

the mans Decree: Kai Ping / Chen Ping

Chapter 5001

“I’m glad you’re alright, my dear son-in-law. I was really worried about you!”

Bai Yi breathed a sigh of relief upon seeing that Kai was safe.

As Kai arrived at the battlefield, he noticed the heavy casualties and low morale among the Rhino City forces.

“What? You can’t handle Flying Tiger City?” Kai asked.

The Gadfly replied awkwardly, “Flying Tiger City’s strength has grown too fast. They’re said to have backing from the Temple. I’m no match for them.”

“Victory and defeat are common in war. Keep an eye on this guy for me—I’ll take care of the rest.”

Kai handed Master Huo over to the Gadfly.

“Brother, there are so many of them, you...” The Gadfly was clearly concerned.

Though Kai was strong, the enemy still had tens of thousands of elite troops.

Even Jie Zhong himself wasn’t weak, and he wielded powerful magic.

“Don’t worry. Crushing them will be like stepping on ants.”

Kai patted the Gadfly on the shoulder.

With that, Kai stepped forward and looked coldly at Jie Zhong. “Will you kill yourself, or shall I do it for you?”

“You brat, you’re just in the first-grade Sanxian Realm. You’re way too arrogant...”

Jie Zhong sneered, summoning his black bow and nocking an arrow, ready to strike.

“Pathetic trash...” Kai scoffed as a bow suddenly appeared in his hand.

It was the God King Bow—a genuine god-level weapon, far superior to Jie Zhong’s.

Kai drew his bow, and a golden arrow materialized.

Both Jie Zhong and Kai released their bowstrings at the same time.

Whoosh...

Two arrow feathers shot out simultaneously, colliding mid-air.

There was no crash, no explosion, not even a ripple in space.

The moment Jie Zhong’s black arrow touched Kai’s golden one, it vanished—completely obliterated.

The golden arrow didn’t slow down. Trailing radiant light, it continued straight toward Jie Zhong.

Boom! The arrow pierced through Jie Zhong’s body without losing any speed!

In an instant, the golden arrow continued its path, slicing through the ranks of Feihu City’s army. After claiming countless lives, it finally dissolved into golden light and vanished.

A deep gully was carved into the earth along its trajectory.

Everywhere it passed, the ground was littered with broken limbs and corpses.

Jie Zhong coughed up blood and dropped to his knees, his eyes filled with terror.

He never imagined Kai's arrow would possess such devastating power.

No one else had expected it either. All eyes were fixed on Kai, filled with disbelief and awe.

Kai, on the other hand, appeared completely calm.

“Big Brother is mighty!”

The Gadfly raised his arms and cheered with joy.

The Rhino City army, previously demoralized and on the verge of defeat, suddenly erupted with renewed energy.

“Mighty!” “Mighty!” “Mighty!”

Their morale surged, and their fighting spirit ignited once more!

Jie Zhong slowly rose to his feet, the wound in his chest shrouded in a black mist that rapidly healed his body.

At the same time, he stared at Kai in horror, clutching a token in his hand before crushing it with force.

He was calling for reinforcements—if he didn't act now, complete defeat was inevitable.

Meanwhile, in a small city deep in the mountains, inside the grand hall of the Eighth Palace...

Huo Zhao was listening to an elder's report, his face dark with rage.

His son had been taken hostage, and instead of rescuing him, the elder had fled back alone.

“Palace Master, those two are holding the prince hostage. One of them is a reincarnated powerhouse—very formidable. As for the young man, I couldn’t see through him.”

“But I believe the young man’s identity may be even more distinguished than the old man’s. With the prince in their hands, I didn’t dare act. I came back to report instead.”

The elder tried to justify his actions as he explained to Huo Zhao.

“Are those two from Rhino City?” Huo Zhao asked coldly.

Chapter 5002

“It shouldn’t be. One of them is clearly human. I suspect this is related to Cangxuan Continent. After all, Feihu City recently plundered resources from there and captured many slaves.”

“This time, it’s likely Cangxuan Continent sent people to rescue them. Rhino City just happened to attack Feihu City while its defenses were weak.”

“I checked—the human slaves were released, and Master Huo went out at that moment, only to be captured by those people.”

The elder made no mention of Niu Ben.

“It seems there are still powerful figures in Cangxuan Continent who can detect reincarnations,” Huo Zhao said, his eyes narrowing. “No matter how many experts they have, if they dare lay a finger on my son, I’ll wipe out the entire Cangxuan Continent.”

His murderous aura surged. Cangxuan Continent was about to face the temple’s wrath—without even knowing it.

Just then, a red light suddenly flashed in the hall. Huo Zhao frowned. “That Jie Zhong is in danger? Useless. He can’t even defeat Rhino City and yet dreams of ruling the entire beast tribe.”

With a cold glance at the man in black beside him, Huo Zhao said, “Go to the border and assist Jie Zhong.”

“Yes!” The man in black nodded and instantly vanished.

At the border, Kai stood calmly, watching Jie Zhong’s body slowly heal. He made no move to attack.

“Well? If you commit suicide now, I’ll leave your body intact. Or surrender and merge all of Feihu City into Rhino City,” Kai said coolly.

“Dream on!” Jie Zhong snapped. “I’ve already called for help. They’ll be here any minute!”

Swish!

As his voice fell, a blur streaked down from the sky.

A man in black, holding a dark dagger, landed beside Jie Zhong.

“The Palace Master said you’re useless, so I’ve been sent to help,” the man said coldly. “Who’s the target?”

Though Jie Zhong was angered by the insult, he knew he had no choice but to endure it under the Palace Master’s rule.

“Kill him,” Jie Zhong growled, pointing at Kai.

The man in black gave Kai a glance and immediately launched an attack without a word.

Kai looked on with disdain, ready to counter, but Hu Mazi stepped in and blocked him.

“I’ll handle this kind of small fry!” Hu Mazi threw a punch!

Boom!

The man in black was instantly forced back. Hu Mazi smirked coldly and vanished from sight in a flash.

The man in black frowned slightly as Hu Mazi launched his next attack. His own body began to blur and flicker, leaving behind afterimages as he assaulted Hu Mazi from all directions.

Seeing this, Hu Mazi’s eyes narrowed, and he began to chant under his breath. Yellow talismans suddenly appeared one after another!

The talismans surrounded Hu Mazi, and the space around him began to tremble. A powerful force erupted from him, surging outward in all directions.

At the same time, the talismans moved as if alive, locking onto and chasing the man’s afterimages.

The man in black was shocked and tried to retreat, but it was already too late!

One of the talismans attached itself to his body—

Bang!

With a loud explosion, the man in black was blown apart on the spot!

Blood sprayed in all directions.

Jie Zhong stood frozen, stunned.

What just happened?

A man sent by the Eighth Palace was killed that easily?

“Old man Hu, stop pretending to be weak—you’re not that old,” Kai teased.

“I can’t fake it like you. Anyway, I’ll leave the rest to you,” Hu Mazi chuckled.

The two of them laughed and chatted as if there weren’t tens of thousands of Feihu City soldiers before them.

Jie Zhong knew clearly: at this point, numbers were their only chance.

“Kill them all!” Jie Zhong roared.

Chapter 5003

Zhong shouted angrily!

The soldiers of Feihu City roared as they charged toward Kai. Their overwhelming numbers seemed to darken the sky, making Kai and Hu Mazi appear tiny in comparison.

Seeing this, Gadfly’s eyes widened as he shouted, “All Rhino City soldiers, heed my command—kill them! Fight to the last man!”

He couldn’t stand by and watch Kai and Hu Mazi face tens of thousands of enemies alone.

That would be impossible.

As Gadfly’s command echoed, the remaining soldiers of Rhino City roared and charged forward!

Their fighting spirit had been reignited by Kai.

Fight to the last man!

This was the burning passion in the heart of every soldier.

“Kill!”

Countless battle cries thundered across the sky.

Fengxian and Bai Yi exchanged a glance, then raised their weapons and shouted, “Kill!”

The melee erupted once more!

Meanwhile, in the hall of the Eighth Palace, Huo Zhao wore a grim expression. He had realized that the man in black he had sent—Shadow—was dead.

“What kind of expert is in Rhino City? Even Shadow was killed!” Huo Zhao said in disbelief.

“Palace Master, shall I take some men and investigate?” the Great Elder suggested.

“No. You lead a team to Cangxuan Continent. Make sure to rescue the prince—and while you’re there, punish the entire continent severely,” Huo Zhao ordered.

With that, he waved his hand lightly, and an old man in a gray robe appeared.

“You three, head to the border. You’re formation masters, and that will give you the upper hand against those armies.”

“Yes, sir...” The three gray-robed elders responded and quickly departed.

Seeing this, the Great Elder had no choice but to organize troops and head to Cangxuan Continent to rescue Prince Huo.

As for whether Kai and the others were truly from Cangxuan Continent, the Great Elder wasn’t sure—it was only a guess.

After all, Hu Mazi was clearly human, and it was unlikely he came from Rhino City. At this moment, on the border, the soldiers of Rhino City were fighting with increasing courage!

Meanwhile, Kai turned into a streak of light, wielding the Dragon Slaying Sword, cutting down the elite soldiers of Feihu City one after another.

Hu Mazi continuously cast spells, and with each incantation, more Feihu City soldiers fell under his magical assault.

Jie Zhong hid in the rear, busily healing himself, his face filled with both anxiety and anticipation.

