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He took a deep breath, forcibly suppressing the lingering doubt in his heart.

He had chosen this path; no matter how difficult, he had to keep going!

“Awoo…”

A weak cry pulled him back from his thoughts.

He saw the little fire qilin also poking its head out from the edge of the pit. It seemed that because of its small size, it had been protected by the aftershocks of Chen Ping’s immortal power; its injuries weren’t serious, only a little dizzy.

At this moment, it was licking the bloodstains on Chen Ping’s face with its little tongue, its big eyes filled with worry.

Chen Ping felt a warmth in his heart and stroked its little head: “Little guy, I’m alright.”

However, this tenderness didn’t last long.

A stench suddenly swept in from his side and behind! Accompanied by a low, violent roar!

Although Chen Ping was seriously injured, his fighting instincts remained, and he whirled around!

He saw a giant ape, over three zhang tall, covered in jet-black, stiff fur, its muscles bulging like mountain rocks.

With its bloodshot eyes wide open, its jaws agape, and its massive claws wielding enough to split mountains and shatter rocks, the giant ape lunged fiercely at Chen Ping, who had just managed to get up and was in dire condition!

This giant ape possessed a ferocious aura, clearly having the strength equivalent to a third-grade Celestial Immortal!

It was obviously the overlord of this area, viewing Chen Ping's fall as an invasion and prey!

"Careful!"

Chen Ping tried to draw his sword, but his internal energy surged, slowing his movements for a moment!

Just at this critical moment!

"Awooo—!!"

The little fire qilin that had been perched on Chen Ping's shoulder let out a roar that was completely disproportionate to its size, filled with majesty and fury!

Its small body instantly erupted with a dazzling crimson light, like a small sun, and it leaped from Chen Ping's shoulder, actively facing the enormous giant ape!

It opened its mouth and spewed out a condensed crimson flame, small yet containing pure qilin true fire, scorching towards the giant ape's face!

The giant ape clearly hadn't expected the tiny creature to dare attack first. Its fur was singed by the flames, and in pain, it roared, slowing its attack and changing direction with its giant claws to strike the little fire qilin!

"Bang!"

Although the little fire qilin was agile, the difference in strength was too great. It was struck by the gale-force wind generated by the giant claws and let out a mournful cry.

Its small body flew backward like a kite with a broken string, crashing into a large tree and falling to the ground. Its aura immediately weakened, and the beautiful crimson scales on its body dimmed considerably.

“Fire Qilin!”

Chen Ping’s eyes widened in fury!

The little Fire Qilin was injured while protecting him!

A surge of rage instantly dispelled the excruciating pain and weakness in his body!

His companion’s injury ignited the ferocity within him!

“You beast! You’re courting death!”

Chen Ping roared, ignoring his injuries and forcefully activating the remaining immortal power within him!

Sensing its master’s rage, the Dragon-Slaying Sword hummed, its cold sword light shining once more!

“Five Elements Sword Domain, open!”

Although its range was only a few feet, the five-colored sword domain instantly expanded, enveloping the giant ape!

Sword energy crisscrossed, its power greatly reduced, yet still sharp!

The giant ape, trapped within the sword domain, momentarily froze. Sensing the sword energy cutting through its skin, a hint of surprise flashed in its scarlet eyes, but more so, ferocity!

It roared, swinging its giant claws, attempting to tear apart this hateful domain with brute force!

“Time Slowdown!”

Despite the piercing pain in his soul, Chen Ping activated the Law of Time once more!

The giant ape’s movements visibly slowed for a moment! ”Now!”

Chen Ping moved with his sword, becoming one with it, transforming into a streak of light that tore through the sky! The Dragon-Slaying Sword, carrying his unwavering will and icy killing intent, pierced with unparalleled precision towards the giant ape’s relatively vulnerable throat! ”Pfft!” Blood spurted out! The giant ape’s massive body stiffened abruptly. It looked down in disbelief at the cold sword piercing its throat, letting out a hissing sound. The ferocity and crimson in its eyes quickly faded, replaced by fear and despair.

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Finally, its mountain-like body crashed to the ground, shaking the earth.

Chen Ping, leaning on his sword, knelt on one knee, panting heavily, cold sweat beading on his forehead. This sword strike had almost drained the little strength he had just recovered, and his injuries seemed to have worsened.

Ignoring his own condition, he rushed to the little fire qilin, carefully lifting it and channeling a surge of pure immortal energy into it.

Fortunately, the qilin, being an auspicious beast, possessed remarkable vitality; merely injured, it quickly recovered under the nourishment of Chen Ping’s immortal energy, nurturing him affectionately, though its spirit remained somewhat weak.

Looking at the giant ape beneath his feet, Chen Ping’s heart stirred.

He was new to this place, knowing nothing of it, and his injuries were not yet healed; he desperately needed a guide and a means of transportation.

This giant ape was quite powerful and should be very familiar with this area.

He attempted to communicate with it using his divine sense, conveying his intention to subdue it.

However, though the giant ape was on the verge of death, its eyes still held a hint of arrogance, and it emitted a low, threatening growl, clearly determined to die rather than submit.

Chen Ping frowned slightly, then a golden glint flashed in his eyes.

