

the mans Decree: Kai Ping / Chen Ping

Chapter 4961

“Father, my brother has been captured. We must find a way to rescue him. If that fails, we can storm Feihu City and fight to the death,” Niu Li said to Gadfly.

“Don’t worry,” Gadfly replied calmly. “Although they’ve taken your brother, it’s only to threaten me into giving up the treasure land and handing over some resources.”

“They won’t harm him. Killing your brother wouldn’t benefit them at all.”

Gadfly remained composed. He understood that Feihu City had no intention of killing—only using threats for leverage.

“But we can’t just leave my brother there, right?” Niu Li insisted.

“Who said we won’t save him? We’ll wait. Feihu City will reach out to us eventually.”

Gadfly glanced at Niu Li and added, “Go get some rest. You don’t need to worry about this.”

Though still unconvinced, Niu Li turned and left.

“Old Niu, where exactly is the treasure land? Can you take me to see it?” Kai asked with curiosity.

“Brother, the treasure land can only be opened once every thousand years. This isn’t the right time. If you force your way in, you’ll face the suppression of the Heavenly Dao and drastically shorten your life span,” Gadfly warned.

“Shorten my life span?” Kai was surprised. “Why is the Heavenly Dao so harsh?”

“Just take me to see it. I won’t go inside...” Kai persisted.

Seeing Kai’s determination, Gadfly finally nodded. “Alright, I’ll take you there. But don’t act recklessly. If you go in and can’t make it back out, it’ll be a big problem.”

“Don’t worry, I know my limits,” Kai assured him.

Gadfly led Kai toward the treasure land, while Fengxian and Bai Yi stayed behind at the City Lord’s Mansion.

They flew for several hours. Only when they were about a grokhabar net to leave the entire beast tribe territory did Gadfly finally stop. Seeing the wasteland stretching in all directions, Kai frowned and asked, “Is this still part of Rhino City’s territory?”

They had already flown thousands of miles—if this was still Rhino City, then it was incredibly vast.

“Yes, this is still Rhino City. But just ahead is the territory of Flying Tiger City. This treasure land lies between us and is often the source of competition between Flying Tiger City and me.”

“But there are still more than 300 years before the treasure land opens. Why is Flying Tiger City acting so impatiently?”

Gadfly was confused. He couldn’t understand why Flying Tiger City wouldn’t wait until the treasure land was closer to opening before making a move.

“Come on, let’s go down and take a look...”

With that, Kai descended first.

Gadfly followed close behind, and the two of them landed. Kai noticed that just a few miles ahead, a visible mark was imprinted clearly on the ground.

It looked like a dividing line, and the color of the earth on either side was distinctly different.

The soil within the treasure land had a light reddish hue, as if it had long absorbed blood into its depths.

Kai began walking toward the treasure land. Gadfly started to stop him, but Kai had already stepped inside.

The moment he entered, Kai's brows furrowed.

He could clearly feel the energy in his body draining away—and with it, his lifespan.

He quickly stepped back, and the feeling vanished instantly.

“It really is like that...” Kai muttered, frowning.

“Brother, why would I lie to you? Normally, no one dares to set foot on this land.”

“Let's go back. Wasting energy and lifespan here just isn't worth it.”

Gadfly tried to persuade Kai.

But Kai didn't move. He stared at the treasure land ahead, then asked, “You said this is the suppression of the Heavenly Dao. If someone could break that force, would everything be fine?”

Chapter 4962

The Gadfly was taken aback, then smiled and said, “Brother, while you do possess considerable strength and carry the blood of the Golden

Dragon, this is the suppression of the Heavenly Dao. How could you possibly break it?”

Kai said nothing. Instead, he raised the Dragon Slaying Sword and walked toward the treasure land again, his eyes filled with determination.

When he had ascended the heavenly ladder, he had broken the Great Dao Prison Seal. Perhaps he could also shatter the suppression of the Heavenly Dao.

The Gadfly looked at Kai and briefly considered stopping him. But then he thought better of it—perhaps letting Kai suffer a small setback would convince him to turn back.

Kai, sword in hand, stepped into the treasure land once more.

The strange draining sensation returned. But this time, Kai didn’t panic. The dragon crystal on his chest began to glow, and the Dragon Slaying Sword in his hand radiated golden light.

“Break!”

With a shout, Kai slashed the sword forward.

The sword’s energy transformed into a golden dragon that roared as it surged toward the empty space ahead.

Buzz!

As the sword energy and golden dragon faded, the air around them trembled violently.

And to his surprise, the strange sensation vanished instantly.

“That’s more like it,” Kai said, sheathing the Dragon Slaying Sword.

“What?”

The Gadfly was stunned, staring wide-eyed at Kai.

“Come in and try it!” Kai waved him over.

“Is it really safe?”

The Gadfly hesitated, then slowly stepped into the treasure land.

The moment he crossed the boundary, he froze in place—then turned to Kai in utter shock.

“This... this actually worked?” he said, completely stunned.

“The Heavenly Dao means nothing to me—it can’t suppress me at all,” Kai said arrogantly.

“Big brother, you’re incredible...” the Gadfly exclaimed, giving Kai a thumbs up.

“Stop flattering me—just lead the way!”

Kai urged Gadfly forward.

The two made their way deeper into the treasure land. But as they went further, Kai began to sense a faint trace of demonic energy lingering in the air.

At first, it was completely undetectable, but now he could feel it slightly.

“Old Cow, was this treasure land also left behind by the demon clan?”

Kai asked Gadfly.

“I’m not sure,” Gadfly replied. “Back when the two demon agrokhobar netclans clashed here, it’s said tens of thousands of demon cultivators died. I’ve never seen it myself—I only heard the stories.”

“You’ve never been in this treasure land either?” Kai asked again.

“No.” Gadfly shook his head. “No one knows what kind of treasures are in here. From what I’ve heard, no one who enters ever returns.”

“It’s just a legend passed down over generations that there’s treasure in this area—so they call it a treasure land.”

“Damn...” Kai couldn’t help but curse.

So this whole fight between Feihu City and Rhino City was over a supposed treasure that might not even exist? Ridiculous.

If they fought for years, took control of this place, and found nothing in the end, wouldn’t that be infuriating?

“Don’t be mad, brother. Since the legend exists, there’s probably some truth to it. The fewer people who’ve seen it, the more likely the treasure remains untouched—and that means it’ll all be ours!”

Seeing Kai’s frustration, Gadfly quickly tried to console him.

“Let’s just keep going. We’ve come this far—no point getting angry now,” Kai said, shaking his head.

Gadfly led the way as they continued deeper into the treasure land.

But after a while, Kai suddenly came to a halt.

“Brother, why did you stop?” Gadfly asked, confused.

“Do you see that mountain up ahead?” Kai pointed forward.

“Mountain? In this barren land? What mountain—”

Gadfly looked in the direction Kai indicated—and froze.

“Damn...” Gadfly was stunned, too. Somehow, without them noticing, a massive mountain had appeared ahead, stretching all the way into the clouds.

Chapter 4963

“Is this an illusion? I didn’t see that mountain a moment ago. It has to be fake,”

Gadfly said, narrowing his eyes. Then, without warning, he swung his palm toward the mountain ahead.

If it was an illusion, his strike would pass right through it.

Boom! Boom!

A deafening noise rang out, followed by a storm of flying sand and debris.

To his shock, Gadfly’s palm strike hit the mountain squarely.

“It’s real?”

Gadfly was stunned.

“This mountain isn’t an illusion. If it were, it wouldn’t escape my perception,”

Kai said calmly. He possessed the Origin of Illusion—no illusion could fool him.

Just then, a terrifying aura burst forth from the mountain wall.

Boom!

Gadfly was caught off guard and thrown backward by the sudden force.

“What the hell? The mountain fought back? Is it alive?”

He was dumbfounded.

He had struck the mountain—and the mountain had retaliated.

Could a mountain hold a grudge?

“There’s a formation on this mountain. The palm strike you just delivered triggered a counterattack from it,”

Kai explained, his gaze fixed on the peak before them.

He could see golden light flickering along the mountain wall, and the aura it emitted was extremely powerful.

“A formation?” Gadfly looked frustrated. “I had no idea there was even a mountain here, let alone a formation guarding it!”

“A minor formation like this can’t stop me.”

Kai said arrogantly. He walked to the base of the mountain, raised his hand, and the Dragon Slaying Sword appeared in his palm.

Boom!

Kai swung his sword at the mountain wall, and the golden light agrokhavar net covering it instantly shattered—the formation was broken with a single strike.

As the barrier dissipated, a winding stone staircase appeared at the base of the mountain. The staircase led directly into the mountain’s interior, exuding an eerie, oppressive aura.

“Brother, you’re incredible...”

Gadfly couldn’t help but give Kai a thumbs-up.

