone was gathered around him, their expressions lighting up with joy the moment they saw him awake. “Mr. Chen, wake up!”

“Kai, you’re finally awake!”

“Master, this is great—you’re finally awake!”

Everyone was visibly excited.

“How long have I been unconscious?” Kai asked as he stood up, shaking off the dizziness in his head.

“Mr. Chen, you’ve been in a coma for three months,” Lin Chong replied.

“Three months?” Kai was shocked and immediately rushed out of Yuding Sect!

He knew the Ladder to Heaven only lasted for three months. If that time had passed and the ladder disappeared, he wouldn’t be able to ascend and search for Su Yuqi!

With Su Yuqi being with Ning Zhi, Kai felt uneasy. If that guy dared touch her, Kai wasn’t sure he could bear it!

But as he burst out of Yuding Sect and looked up, he saw the Ladder to Heaven still standing tall between heaven and earth.

Kai let out a sigh of relief.

Meanwhile, inside the Ladder to Heaven, the young man turned to the old man and said, “Master, time’s up. Shouldn’t we leave now?”

“Bullshit! Who told you time’s up?” the old man scolded.

“But it’s been three months. I remember it clearly!” the young man replied firmly.

The old man slapped him on the head. “If I say it’s not up, then it’s not. Stay put!”

The young man rolled his eyes. He knew his master was waiting for Kai.

As long as Kai didn’t enter the ladder and step into the receiving passage, his master would probably wait indefinitely.

“Mr. Chen, the nine levels of the Heavenly Ladder closed a while ago, but the guardian still hasn’t left. I’m not sure why,” Lin Chong told Kai.

“Maybe I do,” Kai replied with a faint smile.

He understood—the Ladder to Heaven was waiting for him!

Now that he knew it hadn’t vanished, Kai no longer felt rushed.

Ning Zhi and Su Yuqi had already entered the Heavenly Realm. Even if he went after them now, he wouldn’t be able to find them immediately.

Chapter 4893

And now, he had to say goodbye to everyone—especially those in the secular world, where many of his relatives still lived.

Kai informed everyone about Su Yuqi.

He had to ascend to the heavenly realm to find Su Yuqi and bring her back!

After explaining everything, Kai comforted all the women equally. He showed no favoritism—each one was treated with the same care and respect.

Fortunately, Kai’s body was incredibly strong. Even while practicing dual cultivation with so many women, he didn’t show any signs of exhaustion. He was like a tireless machine!

After finishing his explanation about the heavenly realm, Kai used the Dragon Slashing Sword to tear open the void with a single strike. A dark crack in the air slowly appeared.

Without hesitation, Kai stepped into the void, his vision consumed by darkness.

When he opened his eyes again, he found himself in the secular world.

Hovering in mid-air, he looked down at the world below. A wave of emotion surged within him. Now that he had returned, it felt as though a true god had descended to earth.

At that moment, in Longmen, Kyoto, Ji Ruxue was training with the other women. Because they had all been physically connected with Kai, his blood now flowed within their bodies.

As a result, their cultivation progressed at an astonishing pace. After a while, they paused to rest.

“Sister Ruxue, has a year passed already? Can we open the passage between the secular world and the heavenly realm to see Kai?” Wu Meir asked Ji Ruxue.

“I’m not sure either. Let’s ask Master Hu,” Ji Ruxue replied. She had always taken the role of the elder sister among the women.

While Kai was away, Ji Ruxue had been managing all of Longmen.

The girls also took great care of Long Ruotong, who grew fond of them and was very pleased with her daughters-in-law.

Next to Longmen, there was a small courtyard where Hu Mazi had been cultivating in solitude for the past year.

He hadn’t been near a woman for the entire year—he did nothing but train day and night.

When Ji Ruxue and the others went to see him, Hu Mazi had already opened his eyes, gazing up at the blue sky.

In that moment, he seemed completely transformed—radiating an aura of serenity and immortality.

There was a gleam in his eyes, no longer filled with desire, but with clarity.