He could only hope that the Eighth Palace would send reinforcements—and not the useless ones from earlier, who were instantly killed upon arrival.

Just then, three gray-robed old men appeared, each wielding a black staff.

Jie Zhong was overjoyed!

“Masters, please take action!”

“Don’t worry...” replied one of the gray-robed elders.

With that, the three of them began chanting incantations. Runes materialized in the air around them, while mysterious forces spread outward.

Suspended in midair, the three gray-robed figures raised their staffs, which began to weave a strange network of glowing runes.

As their chanting intensified, a massive triangular light array formed above the battlefield—each corner aligned with one of the elders.

“Three Talents Absolute Spirit Array—activate!”

The lead elder shouted, slamming his staff into the air.

Buzz! The spiritual energy in the area instantly solidified.

The Rhino City soldiers were horrified to discover their internal spiritual power had been frozen—they couldn't even use the simplest combat techniques.

Fengxian's sword suddenly felt heavy, and Bai Yi's arrows fell limply from the sky before reaching their target.

"Not good!"

Hu Mazi's expression changed dramatically. Just as he tried to cast another spell, the talisman disintegrated before it fully formed.

Cold sweat beaded on his forehead. "This is an ancient forbidden array—it's specifically designed to suppress spiritual power!"

Seeing this, Jie Zhong was ecstatic. He roared, "Now's the time—attack with everything you've got!"

The army of Feihu City surged like a tidal wave, and the Rhino City soldiers—robbed of their spiritual power—began to fall in droves.

Chapter 5004

The Gadfly barely managed to block two spears, but a third pierced his shoulder, staining his armor red with blood.

"Kai!" Hu Mazi shouted, "This formation—"

"A mere trifle," Kai sneered, and the Dragon Slaying Sword let out a clear, echoing dragon's roar.

He raised the sword toward the sky, and nine golden sword shadows appeared around him. "Break the formation!"

The nine sword lights shot toward a specific node in the triangular light array like falling meteors.

All three gray-robed old men groaned simultaneously, and a small crack formed in the array.

Kai's eyes lit up, and he unleashed a second strike. "Cut!"

The Dragon Slaying Sword transformed into a massive blade, nearly a hundred feet long, and came crashing down. The entire formation trembled violently.

The lead elder spat out blood and cried out in disbelief, "How did he find the core of the formation?"

"Because you're too stupid," Kai replied coldly, suddenly appearing above their heads.

"Brother, catch!" the Gadfly shouted, throwing a bronze mirror to Kai.

It was the same bronze mirror from his mansion, once used to observe the scenes in purgatory.

Kai caught the mirror and directed it toward the three elders.

The surface reflected their panicked expressions as he whispered, "Now, it's my turn."

"Illusion of the Universe!"

The bronze mirror erupted in a brilliant white light, forcing the three old men to instinctively shut their eyes.

When they opened them again, the battlefield had vanished, replaced by a thick, endless fog.

"An illusion?" the elder on the left sneered. "Just a simple illusion—" But before he could finish, countless pale arms emerged from the mist,

dragging him into the abyss. His screams echoed as the remaining two watched in horror.

In reality, the three gray-robed elders suddenly froze, their faces contorting with expressions of terror, bliss, and agony all at once.

Their staffs slipped from their hands, and the light screen of the formation shattered like broken glass. “No... don’t come any closer!”

One of the old men suddenly dropped to his knees, clutching his head and flailing at the air. “I didn’t kill Senior Brother! Master forced me!”

Another stroked the empty space in front of him lovingly, muttering, “Junior Sister... you finally agreed to see me...” Then his face twisted in agony. “What? You’re pregnant with Senior Brother’s child?”

The oldest of them was the most disturbing. He tore open his robe, revealing a chest covered in dense curse runes, then knelt and kowtowed repeatedly. “Master, spare me! I’ll never dare to study forbidden techniques again!”

The battlefield fell into an eerie silence.

The soldiers of Feihu City looked on in horror as the formation masters they had depended on babbled madly, some even turning to self-harm.

Jie Zhong’s face turned pale, and his legs trembled uncontrollably.

“You... what did you do to them?”

His voice quivered.

Kai calmly put away the bronze mirror and replied, “I simply made them face the truths they fear most.” He turned to Hu Mazi. “Can you move now?”

Hu Mazi flexed his wrists, yellow talismans forming at his fingertips again. “These old bones can still fight.” He glanced at the three elders trapped in illusion and murmured, “This is crueler than death.”

It was true.

Time flowed differently within the illusion. The three elders were trapped in a cycle of their most painful, unbearable memories.

The elder brother’s dying curse, the betrayal of a beloved junior sister with their sworn enemy, the moment they were caught secretly studying forbidden arts—every dark secret they had buried deep was now unearthed, relived, and exposed before the crowd.

“Ah!!!” one old man suddenly let out a shrill scream, blood pouring from all seven orifices as he smashed his head with his own palm.

The other two followed—one bit off his tongue, the other gouged out his own eyes.

Jie Zhong finally collapsed. “Retreat! Retreat!”

But it was too late.

The revived Rhino City soldiers charged like beasts unleashed, Mad Immortal’s long sword sweeping up a bloody storm, while Bai Yi’s arrows claimed lives with every shot. Despite his injuries, the Gadfly led the charge. “For Rhino City!”

Kai didn’t pursue the fleeing troops. Instead, he turned his gaze toward the distant Eight Palaces. The Dragon Slaying Sword, sensing its master’s intent to fight, hummed with a low, vibrating resonance.

Chapter 5005

Hu Mazi walked over and followed his gaze. “Waiting for bigger fish?”

“The Eighth Palace wouldn’t send just this trash,” Kai replied, sheathing his long sword. “But before that...” He suddenly turned, pointing the blade toward a patch of empty space. “Seen enough?”

The air rippled, and a figure wearing a bronze mask slowly emerged.

Unlike the earlier man in black, this one had eight jade plates hanging from his waist, each carved with a different ferocious beast.

“Palace Patrol Envoy?” Fengxian’s pupils contracted. He whispered to Kai, “Brother, this time we’re in real trouble.”

The masked man didn’t strike immediately. Instead, he glanced at the three dead gray-robed elders and spoke with a voice as harsh as scraping metal. “An impressive illusion. Who taught you that trick?”

Kai didn’t answer. “What business do you have here?”

The air turned ice-cold. A terrifying aura radiated from the masked man as all eight jade plates lit up at once. “It’s you.”

“I never thought, as just a patrol envoy of the Eighth Palace, I’d encounter a true enemy of the temple. Your name is Kai. You’re the one who destroyed our Ninth and Tenth Palaces, aren’t you?”

“Yes—your grandpa did it!” Kai replied with a nod.

Now that he’d been exposed, Kai saw no reason to hide. He was ready to go all out.

The masked man slowly drew a bone whip from his waist. “I’ll rip out your soul and hang it on the temple’s soul lamp to burn for a hundred years.”

Hu Mazi was about to move forward, but Kai stopped him. “You can’t handle this one,” he whispered. “Take the others and leave. Don’t fight.”

Kai didn't know the exact strength of this patrol envoy, but it was certainly formidable—likely beyond Huo Zhao, the Eighth Palace Master.

And if other temple members were nearby, things could quickly spiral out of control. It was better for Hu Mazi and the rest to retreat first.

If he couldn't win, he'd at least find a chance to escape.

Running was still an option.

The masked man sneered. "No one escapes."

The bone whip suddenly extended a hundred feet, wrapping toward Hu Mazi's neck like a living serpent.

But halfway through, it was sliced apart by a flash of golden sword light.

Kai now floated in the air, a massive golden dragon appearing behind him. "Your opponent is me."

The masked man finally grew serious. "A Golden Dragon? You're from the dragon clan?" He tore off his mask, revealing a face etched with writhing curse marks. "Then I definitely can't let you live!"

The curse patterns slithered like earthworms, covering his entire body in an instant. His body began to distort, sprouting scales and bone spurs, until he transformed into a half-human, half-dragon monstrosity.

The eight jade tablets fused into his body, forming grotesque bone armor at his joints.

"Divine Dragon Transformation!" Fengxian shouted. "Brother, be careful! That's an ancient divine spell!"

The dragon-like masked man let out a sky-shaking roar, sending shockwaves that cracked rocks within ten miles.

He slashed with his claws, unleashing five black beams that tore through space, aiming straight for Kai's throat.

Kai didn't dodge. Instead, the Dragon Slaying Sword split into thousands, raining down like a storm.

"You all go..."

Kai shouted!

The aura of the temple's patrol envoy gave him a strong sense of danger—he had to get the others out first.

"Brother, I'm not leaving! We'll fight with you!"

The Gadfly and the Crazy Immortal stepped forward to assist Kai.

"Xiansheng, I'm staying too!" Bai Yi insisted.

"Kai, I can't go now either!" Hu Mazi declared.

"Damn it, get out of here now! If you stay, you'll just drag me down!" Kai yelled back.

But he was speaking the truth. If they stayed, he'd be forced to protect them, distracting him in a deadly fight.

Even if he couldn't win right now, he could still escape!

And if worse came to worst, he could let the Red Cloud Demon Lord possess him and kill the patrol envoy!

But if the others were caught or controlled by the envoy, the consequences would be disastrous.

Hearing Kai's words, everyone froze. Finally, Hu Mazi waved his hand and said, "Retreat! Don't hold Kai back."