He no longer suppressed the divine dragon power within him, which originated from the blood of the dragon royal family. A vast, ancient, and supreme dragon might, like a sleeping emperor awakening, slowly emanated from his body!

This pressure was not directed at the physical body, but directly affected the soul and the very source of the bloodline! It

was especially intimidating to demonic beasts!

The once arrogant giant ape trembled violently the moment it sensed this dragon might!

It was an absolute crushing force on a life level, the instinctive fear of a lower being facing a higher ruler!

The ferocity in its eyes vanished completely, replaced by boundless awe and submission. It tried to lower its head, emitting mournful howls to show its submission.

Chen Ping dispelled his dragon aura, walked to the giant ape's head, placed his hand on its forehead, and transmitted a command through

divine thought: “Submit to me, take me away from this forest, and I will spare your life.”

The giant ape showed no further resistance, obediently lowering its head in acceptance.

Chen Ping breathed a sigh of relief, sealed the wound in the giant ape’s throat, and saved its life.

He flipped over and mounted the giant ape’s broad, platform-like back, placing the little fire unicorn in front of him.

“Let’s go!”

the giant ape roared, standing up and beginning its heavy trek through the vast, boundless primeval forest.

Sitting atop the giant ape, Chen Ping finally had the chance to carefully observe this unknown land.

The forest was unbelievably ancient; some ancient trees were so thick that dozens of people would need to encircle them, their canopies blocking out the sun.

The light in the forest was dim, the air filled with the damp scent of decaying leaves and a rich aura of wood spirits, but also concealing countless dangerous auras.

Sure enough, they hadn’t gone far when a venomous crocodile, covered in slime and scales, lurking in the swamp, suddenly leaped out, its massive jaws, filled with fangs, snapping at the giant ape’s foreleg.

This venomous crocodile was roughly at the first rank of the Celestial Immortal realm, and its venom was extremely potent.

Without Chen Ping’s command, the giant ape beneath him roared, raising its other massive foot and stomping down with immense force!

“Bang!”

The earth shook violently, and the venomous crocodile was instantly crushed into a bloody pulp.

With a wave of his hand, Chen Ping used his immortal power to seize the relatively pure essence of flesh and blood from the crocodile’s body, along with an inner core containing poison and water elemental power, and offered it to the little fire qilin’s mouth.

The little fire qilin’s eyes lit up, and it let out a joyful cry, opening its mouth to devour and absorb the energy.

The luster on its scales seemed to have been restored slightly, and its spirit was much more invigorated.

This was just the beginning.

This vast forest of demonic beasts was fraught with danger.

They encountered packs of Bloodfang Wolves with sharp fangs, which Chen Ping swept away with a wide-range sword rain. The wolf king’s inner core and essence blood became nourishment for the little fire qilin;

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They disturbed a swarm of ghost-faced bees capable of spraying paralyzing stingers. Chen Ping used fire magic to create a vacuum, collected royal jelly, and fed it to the little fire qilin.

They also encountered a phantom leopard skilled in stealth and soul attacks, extremely troublesome. Chen Ping went to great lengths, using a trace of the Demon-Suppressing Tower’s aura to intimidate it before finally killing it. The essence of its soul power greatly benefited the little fire qilin.

Along the way, Chen Ping, like a top-tier hunter, used his rich combat experience and powerful application of laws to command the giant ape, slaying one powerful demonic beast after another.

The inner cores, essence blood, and soul fragments of these demonic beasts became the best food to feed the little fire qilin.

The little fire qilin grew at a visible speed.

Its body had grown slightly larger, its crimson scales were more vibrant and dazzling, faintly shimmering with light, and the qilin true fire it breathed out was increasingly condensed and scorching. The aura it emitted was already approaching the level of the Human Immortal Realm.

It seemed to enjoy the process of fighting and devouring, and its cooperation with Chen Ping became increasingly seamless, often providing early warnings or assisting in attacks.

Chen Ping himself, amidst this intense battle and constant healing, was slowly recovering from his injuries, gaining more refined control over his power, and gradually increasing his adaptability to the new environment.

He was like a young dragon venturing into the wilderness, beginning to use his claws to carve a path to survival for himself and his companions in this forest where danger and opportunity coexist.

The giant ape carried Chen Ping and the little fire unicorn, traveling for an unknown amount of time through the dense, primeval jungle.

The surrounding trees grew increasingly tall and thick, the dense spiritual energy almost condensing into a tangible mist, but this also meant that the level of hidden danger was constantly rising.

Chen Ping remained highly vigilant, his divine sense spreading outwards like an invisible spiderweb, sensing every rustle of wind.

Suddenly, the giant ape beneath him let out a low, excited roar, its pace noticeably quickening, even showing a hint of urgency, as it charged forward in one direction.

Its thick arms parted the layers of huge, wall-like vines and ferns, as if rushing toward a specific goal. Chen Ping's heart stirred slightly. Could this giant ape have discovered some rare and precious treasure?

He patted the giant ape's rough neck, signaling it to calm down, while simultaneously becoming even more vigilant.

The little fire qilin also seemed to sense something, waking from its slumber, perching on Chen Ping's shoulder, its nostrils flaring slightly, its crimson eyes gleaming with curiosity.

Passing through the last natural barrier formed by thorns, the scene before them suddenly opened up.