“Master Hu, the year is finally up. How can we open the passage between the secular world and the heavenly realm to reunite with Kai?” Ji Ruxue turned to Hu Mazi and asked him.

Hu Mazi stared at the sky, then suddenly smiled and said, “We don’t need to go looking for him—he’s already here...”

“Here?”

Ji Ruxue and the others were startled and immediately looked up at the sky.

Sure enough, a figure descended rapidly. Before anyone could see clearly, the figure had already landed before them.

“Kai?”

Seeing that it was indeed Kai, Ji Ruxue and the others were stunned with shock and joy.

Kai looked at Ji Ruxue and the others, feeling equally thrilled. After all, it had been a year since they’d last met.

The women rushed toward Kai, expressing their excitement, and he responded with equal enthusiasm.

Their passion ignited like dry firewood catching flame!

“Damn it, go somewhere else—anywhere else! Don’t disturb my Dao heart!”

Hu Mazi shouted in frustration.

Kai waved his palm gently, and a barrier formed. Hu Mazi could still hear the sounds—but couldn’t see a thing!

All he could do was sit cross-legged and focus on cultivating, though the sounds alone made sweat pour from his forehead.

After an unknown amount of time, the barrier finally disappeared. Kai walked over to Hu Mazi, noticed his awkward expression, and chuckled.

“Master Hu, since when did you become so pure and detached? That’s not like you at all!”

“Get lost! You came back and completely messed with my state of mind—I almost suffered a heart demon!”

Hu Mazi rolled his eyes at Kai.

Kai looked at him closely, and his expression shifted to one of surprise.

“Master Hu... your immortal bone?”

Kai suddenly realized that Hu Mazi had developed immortal bones—his strength now rivaled Kai’s own!

Chapter 4894

You know, in the Heavenly World, I relied on countless resources to reach my current level of strength!

But Hu Mazi managed to become this powerful in the secular world in just one year?

“I didn’t expect you to develop such sharp eyes!”

“If I told you I’m the reincarnation of an immortal, would you believe it?” Hu Mazi asked with a smile.

“I believe it,” Kai nodded.

In the past year in the Heavenly World, Kai had seen and experienced everything—so why wouldn’t he believe in immortal reincarnation?

After all, anything was possible!

When he was still in the secular world, Kai never imagined that people could come back to life after death. But in the Heavenly World—

Even if you turned to dust, you could be brought back.

Even if you'd been dead for a thousand years, resurrection was still possible.

So in this world, nothing was truly impossible!

“Haha, it seems things are going well for you in the Heavenly World. You believe in reincarnation—and this time, it's actually true!”

“If I hadn't suddenly awakened my past memories, I wouldn't have known I was the reincarnation of an immortal!”

Hu Mazi said with a chuckle.

“No wonder your personality's changed. You used to be unable to walk straight when you saw a pretty woman!” Kai teased.

“I still can't walk straight! If it weren't for my desire to open the passage between the secular and heavenly realms quickly, I wouldn't have trained this hard!”

“Now that you've got a good life up there, don't forget to find me a few heavenly beauties to enjoy!”

Hu Mazi said with a grin.

Kai gave Hu Mazi a pat and said, “Now that's the Master Hu I know!”

“Kai, since you're back, go see your mother. She's been talking about you a lot over the past year,” Ji Ruxue reminded him.

Kai nodded and followed Ji Ruxue and the others back to Longmen.

When he saw Long Ruotong, Kai rushed into her arms and they cried together.

Mother and son hadn't seen each other in a year—and the longing between them was overwhelming.

"Ping'er, have you been doing well in the Heavenly World?" Long Ruotong asked. "Mom, it's been great. The Heavenly Realm is now my domain. I'm invincible there!" Kai said proudly.

"Don't brag too much," Long Ruotong laughed.

"I'm not bragging at all. I really am the boss of the Heavenly Realm—everyone listens to me!" Kai replied seriously.

"Kai, you haven't been chasing women in the Heavenly Realm, have you?" Wu Mei'er looked at him suspiciously and asked.

"I..." Kai was momentarily speechless.