The group began to withdraw. Jie Zhong and the soldiers from Feihu City escaped and finally caught their breath.

However, their losses were heavy—fewer than one-third of their forces remained.

Chapter 5006

The patrol officer stared at Kai with increasingly cold eyes, his killing intent rising sharply.

Sensing the murderous aura radiating from him, Kai gripped the Dragon Slaying Sword tightly in his right hand, his expression turning solemn.

Facing a patrol officer who had transformed into a divine dragon, Kai didn't dare be careless—one misstep could mean death.

“Senior, if I can't hold on later, you must seize the moment to possess me and help!” Kai called out to the Red Cloud Demon Lord.

“Not interested,” the Red Cloud Demon Lord replied lazily, sitting cross-legged in Kai's sea of consciousness.

Kai was stunned, then scolded angrily, “Damn it! You eat my food, drink my water, live in my body, and now you're talking like that? Where's your conscience?”

“Don't always depend on me, kid. You've got to believe in yourself and push your limits. If you don't, how will you ever know how useless you are?” the Red Cloud Demon Lord laughed.

“Damn it...” Kai was speechless.

At that moment, the patrol envoy suddenly vanished. Seeing this, Kai frowned. The next second, he took a step forward and swung the Dragon Slaying Sword from top to bottom!

Boom!

As the sword came down, Kai instantly felt an enormous force resisting him—and in the next instant, his body was sent flying!

The patrol envoy had reappeared and struck out with a punch!

The blow was infused with terrifying killing intent, and the sky seemed to darken under its power.

Kai knew that if this punch landed, he'd be seriously injured—if not killed outright.

But just as the punch was about to connect, a spear shot through the air!

Boom!

The powerful impact forced the patrol envoy to retreat!

Then, a girl in white appeared, holding a spear and wearing a Qiankun Circle around her neck.

She was just about to step onto her Wind and Fire Wheels...

“You’re a patrol officer of the temple, yet you attack a junior—have you no shame?” she asked, staring him down without a trace of fear.

“Who are you?” the patrol officer asked, frowning as he glared at the white-robed girl.

The girl ignored him and turned to the injured Kai. “Are you okay?” she asked.

“I’m fine,” Kai replied, shaking his head. “Thank you for saving me, Miss.” “I should be the one thanking you—for saving so many lives in Cangxuan Continent,” the girl in white said with a faint smile.

Kai was slightly surprised. “Miss, are you from the Cangxuan Continent?”

The girl in white shook her head.

As Kai spoke with her, the patrol envoy grew furious and shouted, “You’re courting death!”

As his words fell, he swung his palm forward. A terrifying force erupted, compressing the surrounding space in an instant.

Both Kai and the girl in white felt their bodies being locked in place, as if frozen.

“Hmph, overestimating yourself...”

The girl snorted coldly, then flicked her wrist—the spear in her hand thrust forward with a sharp stab!

Boom!

The strike pierced through the oppressive force, but it wasn’t enough to fully dispel it. The girl in white was pushed back repeatedly under the pressure.

Seeing this, Kai’s Dragon Slaying Sword let out a dragon’s roar as he swung it with force!

The slash shattered the crushing force completely.

Kai barely had time to catch his breath before the patrol envoy appeared right in front of him.

With no time to swing his sword, Kai could only throw a punch with all his strength!

“Holy Light Fist!”

Boom!

As the punch landed, Kai suddenly felt his body being pulled back—saved by the girl in white.

“Don’t touch him. You’re no match for this one,” she said coldly.

Then she lunged forward with her spear, a flash of purple light glowing at its tip.

The patrol envoy’s expression changed. He countered with a punch from his left hand!

“Mojia Spear?” the patrol envoy exclaimed as he struck.

“I’m surprised you even recognize it,” the girl in white replied, swiftly retreating.

As she did, the spear tip trembled, sending out a flurry of spear shadows that surrounded the patrol envoy.

Chapter 5007

The patrol officer’s eyes suddenly narrowed as he quickly retreated, clearly fearful of the Mohist spear.

Seeing this, Kai immediately swung his sword, aiming to strike while the patrol officer was still hesitant.

“One sword to decide the outcome...”

As he attacked, the Dragon Slaying Sword erupted with sword energy, transforming into a golden dragon wreathed in flames, roaring as it charged toward the patrol officer.

The enemy was too powerful, so Kai used his strongest technique.

In this strike, he channeled not only his immortal power but also the power of the dragon, the origin of fire, and various other forces—fusing them into one devastating blow.

He hoped to end the patrol officer with this single sword.

Sensing the overwhelming power in the attack, the patrol officer's expression changed dramatically—there was no longer any contempt in his eyes.

But by now, he had no way to dodge. The sword was too fast, and the timing too perfect.

The patrol officer roared in rage, crossed his fists, and slammed them forward!

Both fists struck out simultaneously, summoning the full strength of his life force. The entire void twisted from the impact.

Boom!

With a deafening sound, Kai was blasted backward in an instant.

But the patrol officer didn't escape unscathed—his arms were shattered by the sword strike.

Now armless, the patrol officer knew he could no longer continue the fight, and turned to flee.

But the girl in white was already there, her spear pointed directly at him.

A wave of purple light engulfed the patrol officer's entire body!

Gritting his teeth, the patrol officer's soul fled from his body just as it exploded under the purple glow.

"The Mo family's spear truly lives up to its name," the patrol officer's soul muttered as it tried to escape.

“Still trying to run?” the girl in white said coldly, raising her spear to pursue.

But just then, several figures suddenly appeared in the sky.

They were members of the Eight Palaces, intercepting the patrol officer’s escaping soul.

At the same time, the ground trembled—the previously scattered soldiers of Feihu City had returned!

Xie Zhong was among them. He had no choice but to come back, as Huo Zhao was personally overseeing the battle from behind. Xie Zhong wouldn’t dare disobey.

Seeing this, the girl in white stopped her pursuit and reached out to help Kai up.

Kai’s forehead was drenched in cold sweat, and his breathing was labored.

The battle had drained a significant amount of his energy.

Had the girl in white not appeared, Kai wouldn’t have been able to handle the patrol envoy from the temple. He would’ve been forced to let the Red Cloud Demon Lord take control.

As the members of the Eighth Palace arrived, the patrol envoy’s expression grew calm again.

Even though his physical body was destroyed, as long as his soul remained intact, he could rebuild it—it would just take time.

“Patrol envoy...” Huo Zhao stepped forward with extreme respect.

These patrol envoys were like enforcers of the entire temple, specifically responsible for inspecting each branch hall—akin to a disciplinary inspection force.

The patrol envoy's gaze turned icy as he glared at Huo Zhao. "Have someone kill them. You escort me back to the palace. I need to rebuild my body."

"Yes, sir!" Huo Zhao nodded, then turned to Jie Zhong. "Everyone, move! If anyone lets the targets escape, their soul will be destroyed!"

Hearing this, Jie Zhong gave the order reluctantly, "Kill!"

The remaining soldiers of Feihu City all charged toward Kai and the girl in white.

A large crowd, facing only two people.

At this moment, Jie Zhong didn't dare to hold back at all.

Huo Zhao gave Kai a conflicted glance, then quickly left with the patrol envoy's soul under his protection.

If the patrol envoy suffered further harm in his territory, Huo Zhao, as the Eighth Palace Master, would face serious consequences.

Kai frowned as he watched the large group of enemies rushing toward them.

"What are you thinking about?" asked the girl in white.

"I'm wondering if I should run..." Kai replied.

"What's your decision?" she asked with a smile.

"Run..."

And with that, Kai turned and bolted.

Chapter 5008

But before he could escape, the ground trembled, and a group of people charged over!

Gadfly had returned—with reinforcements. Fengxian, Hu Mazi, Bai Yi, Xiu Rui, Nuo Qing...

They had all come back, bringing with them the full force of Rhino City's soldiers!

“How can we abandon our big brother? Kill every last one of them!” Gadfly roared.

The soldiers of Rhino City surged forward, clashing with the troops of Feihu City.

The battle reignited fiercely!

Xie Zhong frowned when he saw this. He had already escaped once but was now forced to return.

This time, he understood there was no way out—if he fled again, he would never survive the punishment of the temple.

“Kill them all! Fight to the last breath!” Xie Zhong roared.

The soldiers of Feihu City knew they had no path left except to fight to the death.

The battlefield erupted into chaos as both sides collided at full force!

Seeing this, Kai also charged forward with his sword, no longer thinking about retreat.

Kai, the girl in white, Fengxian, Hu Mazi—all of them were experts. Among the soldiers, they were unstoppable. Even those in the early stages of the Sanxian Realm couldn't withstand a single blow from them!

Gradually, Rhino City gained the upper hand. Jie Zhong looked around, helplessness and fear filling his eyes.

With his forces crumbling, Feihu City was on the brink of collapse—and he, as city lord, would be finished.

Just as Jie Zhong was falling into despair, a sudden rain of black shadows descended from the sky.

These figures, all clad in black, exuded immense power.

After escorting the patrol envoy, Huo Zhao had dispatched reinforcements from the Eight Palaces.

Their arrival instantly shifted the balance in favor of Feihu City.

Though Kai's group held the advantage in individual strength, the black-clad warriors from the Eight Palaces were all at least second-rank Sanxian Realm cultivators.

It had to be admitted—the strength of the temple was truly overwhelming.

Otherwise, how could the Eighth Palace alone dominate Feihu City and treat its city lord, Jie Zhong, like a mere subordinate?