This was a small basin located in the heart of a valley, where sunlight could filter through the sparse canopy of trees.

In the center of the basin, the soil was a strange dark red, as if it had been soaked in blood. And on that dark red soil, several strangely shaped plants were growing!

The plants were entirely blood red, crystal clear, like they were carved from the finest red jade, their canopies forming perfect cloud shapes, layer upon layer, emitting an extremely rich life essence and a unique, bloody fragrance.

Just smelling that fragrance made Chen Ping feel his blood and qi surge slightly, and even the recovery of his injuries seemed to accelerate slightly.

"This is... a Blood Spirit Mushroom? And it's at least ten thousand years old!"

Chen Ping's eyes instantly lit up with surprise.

The Blood Spirit Mushroom is a top-tier natural treasure used to temper the physical body, replenish blood and qi, and even repair soul injuries. It's extremely rare even in the Nine Heavens, and he never expected to encounter several in this unfamiliar forest!

For him and the little fire qilin, who were still recovering from serious injuries, this was like a godsend!

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He couldn't help but look at this seemingly clumsy giant ape with newfound respect, never expecting it to be so intelligent, able to find such a treasure trove.

However, just as Chen Ping leaped off the ape's back, preparing to pick the tempting Blood Spirit Mushroom ,

"Roar—!!!"

A more ferocious roar, filled with boundless rage and killing intent, exploded like thunder from the dense forest on the other side of the basin!

Immediately afterward, a giant ape of equal size, but with dark gold fur and an even more ferocious and violent aura, crashed through the trees like a moving mountain, bursting forth!

This newly appeared dark gold giant ape was even more robust than the one Chen Ping had tamed, its eyes bloodshot.

It stared intently at Chen Ping and his mount, especially when it saw the Blood Spirit Mushrooms, its fury almost bursting forth!

"Roar!!!"

The black-furred giant ape beneath Chen Ping was equally unyielding, standing upright and pounding its solid chest with its thick forelimbs, producing a thunderous roar like war drums.

Its crimson eyes glared back at its opponent, a terrifying killing intent emanating from it.

The two colossal creatures faced off across the distance, their violent auras clashing, whipping up withered branches and fallen leaves into small whirlwinds.

At this moment, how could Chen Ping not understand?

This wasn't a kind offer from the giant ape to help him find treasure;

it was clearly using him as a tool to seize the territory and ownership of the Blood Spirit Mushroom!

The black-haired giant ape and the dark-gold giant ape were obviously sworn enemies, and the Blood Spirit Mushroom was the focus of their struggle!

"What a cunning beast!"

Chen Ping was both amused and exasperated, but now that things had come to this, he couldn't possibly give up these few Blood Spirit Mushrooms that were so vital to him.

Moreover, the hostility emanating from the dark-gold giant ape had already enveloped them all.

"Little Qilin, prepare to attack!"

Chen Ping shouted, and the Dragon Slayer Sword was drawn again, its cold blade pointing at the dark-gold giant ape.

Since they were now caught up in this territorial battle between demonic beasts, they decided to end it quickly!

The little fire qilin roared with fighting spirit, its body radiating crimson light, eager to fight.

“Roar!”

Almost as soon as Chen Ping finished speaking, the dark golden giant ape couldn’t hold back any longer and launched the first attack!

Its massive body displayed agility disproportionate to its size, like a golden lightning bolt, rushing straight at the black-haired giant ape, its huge fist slamming down with a shrill whistling sound that tore through the air! The

black-haired giant ape roared and met the attack head-on, the two giant fists, like battering rams, colliding fiercely!

“Boom!!!”

A visible shockwave exploded in a ring, cracking the ground and sending sand and stones flying!

Both giant apes were power-type demonic beasts, and each collision shook the earth, a pure battle of physical strength, full of the most primal and savage violent beauty.

Chen Ping didn’t hesitate, his figure blurring as he entered the fray like a ghost.

Instead of engaging the Dark Gold Giant Ape head-on, he used his speed and exquisite swordsmanship to specifically target its relatively vulnerable points such as joints and eyes.

Multicolored sword light swirled, and the Time-Slowing Domain occasionally enveloped it, causing the Dark Gold Giant Ape considerable trouble.

The Little Fire Qilin circled the perimeter, seizing opportunities to spew forth scorching Qilin True Fire.

Although it couldn't inflict fatal wounds on the thick-skinned Dark Gold Giant Ape, the constant burning of its fur and interference with its vision greatly annoyed it.

Despite its strength, the Dark Gold Giant Ape quickly fell into a disadvantageous position facing the combined attack of a human, a Qilin, and another of its own kind, especially Chen Ping's elusive swordplay imbued with the power of laws.

New wounds continuously appeared on its body, bleeding profusely, and its movements became increasingly sluggish.

Finally, after Chen Ping unleashed a sharp sword light infused with the power of spatial cutting, severing the tendon of one of its legs, the Dark Gold Giant Ape let out a mournful cry of despair, its massive body crashing to the ground.

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Seizing the opportunity, the black-haired giant ape pounced forward, slamming its fist into the giant ape's head with all its might!

"Crack!"

The sound of the skull shattering was clearly audible.

The dark-gold giant ape struggled a few times, but finally its breath ceased, its crimson eyes losing their luster.