"Mei'er, Kai is so outstanding. It's perfectly normal for him to have found one or two women in the Heavenly Realm. You can't expect him to wrong himself and stay alone all year, right?" Ji Ruxue stepped in to defend him.

Kai looked at Ji Ruxue with gratitude. She was still as thoughtful as ever.

"It's normal if it's one or two. But what if it's not just one or two?" Wu Mei'er pressed on. "Kai, exactly how many women did you find in the Heavenly Realm?"

This time, even Ji Ruxue didn't come to his defense. She just turned to look at Kai, clearly curious too.

"One or two... maybe one or twenty?" Kai said awkwardly.

"What? One or twenty?" The women were all stunned.

“Sisters, I’m afraid Kai’s been overworked in the Heavenly Realm this past year. We can’t let those other women win! Don’t go easy on him—charge!” Ji Ruxue shouted, taking the lead as the big sister.

In no time, Kai was swarmed by the girls, while Long Ruotong stood nearby, laughing happily.

After spending a few days being “battled” by the girls, Kai took Gu Ling’er to Hongcheng to visit Gu Wentian and Su Wenzong.

But when Su Wenzong asked about Su Yuqi, Kai had no choice but to lie and brush over the truth.

Later, Kai returned to Chenjia Village to visit his father, Chen Baoguo, and Tang Hongying. After all, they had raised him for over twenty years.

He left them a few elixirs. Since they were ordinary people and couldn’t cultivate, they had no way of joining him in the Heavenly Realm.

The best he could do was leave behind some life-extending elixirs in the secular world.

Afterward, Kai went to check in on Lin Tianhu and Chi Feng.

The two were already married—and Chi Feng was now pregnant, her belly visibly large.

Chapter 4895

After spending some time in the secular world, Kai tore open the void and brought his mother Long Ruotong, Ji Ruxue, and the others to the heavenly world!

After all, the heavenly world’s environment was more suitable for Ji Ruxue’s cultivation, and Hu Mazi also followed them there.

In the heavenly world, the women met each other, prompting Kai to introduce them one by one.

To his surprise, they all got along harmoniously—none of the quarrels he had feared occurred, which greatly relieved him.

“Kai, I brought you something good from the secular world!”

Hu Mazi said, pulling out a small tower.

Kai instantly recognized it—it was the Demon Suppression Tower, once used to seal the Wind Demon.

“Isn’t this the Demon Suppression Tower? I remember tossing it into Evil Valley. Time flows slower inside the tower, while it moves faster outside!”

“It’s useful for cultivation in the secular world, but not very practical in the heavenly world,” Kai commented.

“This is a pagoda,” Hu Mazi explained. “Because it’s from the secular world, time inside it flows slowly. But here in the heavenly world, it works differently.”

“You’ve heard the saying—one day in heaven is equal to one year on earth. So, if this pagoda is in the heavenly world, time would flow a hundred times faster inside compared to outside.”

“In other words, if you train in the pagoda for a hundred years, only one year would pass outside!”

“Really?” Kai was astonished and quickly took hold of the Demon Suppression Pagoda.

“I brought you such a treasure. How do you plan to thank me?” Hu Mazi asked with a sly grin.

“Master Hu, just say the word! This heavenly realm is my territory now. If you want beauties, I’ll get you a hundred or eighty right away—you’ll be worn out!” Kai joked.

“No rush for beauties. I can find those myself. But if you go to the heaven realm, you must take me with you,” Hu Mazi replied with a smile.

Kai was momentarily stunned, then looked toward the ladder to heaven and nodded. “No problem.”

“Mr. Chen,” Lin Chong interjected, “with your current strength, the heaven realm may be too dangerous. I think you should raise your cultivation level before heading there.” Kai looked at the ladder to heaven and thought of Su Yuqi. He knew he didn’t have the luxury of practicing slowly—he had to reach the heaven realm as soon as possible to find her.

“I don’t have time. I must head to the heaven realm quickly. Besides, I can’t keep waiting endlessly for this ladder to rise,” he said.