Despite being in a higher cultivation realm than Kai, Gadfly was genuinely impressed.

Kai had proven himself repeatedly, and Gadfly now admired him wholeheartedly.

“Let’s go. We’ll head inside and take a look. Just stay close to me—don’t wander off and get yourself killed again...”

Kai warned.

“Got it!” Gadfly nodded quickly and followed close behind.

The two descended the stone steps into the belly of the mountain. Kai took the lead, with Gadfly trailing nervously behind.

Even though Kai was right in front of him, Gadfly remained tense. The oppressive aura from the earlier formation still lingered in his mind.

As they advanced, the unsettling atmosphere thickened. The evil energy in the air began to seep into their bodies.

Gadfly felt an intense chill throughout his body, deeply uncomfortable. He had to constantly channel his strength just to resist the invading demonic aura.

But Kai remained completely unfazed. Instead of repelling agrokhabar netthe energy, he actively activated the Condensation Heart Technique, absorbing the evil aura into his body.

What was poisonous to Gadfly was pure cultivation energy for Kai.

After walking for some time, the stone steps abruptly ended, and a solid stone wall blocked their path.

Kai and Gadfly stared at the wall. It was engraved with countless intricate runes, glowing faintly with an eerie light.

The structure and layout of the runes were entirely unfamiliar—neither typical formation patterns nor any known script.

“What the hell is this?”

Gadfly frowned, clearly annoyed.

He reached out to touch the stone wall, but just as his fingertips neared the surface, a sharp, stinging sensation jolted through his hand.

It felt like he was being pierced by thousands of tiny needles. He instantly pulled his hand back and shook it.

“Damn, I can’t even touch it!”

Chapter 4964

Kai remained silent, his eyes fixed on the runes. The Dragon Slaying Sword was already unsheathed in his hand, its blade emitting a cold, gleaming light.

Taking a deep breath, he swung the sword with force, sending a sharp wave of sword energy crashing toward the stone wall.

The energy struck with a loud explosion, filling the air with smoke and dust. But when it cleared, the stone wall stood unscathed—without even a single crack.

The Gadfly’s eyes widened in disbelief. “How is this possible? Big Brother, your sword is indestructible—how could it...”

Kai didn’t respond. His expression turned grim.

He swung the Dragon Slaying Sword again, this time channeling even more power into it. The blade shone even more brightly.

A stronger surge of sword energy roared toward the wall.

Yet the result was unchanged. The stone wall remained unmoved, like an indestructible fortress, effortlessly withstanding the Dragon Slaying Sword's strike.

"It seems brute force alone won't work."

Kai sheathed his sword and said in a deep voice, "There must be a formation eye behind this wall. If we can find it and break it, the wall will disappear."

The Gadfly scratched his head and said helplessly, "But where is the eye? This wall is so big—we can't just search it piece by piece, can we?"

Closing his eyes, Kai began channeling spiritual power through his body, sensing the surrounding energy fluctuations.

Under the enhancement of the Condensation Heart Technique, his perception sharpened immensely, allowing him to detect even the slightest shifts in energy.

After a moment, his eyes snapped open and fixed on a corner to the right of the wall.

There, the runes pulsed slightly faster than elsewhere, with faint traces of energy converging.

"It should be there," Kai said, pointing at the corner.

Without hesitation, the Gadfly charged toward it.

He raised his fist and struck the spot with full force.

But the moment his fist made contact, a powerful rebound force struck him, sending him flying backward to crash heavily onto the ground.

"Be careful! This array has a powerful defense."

Seeing this, Kai quickly stepped forward to help Gadfly to his feet.

The two began cautiously examining the area around the array's center, trying to find a way to break through it.

Kai retrieved several spiritual stones from his robes and placed them in specific positions, attempting to use their energy to disrupt the array's central flow.

As soon as the stones were set, the runes at the center of the array glowed even more brightly, and a strong wave of repulsive force surged toward them.

Kai immediately summoned his spiritual power, forming a protective shield in front of them to block the force.

Gritting his teeth, he continued adjusting the positions and sequence of the spiritual stones.

At last, after several tries, the light of the runes at the center began to flicker erratically, and the stone wall started to tremble faintly.

With a violent shake, the wall collapsed, revealing the scene behind it.

Kai and Gadfly's eyes widened instantly, both stunned by what lay before them.

A fairy stone vein, radiating golden light, stretched out before them, with fairy stones of various sizes embedded throughout.

Each stone exuded a rich fairy aura, and the gathered energy was thousands of times stronger than anything found outside.

The vein wound deep into the earth, its end nowhere in sight.

"We're rich! Big Brother, we're really rich!"

Gadfly jumped up in excitement, his face lit with pure joy.

He rushed forward to gather fairy stones, but Kai quickly pulled him back.

“Be careful. A vein this valuable can’t be unguarded.”

Kai scanned the surroundings warily, his expression alert.

Just then, a sinister laugh echoed from deep within the vein. “Two foolish ants dare to covet this king’s fairy stone vein!”

With the voice, a horde of demons surged forth from the darkness beyond.

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These demons came in all shapes and sizes—some had massive wings, while others were covered in sharp spikes.

Their eyes glowed with a faint green light, and black flames continuously spewed from their mouths. Wherever they passed, the ground was scorched into charred craters.

Leading the group was a towering demon, ten feet tall, with three enormous horns on its head and a massive battle axe in its hand. The axe blade gleamed with a chilling, deadly light.

Kai frowned at the sight of these creatures. They were neither human, beast, nor pure demon—their forms were bizarre and unnatural.

“These things aren’t true demons,” said the Red Cloud Demon Lord, stepping up beside Kai to explain. “Though they carry demon blood, they are actually hybrids—half demon, half beast.”

“Don’t be fooled by their grotesque looks. They’ve inherited the strength of beasts and the savagery of demons. They’re extremely dangerous.”

Kai felt a bit speechless at that, especially at the word hybrid.

His father was a golden dragon—a beast—and his mother, a true human.

“Then doesn’t that make me a hybrid too?” he muttered to himself.

“Brother, what the hell are those things? They look terrifying...” Gadfly asked, clearly rattled by the sight.

“They’re demon-beast hybrids,” Kai replied firmly.

“Hybrids?” Gadfly echoed in disbelief, eyes wide.

The demon leader’s expression twisted in fury at hearing the word hybrid.

“None of you will leave here alive!” he roared, swinging his giant battle axe toward Kai and Gadfly.

Kai quickly pulled Gadfly aside, dodging just as the axe crashed into the ground, sending sparks flying.

“Gadfly, take care of the small ones—I’ll handle the big guy!” Kai shouted.

Gadfly nodded. A spear materialized in his hands, and he charged toward the lesser demons.

His spear spun and stabbed with deadly precision, the cold glint of its tip claiming a demon’s life with each strike. However, there were too many demons, and they kept pouring out from the depths of the mine, quickly surrounding Gadfly.

Kai confronted the demon leader head-on, the Dragon Slaying Sword once again unsheathed in his hand, its blade shining with a brilliant light.

“Come on!”

With a shout, Kai took the initiative and charged at the demon leader.

The Dragon Slaying Sword clashed violently with the massive battle axe, producing a deafening boom as the sheer force of impact twisted the air around them.

The demon leader's strength was immense—each blow carried terrifying power.

Kai relied on his agility to evade the brutal attacks, constantly dodging while looking for an opening to strike back.

But the demon leader seemed to sense the threat Kai posed. His attacks grew fiercer, and from time to time he spat out black flames, trying to corner Kai.

The flames had already burned several holes in Kai's clothing, and his body bore multiple scorch marks.

Yet he showed no signs of retreat. His eyes only grew more resolute.

Drawing a deep breath, he surged his spiritual power to the limit. The light radiating from the Dragon Slaying Sword intensified dramatically.

“Die!”

Kai roared, unleashing his strongest strike.

A massive wave of sword energy shot skyward before crashing down toward the demon leader.

Not to be outdone, the demon leader raised his battle axe high and released a blade of dark energy to meet the oncoming sword strike.

The two forces collided in a thunderous explosion, sending a powerful shockwave outward that scattered the surrounding demons.

Kai was blown backward by the force and slammed into a boulder, a trace of blood trickling from the corner of his mouth.

Just then, Gadfly's anguished screams pierced the air.

Kai turned and saw him overwhelmed by a group of demons, his body covered in injuries—his situation dire.

Kai's heart clenched. Ignoring his own wounds, he immediately rushed toward Gadfly.

He swung the Dragon Slaying Sword in a deadly arc, cutting down the demons one after another, and pulled Gadfly back to safety.

“Brother, these demons are too strong... we can't beat them...”

Gadfly panted heavily, his face filled with exhaustion and fear.

Chapter 4966

Kai gritted his teeth, a flash of determination appearing in his eyes.

He pulled a magic whip from his robe—an artifact specifically designed to subdue demon cultivators.