The battle was over, leaving only heavy breathing in the basin.

The black-haired giant ape stood beside its opponent's corpse, letting out a triumphant roar, proclaiming ownership of this treasure land and the Blood Spirit Mushrooms.

Kai sheathed his sword, calming his turbulent blood.

He walked to the three Blood Spirit Mushrooms, radiating an alluring glow, his heart filled with joy, preparing to reach out and pluck them.

However, a gigantic hand covered in black fur blocked his way.

Kai was startled, turning to look at the black-haired giant ape, his brow furrowing slightly.

Was this beast planning to betray him?

But there was no hostility in the giant ape's eyes. It growled, pointing its massive finger at the Blood Spirit Mushrooms, then at itself, and then clumsily gesturing.

Kai's doubts deepened, and he temporarily withdrew his hand, wanting to see what the giant ape was going to do.

The black-haired giant ape cautiously approached a Blood Spirit Mushroom. Instead of roughly pulling it up as Kai had expected, it

extended its rough fingers and, with a gentle touch completely disproportionate to its size, lightly touched the edge of the mushroom's cap.

The next moment, something strange happened!

The crystal-clear Blood Spirit Mushroom, brimming with abundant life essence, visibly dimmed and withered the instant it was touched!

It was as if all its essence had vanished in an instant, ultimately turning into a small clump of lifeless ashes that dissipated into the air.

Kai was dumbfounded. What was going on?

Had he picked it incorrectly?

Just as he was filled with astonishment, the black-haired giant ape made an even more unexpected move.

It let out a low growl, its chest heaving violently, as if gathering something.

A moment later, a drop of essence blood, the size of a pigeon egg, dark golden in color, seemingly containing flowing blood and radiating astonishing energy fluctuations, was slowly forced out of its mouth. The drop of blood essence hovered in the air, radiating powerful life energy and the unique aura of the giant ape.

Then, the giant ape controlled the drop of blood essence, slowly dripping it onto another intact Blood Spirit Mushroom.

The moment the blood essence touched the Blood Spirit Mushroom, another change occurred!

The Blood Spirit Mushroom did not wither; instead, like lamp oil being lit, it suddenly emitted a dazzling crimson light!

The entire mushroom began to soften and liquefy, ultimately transforming into a wisp of extremely pure crimson essence, containing immense blood energy and some strange life law!

This wisp of crimson essence seemed to possess sentience, swirling once in the air before, like a swallow returning to its nest, actively and swiftly disappearing into the chest area of the black-haired giant ape from which the blood essence had dripped.

“Buzz—!”

A powerful surge of blood energy erupted from the black-haired giant ape’s body; its stamina, previously depleted in battle, seemed to recover by more than half in an instant.

The healing speed of its wounds noticeably accelerated, and even its aura subtly strengthened!

It let out a satisfied growl, looking at Kai with a knowing look in its eyes.

Kai stood rooted to the spot, his heart churning with shock!

He understood completely!

This Blood Spirit Mushroom wasn't like ordinary spiritual herbs that could be directly picked and consumed!

It was extremely special, containing a strange life contract or bloodline lock?

Directly touching and picking it would only cause its essence to dissipate instantly.

Only by using one's own blood essence as a guide, communicating and resonating with it in a special way, could one perfectly absorb the immense essence it contained and make it one's own!

This black-haired giant ape wasn't abandoning him after using him; it was teaching him the unique laws of spiritual herb absorption in this other world in the most direct way!

This Tenth Heaven was indeed full of profound mysteries different from the lower realm!

Kai looked at the remaining few Blood Spirit Mushrooms, then at the little fire unicorn beside him, who was staring expectantly and making gurgling sounds in its throat. A flash of understanding and determination appeared in his eyes.

He took a deep breath and, imitating the giant ape, circulated his internal energy, forcing out a drop of pale golden essence blood containing the power of the divine dragon.Having grasped the secret of the Blood Spirit Mushroom, Kai no longer hesitated.

He held his breath, concentrating all his attention on the drop of pale golden essence blood at his fingertips. This essence blood not only contained his immense blood and qi power, but also a trace of supreme majesty originating from the divine dragon bloodline.

Following the giant ape's example, he carefully dripped this drop of essence blood onto the last Blood Spirit Mushroom, which also appeared to be the oldest and most spiritually potent.

"Buzz—"

The moment the essence blood touched the Blood Spirit Mushroom, a blood-red light even more intense than when the giant ape absorbed it shot into the sky!

The Blood Spirit Mushroom seemed to be infused with a soul, trembling violently, its entire body becoming transparent, with what appeared to be golden dragon shadows swimming within.

Then, it rapidly liquefied, transforming into a vast stream of essence energy far thicker and deeper in color, almost dark gold!

This vital energy swirled in the air, radiating a pressure that even made the giant black-haired ape beside him tremble. Then, like a hundred rivers flowing into the sea, it instantly entered Kai's brow, flowing straight through his limbs and bones!

"Boom—!"

Kai felt an indescribable torrent explode within his body!

This energy was pure and domineering, perfectly matching his own Chaotic Immortal Power and Divine Dragon Bloodline.

It frantically washed over his meridians, nourished his internal organs, and repaired his deepest hidden injuries.