Kai knew that if he gave up on the ladder now, he’d have to cultivate until he achieved ascension on his own—and who knew how long that would take?

“Don’t you have the Demon Suppression Tower? Go inside and cultivate. Time flows much faster in there, so it won’t take long from the outside world’s perspective,” Lin Chong suggested.

Kai turned to Hu Mazi. “Master Hu, can the Demon Suppression Tower be used in the heaven and man world?”

“Of course it can,” Hu Mazi replied. “Because of the time difference, one year in the outside world equals fifty years inside the tower.”

After thinking it over, Kai decided to enter the tower and cultivate until his realm improved—only then would he head to the heaven realm.

Otherwise, his current level was too low. If he encountered danger there, things could become dire.

At that point, even Mr. Shi might not be able to protect him—what could he possibly do then?

Now, Kai had countless resources at his disposal, but what he lacked was time.

After giving a few instructions, he immediately entered the Demon Suppression Tower.

“Kid, your family is reunited, and you’ve become the top figure in the heaven realm. Have you forgotten about me, this old relic?” said the Red Cloud Demon Lord.

“I...” Kai felt a little embarrassed. Although he hadn’t forgotten, he truly didn’t know when he’d be able to collect all the Red Cloud Demon Lord’s bones.

The real issue was—Kai simply didn’t have time right now.

“Senior, I’ve already explained. I can’t say exactly when I’ll recover all your bones. How about this—you stay here in the heaven realm for now. Once your bones are recovered and your body is rebuilt, you can return properly,” Kai suggested to the Red Cloud Demon Lord.

Chapter 4896

“Get lost. I can only stay in your sea of consciousness for now. No one else can withstand even the remnants of my soul,” said the Red Cloud Demon Lord.

“Then what should I do?” Kai asked helplessly.

“Forget it. I’ll go to the heaven realm with you. As long as you work hard and reach the Ninth Heaven as soon as possible, I can leave your sea of consciousness and reshape my body.”

The Red Cloud Demon Lord had no choice but to follow Kai to the heaven realm.

However, only upon reaching the Ninth Heaven could the Red Cloud Demon Lord emerge from Kai’s sea of consciousness and rebuild his body.

After all, the Red Cloud Demon Lord was once a mighty devil of the Ninth Heaven.

“Fine, I’ll tolerate you for now,” Kai replied with a nod.

After reaching an agreement with the Red Cloud Demon Lord, Kai began to cultivate intensely.

He had countless resources in front of him, all looted or obtained from others.

Activating the Condensation Heart Technique, he threw himself into intense training.

Time lost all meaning.

No one knew how long had passed, but eventually, all the resources around Kai were completely used up.

His cultivation level had also advanced—he had broken through to the Realm of Transformation.

Although he had just reached the first level, it should be enough for him to hold his own as a lower-tier cultivator in the heavenly realm.

When Kai finally emerged from the Demon Suppression Tower, everyone was stunned.

“How long was I cultivating?” he asked, unsure of how much time had passed inside.

“Mr. Chen, it’s only been half a month!” Lin Chong replied.

“Half a month? And you’ve already reached the Immortal Realm? That’s insane!” Hu Mazi exclaimed.

Kai was thrilled. With such incredible effects, why had he even bothered leaving the Demon Suppression Tower in the Valley of Evil in the first place?

“Is the ladder to heaven still there?” Kai asked.

“It’s still there. It hasn’t moved at all,” Lin Chong confirmed.

Kai let out a sigh of relief, then turned to Hu Mazi. “Master Hu, I’ll take you to the ladder. Let’s see if you’re allowed to enter the heaven realm. If they deny you access, there’s nothing I can do.”

“Don’t worry. Once I’m there, I’ll check out who built this ladder. Maybe it’s someone I know!” Hu Mazi said confidently.

Hu Mazi smiled as he spoke.

Ever since his memories were awakened, Hu Mazi remembered everything about his time in the heaven realm, so it was natural that he knew some people there.

However, those people might not recognize him—after all, Hu Mazi had been reincarnated, and his appearance had completely changed.