With a sharp pa pa crack, the whip lashed through the air. Wherever its tip landed, demon bodies were torn apart and blood splattered in all directions.

However, the demon leader remained unaffected. It charged again at Kai and Gadfly, swinging its massive battle axe.

There was still a significant difference between demons and demon cultivators, which greatly reduced the whip's effectiveness.

Resolving to end it, Kai drew out the God King Bow.

This ancient artifact possessed tremendous power, but activating it required a large amount of Dao Pattern Evil Qi.

Kai channeled the required energy into the bow, and soon an ethereal arrow formed, glowing with a blinding light.

“Go to hell!”

With a roar, Kai released the bowstring. The arrow shot forth like a streak of golden lightning aimed straight at the demon leader.

Sensing the danger, the demon leader hurriedly swung its axe in an attempt to block the attack.

But the arrow’s force was overwhelming—it pierced through the battle axe and embedded itself deep in the demon leader’s shoulder.

The demon leader howled in agony, its body trembling violently as black blood gushed from the wound.

Yet it didn’t fall. Instead, it launched an even fiercer assault on Kai and Gadfly.

Realizing this was a life-or-death moment, Kai knew he had no choice but to go all out.

“Come forth...”

He summoned the Fire Kirin.

The moment the Fire Kirin appeared, the surrounding temperature spiked. It let out a deafening roar and charged straight at the demon leader.

Wreathed in flames, the Fire Kirin ignited the very air as it moved, clashing with the demon leader in a fiery assault.

Flames and dark energy collided again and again, triggering intense explosions.

Seizing the chance, Kai raised the God King Bow once more, fitted another arrow, and took aim at the demon leader's heart.

“Die!”

Kai summoned all his strength and fired the arrow.

It flew toward the demon leader with the force of a world-ending strike.

The demon leader tried to dodge but was tightly entangled by the Fire Kirin, unable to move. The arrow pierced straight through his heart. With a thunderous roar, the demon leader's body collapsed.

The moment he died, the remaining demons lost their will to fight and attempted to flee.

But Kai and Gadfly didn't give them the chance. Seizing the momentum, they struck down all the remaining demons.

“Brother, you're incredible! I really admire you,” Gadfly exclaimed. “You've got so many beasts, and even a divine beast!”

“That divine beast must be a Fire Kirin, right? Isn't that a mount only immortals can have?”

Gadfly stared in awe at the flame-covered Kirin.

“I'm not entirely sure,” Kai replied, shaking his head. “My Fire Kirin is still young. It needs time to grow before it can reach its full strength.”

He honestly didn't know what level the Fire Kirin might one day attain.

“Brother, there are so many immortal stones here. Should I head back and call some people to help mine them?” Gadfly asked, eyes fixed on the vast immortal stone vein.

“No. Only you and I can know about this treasure land. Don't let anyone else find out.”

Kai had no intention of letting others learn about the immortal stone veins hidden in this place.

Once they removed the stones, others would still covet the site. At that point, Gadfly could use the now-worthless land to trick others into trading away valuable resources.

“I got it,” Gadfly nodded seriously.

Kai stared at the immortal stone veins. Neither his storage bag nor his storage ring could contain them all.

But leaving them here also made him uneasy.

Chapter 4967

After thinking for a moment, Kai suddenly had an idea and took out the Demon Suppression Tower.

The internal space of the Demon Suppression Tower was vast. If he could store the immortal stone vein inside it, he would have an endless supply of resources to cultivate within the tower.

However, Kai had never attempted this before and wasn't sure if the Demon Suppression Tower could hold other items like a storage ring.

As his thoughts turned, the Demon Suppression Tower began to radiate light.

To his amazement, the entire immortal stone vein was pulled into the Demon Suppression Tower in an instant!

In just the blink of an eye, the vast vein had completely vanished into the tower.

Overjoyed at his success, Kai quickly entered the Demon Suppression Tower. Inside, he saw the immortal stone vein intact, and the

surrounding immortal energy was incredibly rich. Cultivating here would yield twice the result with half the effort.

“Let’s go...”

Kai called to Gadfly, and the two left the treasure land.

Before leaving, Kai restored the formation that protected the area, intending to deceive anyone who might come across the site in the future.

Upon returning to the City Lord’s Mansion, Kai said nothing and immediately entered the Demon Suppression Tower to begin cultivating.

He was determined to break through to the Scattered Immortal Realm as quickly as possible.

Although he had already reached the ninth level of the Immortal Realm, there was still a fundamental difference between that and the Scattered Immortal stage.

If he succeeded in this breakthrough, he would be unmatched throughout the Heavenly Realm.

Inside the Demon Suppression Tower, Kai sat cross-legged at the center of the immortal stone vein. The immortal energy swirling around him became so dense it nearly turned tangible, rushing into his meridians like a river reversing course.

Time passed swiftly in the tower. Though only a month passed in the outside world, nearly ten years flowed within the tower.

Kai’s robes had grown tattered with age, riddled with holes, but his eyes now shone with startling clarity, reflecting the flickering runes around him.

The Condensation Heart Technique absorbed immortal energy at an astonishing rate. His meridians, like dry riverbeds struck by a violent

downpour, began to crack under the impact of the surging Yuan force. Veins bulged on Kai's forehead, and blood trickled from the corners of his mouth. Suddenly, he bit his tongue and used his own essence and blood as a medium, forcing the scattered immortal power to converge in his dantian.

He knew he had reached the critical moment to break through to the Scattered Immortal Realm...

Outside, dark clouds above the City Lord's Mansion began to swirl into a vortex.

Lightning danced within it like silver serpents, and the thunderous roars were so powerful they sent birds within a hundred miles crashing to the ground.

The cultivators guarding the city drew their magical weapons, staring at the sky in terror—this phenomenon was even more frightening than the time the demon army had attacked.

Inside the Demon Suppression Tower, Kai's hair stood on end, and ancient demon-suppressing emblems appeared all over his body.

These marks twisted like living things, forcefully suppressing and refining the violent immortal energy within him.

With a roar that shook the very earth, Kai's body burst into radiant golden light, which pierced through the tower and shot straight into the sky.

The lightning in the vortex was drawn toward the golden beam and struck the Demon Suppression Tower like a barrage of arrows. But the moment they touched the golden light, the lightning turned into starlight and merged into it.

“Boom!”

A thunderous explosion echoed from the tower, and Kai's aura surged wildly.

He slowly opened his eyes, which now gleamed with starlike brilliance. The unique pressure of a Scattered Immortal swept out in waves like a rising tide.

The Demon Suppression Tower trembled violently, and the runes etched across its surface grew brighter, as if celebrating Kai's transformation.

Outside the tower, Gadfly and the others gripped their weapons tightly, hearts pounding as if they might leap from their chests.

He had never witnessed such a terrifying sight and silently prayed for Kai's safety.

Across the many regions of the First Heaven, powerful beings turned their eyes toward Rhino City, expressions filled with shock and confusion.

None could fathom what kind of existence was powerful enough to cause such a terrifying phenomenon of heaven and earth.

Chapter 4968

As the light around the Demon Suppression Tower gradually faded, Kai slowly emerged, hands clasped behind his back.

Every step he took seemed to tread on the void, and his presence exuded a pressure that made it difficult for anyone to meet his gaze.

Gadfly looked at Kai—who now appeared almost divine—and swallowed hard, at a loss for words.

Kai had just stepped into the Scattered Immortal Realm, yet the pressure he emitted was so immense that even a cultivator at the third level of the Scattered Immortal Realm would find it difficult to face him directly.

That was the difference. Kai was born with the blood of a golden dragon, while Gadfly was merely a rhinoceros.

“My good son-in-law, you’ve actually reached the Scattered Immortal Realm! That strange phenomenon in the heavens earlier—was it caused by your breakthrough?”

Bai Yi asked excitedly upon seeing Kai emerge.

“I’m not sure,” Kai replied, “but when I broke through to a new realm, the heavenly phenomenon did seem a bit stronger than usual...”

“Brother, it was more than just a little stronger. I’m afraid even the entire First Heaven has been alerted. Anyone who saw it would think a powerhouse from a higher realm had descended!”

The Crazy Immortal said enviously.

Kai responded with a faint smile. He now understood that, with his current cultivation and strength, he could easily navigate the First Heaven without fear.

With the Demon Suppression Tower and the Immortal Stone Mine, his cultivation would progress with half the effort and twice the results.

“How long have I been cultivating?” Kai asked.

“Brother, it’s been a month...” Gadfly replied.

“A month?” Kai frowned slightly. “Has Niu Ben been rescued yet?”

“Not yet,” Gadfly said, shaking his head. “Just now, the Lord of Feihu City, Jie Zhong, sent a letter asking us to send someone there for detailed negotiations.”

“I suspect they’ll demand resources or territorial concessions before they release Niu Ben.”