He dared not delay, immediately sitting cross-legged and circulating his cultivation technique to guide this vast energy.

His body was like a bottomless pit, greedily absorbing the life essence brought by the Blood Spirit Mushroom.

The wounds on his body healed, scabbed over, and fell off at a visible speed, revealing new skin.

The broken bones inside his body made soft “crackling” sounds as they were reconnected by stronger bone tissue. His

originally weak soul, like a parched land receiving sweet rain, quickly became full, solid, and even stronger than before his injury!

After an unknown amount of time, Kai’s surging aura gradually subsided. He suddenly opened his eyes, and two tangible beams of light flashed by. He stood up, feeling the surging, seemingly inexhaustible power within him, and couldn’t help but let out a long roar that shook the surrounding area, even causing the ancient trees to tremble! Chen

Ping stood in the basin, his aura surging and harmonious. His previously severe injuries had been completely healed under the nourishment of the abundant essence of the ten-thousand-year-old Blood Spirit Mushroom.

His cultivation had even made a significant leap forward from the seventh rank of the Human Immortal Realm, and his condition was better than ever before.

The process of the drop of pale golden blood on his fingertip resonating with the Blood Spirit Mushroom, transforming it into the purest life energy, still replayed in his mind.

The laws of heaven and earth and the characteristics of spiritual creatures in this Tenth Heaven were indeed vastly different from those in the lower realm. If it weren’t for this black-haired giant ape’s personal demonstration, he probably would have truly wasted its precious resources.

He looked at the black-haired giant ape beside him, his gaze lessening its previous exploitative intent and more showing genuine recognition.

Although this giant ape's intelligence wasn't fully developed, its wisdom in surviving in the cruel forest and its dedication to its territory's resources were worthy of respect.

"Let's go, take me away from this forest."

Kai transmitted the message with his divine sense, then mounted the giant ape's broad back once more.

The little fire qilin nimbly leaped onto his shoulder, affectionately nuzzling his cheek. Although it hadn't directly absorbed the blood spirit mushroom, the pure aura naturally emanating from Kai upon his recovery made its scales shine even brighter.

The giant ape let out a low growl and began its heavy journey in the direction it had indicated earlier.

However, as they left the basin where the blood spirit mushroom grew, Kai clearly sensed that the giant ape's steps had become unusually heavy and slow.

Its enormous head kept looking back at the dark red land, its massive, bell-like eyes revealing an undisguised deep longing and reluctance.

This was not only the land of glory it had reclaimed after defeating its nemesis, but also the foundation upon which it relied for survival and power.

Kai was not a heartless man; clear distinctions between gratitude and resentment were his principles. This giant ape had shown him kindness, guiding him, teaching him, and helping him recover. Forcibly taking it away from this blessed land would be tantamount to severing its path to enlightenment; he couldn't bring himself to do such a thing.

After a moment's hesitation, Kai patted the giant ape's rough, rock-like neck and gently transmitted his divine sense: "Alright, you can stay here. Protect this place and cultivate diligently."

The giant ape's massive body trembled violently, and it stopped in its tracks.

It slowly turned its head, its scarlet eyes filled with disbelief, followed by a surge of immense gratitude.

It set down Kai and the little fire qilin, then lowered its forelimbs to the ground, its ferocious head bowing solemnly three times to Kai, emitting a low, respectful whimper.

This was the way a demon beast expressed its highest gratitude and submission.

Kai smiled slightly and accepted the bow.

He confirmed again the direction the giant ape had indicated for leaving the forest, and the giant ape nodded vigorously, letting out a low, affirmative roar.

"Take care,"

Kai said one last time, then without hesitation, he took the little fire qilin and transformed into a wisp of green smoke, swiftly disappearing into the dense jungle, leaving the basin and the loyal giant ape behind.

Relying on the giant ape's guidance and his own powerful divine sense to navigate, Kai swiftly traversed the dense primeval forest.

He no longer actively provoked demonic beasts, concealing his aura to the extreme, moving through the forest like a ghost.

Only when some demonic beasts with keen senses or strong territorial instincts launched an attack would he strike swiftly, eliminating them as quickly as possible.

This avoided prolonged battles and allowed him to harvest the essence contained within the demonic beasts, most of which he fed to the little fire qilin on his shoulder, who was watching him expectantly.

This forest, known as the edge of the Ten Thousand Beasts Mountain Range, was far more vast and dangerous than Kai had initially anticipated.

He even encountered a Thorn Earth Dragon whose strength was comparable to a fifth-grade Celestial Immortal.

The creature lurked beneath a thick layer of humus, launching a sudden attack. Its massive, barbed body possessed astonishing strangulation power and could even spew out venom with a potent paralyzing effect.

Kai fought it off for a full incense stick's time, finally managing to kill it by using the momentary slowing effect created by the laws of time to pierce its relatively vulnerable sk This battle gave him a more direct understanding of the strength of the Tenth Heaven's demonic beasts, making him more cautious.

Along the way, he also discovered more spiritual plants unique to the Tenth Heaven.

There was a glowing Moonflower Mushroom, which only appeared at night when absorbing the essence of the moon. Touching it would trigger hallucinogenic spores, but if carefully wrapped with divine sense and slowly guided with one's own energy, it could nourish the soul.