“Kai, are you planning to leave just like that? Aren’t you going to say goodbye to us?”

At some point, Ji Ruxue and the other women called out to Kai.

Seeing them in front of him, Kai felt his vision go dark for a moment.

He had never thought having too many women was a problem, but when they all gathered together, it was honestly overwhelming.

“Master, I can’t go to heaven with you. If you go alone, what if you get lonely?”

Huo Feng looked at Kai with teary eyes, clearly reluctant to part with him.

“Don’t worry. I still have Zhongli with me—she’ll help me cope with the loneliness,” Kai said gently, stroking Huo Feng’s head.

“Kai, once you’re in heaven, don’t go flirting around anymore. Your body can’t take it!”

Bai Qian stepped forward and warned him sternly.

Kai looked at Bai Qian, momentarily speechless. More often than not, he wasn’t the one chasing women—they approached him.

Take Bai Qian for example. She had initially threatened him, demanded his bloodline, and ultimately ended up relying on him.

It was hard for Kai to turn down a woman like that.

But now wasn’t the time to argue, so he simply comforted them: “When I get to heaven, I won’t flirt with anyone. I’ll miss you all.”

“You should also use this time to cultivate. Do your best to reach the heaven realm and reunite with me soon.”

“If I miss you, I can come back and visit. Now that the great formation of heaven and earth has been broken, the barriers between realms are gone—it’s no longer impossible to return from heaven.”

After saying his goodbyes, Kai took Hu Mazi and stepped onto the ladder to heaven.

“You’ve finally arrived...”

An old man appeared and spoke with a sigh of relief.

“Senior, thank you for waiting for me. If you ever need me, I won’t hesitate to give my life for you,” Kai replied sincerely, full of gratitude.

Chapter 4897

“It’s nothing serious, just a piece of cake for me!”

“But this ladder only acts as a guide. I have no control over how you’ll reach the heaven realm or where you’ll be sent once you get there.”

“So, if you ascend with your current cultivation level and don’t have a strong backer in heaven, surviving will be extremely difficult,” the old man warned Kai.

After all, a cultivator who has just become an immortal trying to survive in the heaven realm would have a hard time fitting in.

“Thank you for the warning, Senior. With my strength, surviving in heaven won’t be too difficult.”

“Besides, I have Master Hu accompanying me. I hope you’ll allow him to enter the white light of the great path and ascend to heaven with me,” Kai said, pointing to Hu Mazi.

The old man glanced at Hu Mazi, his brow furrowing slightly before speaking in surprise, “Immortal bones? Are you a reincarnated being?”

Hu Mazi nodded. “I’ve reincarnated five times, and only in this life have I recovered the memories of my past.”

“Sigh... I can’t imagine what grave mistake you must’ve made to be punished with five reincarnations,” the old man said with a sigh.

After all, immortals can abandon and reconstruct their physical bodies through their souls. They can be sealed and have their cultivation suppressed.

But no immortal willingly chooses the pain of reincarnation.

To an immortal, becoming a mortal and living an ordinary life is a painful ordeal.

And Hu Mazi had endured that suffering across five lifetimes.

“Do you know Fairy Yuwei?” Hu Mazi suddenly asked.

“Of course,” the old man replied. “Fairy Yuwei is known as the coldest and most beautiful immortal among the Twelve Heavens. Many immortals from higher planes have come seeking a glimpse of her, only to be turned away.”

“To many, Fairy Yuwei is a divine figure—an untouchable goddess. She was also the goddess of my heart. Unfortunately, a thousand years ago, she was drugged and lost her purity.” “Since then, Fairy Yuwei seemed to become a completely different person. She began to fall into darkness—I’ve heard she’s now a demoness.”

“The man who took Fairy Yuwei’s virginity was truly despicable. Countless immortals and demons descended to the Sixth Heaven just to hunt him down!”

“But ironically, that man was also envied by many. After all, he managed to be with the goddess who lived in the hearts of thousands!”

The old man’s eyes grew distant, full of nostalgia as he reminisced about the past.