“I’ve been considering who to send. If I go myself, I’m worried Jie Zhong might detain me, and that would be a serious problem.”

“I’ll go,” Kai declared immediately. “If Feihu City refuses to release him, I’ll destroy it.”

“Brother, that’s too dangerous. Even though you’ve broken through to the Scattered Immortal Realm and your strength is overwhelming, Feihu City still has strength in numbers.” “As the saying goes, two fists can’t match four hands. If Xie Zhong is truly determined, wouldn’t you be walking into a trap?”

“I can’t let my elder brother risk his life for the sake of my son...”

Gadfly shook his head firmly, refusing to let Kai take such a dangerous gamble.

“Old Niu, I’ll go with Brother Chen. I know Xie Zhong too—maybe he’ll give me some face,”

Fengxian said.

“I’ll go as well. I won’t let my son-in-law take risks alone!”

Bai Yi chimed in, unwilling to let Kai face danger by himself.

“Don’t worry. I will definitely rescue Niu Ben!”

Kai patted Gadfly on the shoulder to reassure him.

“Brother, how about I send a few thousand soldiers with you? That way, you’ll have backup if anything happens.”

Gadfly suggested.

“No need. I’m going there to negotiate, not start a fight. Too many people would only complicate things,”

Kai waved his hand dismissively.

“Brother, take care of yourself. If anything seems off, leave immediately. Don’t worry about Niu Ben— I don’t think Jie Zhong would dare harm him,”

Gadfly reminded him seriously.

Kai nodded and left the City Lord’s Mansion with Bai Yi and Fengxian.

The three of them headed back to Linghufang first. After being away for so long, Kai needed to inform Hu Mazi and Xiu Rui.

When they returned, Hu Mazi looked at Kai with a mix of annoyance and concern.

“Damn it, where have you been? It’s been over a month. I thought you died out there,”

he grumbled.

“Master Hu, I’ve been in cultivation and didn’t have time to come back. Please don’t take it to heart,”

Kai apologized sincerely.

Chapter 4969

“You’ve reached the Realm of Scattered Immortals?” Hu Mazi stared at Kai, then realized that Kai had indeed already broken through!

“Fellow Daoist Chen, in just over a month, I didn’t expect you to reach the Realm of Scattered Immortals,” Xiu Rui said in astonishment.

“Just broke through,” Kai replied with a faint smile, then followed Hu Mazi and Xiu Rui to explain what he would be handling next.

He told Hu Mazi and Xiu Rui to stay put at Linghufang and not wander around.

“Don’t worry, Fellow Daoist Chen. Master Hu won’t be running off anywhere. He’s been enjoying himself every night for over a month now!” Xiu Rui said, glancing at Hu Mazi with a trace of envy.

“Master Hu, you’d better take it easy or you’ll die from exhaustion!” Kai called out loudly.

“Get out of here already. When you return, we’ll find a human area to settle in. Two women will get boring eventually!” Hu Mazi waved him off.

Kai and Bai Yi then followed the Crazy Immortal out of Rhino City, heading straight for Flying Tiger City.

Flying Tiger City lay thousands of miles from Rhino City. It took nearly a full day of flight for them to arrive.

Hovering in the air, Kai observed from afar. Though Flying Tiger City wasn’t as large as Rhino City, it was made up of dozens of cities of varying sizes.

At its center stood the City Lord’s Mansion, surrounded by many satellite cities, making it far more secure than the solitary City Lord’s Mansion in Rhino City.

While Rhino City was a single city with Gadfly’s Mansion at its heart, Flying Tiger City was a cluster of smaller cities, each with its own checkpoint.

Thus, passing through these checkpoints to reach the City Lord’s Mansion would be no easy task—it was like waiting for heaven itself to open.

As the sun dipped below the horizon, dusk stained the bluestone walls outside Flying Tiger City a deep red, like blood.

Kai gazed at the sprawling cities that resembled the scales of a giant beast. The spiritual energy in his sleeves stirred slightly. As the saying goes: don't intend harm, but always be wary of others.

Just as the group reached the first checkpoint, they sensed three hidden auras locking onto them. "Stop! Flying Tiger City is under martial law. All outsiders must leave immediately!"

At the first checkpoint, armored guards blocked the path with their weapons. Sharp, watchful eyes gleamed through the slits in their helmets.

Fengxian was about to speak, but Kai raised a hand to stop him.

He glanced at the jade token hanging from the guard's waist. A faint golden rune formed at his fingertip, and he lightly tapped the token. "Please inform City Lord Jie that we've come from Rhino City at his invitation."

As the rune sank into the token, the guard's expression changed at once. He straightened up and respectfully stepped aside.

The man before him was indeed summoned by the city lord of Flying Tiger City. As mere outer-city guards, they didn't dare create trouble.

After all, they were only stationed at a minor checkpoint, the lowest rank among the city's defenses.

Bai Yi leaned in and whispered, "Dear son-in-law, that rune just now..."

"The Gadfly gave it to me. Without it, we wouldn't get past the checkpoints," Kai said calmly. His gaze swept over the faint array patterns etched into the city wall. "Judging by the setup here, I doubt this is the only checkpoint."

Sure enough, by the time they reached the third city, the gates slammed shut.

Twelve black-robed cultivators emerged from swirling black mist. The leader held a bronze compass, which projected clear images of the trio onto its surface.

“Who are you? How dare you trespass into Flying Tiger City—you seek death!” he barked.

“We’re from Rhino City, here at the invitation of City Lord Jie to discuss matters,” Kai stepped forward and replied.

“You’re from Rhino City? I don’t recognize you. If you want to see the city lord, you’ll have to get past us first.”

As he spoke, the leader turned the compass, instantly activating a formation in front of Kai and the others.

Seeing this, the Crazy Immortal sneered as the aura around him surged. Just as he prepared to act, Kai stepped ahead.

His fingertip cut through the air, conjuring a rune identical to the previous one—but this time, it glowed with a brilliant red light.

Chapter 4970

The moment the rune merged with the city’s formation, the entire city shook violently. The black-robed monks turned pale, coughed up blood, and were flung backward.

“My name is Kai. I’m here to see your city lord as a sign of respect. If anyone dares block my path, I won’t hesitate to kill them!”

Kai’s voice echoed through the city like a bell, its powerful shockwave cracking the clouds above.

With grim expressions, the black-robed monks stepped aside.

As Kai and his companions passed through the final city, the eaves of the City Lord's Mansion came into view.

The vermilion gates slowly opened, revealing a middle-aged man in a golden python-patterned robe standing with his hands behind his back. It was Xie Zhong, the lord of Flying Tiger City.

He scanned Kai and the others and said, "Who are you three? Why have I never seen you in Rhino City?"

The three entered the courtyard. Then, an ancient jade slip flew from Kai's sleeve. "City Lord Xie, who we are is not important. What matters is that we are here to negotiate on behalf of City Lord Niu."

Xie Zhong took the jade slip, and his pupils contracted sharply. The atmosphere in the courtyard turned tense, with only the evening breeze stirring the fallen leaves that whirled between them.

Xie Zhong recognized the jade slip immediately—it was a symbol of authority from the Gadfly. With it, one could make any promise on the Gadfly's behalf.

"In that case, let's talk," Xie Zhong said, returning the jade slip to Kai.

"Talk to you? Are you really the one who can make the decisions?" Kai asked bluntly.

"Ridiculous! I am the mayor of Flying Tiger City. If I can't make the decisions, who can?" Xie Zhong snapped coldly.

"While you may be the mayor, the one with the true authority likely isn't here, is he?"

As Kai finished speaking, he turned his gaze westward.

To the west of the City Lord's Mansion lay a mountain range stretching out, with more than a dozen cities along the path—all part of Flying Tiger City's domain.

At first glance, the cities seemed to be arranged to protect the central city.

But Kai noticed something odd: the true center of the formation wasn't the main city, but a small, easily overlooked city in the mountains.

It made no sense for such a vast formation to be centered on such an insignificant place—unless that city held secrets no one expected. So Kai speculated that Jie Zhong was merely a figurehead, and the true controller of Flying Tiger City must be hidden within that small, unassuming city.

“What are you talking about? I have no idea what you mean. If you're not here to negotiate, then please leave.”

“Either way, the Gadfly's son is in my hands. I have all the time in the world to wait for him to make a move.”

Jie Zhong's expression turned cold as he spoke, clearly furious.

Seeing his reaction, Kai became even more convinced that his suspicion was right.

“Of course, I want to negotiate. Why else would we come all this way?” Kai replied.

“Fine. Since you're here to talk, then come inside,” Jie Zhong said, turning to enter the room first.

“Brother, be careful—it could be a trap...” Feng Xian warned quietly.

“Xiansheng, we should stay alert. This Jie Zhong is clearly stalling and even sent people to test us at the checkpoints,” Bai Yi added.