“Hahaha, brothers, reinforcements are here! The temple's forces have arrived—kill them all!” Jie Zhong's confidence surged!

The morale of Feihu City's soldiers instantly soared!

Kai frowned. He hadn't expected the Eight Palaces to have such overwhelming numbers—and such powerful forces.

But now that the battle had erupted into chaos, retreat was no longer an option.

He could only grit his teeth and fight on!

Just as Kai gripped the Dragon Slaying Sword and prepared to fight to the death, a figure suddenly fell in front of him!

Startled, Kai vanished in a flash. A burst of sword light shot out, instantly decapitating a black-clad warrior from the Eight Palaces.

After taking down the enemy, Kai swiftly caught the falling figure.

“Brother Xiu...” Kai looked down at Xiu Rui.

Xiu Rui was covered in wounds, his breath growing faint.

“I’m relieved... to see you’re safe,” Xiu Rui said, coughing up blood.

Upon hearing that Kai had been left alone in danger, he had rushed over without hesitation.

Bai Yi had even brought everyone from Linghu Square.

“You’re too reckless. Charging into a battle like this is basically suicide,” Kai said, puzzled, as he gently laid Xiu Rui on the ground.

Xiu Rui’s strength was limited. He was only at the peak of the Immortal Transformation Realm and hadn’t even reached the Scattered Immortal Realm.

Coming here to save Kai was practically a death sentence.

“You saved my life. I can’t just stand by while you’re in danger.”

“Even if I die, it’s worth it. Without you, I’d still be rotting in that cage for who knows how long,” Xiu Rui whispered, his breath weakening.

“Don’t worry. I won’t let you die.”

With that, Kai took out the immortal stone he’d found in the treasure land and placed it in Xiu Rui’s hand. “This is an immortal stone. It will heal you.”

“And these pills are refined from top-grade immortal herbs...”

Kai generously brought out every resource he had to help Xiu Rui recover.

Chapter 5009

“Fellow Daoist Chen, don’t waste your resources on me. I won’t survive.”

“I’ve gained plenty along the way. Don’t worry about me...”

Xiu Rui forced a faint smile.

“Don’t talk nonsense! If I say you’ll live, then you’ll live. I have more than enough resources—you don’t need to save them for me!” Kai snapped, his voice urgent and filled with frustration.

If Xiu Rui gave up hope, even a Daluo Golden Immortal wouldn’t be able to save him.

Cough, cough...

Xiu Rui coughed up another mouthful of blood, this time laced with bits of his internal organs.

It was clear his injuries were critical.

“Alright, don’t move. I’ll heal you...” Kai stepped forward, knowing that without immediate treatment, Xiu Rui wouldn’t make it.

“Fellow Daoist Chen, watch out!”

Xiu Rui’s eyes flew open. With the last of his strength, he suddenly lunged forward!

Puff!

A longsword pierced straight through Xiu Rui's body. A black-robed man from the Eighth Palace kicked him aside!

Xiu Rui collapsed once more. This time, the light had left his eyes—he couldn't even speak.

"You bastard..."

Kai's heart surged with panic. He swung the Dragon Slaying Sword, unleashing a blinding arc of sword light that split the sky!

In an instant, the black-robed man was cleaved in two.

But when Kai turned to Xiu Rui again, he found him completely still—silent.

Kai's body trembled, a terrifying murderous intent rising like a tide.

Though they hadn't known each other long, Xiu Rui had rushed to help the moment he heard Kai was in danger.

And now, he had died here. Xiu Rui had died for him.

More black-clothed men from the Eighth Palace were closing in on Kai.

"Kill..."

Kai roared, his face twisted with rage.

"Nine Shadow Sword Technique..."

Kai swung the Dragon Slashing Sword in his hand!

In an instant, multiple figures materialized—eight identical copies of Kai appeared, each wielding a Dragon Slashing Sword!

Swish!

Eight sword lights shot out at once, and in a flash, the dozen black-clad men charging at Kai were all sliced clean in half!

The sudden appearance of so many identical Kais left everyone stunned!

But Kai charged forward without hesitation.

Although summoning so many clones with the Nine Shadow Sword Technique rapidly drained his strength—

It could even cost him his life in the end—

Kai no longer cared. Right now, his heart was filled with only one thing: kill them all!

His Dragon Slashing Sword gleamed with a blood-red aura, and every swing summoned a rain of crimson across the battlefield.

The seven shadows danced in unison with his true form, shredding any enemy who dared approach into pieces.

Corpses piled up like mountains. Rivers of blood flowed across the ground, glowing eerily in the moonlight, dyeing this Shura battlefield crimson.

But the forces of Feihu City and the black-clad warriors of the Eight Palaces kept coming—endless, wave after wave.

Kai could feel his spiritual power draining like floodwaters breaking through a dam. Each swing of the sword felt like it tore through his life force.

His face grew increasingly pale, blood trickling from the corners of his mouth, but the killing intent in his eyes only intensified. One thought echoed in his mind: kill them all!

“Kill—!!!”

Kai's eyes burned red, and the murderous aura around him surged like a tangible force. With every slash of the Dragon Slashing Sword, a new wave of blood poured down.

The soldiers of Feihu City and the black-clad fighters fell like cut wheat, but there were simply too many of them!

“Kai! If you keep going like this, you'll die of exhaustion!”

Hu Mazi shouted through gritted teeth. Talismans exploded in his hands, forcing several attackers back. But his face was pale as paper—his spiritual power nearly spent.

Chapter 5010

“Let's die! Kill them all!”

Kai roared, ignoring all attempts to stop him.

Elsewhere on the battlefield, Fengxian swung his sword, each strike cleaving an enemy clean in half.

But the enemies were endless. His battle axe dripped with blood, and wounds covered his body.

Blood flowed steadily from his injuries, soaking his clothes red. Sweat and blood mixed together, ran down his face, and dripped onto the ground.

Bai Yi was also in bad shape. His breathing had become rapid and labored.

The soldiers of Rhino City, once full of high morale, now found their spirits drained under the relentless tide of enemies.

Wounds covered their bodies, and their strength was nearly depleted. Their weapons felt heavier with each swing, as if every strike cost them everything.

Still, they held their ground—because they knew retreat meant certain death.

The spear in the hands of the woman in white had already snapped in half. Beads of sweat dotted her forehead, and her breathing grew more ragged. Over thirty enemy corpses lay piled around her, but the enemies kept advancing.

Suddenly, several burly black-clad men charged at Bai Yi from the side.

He heard the sound of air splitting behind him and instinctively tried to turn and defend—but it was too late.

A flash of despair crossed his eyes. He thought, “Is this where I, Bai Yi, die?”

At that critical moment, a figure streaked past Bai Yi like lightning.

It was Nuo Qing! His face was resolute, and a faint golden glow surrounded his body—an unmistakable sign of self-detonation.

“Master, go!”

Nuo Qing shouted, his voice filled with unwavering resolve and sorrow.

His body began to swell, the golden light growing more radiant by the second.

The black-clad men sensed something was wrong and tried to flee—but it was already too late.

With a thunderous boom, brilliant light engulfed the battlefield. A shockwave blasted outward like a hurricane.

Several of the black-clad attackers were obliterated instantly, while others nearby were flung away by the force, crashing hard into the ground.

Bai Yi was thrown back by the shockwave and crashed to the ground, blood seeping from the corner of his mouth.

He struggled to rise, eyes locked on the place where Nuo Qing had vanished, filled with grief and fury.

“Nuo Qing!”

Bai Yi roared, his voice brimming with anguish.

Nuo Qing had followed him for many years with unwavering loyalty—but now...

Bai Yi completely lost control. A roar tore from his throat, and his body began to transform!

In moments, a massive nine-tailed fox emerged—Bai Yi had forcibly reverted to his true form, ignoring the danger!

Although this transformation granted a surge of power, it caused irreversible damage to his body!

But Bai Yi no longer cared!

The massive explosion had also caught Kai’s attention. He turned his head toward Bai Yi’s direction.

Upon witnessing Nuo Qing’s self-detonation, the murderous intent in Kai’s heart surged even higher.

“Go to hell!”

Kai shouted, swinging the Dragon Slaying Sword once more. Eight phantoms surged forward like grim reapers, charging into the enemy ranks.

Yet, Kai had already reached his limit.

The eight phantoms began to flicker and fade, and his body wavered unsteadily.

Still, he clenched his teeth and pressed on. Every swing of his sword seemed to drain the last of his strength.

Suddenly, Kai let out a primal roar—one that no longer sounded human. The eight phantoms rejoined his main body at once.

The Dragon Slaying Sword erupted with a blinding blood-red light, and Kai's figure transformed into a crimson meteor, shooting straight into the heart of the enemy formation.

The black-clad soldiers scrambled to form a defensive line—but the moment they clashed, they were torn apart by the overwhelming sword energy.

Wherever Kai passed, the earth cracked and the air distorted, as though even space itself couldn't withstand his violent power.

Chapter 5011

But such a fierce outburst clearly came at a heavy price. Blood began to pour from Kai's seven orifices, and spiderweb-like cracks appeared across his skin.

The woman in white gritted her teeth and rushed to his side, skewering two sneaking attackers with a single thrust. "Do you want to die?!"

Kai turned a deaf ear to her. His eyes held only one thing—killing.

The soldiers of Feihu City, witnessing Kai's frenzied assault, felt a surge of fearless courage rise within them.