As Kai listened, he couldn’t help but glance at Hu Mazi. He had a strong feeling that the man in the story was him.

The old man suddenly froze, as if he had come to a realization. He stared at Hu Mazi and asked, “Was it you?”

Hu Mazi smiled and nodded. “That’s right. But the rumors back then weren’t true. Fairy Yuwei took the initiative to dual cultivate with me. I was quite dashing and charming at the time—though I admit I was a bit fickle.”

“When she discovered that I had practiced dual cultivation with other fairies, she flew into a rage, spread false rumors, and incited the masses to hunt me down!”

“Eventually, I was punished with five lifetimes of reincarnation, enduring endless suffering,” Hu Mazi explained.

“Impossible! There’s no way Fairy Yuwei would take the initiative. She’s pure, aloof, and revered—she’s the goddess in the hearts of so many!” the old man exclaimed in disbelief.

“What do you know?” Hu Mazi scoffed. “The goddess you worship might just be a woman others have long since tired of.”

“My brother here knows best. He’s practiced dual cultivation with dozens of women—many of whom were goddesses in the eyes of others. But to him? He’s already bored of it.”

Hu Mazi gave Kai a pat on the shoulder as he spoke.

Kai thought about it and realized it wasn’t far from the truth.

The old man seemed shaken, his expression turning dark. With a wave of his hand, he snapped, “Go, go! Now that you’re leaving, I’ll be on my way too!”

He was clearly devastated by the idea that the goddess he idolized might have willingly chosen someone like Hu Mazi.

Kai and Hu Mazi stepped into the guiding white light.

In that instant, the old man vanished, and the ladder to heaven disappeared from the heavenly world—never to descend again.

Chapter 4898

As Kai and Hu Mazi stepped into the guiding white light of the Great Path, their bodies were pulled in uncontrollably!

An immense suction force surrounded them, dragging them in without pause!

Kai's body tensed as the overwhelming force made him instinctively want to resist!

He had imagined that being led to the Heavenly Realm would be a peaceful experience—but instead, it was agonizingly painful!

When Kai felt a vortex swirling deep inside him, all light and sound around him suddenly vanished—everything was gone!

It was as if his entire being was suspended in emptiness, with no trace of anything around him!

Even Hu Mazi's presence had completely disappeared.

His eyes could see nothing, and his divine sense picked up no form or object!

Even his Heavenly Nether Eye was useless in this place!

With no other choice, Kai slightly closed his eyes, feeling as if he were floating weightlessly in mid-air.

He had no idea how much time had passed before he sensed his body entering another passage, pressure closing in from all directions!

Dim flickers of light danced before his eyes!

Boom!

A sudden, thunderous roar erupted, and Kai was hit with a wave of dizziness, as if his internal organs were being crushed together!

He wanted to resist, but he couldn't summon even a trace of strength!

The torment was unbearable!

It felt like his mind was fully alert, but his body was completely out of control!

Then, a piercing white light struck his eyes, and Kai finally managed to open them!

His vision gradually returned, and his heart pounded with anticipation!

He was desperate to see what the Heavenly Realm—this place everyone longed for—truly looked like! But as Kai slowly opened his eyes, he realized he was trapped inside a massive cage!

Thick black chains coiled tightly around its edges!

“What... where am I?”

“Master Hu? Master Hu?”

Kai was confused. Wasn't he supposed to be guided to the Heavenly Realm?

So why was he suddenly locked inside a cage?

He had no clue where he was. He tried extending his divine sense, but it wouldn't project at all!

He called out repeatedly, but there was still no sign of Hu Mazi!

Now growing anxious, he shouted louder, “Is anyone there? What is this place?”

But no matter how many times he yelled, there was no response!

“Senior, do you know where this is? Is this the Heavenly Realm?”

With no other option, Kai turned to the Red Cloud Demon Lord for help.

The Red Cloud Demon Lord shook his head. “I’m not sure. Looks more like a prison, doesn’t it?”

“Of course it’s a prison—but why am I here?”