“You two wait outside. I'll go in and assess the situation myself. If anything goes wrong, leave immediately—don't worry about me,” Kai instructed them.

“Brother, who do you think I am? I’d rather risk my life than let you face danger alone,” Feng Xian said with conviction.

Bai Yi glared at Kai and added, “My dear son-in-law, how could I face my daughter if I ran away alone? Just go in and talk. Worst case, we’ll all fight together.”

Kai nodded, then stepped inside after Jie Zhong.

If it was only Jie Zhong inside, Kai had nothing to fear. With his current strength, he could easily handle him.

Chapter 4971

“Sit down...”

After entering the room, Xie Zhong gestured for Kai to take a seat.

Moments later, someone brought tea—and the one who served it was none other than Li Tianbao, the shopkeeper of Tianbao Pavilion in Rhino City.

Now, Li Tianbao had shed his former identity and was revealed to be a key figure in Flying Tiger City.

“I didn’t expect Lord Niu would send you,” Li Tianbao said in mild surprise upon seeing Kai.

“It doesn’t really matter who he sent, does it?” Kai replied with a hint of double meaning.

Hearing this, Li Tianbao smiled faintly. “True. If Lord Niu himself came, I wouldn’t know how to face him.”

“Everyone serves their own master—there’s no blame in that. If someone else had captured Niu Ben, he might’ve suffered more. At least with you, he won’t,” Kai said calmly.

Li Tianbao's expression shifted slightly at those words, and without saying more, he turned and left.

"Niu Ben has always treated me well—you don't need to worry about him. What I want is resources and territory. His life doesn't interest me," Xie Zhong said after Li Tianbao exited.

"Then tell me your terms," Kai replied.

"The treasure land belongs to Flying Tiger City," Xie Zhong stated firmly.

"No problem," Kai nodded without hesitation.

That land had become a dead zone, void of any treasure. Naturally, Kai had no reason to object.

Xie Zhong looked momentarily puzzled by how easily he agreed.

"City Lord Xie, there's no need to wonder why I agreed so quickly."

"The treasure land isn't accessible yet—it still needs time to open. Right now, it's just barren land, meaningless to Lord Niu," Kai explained.

Xie Zhong nodded thoughtfully. "That's true. But I want more than just the treasure land. I also want one million immortal coins, plus a hundred years' worth of resources from the three southern regions of Rhino City."

"Agreed..." Kai said with a nod. Xie Zhong was momentarily stunned.

"Can you really make that decision?"

"Of course. When Lord Niu sent me, he gave me full authority to handle everything and agree to all terms," Kai replied.

"Do you even understand how much one million immortal coins and a century's worth of resources from the three southern regions of the city amount to?" Xie Zhong asked, visibly skeptical.

“I don’t know the exact amount,” Kai said calmly, “but I do know this—if immortal coins are lost, they can be earned again. If resources are lost, they can be replenished. But if my son’s life is lost, it’s gone for good.”

Xie Zhong stared at Kai, puzzled. He had expected a tough negotiation and had already calculated his bottom line.

Isn’t bargaining supposed to be a process of give-and-take?

Yet Kai agreed so easily, which left Xie Zhong feeling unbalanced, as if Kai wasn’t playing by the usual rules.

“Can you really make the decision?” Xie Zhong asked again, still in doubt.

“Absolutely. But if I’m agreeing to your terms, then you must also let me see Niu Ben. Otherwise, what’s the point of everything we’ve discussed?”

“Fair enough,” Xie Zhong nodded, then clapped his hands lightly.

Li Tianbao, who had stepped out earlier, reentered the room with Niu Ben.

Niu Ben looked pale and shaken. Clearly, he’d been through a rough time. When he saw Kai, his eyes filled with confusion.

“Niu Ben, don’t be afraid. I’m here to take you home,” Kai said gently, stepping forward and patting him on the shoulder.

As his hand made contact, a wave of energy quietly surged into Niu Ben’s body.

“Brother Chen, did my father send you?” Niu Ben asked.

“Yes, and you’ll be home very soon,” Kai nodded reassuringly.

A smile finally appeared on Niu Ben’s face. He visibly relaxed.

At that moment, Xie Zhong waved his hand, motioning for Li Tianbao to escort Niu Ben out. Then he turned back to Kai and asked, “You’ve seen the boy—now, where are the resources and immortal coins I requested?”

Chapter 4972

“City Lord Jie, as you know, it’s impossible to gather those resources in a short time. Please allow me to inform City Lord Niu and have him prepare everything within three days to be delivered to you,” Kai said.

“Of course, we will remain in Feihu City during these three days, but you must guarantee our safety and that of Niu Ben.”

“No problem,” Jie Zhong replied. “As I said, all I want is the territory and the resources. Your lives mean nothing to me.”

After speaking, Jie Zhong extended his hand and shook hands with Kai.

To Jie Zhong, this negotiation had gone far too smoothly...

When Kai exited the room, Bai Yi and Feng Xian immediately approached him.

“Brother, how did it go?” Feng Xian asked.

“The negotiation went smoothly,” Kai replied with a smile.

“That’s great to hear. He didn’t ask for anything outrageous, did he?” Feng Xian asked.

Kai shook his head. “Not really. He just asked for one million immortal coins, a century’s worth of resources from the three southern regions of Rhino City, and, of course, the treasure land...”

“What?” Bai Yi was stunned. “Isn’t that too much? And you agreed?”

“Of course. Even if he wanted all of Rhino City, I’d agree—because I have no intention of actually giving it to him,” Kai said with a faint smile.

“You don’t plan to give it to him?” Bai Yi looked confused.

“Exactly. I just need to stall for time and find the right moment to rescue Niu Ben. I won’t give Feihu City a single thing.”

“But brother,” Feng Xian said, frowning, “we passed so many guarded city checkpoints to get here. Won’t rescuing Niu Ben be incredibly difficult?”

“There are always more solutions than problems. We still have time to figure something out,” Kai replied with optimism.

Just then, the personnel assigned by Jie Zhong arrived to escort Kai and his companions to their quarters. For the next three days, they were only permitted to move about within the City Lord’s Mansion of Feihu City.

After Kai and the others were settled, Xie Zhong stood staring toward the western mountains. His figure slowly faded and disappeared.

When he reappeared, he was already in a small town nestled in the mountains.

The town was occupied by a group of red-robed cultivators. None of them saluted when they saw Xie Zhong, but he didn’t seem surprised.

Xie Zhong then entered a lavishly renovated residence, where a masked man sat. The man’s expression was grim. As Xie Zhong approached, he asked coldly, “Any results?”

“Sir, yes. One million immortal coins, a century’s worth of resources, and the treasure land—Rhino City has agreed to all of it,” Xie Zhong reported, sounding pleased.

“Oh?” The man was clearly surprised. “They agreed that easily?”

“Yes, they agreed very quickly. Everything will be ready within three days,” Xie Zhong nodded.

“Agreeing too quickly never feels right. Don’t let your guard down during these three days,” the man warned.

“I understand,” Xie Zhong replied with a nod.

The man waved his hand, and Xie Zhong turned and left.

After Xie Zhong was gone, the man suddenly coughed violently, and the black scarf covering his face slipped off.

If Kai were here at that moment, he would have immediately recognized the man in front of him.

It was none other than Huo Zhao, the lord of the Eighth Hall of the Temple.

Previously, Huo Zhao’s soul had been summoned by Huo Zhenfeng, the head of the Huo family, using a special token. As a result, Huo Zhao engaged in a prolonged battle with Kai. Kai had summoned the Red Cloud Demon Lord to possess Huo Zhao, beating him so badly that Huo Zhao was forced to flee.

Since then, Huo Zhao had returned, gravely weakened, and in need of vast resources to restore his body.

To achieve that, he led the Eighth Hall to seize control of Feihu City. Now, Xie Zhong—the nominal city lord—was merely a puppet.

It was Huo Zhao who had devised the plan to extort a massive sum of immortal coins and resources from Rhino City.

Kai had been right all along—the true decision-maker wasn’t in the City Lord’s Mansion of Feihu City.

Chapter 4973

However, Kai had no idea that the one secretly controlling Feihu City was from the Temple—the Eighth Palace Master, Huo Zhao.

Likewise, Huo Zhao never expected Kai to be among the negotiation party, nor could he have imagined that Kai would ascend to the heavens so quickly by climbing the ladder.

At that moment, inside the City Lord's Mansion of Feihu City, Kai, Bai Yi, and Feng Xian weren't resting. Instead, under the cover of night, they quietly slipped out of their room.

"This City Lord's Mansion is huge. How are we supposed to find Niu Ben?" Bai Yi asked, frowning slightly.

"Father-in-law, I already infused a trace of my aura into Niu Ben's body. Now I just need to trace that aura to locate him," Kai replied.