They roared, brandished their weapons, and charged the enemy once again.

The battlefield echoed with screams, battle cries, and the relentless clash of steel—a tragic war song forged in blood.

Crimson rivers flowed endlessly, and corpses piled higher with every moment. The entire battlefield reeked of blood and death.

Fengxian looked at the brutal scene before him, and sorrow filled his heart.

He knew that if this continued, they would eventually be annihilated.

But he also understood that there was no retreat. They had only one choice left—fight to the death!

Bai Yi, now transformed into a nine-tailed fox, tore into Feihu City soldiers and black-clad foes alike with claws and fangs.

A glint of resolve flashed in Bai Yi's eyes. He vowed silently that even if it cost him every remaining day of his life, he would avenge Nuo Qing and fight for a sliver of hope for the brothers of Rhino City!

As for Kai, his gaze had turned vacant. Only the obsession with killing remained in his heart.

He no longer knew how much longer he could hold out. But as long as he drew breath, he would never stop—not until every enemy lay dead, for the sake of Xiu Rui and Nuo Qing!

The battle raged on, each side throwing themselves into the brutal slaughter.

No one knew how this fight would end. No one knew how many would leave this Shura battlefield alive...

Seeing all this, the woman in white sighed quietly, then raised her spear skyward. A flash of purple lightning shot into the void.

Suddenly, a deafening thunder roared from the heavens. Dark clouds gathered at a speed visible to the naked eye.

Then, a massive bolt of purple lightning—thick as a water barrel—crashed down, instantly reducing dozens of Feihu City soldiers to charred corpses. Everyone was stunned by the sudden development and momentarily halted their actions. A bronze chariot slowly descended from the clouds. Standing atop it was an old man in purple robes, holding a thunder seal, exuding a powerful presence that demanded respect without a word.

Xie Zhong's expression changed drastically. "Who are you?"

The old man in purple robes scanned the battlefield without replying. His gaze landed on Kai, and he frowned slightly. "Friend, your spiritual power is completely overdrawn. If you continue fighting, you'll die."

Kai raised the Dragon Slaying Sword with a grim smile. "What's the harm in dying?"

Before he could finish, he suddenly coughed up a mouthful of black blood, dropped to one knee, and used the Dragon Slaying Sword to keep himself upright.

The woman in white rushed forward to support him and was alarmed to find that many of his meridians had been shattered.

"Elder Lei, please help him..." she pleaded, turning to the old man in purple.

It was now clear that the woman in white had summoned this powerful elder.

Elder Lei let out a sigh, raised the thunder seal once more, and summoned a storm of lightning.

Bolts of thunder rained down with precision, striking the black-clad soldiers of the Eight Palaces and the troops of Feihu City. Agonized screams echoed across the field.

Sensing the tide had turned, Xie Zhong quickly gave the order to retreat.

The battlefield finally fell into a temporary silence. Yet the blood-soaked ground and piles of corpses served as a grim reminder of the battle's savagery.

Hu Mazi stumbled over, looked at the barely conscious Kai, and gave a bitter smile. "You brat..."

Before he could finish, his expression changed dramatically. He abruptly turned toward the distance. "This is bad! That aura..."

On the distant horizon, a black fog rolled in at terrifying speed. Within it, countless twisted figures writhed, and wherever it passed, grass and trees withered instantly.

The Gadfly's expression turned grim. "It's the Soul-Devouring Demon Army from the Demon Dragon Palace... Looks like they're here to exploit the chaos."

The woman in white clutched her broken spear tightly. Her brows furrowed as she turned to the elder in a hoarse voice.

"Can we... still fight?"

Chapter 5012

Before the woman in white could finish her sentence, a surge of thick black fog had already swept a hundred feet forward. Within the mist, the eerie sound of bones grinding against each other echoed ominously.

Fengxian's expression changed drastically, and his body trembled violently. "It's the vanguard of the Soul Devouring Demon Army!"

Hundreds of skeletons clad in broken armor slowly emerged from the black fog. Green ghostly flames flickered in their hollow eye sockets, and the bone knives in their hands gleamed with a chilling light.

Even more terrifying, each skeleton was entangled in dozens of black, hair-thin threads. The other ends of these threads stretched deep into the sea of mist, as if they were being manipulated by some horrifying entity.

The gadfly staggered to his feet, his arm mangled, and spat out a mouthful of bloody foam. "Damn it... I can still fight!"

The remaining warriors of Rhino City instinctively rallied, surrounding and protecting the wounded Kai at the center.

Bai Yi struggled to stand, picking up a blood-stained long sword from the ground. But the blade trembled slightly in her grip.

Hu Mazi gritted his teeth and pulled out a yellowed talisman—the last of his life-saving charms. "Everyone, I fear this is where we die."

Suddenly, the old man in purple robes threw a thunder seal into the air. Caught by the wind, it expanded to ten feet in size, crackling with countless arcs of lightning. "I've sacrificed a century of cultivation to summon the Nine Heavens Thunder. I'll hold them off as long as I can!"

Just then, Kai's body convulsed violently, and the Dragon Slaying Sword in his hand emitted a sharp, resonant hum.

The woman in white rushed to restrain him. "Don't move! You're too badly injured—"

Before she could finish, Kai's eyes snapped open. They were no longer human, but beast-like vertical pupils with strange, blood-red flames flickering deep within.

Even more alarming, cracks formed on his skin's surface, oozing golden liquid. It floated into the air, forming tiny, shimmering droplets of blood.

A piercing screech rang out from the depths of the fog, and all the skeleton soldiers froze, then turned simultaneously to face Kai.

The purple-robed elder's face turned pale. "This is bad—he's awakening the power of his blood!"

Slowly, Kai rose into the air. The floating blood droplets were drawn toward him, coalescing into a pair of faint, golden wings behind his back. The Dragon Slaying Sword began to emit a golden glow, as if responding to Kai's awakening.

Suddenly, the sea of fog surged violently, and the vague outline of a colossal creature emerged.

It was a bone dragon the size of a mountain, with purple soul flames burning in its hollow eye sockets. Each of its vertebrae was impaled with thick black spikes.

The bone dragon opened its massive jaws—not to let out a dragon's roar, but a chorus of wails, the anguished cries of thousands of tormented souls.

The thunder seal in the purple-robed elder's hand cracked under the force of the soundwave, and blood trickled from the corner of his mouth. "It's the Soul Devouring Dragon Lord... The Demon Dragon Hall actually dispatched such a being..."

Kai, now fully transformed, suddenly let out a thunderous dragon roar. The golden blood wings wrapped around him tightly—and in the next instant, he became a golden dragon.

This was the first true awakening of Kai's bloodline. Before, whenever he activated his power, a golden dragon's phantom would appear behind him.

But now, Kai himself had become the golden dragon!

With a blinding flash, he shot toward the bone dragon like a streak of golden lightning.

The instant they collided, the shockwave shattered every skeleton soldier within a hundred-meter radius.

Golden light and black mist clashed and spiraled in the sky, each impact distorting the surrounding space.

On the ground, everyone was blown back by the intense air pressure. The woman in white barely avoided being swept away by plunging her broken spear into the earth.

She watched in horror as cracks began to form in the fabric of space where the two dragons fought, with flickers of black lightning crackling along the edges.

The purple-robed elder, stunned, murmured, “The power of the golden dragon’s bloodline is terrifying... No wonder the young lady wanted to save him...”

The woman in white looked on in disbelief. “He... he’s really of the golden dragon bloodline?”

Chapter 5013

“Miss, you truly didn’t know?” The purple-robed old man looked stunned.

“I didn’t!” The woman in white shook her head.

The old man gave a bitter smile. “The golden dragon bloodline is indeed powerful, but every time it awakens, it requires the devouring of immense vitality. If that power goes unchecked...”

Before he could finish, the battle in the sky suddenly shifted.

The bone dragon slashed open half of Kai's body with a single claw—but instead of falling, the spilled blood transformed into countless crimson needles that shot back into the dragon's body.

More terrifying still, the bone dragon's joints struck by the blood needles began to dissolve, and its purple soul fire turned a murky blood red.

Realizing the danger, the Soul Devouring Dragon Lord suddenly struck the ground with his palm!

The earth quaked violently, and the land beneath everyone's feet turned soft—morphing into a thick, viscous, plasma-like substance.

Dozens of blood-colored chains shot out from below, dragging the remaining Rhino City soldiers under. Their screams were abruptly silenced, replaced by bubbling sounds rising from the blood-soaked ground.

Bai Yi watched in horror as his legs sank slowly. “What kind of demonic magic is this?!”

The purple-robed old man quickly formed hand seals. The fading energy from the thunder seal shaped itself into a protective shield, lifting everyone into the air. “It's not demonic magic—this is the Blood Prison of the Demon Soul Hall!”

Above, the bone dragon gave a tortured howl. The infected part of its body was spreading at a terrifying rate.

Suddenly, hundreds of thick black tentacles burst from the depths of the fog sea. Covered in suction-cup-like mouths, they latched onto Kai's blood-formed light and began to bite at it frantically.

Each bite drew torrents of blood—but the moment the blood touched the tentacles, it corroded them instantly, releasing clouds of green smoke.

The entire battlefield had become a waking nightmare. The sky was split in two—one half shrouded in blood mist, the other in darkness—while the ground churned like a sea of blood.

With a grim expression, the woman in white let a single drop of blood fall onto her spear. The ornate patterns etched into it began to glow.