“Wasn’t I supposed to be guided to the Heavenly Realm? Why am I locked up?”

Panic surged through Kai. He hadn’t even arrived at the Heavenly Realm, yet he was already imprisoned!

He activated his Heavenly Nether Eye, piercing through the thick layers of black mist within the cage, trying to see what lay beyond!

To his shock, he saw countless cages just like his, all suspended in some unknown void!

Each one was bound tightly by chains, their interiors hidden in shadow.

Kai tried to absorb the surrounding aura, but there was neither immortal nor spiritual energy!

The black mist only held faint traces of demonic energy, barely enough to sense—leaving Kai even more lost!

Forcing himself to calm down, he drew his Dragon-Slaying Sword and swung it hard at the cage!

He was determined to break free—he couldn’t stay trapped here forever!

Clang!

The Dragon-Slaying Sword struck the edge of the cage with a sharp ring. Sparks flew, but the cage didn't budge!

Instead, a jarring numbness shot through Kai's hands from the impact!

Chapter 4899

Bloody hell...

Kai was seething now. He summoned all his strength and swung once more at the edge of the cage!

Clang!

A thunderous impact rang out again, and this time, the force hurled Kai backward!

His insides churned. How could a seemingly ordinary cage trap him so completely?

He suddenly recalled the old man's warning—and now, it made grim sense.

With his current strength, even if he reached the Heavenly Realm, danger would be everywhere!

Kai believed it now. If this cage was part of the Celestial Realm, there was no way he could break it!

"Friend, save your strength. No one escapes from here unless they've served their sentence!"

A voice echoed out of nowhere!

Startled, Kai quickly asked, "Friend, who are you? Where are you?"

“I’m in the cage next to yours. A monk who’s only just reached the Immortal Transformation Realm dares enter the Heavenly Realm—how bold!”

The voice responded with a trace of surprise!

“Friend, is this really the Heavenly Realm? Why are we locked up?”

“I haven’t done anything wrong, so what sentence am I supposed to serve?”

Kai was completely baffled, unable to make sense of any of it.

He’d always obeyed the rules—so why was he imprisoned like a criminal, waiting out some mysterious sentence?

“You didn’t ascend naturally. You used external means to get here—that alone violates the rules of the Great Path. No wonder they locked you up.”

The man explained calmly.

“I was guided here by the Great Path! No one tried to stop me! Why arrest me? Go punish those who brought us here!”

Kai was furious. How had a proper guiding process turned into imprisonment?

“No use arguing. The Heavenly Realm follows rules, not reason. Try reasoning here, and they’ll just laugh at you.”

“Where are you from, monk? What’s your name? To be guided to the Heavenly Realm at just the first tier of Immortal Transformation, you must have some powerful backers giving you a boost!”

The man could tell at a glance that Kai hadn’t made it here on his own.

“I’m Kai, from the Mortal Realm. The Ladder to Heaven did give me an easy ride.”

Kai nodded honestly, then asked, “Friend, how can you see me when I can’t see you? Where are you from, and what’s your name?”

He pressed the man for answers.

After all, this was his first contact in the Celestial Realm—he needed some insight into the situation from this fellow!

“Dispel the black mist in your cage, and you’ll be able to see me!”

“I’m Xiu Rui, a monk from the Wuxu Realm. I also climbed the Ladder to Heaven to enter the Celestial Realm.”

“But as soon as I arrived, I was trapped in this place—and I’ve been here for five hundred years!”

The man let out a quiet sigh.

Kai turned to the black mist inside his cage and struck out with his palm. A gust of wind surged forward, blowing the mist away!

As it cleared, Kai saw a man in a nearby cage, just a few meters away. His face was thin, his beard long and unkempt.

Though the man looked worn down, his spirit seemed unbroken.

His robes were in tatters, probably unchanged for centuries.

“Friend Xiu, do you know why we’re locked in cages right after arriving here?”

Kai asked urgently.

If this was the case, then Ning Zhi and Su Yuqi were likely trapped too!

The thought filled him with dread.