There was also a Thunder-Patterned Fruit growing on lightning-struck wood, with tiny arcs of electricity dancing on its surface. Direct consumption would damage the meridians, but if slowly refined with the power of the thunder laws, it could temper the body and enhance the power of the thunder's origin.

Kai tried them one by one. Although they were not as amazing as the Blood Spirit Mushroom, they gave him a deeper understanding of how to utilize the resources of the Tenth Heaven, and his own foundation was steadily accumulating.

The little fire qilin followed him, constantly feasting.

The essence of the flesh and blood of various demonic beasts, their inner cores, and the pure energy released when Kai refined the spiritual plants all became its resources for growth.

Its size increased visibly, now resembling that of a small colt. No longer able to perch securely on Kai's shoulder, it strutted proudly alongside him.

Its crimson scales shone even brighter, their edges tinged with gold. The two small bumps on its forehead seemed to have grown larger, and the Qilin True Fire it breathed was hotter and deeper in color.

Ordinary first or second-grade Celestial Immortals would be instantly reduced to charcoal if struck by it.

Its understanding with Kai also grew daily; often, a single glance was enough for them to understand each other's intentions.

After traveling cautiously for about seven or eight days, the surrounding forest finally began to thin.

Tall trees were gradually replaced by low shrubs, the sky opened up, and the dense, savage, and ferocious aura in the air gradually faded, replaced by a more orderly and clear spiritual energy.

Kai knew he was about to leave this vast forest that had given him his first lesson.

Just as Kai was about to step out of the last patch of bushes at the edge of the forest, a series of intense sounds of clashing weapons, the roar of an energy explosion, and angry shouts clearly reached his ears.ull with the Dragon Slayer Sword. He immediately stopped, signaling the little fire qilin to conceal its aura. The two, as if blending into their environment, silently crept behind a dense thicket of thorns, peering out through the gaps.

Ahead lay a relatively open hilly valley, where a fierce chase was unfolding, the odds heavily against them.

Five cultivators, dressed in identical black robes with a grotesque, twisted ghostly head embroidered in gold thread on their cuffs, seemingly devouring souls, were attacking two people.

The two being attacked were peculiar in appearance, not purely human.

The man was extremely burly, nearly ten feet tall, with bulging muscles and faint tiger stripes on his bronze skin.

A clear “king” character mark was prominently displayed on his forehead. He wielded a massive axe the size of a door, swinging it with ferocious force, exuding the fierce aura of a king of beasts.

The woman, on the other hand, was agile, with wheat-colored skin and a wild beauty. Her eyes were unusual vertical pupils, revealing a sharp and cunning nature.

Behind them, a long, fluffy tail with iridescent rings swayed nimbly, and they held a pair of short, gleaming spikes.

They exuded a powerful demonic aura, but this aura was not the chaotic ferocity of uncivilized beasts in the forest; rather, it was refined and ordered through some kind of cultivation technique, revealing the proficiency of a well-trained beast race!

At this moment, the male and female beast races were at their last gasp.

The man’s hand was split open, blood staining the axe handle, and his body was covered in deep, bone-revealing wounds, especially a claw mark on his back that almost exposed his internal organs; his breathing was heavy and labored.

The woman was slightly better off, but her movements were noticeably slower. Her left shoulder was charred black, clearly injured by some kind of insidious magic; blood dribbled from the corner of her mouth, and her vertical pupils were filled with rage and defiance.

“Hehehe… You two ungrateful beasts! If you don’t hand over the map of the Beast Soul Crystal mine, the next strike will extract your souls and refine them into my Myriad Soul Banner, ensuring you’ll never be reincarnated!”

The leader, a man in black robes, possessed strength reaching the fifth rank of the Celestial Immortal Realm. He wielded a Soul-Summoning Banner shrouded in black mist, its surface displaying countless contorted faces of pain, emitting silent wails.

As he shook the banner, emitting a chilling howl that disturbed the mind, he laughed coldly.

“Bah! You scum of the Myriad Souls Demon Sect! Bandits!”

Despite his severe injuries, the tiger-striped man’s eyes blazed with fury, his voice booming like thunder: “The Ten Heavens are vast and boundless, you have your own territory, why do you repeatedly invade my Myriad Beasts Mountain Range, forcibly seizing the Beast Soul Crystal mines upon which my race depends for survival? Such actions are no different from those of the extraterrestrial demons!”

“Hmph, the strong prey on the weak, it is the ultimate principle of heaven and earth! Your beast race occupies this precious land yet does not strive for progress, you should become the resources for the rise of my Myriad Souls Demon Sect!”

Another black-robed man grinned maliciously, summoning a ghastly green skull that spewed highly corrosive poisonous fire towards the leopard-tailed woman.

“To protect the mountain range, I will die a thousand deaths!”

The leopard-tailed woman shouted fiercely, her twin daggers crossed, unleashing two intersecting beams of cold light, barely blocking the poisonous fire, but her body was once again shaken back.

Myriad Souls Demon Sect!Hidden in the shadows, Kai's eyes sharpened like a hawk the instant he heard those four words, a chilling killing intent rising from the depths of his heart!

All caution and thoughts of temporarily avoiding the limelight were cast aside in that instant!