Channeling all her strength, she thrust the spear forward, and from its tip, a burst of pure white light exploded outward.

Wherever the light passed, the sea of blood receded, and the black fog dissolved.

The purple-robed old man was stunned. “Miss, that holy light for banishing demons was meant to save your life—how could you use it so recklessly?”

The woman in white didn’t respond. The spear in her hand suddenly soared into the sky, transforming into a white rainbow that shot straight into the heart of the battlefield.

For a brief moment, the world fell utterly silent.

Then, a white light, brighter than the sun, erupted and engulfed everything. For an instant, everyone lost their sight.

As the radiance faded, only a vast black void nearly a hundred feet wide remained in the air, slowly shrinking as it healed itself.

Both the bone dragon and Kai had vanished without a trace. Only the spear remained, embedded in the ground—its surface riddled with cracks.

The woman in white staggered forward and reached for the spear. The moment her fingers touched it, the weapon crumbled into powder.

From the scattered dust, a single droplet of crystal liquid floated upward, solidifying into a small, translucent gem in her palm. Within the gem, a faint wisp of blood pulsed rhythmically, sealed inside.

As the last of the white light faded, a strange and heavy silence settled over the battlefield.

Kai's figure slowly descended from the sky. The golden dragon scales that once armored him were gone, and he had returned to his human form. The golden flames in his eyes flickered, then gradually went out.

He crashed to the ground, his body covered in shallow cracks that bled tiny red droplets. Completely drained of strength, even the slightest movement was beyond him.

But just as the power of his bloodline receded, a darker force suddenly surged from within his body.

It was pure Dao-patterned evil energy—inky black, ice-cold, and terrifyingly alive—as it slithered through his meridians like a sentient creature.

Kai's eyes flew open. In their depths, two strange black runes flickered into view. The runes twisted and writhed as if they possessed a life of their own.

In the distance, the once-frenzied Soul Devouring Demon Army of the Demon Dragon Hall abruptly halted their assault.

Chapter 5014

In the hollow eye sockets of the lead bone dragon, the purple soul fire flickered violently. It slowly lowered its massive head, and its enormous bone claws bent slightly before Kai, forming a strange gesture of respect.

From within the sea of fog, the Soul Devouring Dragon Lord let out a hoarse voice filled with suspicion. "Dao-patterned evil spirit... You're a

beastman—how could you possess the Dao-patterned evil spirit of the Yin Demon?”

Kai barely managed to prop himself up as the Dao-patterned evil energy surged uncontrollably from his body, forming a ring of black mist around him.

“The Yin Demon is my good buddy. It’s only natural I carry his power,” Kai replied calmly.

“Nonsense!” the Soul Devouring Dragon Lord barked. “The Yin Demon vanished years ago. How could he be your buddy? You’re merely at the first rank of the Scattered Immortal Realm.”

“Tell me the truth. If you don’t, don’t blame me for being merciless!”

His eyes flared as he glared at Kai and let out a thunderous roar.

He refused to believe that someone like Kai could have any connection to the Yin Demon.

Even with a golden dragon bloodline, Kai’s strength made such a relationship impossible. The Yin Demon had vanished for millennia—supposedly falling during the ancient war between gods and demons!

At his words, the bone dragon and the skeleton soldiers began to move forward, ready to strike at any moment.

“Then look at this!” Kai suddenly pulled out the God King Bow.

The moment it appeared, the Dao-patterned evil energy from all directions surged wildly toward it.

“The God King Bow?!” The Soul Devouring Dragon Lord’s eyes widened in shock.

Several bone dragons prepared to attack Kai on the spot.

“Stop.”

The Soul Devouring Dragon Lord’s voice rang out hoarsely, laced with a metallic tremor of fear. “Stop everything.”

The lead bone dragon hesitated for a moment. Its soul fire flickered erratically before it slowly backed away.

The sea of fog churned, and the countless skeleton soldiers began to retreat like a receding tide. The attack truly stopped.

Crazy Immortal and the others stared in disbelief, completely unable to understand why the infamous Soul Devouring Demon Army had retreated at Kai’s command.

“I didn’t expect you to be a friend of Senior Yin Mo. My deepest apologies for the offense,” the Soul Devouring Dragon Lord said with a respectful bow.

Then, with a curious glint, he asked, “Senior Yin Mo has been missing for thousands of years... May I ask where he is now?” “The Yin Demon has returned to the heavens. I plan to visit him soon!” Kai said with a faint smile.

“So Senior Yin Demon is still alive... That’s truly a miracle,” the Soul Devouring Dragon Lord exclaimed with a sigh.

“You attacked so suddenly—were you aware that Rhino City and Flying Tiger City were already at war? Were you trying to exploit the chaos?” Kai asked.

The Soul Devouring Dragon Lord nodded. “Yes. The Palace Master ordered me to take advantage of the war between the two major cities of the Beast Tribe and seize both their territories.”

“Do me a favor—leave Rhino City alone. It belongs to my brother. As for Flying Tiger City, you can take it if you like,” Kai replied.

He knew that even without the Demon Dragon Palace's intervention, they wouldn't have been able to hold Flying Tiger City much longer. Behind Flying Tiger City were still eight powerful palaces, and Rhino City's strength had been nearly depleted—it needed time to recover.

“Very well, I'll take you up on that offer,” the Soul Devouring Dragon Lord said.

Without hesitation, he led the bone dragons and the Soul Devouring Demon Army straight toward Flying Tiger City.

Xie Zhong, who had just begun to catch his breath in the main city, believed the crisis had passed and was feeling relieved.

But the next moment, over a dozen cities within Flying Tiger City were attacked simultaneously by the Soul Devouring Demon Army!

Their troops had already suffered heavy losses in the earlier conflict and hadn't even begun to regroup or recover.

This time, they stood no chance. The Soul Devouring Demon Army overwhelmed them, leaving no survivors. Even the beastmen of Flying Tiger City were massacred without mercy.

When Xie Zhong received the news, he coughed up a mouthful of old blood and nearly collapsed.

With no other option, he was forced to send a desperate plea for help to Huo Zhao— Otherwise, Flying Tiger City would fall completely into the hands of the demons.

Chapter 5015

After receiving the news, Huo Zhao immediately led the forces of the Eighth Palace toward the main city of Flying Tiger City!

The patrol envoy had already departed and needed time to reconstruct his physical form.

When Huo Zhao and his army arrived, they witnessed the Demon Dragon Palace's forces rapidly advancing.

Furious, Huo Zhao shouted, "As long as my temple stands, I will never allow the Demon Dragon Palace to set foot in Flying Tiger City!"

The Soul Devouring Dragon Lord frowned at the sudden appearance of Huo Zhao.

"You're from the Temple?" he asked.

"Yes. I am the Lord of the Eighth Palace of the Temple," Huo Zhao replied with a nod. "Flying Tiger City is now under our control. If the Demon Dragon Palace wishes to claim territory, I suggest you find another target."

"I think Rhino City is a better option. Its strength is all for show now—it wouldn't take much effort to conquer it."

In truth, Huo Zhao hoped the Demon Dragon Palace would turn its attention to Rhino City.

Had the Soul Devouring Dragon Lord not encountered Kai and learned of his identity, he would've been tempted to seize both cities.

"This realm is the battleground of our three great clans," the Dragon Lord replied. "Your God Clan always claims to be the fourth race—why are you fighting over our territory?"

"Could a city of the Beast Tribe truly interest your temple?"

The Soul Devouring Dragon Lord's attempt to flatter Huo Zhao only made him uncomfortable.

“Enough nonsense. Leave now or prepare to fight,” Huo Zhao snapped coldly.

The innate pride of the God Clan wouldn’t allow the Lord of the Eighth Palace to bow to demons.

“Fine! Let’s fight—who’s afraid of who?!”

The Soul Devouring Dragon Lord roared in rage.

War broke out.

The cultivators of the Eighth Palace swiftly formed battle formations, and the sky lit up with talismans, flying swords, and divine artifacts.

The Demon Dragon Palace’s bone dragon howled at the sky, and waves of skeleton soldiers surged from the sea of fog. A brutal clash erupted over Flying Tiger City.

“The Demon Dragon Palace and the Temple are actually fighting!”

Fengxian, watching from a distance toward the main city, spoke with amusement in his voice.

“It’s just a dog-eat-dog mess, all bark and fur flying...” Hu Mazi laughed.

But the Gadfly looked uneasy, panic flashing in his eyes.

“What’s wrong?” Kai asked, turning to him.

“Brother, I’m worried that the Demon Dragon Palace may not be able to defeat the Temple. If they retreat and Flying Tiger City ends up in the Temple’s hands, then Rhino City will be in serious danger.”

“I’m sure it won’t be long before the Eight Palaces recover. When that happens, they’ll definitely strike back through Flying Tiger City—and I won’t be able to stop them.”

The Gadfly spoke anxiously.

Although Flying Tiger City had suffered heavy losses, Rhino City wasn't in much better shape.

Sooner or later, Huo Zhao would come for revenge.

And when that time came, Rhino City might not survive.

"You're right—we can't let the Temple come out on top," Kai agreed with a nod.

"But we're all exhausted," said the woman in white. "How can we possibly help the Demon Dragon Palace now?"

They had fought alongside the forces of Flying Tiger City and the Eighth Palace. After that battle, without resting, they joined the fight against the Demon Dragon Palace. Everyone was already stretched to their limit.