“How should I know? But these cages seem to target only human monks. Other races don’t appear to be imprisoned.”

Xiu Rui replied.

“What’s that supposed to mean? Are they targeting human cultivators?”

“We’ll see who’s behind this madness.”

Kai’s anger flared. Wasn’t this blatant discrimination?

“Senior, if I lend you my body, can you break this cage?”

Kai asked the Red Cloud Demon Lord.

Chapter 4900

With Kai’s body now fully restored to peak condition, he could allow the Red Cloud Demon Lord to unleash even more power!

“I’m not boasting, but this’ll be over in a flash...”

The Red Cloud Demon Lord declared confidently.

“Alright then, Senior—take control of my body!”

Kai surrendered control without hesitation. There was no way he planned to remain trapped here forever!

A golden light burst from his body!

As the Red Cloud Demon Lord took over, the surge of energy left Xiu Rui completely stunned!

“This... Is this really the power of a first-tier Immortal Transformation monk?”

Xiu Rui stared at Kai in disbelief.

“Break!”

Kai hurled a punch at the cage!

A terrifying force erupted forth!

His cage trembled violently, and the black chains wrapped around it shattered instantly!

The cage itself collapsed, turning to dust and vanishing into the void!

Kai hovered mid-air, surrounded by countless other cages floating in the darkness.

“Mate, you’re amazing! Can you get me out too?”

Xiu Rui called out, shock and hope lighting up his face!

He had been trapped for over five hundred years. If someone could break his cage and set him free, he’d gladly dedicate his life in gratitude!

Being stuck in a cage—with no way to cultivate and no one to talk to—had been soul-crushingly dull.

“No problem...”

Kai gave a calm nod. For him, it was a simple task.

Boom!

Kai struck the cage holding Xiu Rui, and the instant his devastating force hit it, the entire structure crumbled into dust!

As it vanished, Xiu Rui's body began to fall—he had gone so long without flying that he'd likely forgotten how!

Kai reached out, grabbed him midair, and channelled a stream of spiritual energy into him. It brought a spark of vitality back into Xiu Rui, his face regaining color.

Xiu Rui clung tightly to Kai's hand, his eyes filled with joy and disbelief!

After all those years, he was finally free from his nightmare... And it was all thanks to Kai. Without him, even another five hundred years might not have been enough to escape!

“Friend Chen, thank you—truly, thank you!”

Xiu Rui's eyes welled up, tears streaming down his cheeks.

“Just a small favor,” Kai replied with a faint smile.

At that moment, Xiu Rui's face turned red as he apologized, “I'm really sorry—I underestimated you earlier. Who would've thought a first-tier Immortal Transformation monk could unleash power greater than mine, even though I'm at the peak of the realm!”

Kai simply smiled, saying nothing about the Red Cloud Demon Lord's possession.

“Friend Xiu, you're already at the peak of Immortal Transformation. One step, one insight, and you could have ascended to the Heavenly Realm. Why choose to rely on the Ladder to Heaven's guidance?”

Kai was genuinely curious about Xiu Rui's decision.

“Well, I was stuck at the peak for centuries, unable to break through. Out of options, I chose the Ladder to Heaven to reach the Celestial Realm.”

“Who would've thought the so-called guidance would be a trap? Open your eyes, and boom—straight into a cage!”

“If I’d known, I never would’ve trusted that blasted Ladder!”

Xiu Rui sighed, full of deep regret.

Centuries wasted in that cage—for nothing!

“Friend Xiu, have you seen anyone else arrive with me?”

Kai asked, eager to know where Hu Mazi had ended up.

“No, it seemed like you were the only one. I didn’t see any companions.”

“Is your friend a human monk? If they’re from another race, they might not be locked up here,”

Xiu Rui asked curiously.

Kai nodded. “He is.”

Though Hu Mazi had immortal bones, he was still a human monk.

“That makes things difficult. There are thousands upon thousands of cages here. I wouldn’t know which one he’s in—unless the master of this prison does.”

Xiu Rui shook his head, looking completely helpless.