It was truly a case of searching high and low without finding it, only to have it come to him effortlessly!

That old dog, the Soul Devourer, was hiding within the Myriad Souls Demon Sect!

Seeing that the black-robed leader seemed to have lost patience, the Myriad Souls Banner in his hand shone brightly with black light,

condensing into a gigantic ghostly claw, carrying a mournful soul howl, grabbing towards the head of the almost powerless tiger-striped man—clearly intending to kill.

Kai no longer hesitated!

"Little Qilin, attack!"

Before the words were even finished, his figure shot out from the thorn bushes like an arrow released from a bow!

While still in mid-air, the Dragon-Slaying Sword was already unsheathed, its cold light illuminating the slightly dim valley!

"The Five Elements revolve, the sword shatters all laws!"

He held nothing back, unleashing a killing move infused with his deepest understanding of the Five Elements laws!

A condensed sword aura, shimmering with multicolored light and seemingly containing countless tiny worlds within, tore through the air.

Carrying an unwavering and resolute killing intent, it arrived faster than expected, instantly traversing dozens of feet, aiming directly at the black-robed leader's brow and sea of consciousness!

This sword strike!

Fast!

Ruthless!

Precise!

It also contained an unparalleled sword intent of judgment and annihilation!

Chapter 5751

The black-robed leader's entire attention was focused on the beastman before him, completely unprepared for a sudden, ruthless attack from his side and rear, and with such terrifying strength!

By the time he felt the bone-chilling killing intent and the unparalleled sharpness of the sword energy, it was already too late!

In his haste, he could only hold the Myriad Soul Banner horizontally in front of him, unleashing his full demonic energy, creating numerous ghostly shadows on the banner in an attempt to block the attack.

However, before Kai's supreme sword strike, which fused multiple laws and was driven by chaotic immortal power, his defenses were as flimsy as paper!

"Swoosh—!"

There was no deafening roar, only a soft sound, like cloth being torn.

The five-colored sword energy, like a hot knife through butter, easily pierced through the Myriad Soul Banner's layers of black energy protection, then precisely pierced through the black-robed leader's brow!

The black-robed leader's movements instantly froze, his face still showing an expression of shock and disbelief, his pupils rapidly dilating.

The next moment, his body, like a sand sculpture weathered by time, began to crack from his brow, countless spiderweb-like fissures appearing. Then, with a "bang," his soul, along with his body, was completely annihilated, turning to ashes!

Only the broken Ten Thousand Souls Banner and a storage ring clattered to the ground.

Silence!

Deathly silence!

The sinister smiles on the faces of the remaining four black-robed men froze instantly, replaced by boundless fear and horror!

They hadn't even seen how the newcomer appeared; their strongest leader had already been instantly killed?!

The two beastmen were also stunned. The dazed feeling of surviving the ordeal made them forget to react for a moment, staring blankly at the tall figure who had suddenly appeared, dressed in a blue robe, wielding a blood-dripping longsword.

Kai established his authority with a single sword strike, without pausing. The Dragon-Slaying Sword emitted a pleasant, light hum, the sword moving with him!

"Space-Time Domain, open!"

Centered on him, the space within a ten-foot radius slightly distorted, and the flow of time became viscous and slow!

The four black-robed figures, whose strength ranged from the second to fourth rank of the Celestial Immortal Realm, instantly felt as if they were sinking into an invisible quagmire. Every movement became incredibly difficult, and the circulation of their demonic energy became extremely sluggish!

“Die!”

The cold word escaped Kai’s lips.

The sword light rose again, like the scythe of death, drawing a deadly trajectory within the confined spacetime.

“No!”

“Spare me!” The piercing screams and pleas for mercy abruptly ceased.

A flash of sword light, and four heads flew into the air, their faces filled with terror and despair.

The headless corpses swayed and fell, blood gushing out like a fountain, staining the ground red. Their souls, attempting to escape, were pulverized by the lingering sword energy within the domain.

From Kai’s appearance to the complete annihilation of the five disciples of the Myriad Souls Demon Sect, the entire process took only a few breaths!

Clean, swift, and thunderous!

Kai stood with his sword, his robes fluttering, untouched by dust.

He slowly turned around, looking at the two beastmen who were still in shock.

At this moment, Kai felt good!

But reason told him that he couldn't be blindly confident and pretentious anymore.

Otherwise, he would easily be proven wrong.

"Thank you… thank you for saving my life, senior!"

The tiger-striped man was the first to react, enduring the excruciating pain, struggling to kneel on one knee, his voice trembling slightly from excitement and injuries.

The leopard-tailed woman also quickly knelt down, her eyes filled with gratitude and awe.

"No need for formalities."

Kai raised his hand in a gesture of support, a gentle force lifting the two men to their feet.

His gaze swept over the corpses on the ground and the tattered Ten Thousand Souls Banner, his brows furrowing slightly. "You just said they were from the Ten Thousand Souls Demon Sect? They frequently come to plunder your Beast Soul Crystal mines?"