"I have a plan!" Kai's eyes lit up suddenly. "Gadfly, go bring Huo Shizi here. Whether Huo Zhao will back off or not depends on how much he cares about his son!"

Hearing this, the Gadfly rushed off to bring Huo Shizi.

Soon after, Kai and his group brought Huo Shizi directly to the main city of Flying Tiger City.

At that moment, the Eighth Palace and the Soul Devouring Dragon Lord were locked in intense battle.

But the longer the fight dragged on, the more unsettled the Soul Devouring Dragon Lord became—because he realized that Huo Zhao, the Lord of the Eighth Palace, was merely a minor figure in the Temple.

The Eighth Palace itself held little weight within the Temple's true power structure.

And the Temple wasn't even the strongest faction within the entire God Clan.

If they truly provoked the Temple over control of a single city, the Demon Dragon Palace might be putting itself in grave danger.

Chapter 5016

At that moment, the Soul Devouring Dragon Lord actually began to retreat!

"Stop..." Kai shouted.

His voice echoed in Huo Zhao's ears: "Palace Master Huo, we meet again, don't we?"

Huo Zhao turned and saw Kai. His expression darkened, his bloodshot eyes narrowing. "Kai! So it was you who captured my son. Let him go immediately!"

"You think I'll release him just because you say so? Don't forget—you were defeated by me."

Though Kai was seriously injured, he refused to lose his imposing presence.

"Hmph, I was only a strand of soul back then, and you used someone else's spirit to possess my body. Honestly, that doesn't count as a real defeat," Huo Zhao retorted coldly.

Huo Shizi was stunned. He hadn't expected his father to know Kai—let alone that Kai was the one who injured him.

"Regardless, your son is in my hands. I demand that you withdraw immediately and abandon Feihu City," Kai said, issuing a firm threat.

"Would you dare harm my son?" Huo Zhao's gaze turned icy.

“What’s there to be afraid of?” Kai sneered. His sword lightly grazed Huo Shizi’s neck, and a thin line of blood appeared. “All we want is Feihu City. You, on the other hand, have to decide between that and your son’s life.”

“Father, save me! Father, please save me...”

Huo Shizi felt the cold blade at his neck and began to cry out in panic.

The battlefield froze in a tense and eerie stalemate.

Huo Zhao’s face turned grim, his fists clenched tightly.

Standing to the side, Jie Zhong was drenched in cold sweat. His greatest fear was that Huo Zhao might choose to retreat in the end.

Feihu City was his! If Huo Zhao gave it up, what would become of him?

He knew all too well—if he lost Feihu City, he would lose his worth as well.

And then, his end would be miserable.

Jie Zhong trembled, silently praying that Huo Zhao would stand firm.

Finally, Huo Zhao gritted his teeth and said, “Kai, if I retreat, will you release my son?”

“Of course. A gentleman’s word is his bond—I can swear it to the heavens!” Kai raised his hand and declared, “If I don’t release your son, may I suffer heavenly calamity and never be reborn!”

Hearing this, Huo Zhao’s expression hardened. After a moment of silence, he swept his sleeve and shouted, “All Eighth Palace troops, retreat!”

“Master Huo, don’t leave—what about me...”

Jie Zhong panicked and tried to stop him.

But Huo Zhao didn't spare him a glance as he turned and left.

Jie Zhong was merely a pawn. Now that he had lost his value, Huo Zhao wouldn't waste another thought on him.

To the gods, even the noble human races were seen as inferior—beastmen like Jie Zhong were nothing at all.

As the Eighth Palace army withdrew, Jie Zhong dropped to his knees with the remaining soldiers of Feihu City.

"We surrender! We surrender..."

He hoped that surrendering might give him a chance to survive.

But the Demon Dragon Palace accepted no surrender. They slaughtered everyone in Feihu City—Jie Zhong included.

The Soul Devouring Dragon Lord looked at Kai with a deep, lingering gaze. His soul fire flickered as he spoke meaningfully: "Fellow Daoist Chen, the Demon Dragon Palace will remember your favor today."

With that, he led his army into the city's heart.

Kai sheathed his sword and released the pale-faced Huo Shizi.

"Thank you for your assistance, young lady. I don't know your name, but I'll be sure to repay this kindness in the future," Kai said to the woman in white.

"My name is Mo Qingyun," she replied with a gentle smile.

"Young miss, we should return. The family head will be worried," urged the purple-robed old man.

Mo Qingyun nodded, then turned to Kai and said, "Thank you for saving the people of Cangxuan Continent. If fate allows, we shall meet again."

After speaking, she followed the purple-robed old man, preparing to leave.

But just as he slowly opened a black hole in the void, Mo Qingyun's expression changed suddenly. A moment later, she coughed up a mouthful of blood.

Chapter 5017

“Miss...” The purple-robed old man looked horrified.

“Elder Lei, given my current physical condition, I won't be able to return for a while,” Mo Qingyun said with a pained expression.

Upon hearing this, the purple-robed old man sighed. “You used the magic-breaking holy light and destroyed the Mo family spear. Now you're injured and unable to return. How am I supposed to explain this to the family head?”

“Elder Lei, please return and reassure my father. I'll go back after a few days of recovery,” Mo Qingyun replied.

“Miss Mo, you were injured on our behalf. We'll provide all the resources needed for your healing until you're fully recovered. I'll also ensure your safety,” Kai said, looking at Mo Qingyun with deep guilt.

“Elder Lei, since Fellow Daoist Chen has said this, you can return without worry,” Mo Qingyun said to the purple-robed old man.

The old man hesitated for a moment, then finally nodded. “Very well, Miss. Please be careful.”

With that, he waved his hand. A bolt of lightning tore through the void, making it tremble. The old man's figure was instantly swallowed by darkness and vanished.

“Let’s return as well...” Kai said wearily, leading the group back to Rhino City.

As for Huo Shizi, Kai had no intention of letting him go. He planned to use him as leverage against Huo Zhao.

If they released Huo Shizi now, Huo Zhao might arrive as soon as tomorrow. In that case, what could they use to resist him?

After returning to Rhino City, the first thing Kai did was arrange Xiu Rui’s remains.

Nuo Qing, on the other hand, had already exploded into ashes—there was nothing left of him.

Though Kai hadn’t known Xiu Rui for long, he had always seen him as a brother.

Hu Mazi looked equally sorrowful. Through their time together, he had also come to recognize and respect Xiu Rui.

“Brother, may you rest in peace. I will avenge you. Everyone in the Eighth Palace will die,” Kai said coldly, gazing at Xiu Rui’s lifeless body.

“Alright, this is fate—don’t blame yourself,” Hu Mazi said, patting Kai on the shoulder.

After a while, the two buried Xiu Rui’s body. Compared to Nuo Qing, Xiu Rui was fortunate—at least he had a body to bury.

He even had a chance at reincarnation, to be born again as someone new.

But self-detonation truly reduces one to ashes, leaving no possibility of reincarnation.

That’s why some people refuse to self-destruct, even in the face of death.

“Go see your father-in-law. I’m sure he’s not doing well,” Hu Mazi said.

Kai nodded and went to visit Bai Yi. After the battle, Bai Yi was clearly much weaker, and Nuo Qing's death had deeply affected him.

When Kai arrived, Bai Yi forced a smile and said, "My dear son-in-law, I'm fine. I've lived long enough to see through life and death."

"Don't worry about me. Just let me rest quietly for a few days."

Kai nodded without saying a word, then turned and left.

Moments after he exited, Bai Yi's quiet sobbing could be heard from the room. Though Nuo Qing was only a subordinate, he had been loyal to the end, sacrificing himself to save Bai Yi. The grief weighed heavily on him.

Afterward, Kai went to find Mo Qingyun.

Mo Qingyun was in poor condition. Her face was pale, but when she saw Kai, she still managed a faint smile.

"Miss Mo, I'm taking you somewhere that will help with your recovery," Kai said.

"Where?" Mo Qingyun asked, puzzled.

"You'll know when we get there." Kai stepped forward, gently pulled her up, and led her directly into the Demon Suppression Tower.

The moment Mo Qingyun entered the tower, she was stunned.

Inside were countless fairy stones, and the fairy energy in the tower was thousands of times denser than outside!

Chapter 5018

"Where is this? Why are there so many immortal stones?" Mo Qingyun asked in disbelief.

“This is the Demon Suppression Tower. I obtained all these immortal stones from a treasure trove,” Kai replied.

“Just focus on your recovery. Inside the Demon Suppression Tower, time flows differently—much faster.” “One year outside equals a hundred years in here.”

“What?” Mo Qingyun looked at Kai in shock. “You’re not lying to me, are you?”

“Why would I lie to you? It’s true. Just cultivate properly—once you leave, you’ll see for yourself.” With that, Kai stopped speaking and quietly began to cultivate.

Seeing this, Mo Qingyun also sat down cross-legged and began her recovery.

While Kai and Mo Qingyun were cultivating, Huo Zhao led the Eight Palaces’ forces to the Cangxuan Continent.

He had two goals—first, to meet with the Great Elder, and second, to find a new place to settle.

Because in the First Heaven, there was no place for the Eight Palaces anymore.

Even their usual speed and dominance had no meaning here.

Huo Zhao’s soul was injured, so he brought the Eight Palaces to the First Heaven to recuperate, taking control of Feihu City to plunder resources at will.

Originally, they believed that with the power of the Eight Palaces, they would be unmatched in the First Heaven.