With that, he slowly released his spiritual sense, scanning for the trace of aura he had planted in Niu Ben earlier.

Before long, Kai sensed the familiar presence and began moving toward the backyard of the mansion, guided by the aura.

Though there were patrolling guards along the way, Kai and the others avoided them with ease.

Since the City Lord's Mansion of Feihu City stood at the center of dozens of cities, it was considered impenetrable, and the guards were lax in their duties.

Soon, the group reached a room in the backyard, and Kai came to a stop.

"Niu Ben is in there," he said, pointing to the room.

It seemed Niu Ben hadn't been mistreated or thrown into a dungeon—he was merely confined to a room, which could be considered generous treatment.

“I’ll go in and get him!” Feng Xian said, rushing forward.

But Kai quickly pulled him back. “Wait, let me check for any formations.”

He crouched down and traced a strange rune on the ground with his hand, channeling a stream of immortal power into it.

Buzz...

The rune began to glow, and the room ahead flickered with light.

Clearly, the room was protected by a formation. If Feng Xian had barged in recklessly, it would have triggered the array—and escape would have been impossible.

“Damn it, these people are so cautious. They even set up a formation in such a tightly guarded place!” Seeing this, the Crazy Immortal couldn’t help but curse.

Kai remained silent. He stared at the formation in front of him and slowly pressed his palm against it.

He didn’t intend to search for the formation’s core—instead, he planned to break it by force, as their time was limited.

Golden light radiated from Kai’s palm, and the glow surrounding the house gradually dimmed before disappearing entirely.

“It’s done,” Kai said calmly.

The Crazy Immortal immediately rushed into the room and dragged Niu Ben out.

Niu Ben was startled and almost cried out, but when he saw Kai, he instantly closed his mouth.

“Don’t speak. Follow us—I’m here to take you home,” Kai instructed.

Niu Ben's eyes widened, and he nodded firmly.

Kai and his group began escorting Niu Ben out of the City Lord's Mansion.

But just as they left the backyard, they unexpectedly ran into Li Tianbao.

Li Tianbao had come to deliver something to Niu Ben. He didn't want the boy to suffer.

After all, Li Tianbao had served in Rhino City for many years, and Gadfly had treated him well, even appointing him as the shopkeeper of Tianbao Pavilion.

But as someone from Feihu City, Li Tianbao was bound by duty—he had no choice.

Both sides froze in shock when they came face to face.

Reacting swiftly, Kai struck out with his palm.

He needed to knock Li Tianbao unconscious before he could raise an alarm—otherwise, their plan to escape with Niu Ben would be ruined.

Li Tianbao instinctively prepared to defend himself, but at the last moment, for reasons unknown, he lowered his hand and allowed Kai's palm to strike him square in the chest.

Li Tianbao was sent flying, his head lolling as he lost consciousness.

Chapter 4974

Looking at the unconscious Li Tianbao, Kai frowned slightly. He could clearly sense that Li Tianbao had intentionally chosen not to resist—and hadn't even made a sound.

But Kai had no time to dwell on it. Without hesitation, he fled the City Lord's Mansion with Niu Ben!

Once outside, Kai glanced around before deciding to head toward the western mountains!

"Brother, shouldn't we go north to reach Rhino City as fast as possible? Why head west?" Fengxian asked in confusion.

"We came from the north. We've already seen the checkpoints—each one more guarded than the last." "In the west, it's different. Since it's not directly connected to Rhino City, there are fewer checkpoints."

Kai explained calmly.

In truth, Kai wanted to go west to observe the mountain city—he wanted to confirm whether his suspicions were correct.

But just as Kai and his group left the City Lord's Mansion and headed for the western mountains, a shrill alarm suddenly rang throughout the entire compound!

Figures shot into the air from the mansion, and a large number of soldiers began searching frantically for Kai and his companions.

"Alert all nearby cities and lock down the gates! The ones from Rhino City must not escape!"

Jie Zhong shouted furiously, staring at the unconscious Li Tianbao.

He hadn't expected Kai to boldly rescue Niu Ben right under his nose.

Even if they had fled the mansion, there was no way they could escape all of Feihu City. Dozens of cities surrounded them—large and small—and escape seemed impossible.

Hearing the piercing alarm, Kai knew they had been exposed. The enemy had discovered Niu Ben's rescue.

“We need to move faster!” Kai urged.

With Niu Ben slung over Fengxian’s shoulder, the four of them sprinted westward beneath the starlit sky.

Kai looked up at the stars. Each one sparkled brilliantly. He believed they represented countless worlds—and that the Earth in the secular realm was just one among them.

They ran faster and faster, avoiding flight to reduce their visibility in the night sky.

Outside the City Lord’s Mansion was a vast plain with no shelter in sight, but thankfully, the cities were spaced hundreds of miles apart—giving Kai’s group a brief window of freedom. If the cities had been closely spaced, it would have been much harder for Kai and his group to break through. Fortunately, it would take them less than an hour to cover the hundreds of miles between each city.

When they arrived at the foot of a city, the guards stationed at the gate prepared to question them—but Kai acted first.

Swish!

With a sweep of the Dragon Slaying Sword, countless sword beams rained down on the city gate like falling meteors!

The guards didn’t even have time to scream—they were instantly slain by Kai’s sword.

This was exactly what Kai wanted: a swift, decisive strike that wouldn’t draw too much attention.

If Jie Zhong learned they had gone west, he would surely send a massive force in pursuit.

“Let’s go...”

After dispatching the guards, Kai leapt into the air without hesitation and soared over the city wall!

Just like that, he continued clearing the gates ahead, while Fengxian and Bai Yi protected Niu Ben.

They passed through several cities in quick succession, and soon the sky began to lighten.

As the mountains drew closer, Kai grew increasingly tense.

Now that dawn was breaking, he was certain Jie Zhong had figured out their escape route.

A large number of pursuers were likely already on their way.

“I wonder how many cities are still ahead?” Bai Yi asked, frowning slightly.

“Who cares? We’ll charge through however many there are. We’ve already broken through so many.” “This Feihu region only has strength in its main city—the rest are trash,” Fengxian scoffed.

Chapter 4975

After all, Kai had resolved every threat with a single sword strike that night, without the slightest delay. This made Fengxian believe that the other cities in Feihu City were extremely weak.

“Don’t get careless. Let’s keep moving,” Kai said, and the four of them continued forward.

Before long, another city blocked their path—this one clearly much larger. While not as vast as the main city, it was noticeably bigger than the others they had encountered.

What stood out most was that the city gate was shut, and a gray-brown fog surrounded it, making it difficult to see the gate clearly.

The entire city was blanketed in this strange mist. Even when Kai flew into the air, he couldn't make out the interior.

He attempted to probe with his spiritual sense but found that the fog actually blocked it. It was obvious this had been done deliberately—to hide what was happening inside the city from outsiders.

"This is strange... such a big city, and yet there's no sign of life. I can't sense any aura at all," Fengxian said, frowning at the mysterious city ahead.

"Someone has intentionally masked the city's presence. It seems this place holds greater significance within Feihu City," Bai Yi said gravely. "If we want to get through here, it won't be as easy as before."

"There's fog all around this city—we can't see a thing. Why not just fly over it?" "If we can't detect the people inside, they shouldn't be able to detect us either," Fengxian suggested.

"We can't. This fog is part of a powerful formation. Even if we fly over, we'll still be noticed," Kai replied. "For now, we'll have to take it step by step. First, we need to break the formation—otherwise, we'll be at a serious disadvantage."

Without breaking the formation, they would remain blind to the situation inside the city—while their enemies would know exactly where they were.

That would put them in a very vulnerable position. When Kai and his companions reached the city, they found no guards at the gate. It truly seemed like someone wanted to present it as a dead city. But Kai knew—there couldn't possibly be a real dead city within the entire Feihu City region.

Staring at the towering city gate ahead, Kai's eyes gradually emitted a faint red glow.

He had activated his Tianming Eye. Normally, breaking a formation of this scale by conventional means would take a great deal of time—if it could even be broken at all. So now, Kai had no choice but to rely on the Tianming Eye to probe the formation.

Buzz!

As the Tianming Eye opened, Kai's vision shifted dramatically.

The gray-brown mist began to fade from his sight, and as his Tianming Eye dug deeper, his gaze penetrated the city gate and extended into the city itself.

Although the formation blocked spiritual sense, it couldn't obstruct the power of the Tianming Eye.

What Kai saw startled him—there were no ordinary people in the city, only armored soldiers.

Countless troops were arrayed in neat formations. Some were training, others patrolling.

In that moment, Kai realized the truth. The strange-looking city ahead wasn't a real city at all—it was a massive military base belonging to Feihu City.

These armored soldiers were being trained here, then deployed to various locations.

A chill ran through Kai's heart. In his escape, he had unwittingly arrived at the most dangerous place of all.