But no one had expected Kai to show up and stir things up so drastically.

Now, Huo Zhao had to find a new base of operations.

After some thought, the Cangxuan Continent seemed like the ideal choice.

It was vast—over ten times the size of Feihu City—with hundreds of cities. It was also the largest stronghold of the human race.

However, the humans there were generally weak. The ruler of the entire continent was only at the third-grade scattered Immortal level.

With that advantage, the Eight Palaces, along with Feihu City's troops, began plundering the Cangxuan Continent's resources and capturing its people as slaves.

The law of the jungle never changes.

Three days later, Kai had fully recovered, and Mo Qingyun had also regained her strength.

However, her Mo Family Spear was lost forever.

“How do you feel?” Kai asked. “It's been nearly a year since I started recovering,” Mo Qingyun said with a smile.

Kai simply smiled and said nothing as he led Mo Qingyun out of the Demon Suppression Tower.

As soon as they exited, Mo Qingyun was stunned—everything around them looked exactly the same as it had a year ago.

At that moment, Hu Mazi glanced over and casually asked, “You've both recovered?”

“Yes, fully recovered. Do you want to go in and cultivate for a while?” Kai asked.

“No need, I'm doing fine. But I'm running low on talismans—I'll need to gather materials and make more,” Hu Mazi replied.

“Fellow Daoist, how long have we been cultivating?” Mo Qingyun asked Hu Mazi.

“Three days. It’s only been three days outside,” Hu Mazi answered.

“Three days?” Mo Qingyun was shocked. She turned to Kai in disbelief. Now she fully believed what he had said before.

Three days in the outside world had passed, but inside the tower, they had cultivated for nearly a year.

If they continued training in the Demon Suppression Tower, their cultivation speed would be a hundred times faster than others.

Mo Qingyun looked excited at the thought.

But suddenly, her expression changed. “This is bad...”

“What’s wrong?” Kai asked, confused.

“The Cangxuan Continent is in trouble. Someone is trying to forcibly seize control of the entire continent,” Mo Qingyun said anxiously.

“How do you know that? Are you from the Cangxuan Continent?” Kai asked.

Mo Qingyun shook her head. “No, I’m not originally from there, but I’ve lived in the Cangxuan Continent for many years.”

“I’m the eldest daughter of the Mo family. Our family is based in the Second Heaven, but something happened back then, and I ended up in the First Heaven, living on the Cangxuan Continent for a long time.”

Chapter 5019

“The current ruler of Cangxuan Continent is my dear sister. I returned from the Second Heaven because I sensed that Cangxuan Continent was in danger.”

“Originally, I intended to settle scores with Feihu City, but I didn’t expect to run into you.”

“Now, my sister has sent me a telepathic message—someone has started to forcibly seize control of Cangxuan Continent.”

Mo Qingyun followed Kai, speaking honestly and openly.

Since Kai had brought him to the Demon Suppression Tower, Mo Qingyun no longer saw him as an outsider.

So he let down his guard completely around Kai.

“It’s likely someone from the Eighth Palace. I’ll go with you to Cangxuan Continent,” Kai said.

After all, Mo Qingyun had helped him greatly, and now Kai couldn’t just stand by and watch him face danger alone.

He also wanted to visit the human territories, hoping to find Su Yuqi.

“Brother, I’ll come too!” Crazy Immortal suddenly appeared and said.

“You’d better stay in Rhino City. As a beastman, it’s not appropriate for you to go to the human realm.”

“Master Hu, come with me. You’re human,” Kai said to Hu Mazi.

“Ugh, do I really have to follow you around again? You nearly got me killed last time!”

“If I go, what about my two girls?” Hu Mazi complained.

“Bring them along. They’re human too. Taking them to Cangxuan Continent will help them return to a normal life,” Kai replied.

It was unrealistic for the two women to remain in Rhino City, doing nothing while waiting for Hu Mazi every day.

“Alright, fine,” Hu Mazi agreed with a nod.

Kai didn’t say anything more. He simply bid farewell to Gadfly and left.

He didn’t say goodbye to Bai Yi—she was still grieving. Kai had to find a way to send Bai Qian to the heavens so that someone could accompany Bai Yi—this would be much better for her.

Kai and his group headed straight for Cangxuan Continent, taking Prince Huo with them.

If the chaos in Cangxuan Continent was indeed caused by the Eighth Palace, they could use Prince Huo to threaten Huo Zhao.

At this moment, Cangxuan Continent had already fallen into turmoil.

When the Grand Elder of the Eighth Palace arrived with his forces, the continent was already in chaos.

Now that Huo Zhao himself had come with reinforcements, Cangxuan Continent had no means of resistance left.

Within a grand palace in Cangxuan Continent—

The kings of the continent’s three largest nations were gathered.

Among them was Ashnu, Aisha’s father. They were waiting for Lan Lianhua, the ruler of Cangxuan Continent.

But after waiting the entire day, the throne remained empty—Lan Lianhua had yet to appear.

“I say we stop waiting and surrender already. Even if Xuannv comes, she won’t be a match for them. They’re all from the God Clan,” said the King of Dongmeng angrily as he stood to leave.

Ashnu frowned and warned, “If anyone dares act like a traitor, don’t blame me for not showing mercy with my blade.”

“What’s that supposed to mean, Ashnu?” the King of Dongmeng shouted, glaring at him.

“I mean if you want to be a traitor, I’ll be the first to stand against you!”

“We people of Cangxuan Continent can die in battle, but we must not surrender. Haven’t we humans been humiliated enough over the years?”

“It’s because of cowards like you, greedy for life and scared of death, that our race has fallen so far,” Ashnu said furiously.

“You’re full of crap! Say that again if you dare!” the King of Dongmeng roared in return.

“Enough! Quiet down and wait for Xuannv’s decision!” the King of Chelie said, stepping in to calm them.

At that moment, a flash of blue light suddenly lit up the throne.

Seeing this, the three kings immediately dropped to their knees and bowed their heads.

A young girl dressed in blue appeared on the throne.

Chapter 5020

This was Blue Lotus, the one who governed Cangxuan Continent.

“Xuan Nu, 70% of the nations in our continent have already surrendered to the Temple. If this continues, I fear the entire Cangxuan Continent will become a vassal of the Temple!” Ashnu said anxiously.

“Don’t worry. I’ve already contacted my best friend—she’s bringing reinforcements. She’s from the Second Heaven,” Blue Lotus replied.

However, her words did little to calm the three rulers.

They knew the Temple’s invaders were clearly not from the First Heaven.

Moreover, the God Clan was considered powerful throughout the heavens. If not, they wouldn’t have been able to establish their own clan. All of them were known for their overwhelming arrogance and strength.

So even if help came from the Second Heaven, it might not make much of a difference.

“Xuan Nu, do you know when your friend will arrive? I’m afraid that in just a few days, all of Cangxuan Continent will fall,” the King of Dongmeng asked.

“She should be here soon. She can travel through time and space—it’ll be fast. Please, don’t panic...” Blue Lotus replied calmly.

But only she knew how anxious she truly was inside.

Not long ago, they had suffered an attack by Feihu City. They not only lost vast resources, but many of their people were captured and enslaved.

Now, with the Temple’s forces advancing with overwhelming strength, her fear only deepened.

Though the continent was vast and filled with monks, most of them were not strong enough.

They couldn’t possibly resist the Temple’s assault.

Against such an enemy, the only choices left were surrender—or death.

At this point, her only hope lay in Mo Qingyun arriving soon, bringing allies who could help turn the tide.

Just then, in a stretch of sky over Cangxuan Continent, a brilliant white light flashed—and figures began to appear one after another!

It was Kai and his group. But this time was different—they didn't emerge from a teleportation array.

This time, they materialized directly in the air.

Looking down at the towering buildings beneath them, Kai frowned in confusion.

“Didn't we use a teleportation array?” he asked. Kai asked the question.

Just moments ago, while surrounded by the white light, he had felt an inexplicable pressure. He was forced to use his strength to protect himself.

That wouldn't have happened with a regular teleportation array.

“Of course not. This is a space-time shuttle—far more advanced than a teleportation array.”

“A teleportation array requires formations at both the departure and destination points, and they have to be linked,” Mo Qingyun explained as he followed Kai.

“Space-time shuttle?” Kai suddenly understood. “So this is like an upgraded version of teleportation?”

Kai knew that teleportation allowed instant movement from one location to another.

But the usual teleportation range was very limited.

This space-time shuttle, however, covered thousands—or even hundreds of thousands—of miles.

“Something like that,” Mo Qingyun nodded, then dove toward the ground.

Once everyone landed, a man nearby immediately fixed a wary gaze on them.

“Who are you?” the man asked cautiously.

“Is this Cangxuan Continent?” Mo Qingyun responded.

“Yes,” the man nodded.

“I’m here to see your Xuannv...” Mo Qingyun said.

“You’re looking for our Xuannv?” the man looked confused, then asked, “Why are you looking for her?”

“She’s my friend. She invited me here. Is your Cangxuan Continent under attack?” Mo Qingyun asked.

“Yes,” the man nodded again, surprise appearing on his face. “Are you the reinforcements Xuannv sent for?”

“I suppose so,” Mo Qingyun replied.

Kai observed the man and noticed that he had only just reached the Scattered Immortal Realm.

There were other auras nearby, but they were all weak—most only at the Immortal Realm.

It was clear now: the overall strength of Cangxuan Continent was indeed very low.