He deactivated the Tianming Eye. Just then, Bai Yi leaned in and whispered, "Dear son-in-law, well? Can we break the formation in this city?"

“No. We need to leave—now,” Kai replied, then turned and began to retreat.

“Brother, what are you doing? Are you scared?” Fengxian asked, confused, as he ran after him.

Chapter 4976

Kai still said nothing, his face tense. If they alerted the soldiers inside the city, escaping would become nearly impossible.

“My dear son-in-law, if we bypass this place, we’ll have to take a much longer route—and likely run into other checkpoints!” Bai Yi said to Kai.

They had already come this far, and the mountains lay just ahead. Taking a detour would cost them precious time.

“We have no choice. This isn’t a city—it’s a massive military barracks. There are fully armed soldiers inside, likely numbering in the tens of thousands,” Kai explained, following behind Bai Yi and Fengxian.

“Then let’s detour—now!” Upon hearing this, Fengxian and Bai Yi turned and ran even faster than Kai.

To avoid the city and reach the mountains from a different angle, they ended up traveling several hundred miles more.

But soon, another city appeared in front of them.

This one was clearly smaller, but atop the city gate stood a large number of soldiers clad in black armor.

Kai and his group had just approached the city—still several hundred miles away—when they saw a swarm of soldiers flying out from the city!

The troops were heading straight toward them.

“Quick, hide your aura! Who let theirs leak?” Kai shouted in alarm. At that distance, their presence shouldn’t have been detected—unless someone failed to conceal their aura properly.

“It was me...” Niu Ben admitted sheepishly.

As it turned out, although he had been trying to suppress his aura the whole time, his control was too weak, and it had slipped.

Seeing the situation, Kai immediately raised a hand. A barrier appeared, sealing off everyone’s aura. They quickly moved away from their original position.

The soldiers swarmed the location where Kai and the others had been—but found no one there.

“Search the area—they can’t have gone far!” the soldier captain barked, sending out search teams in all directions.

Kai and his group took advantage of the soldiers’ distraction and quickly made a move to slip past the city.

Just as Kai and his group were stealthily approaching the city, another squad of soldiers suddenly charged out from within!

Neither side had anticipated the encounter—they collided unexpectedly!

Swish...

Kai reacted instantly. With a flash, the Dragon Slaying Sword unleashed a flurry of sword energy, slashing toward the soldiers in front of him!

Before they could even respond, the entire squad was struck down and killed on the spot.

Flames danced in Kai’s palms as he quickly incinerated the bodies, turning them to ashes.

If the soldiers' corpses had been left near the city gate, they would have been discovered soon. By destroying the evidence, Kai bought them valuable time.

“Let's go!”

The group soared into the sky, flying directly over the city.

Since there were no guards on duty, no one noticed their presence.

After crossing the city, the mountains finally came into view. The sprawling range stretched endlessly across the horizon—far larger than the Tianmo Mountain in the Heavenly Realm.

“Let's keep moving. There are fewer cities in this mountain region. Once we get through it, we'll enter the territory of other beast clans—and we won't have to keep sneaking around,” Kai said, exhaling deeply as he gazed at the towering mountains ahead.

Constructing cities in mountainous terrain demanded immense manpower and resources. As a result, Feihu City had far fewer cities in this area.

Kai and the others pressed on along the mountain path, covering nearly a thousand miles without encountering another city.

“Brother Chen, can we rest for a bit? I can't keep going...” Niu Ben panted heavily as he spoke.

He was still young, and his body couldn't recover energy as quickly. A break was necessary.

“Alright, let's rest. Don't wander off—I'll scout ahead.”

Kai quickly set up an illusion formation and had Fengxian and the others enter it. If anyone passed by, they wouldn't be able to detect them.

Chapter 4977

After settling the others, Kai's figure vanished in an instant.

Freed from Niu Ben's burden, Kai moved swiftly into the depths of the mountains. His speed increased dramatically, leaving only a blur in his wake.

As he ventured deeper into the mountain range, two cities soon appeared before him!

These two cities stretched across the width of the mountains, completely blocking the path forward.

Only a narrow passage existed between them.

They stood like twin gates.

Seeing this, Kai became even more convinced that the small city atop the mountain was anything but ordinary—someone powerful must be residing there!

Even the main city governed by Jie Zhong didn't have dual cities flanking it for defense. These newly revealed cities had clearly been stationed to guard the seemingly insignificant mountaintop city!

Large numbers of soldiers were stationed atop both cities, and each city gate was equipped with a massive circular disc. Kai couldn't determine their exact function...

But it was clear—the scale and strength of these cities far exceeded the others he had seen.

Worse yet, there was no way around them to reach the mountain's summit.

Patrolling soldiers filled the area above both cities, and the security was incredibly tight.

After observing quietly for a while, Kai retreated in silence.

“How is it? Can we cross the mountains and reach the other beast tribe territories?”

Seeing him return, Bai Yi questioned anxiously.

Kai shook his head with a serious expression. “There are two cities blocking the path ahead. We’ll have to break through.”

“Brother, can’t we just go around?” Fengxian asked.

“No, we must break through. If we turn back now, we’re bound to run into pursuers,” Kai replied firmly.

“Xiansheng, what’s the scale of those cities? Is it even possible to break through them?” Bai Yi asked, worried.

“It won’t be easy. There must be tens of thousands of soldiers stationed there.”

“Our only hope is that their communication isn’t synchronized. If we’re lucky, we might slip through.” Kai said. After all, they were all beastmen, so it wasn’t unusual for them to pass in and out of city gates.

However, Kai worried that Jie Zhong had already relayed their presence here. If that were true, they might be recognized the moment they appeared.

“Let’s give it a try—be ready to fight,” Bai Yi said with a nod.

The four of them walked toward the twin cities. When they reached the base of the city walls, they saw numerous soldiers stationed atop the gates, each wearing a stern expression, exuding a cold, intimidating aura.

Kai took a deep breath and stepped forward toward the city gate.

“Halt!”

A squad of soldiers blocked Kai and his companions. One of them barked coldly, “Where are you from?”

“We’re from the main city and came to visit some friends,” Kai replied, pulling out a pouch of fairy coins, attempting to bribe the squad captain.

After all, this tactic had always worked in the secular world—who didn’t love money?

But to his surprise, as soon as Kai presented the fairy coins, the captain’s expression darkened.

“Who are you? Surround them!” he ordered.

Clatter...

In an instant, soldiers encircled Kai and his team.

Kai was momentarily stunned. He didn’t understand why the captain reacted this way—was it because the bribe wasn’t large enough?

“Is it not enough? I still have more. Share it with your brothers...” Kai said, pulling out another pouch of fairy coins.

This time, the captain’s face turned even colder.

“Are you trying to insult me? You’re clearly not from Feihu City. Who are you really?” he snapped, drawing his weapon.

“Brother, bribery isn’t how things work in our beast tribe. You’re basically slapping him in the face with that.” The Crazy Immortal said, shaking his head at Kai’s attempt.

Chapter 4978

Kai felt embarrassed upon hearing Fengxian’s words. He hadn’t expected that the heavens would operate so differently from the secular world.

In the mortal realm, people rarely turn away those who come bearing gifts. As long as you offer something, almost anything can be achieved.

“Don’t take it—no need to be so tense!”

Kai quickly put away the immortal coins.

“Speak! Who are you? Don’t blame me for being harsh if you stay silent.”

The captain of the battle soldiers shouted sternly.

At the same time, the guards at the city gate shifted their stance, each drawing their weapon with sharp intent.

Suddenly, killing intent filled the air.

Kai and his companions instantly became targets of hostility. If Kai said the wrong thing now, he’d likely be hacked into a pulp.

Sensing the rising bloodlust, Fengxian and Bai Yi grew nervous, and their internal energy began to surge uncontrollably.

Niu Ben was so frightened his face turned pale, and he clung tightly to Fengxian, hiding behind him.

Kai, however, remained relatively calm. Since these soldiers were questioning their identities, it meant they hadn’t yet received word from the main city.

If they had known who they were, they wouldn’t have asked questions—they would’ve attacked without hesitation.

For now, the priority was to find a way to defuse the situation. Worst case, they’d simply remain in the city for the time being.

Kai glanced around. Soldiers now surrounded them completely, all alert and ready to strike at a moment’s notice.

The captain stood silently, watching Kai with a frosty expression.

“It’s a misunderstanding—just hear me out...”

Kai quickly spoke to the captain in front of him.

Meanwhile, he was discreetly drawing something on the ground with his foot.

No one noticed Kai’s quiet movements.

“Speak! Who are you?” the captain barked coldly again.

“We’re not actually from Feihu City. We just heard the city offered good conditions, so we came seeking refuge,” Kai replied, improvising a lie to stall for time.

“Lies! If you really wanted to go to Feihu City, you could’ve gone straight to the main road. What are you doing in the mountains?”

Captain Zhanbing didn’t believe Kai’s words at all.

“Of course we wanted to go to the main city, but look at our strength—and we have a child with us. I doubt City Lord Jie would accept us,” Kai explained.

“So we thought it best to find a remote small town to settle in first and obtain Feihu City’s residency status to avoid being bullied.”

“We discovered there was a small town in the mountains within Feihu City’s territory, so we decided to try joining it.”

Kai could only continue fabricating a story to buy more time.

Meanwhile, his foot didn’t stop moving—he was quietly carving a strange rune into the ground.

“Don’t try to fool me. Do you think I’m a child?” Captain Zhanbing snapped angrily.

Then, waving his hand, he ordered, “Seize them all! We’ll hand them over to the city lord for personal interrogation.”

As soon as he gave the command, the surrounding soldiers released their auras and closed in on Kai and his group.

Seeing this, Kai gave a quick signal to Fengxian and Bai Yi with his eyes.

If things truly became hopeless, they’d have to fight. They couldn’t afford to be captured and taken to Jie Zhong— their true identities would surely be exposed.

But just as the soldiers were about to act, an intense and domineering aura suddenly surged from within the city.

A moment later, a massive tiger strode out from the gates.

Riding atop the tiger was a young man in gray robes. He was strikingly handsome, and his presence radiated overwhelming authority.

His eyes, in particular, held an expression of utter disdain for the world around him.

The moment the soldiers saw him, they dropped to their knees.

“Greetings, Master Huo...”

Captain Zhanbing lowered his head, not daring to meet the young man’s gaze.

“What’s happening here? Why is there chaos at the gate?” the young man asked coldly.

“There are a few outsiders who tried to force their way into the city. I was just about to capture them and bring them to the city lord for questioning,” the captain quickly replied.

The young man’s gaze shifted to Kai, and Kai looked back at him—only for his brow to furrow immediately.

Chapter 4979

Kai had noticed that the young man didn’t possess the aura of the beast race.

Even Fengxian and Bai Yi were taken aback.

The youth clearly had the aura of a human—how could a human suddenly appear in beast territory?

And not just any human—he appeared to be someone of noble status.

Could it be that Jie Zhong, the lord of Feihu City, had submitted to the human race?

“They’re just a few lackeys. There’s no need to interrogate them. Kill them...”

The young man’s eyes were filled with disdain, as if killing Kai and the others was no more difficult than squashing ants.

“Yes, sir!” the captain of the battle soldiers replied, then shouted, “Kill them!”

Just as the soldiers prepared to strike at Kai and the others—

A sudden flash of white light burst beneath their feet!

Everyone’s vision went black for a moment. When they looked again, Kai and his group had vanished.

They had been completely surrounded just seconds ago, yet now they were gone without a trace.

The captain's face darkened instantly.

He released his divine sense, but there was no sign of Kai or the others. It was as if they had disappeared into thin air.

“Find them! Quickly—find them!”

The captain, clearly humiliated, barked orders to his soldiers to search for them.

But the young man's brow furrowed slightly, a rare flicker of surprise flashing in his eyes.

“No need to search...” he said.

He walked to the spot where Kai had been standing and looked down at the ground, where faint runes were still visible.

“They used a teleportation array. I didn't expect that among those insignificant people, one of them is actually a formation master.”

“To set up a teleportation array silently—impressive.”

The young man's interest in Kai was clearly piqued.

The captain stepped forward for a closer look and said, “Sir, this kind of small teleportation array won't send them far. They likely have another array set up nearby. It might still be possible to catch up to them.” “Well, go after them. Make sure to capture them alive—talents like that could be useful to us,” the young man ordered with a nod.

“Yes, sir...” The captain of the battle corps immediately led tens of thousands of soldiers to begin a wide-scale search.

Meanwhile, Kai and his group had already returned to their original resting spot. As it turned out, Kai had previously set up a temporary teleportation array at that location.

It was a contingency plan—if danger arose, they could activate the array and teleport back.

Thankfully, Kai had made careful preparations. Otherwise, they would have already been captured.

“Brother, you actually prepared the teleportation array in advance—you really can see things coming!” praised the Crazy Immortal.

At that moment, Bai Yi frowned and said with disbelief, “How could there be humans in Feihu City? And ones with such high status?”

“Could it be that Feihu City has surrendered to the human race?” Kai speculated.

“That’s impossible. In this level of heaven, the human race is the weakest. There’s no way Jie Zhong would be foolish enough to submit to them,” Bai Yi replied, shaking his head.

“Forget about that—we need to find a way out of here,” said the Crazy Immortal.

“I’m afraid retreat isn’t an option anymore,” Kai replied gravely after scanning the area with his spiritual sense.

He could sense tens of thousands of soldiers scouring the surroundings. There was no way back—Jie Zhong had clearly mobilized his forces to capture them.

Now, Kai and his companions were truly like turtles trapped in a jar.

“Xiansheng, I’ll draw their attention and lead the soldiers away. You take this chance to escape. If we stay together, none of us will make it out,” Bai Yi said decisively.

“Father-in-law, don’t be so pessimistic. There might still be another way,” Kai responded.

“And what other way is there?” Bai Yi asked doubtfully.

“There are tens of thousands of soldiers out looking for us,” Kai explained. “But if we blend into their ranks and suppress our auras, we might be able to slip through unnoticed.”

Chapter 4980

“Brother, but all the soldiers are wearing armor—we don’t have any!” Fengxian pointed out.

“That’s easy. Wait here for me,” Kai replied before vanishing in an instant.

When he returned, he was holding four sets of armor, clearly taken from actual soldiers.

“Hurry and put them on. I’ve already dealt with the bodies of those four soldiers—they won’t be discovered anytime soon,” Kai said as he began putting on his own armor.

Soon, all four of them had donned the gear and concealed their auras.

Now, they could walk around openly without raising suspicion.

“You four—have you seen anything?” a team of soldiers approached just then, and their captain questioned Kai’s group.

“Reporting—nothing found,” Kai replied.

“Strange... did those four really just vanish?” the captain muttered, full of doubt.

“Let’s check elsewhere. Maybe we’ll turn something up,” Kai suggested, ready to lead Fengxian and the others away.

“No need to keep searching. Come back to the city with me. Those four can’t possibly escape this area,” said Captain Zhanbing.

Kai felt helpless but had no choice. He could only blend in with the group and follow the captain back into the city.

“Any results? Did you find them?” the young man asked as soon as he saw Captain Zhanbing return.

“Sir, it’s as if they vanished into thin air. We’ve searched the entire area, but there’s no trace or aura left behind,” the captain reported cautiously.

“Useless. Send more people to search tomorrow. They haven’t left the region,” the young man ordered coldly.

“Yes, sir!” Captain Zhanbing replied, visibly nervous.

The young man turned to leave, but the captain of the soldiers quickly followed and said, “Prince, there are people of unknown origin nearby. For your safety, you should allow an escort to accompany you!”

After speaking, the captain waved toward Kai and his team and ordered, “Your unit will protect Prince Huo. If anything happens to him, none of you will survive!”

The young man did not object and casually led Kai and several dozen soldiers as he strolled through the city streets.

On the street, everyone who saw the young man immediately stopped, knelt, and bowed.

However, the young man wore a cold and arrogant expression, not even glancing at those kneeling around him.

“Who is this guy, really? Why is he so revered? Everyone’s bowing like he’s a god,” the Crazy Immortal muttered under his breath.

“I’ve never heard of such a powerful figure among the human race in the First Heaven. Could he be from the Third Heaven?” Bai Yi also wondered aloud, puzzled by the young man’s identity and the beastmen’s willing submission.

“Enough, stop talking!” Kai warned.

They weren’t safe yet. If they were discovered now, it would be a disaster.

As he spoke, Kai focused intently on the young man. His heart was filled with suspicion.

Looking at the youth ahead, Kai felt a strong sense of déjà vu but couldn’t recall where he had seen him before.

“Brother, this Huo Shizi is so arrogant. All those people are kneeling, and he doesn’t even spare them a glance!” Kai whispered to a nearby soldier, trying to sound casual.

“Shh...” The soldier gasped, visibly startled. “Are you trying to get yourself killed? How dare you talk about Huo Shizi like that?”

“Listen, Huo Shizi is from the Temple. If he even looks someone in the eye, it means he acknowledges them.”

Kai was stunned. He hadn’t expected the young man to be a member of the Temple.

No wonder he carried himself with such arrogance—it turned out he belonged to the divine clan.

Though clearly human in appearance, his noble bloodline and affiliation with the Temple made him someone the beastmen revered. The divine clan was known for its pride and elitism.

Now Kai finally understood why Feihu City feared a human. He was from the Temple!

Buzz...

Suddenly, something clicked in Kai's mind, and his eyes locked back onto the young man with renewed intensity.