"Exactly!"

the tiger-striped man gritted his teeth, "These demon bastards have become increasingly rampant in recent decades! Not only do they hunt down our clansmen who are alone on the outskirts, extracting their souls to cultivate evil arts, but they also covet the Beast Soul Crystal mines nurtured deep within the mountains! Senior, you…"

Kai didn't answer immediately. He walked to the spot where the black-robed leader had vanished, and remotely retrieved the storage ring and the tattered Ten Thousand Souls Banner. He

forcibly broke through the remaining restrictions on the storage ring with his divine sense. Inside, besides some commonly used demonic

pills, materials, and a not-too-large number of spirit stones, there wasn't much of value.

There were also no clues about the Soul Devouring Venerable or the core secrets of the Ten Thousand Souls Demon Sect.

His gaze fell on the remaining flesh and blood and the lingering aura of the remnants of the black-robed men.

Chapter 5752

Soul Searching Technique!

Although the information obtained from searching remnant souls would be incomplete and could easily lead to unpredictable consequences, it was currently the most direct way to obtain information about the Myriad Souls Demon Sect.

To find the Soul Devouring Lord and uncover the secrets of the Myriad Souls Demon Sect, taking a risk was worthwhile!

Kai no longer hesitated, his hands swiftly forming an ancient and complex hand seal.

An incomparably powerful divine sense, like an invisible tentacle, instantly enveloped the scattered fragments of remnant souls, about to forcibly invade and strip away their memories.

However, just as his divine sense touched those remnant souls, before it even began its in-depth search,

a sudden change occurred!

An indescribable, cold, evil, and vast will, like an endless starry sky, seemed to pierce through layers of spatial barriers, ignoring the barriers of distance, and suddenly descended upon this place!

This will was filled with violence, destruction, and an indifference that looked down upon all living beings!

The sky seemed to darken instantly.

A colossal hand, composed entirely of the purest and most concentrated soul power, appeared out of thin air above Kai's head!

This hand blotted out the sky, its fingerprints clearly visible, as if compressed and condensed from countless wailing souls, radiating an unparalleled majesty that made the laws of heaven and earth tremble and space itself begin to distort and collapse!

Without any fancy movements, it simply and irresistibly pressed down upon Kai and the surrounding area of several dozen feet!

Before the hand had even truly landed, the terrifying pressure, like a tangible burden weighing billions of tons, crashed down upon Kai's heart and soul!

He felt his breath stop instantly, his blood nearly freeze, his bones groan under the unbearable weight, and even his thoughts became sluggish!

This was an absolute crushing on a life-level scale!

The strength of the one who made the move had definitely reached the seventh rank of the Celestial Immortal Realm, or even higher!

"Not good! It's a top expert from the Myriad Souls Demon Sect! They actually planted such a powerful tracking and counterattack restriction in the souls of these disciples!"

Kai's heart was filled with utter horror, his soul nearly leaving his body!

He had no doubt that if this ethereal hand pressed down on him, he would be completely annihilated, leaving not even ashes!

Escape!

He had to escape!

All his thoughts converged into this single word in an instant! He felt absolutely no will to resist!

“Go!”

Kai roared, his inner fire igniting, activating his Fire Control Step, and his indestructible golden body protecting him!

With a sudden grab of his left hand, a gentle force swept up the terrified Shi Yan and the leopard-tailed woman, Ying Wu, while his right hand pulled the frightened little fire qilin into his arms!

“Spatial Folding, Escape!”

He unleashed the pinnacle of his understanding of spatial laws, forcibly distorting the space before him, his figure becoming a blurry blur.

Like a streak of light between reality and illusion, he fled desperately towards the open area beyond the forest, in the opposite direction of the falling illusory hand!

His speed was almost beyond the limits of visual perception!

The instant his figure vanished…

“Boom—!!!!”

The enormous hand finally slammed down.

There was no earth-shattering explosion as expected, only a chilling sound of annihilation, as if everything had been reduced to nothingness!

The area pressed down by the giant hand shattered like a broken mirror, collapsing and shrinking until it formed a bottomless void about ten zhang in diameter!

There, light, air, soil, rocks, and even the most basic spiritual energy and fragments of laws vanished, leaving only the most essential, deathly emptiness!

A terrifying shockwave, like an invisible tsunami, relentlessly pursued the direction Kai had fled!

Wherever it passed, deep furrows were carved into the ground, and vegetation turned to dust!

Even though Kai had already fled far away, the edge of the pursuing shockwave still slammed into his indestructible body!

“Pfft—!”

Kai was struck hard, staggering as blood spurted from his mouth, drawing a tragic arc in the air.

He endured the excruciating pain as if his internal organs had shifted and the shockwave to his soul, using the impact to propel himself forward again, recklessly speeding away without looking back!

Chapter 5753

He dared not linger, pushing his speed to the limit. He

even relentlessly used short-range spatial teleportation repeatedly, disregarding the exhaustion, until he felt the terrifying, clinging feeling of being locked on gradually dissipate, and the chilling aura of annihilation behind him recede into the distance. Only then did he dare to slow down slightly.

Like a meteorite, he crashed into a narrow, well-hidden cave covered in vines.

“Thump!”

He landed heavily on the cave floor, coughing up several mouthfuls of blood, his face as pale as paper, his breathing erratic.

That desperate escape had almost exhausted most of his immortal power and mental energy.

The two were also dazed and confused from the fall, but fortunately, Kai had protected them, resulting in only superficial injuries.

The little fire qilin anxiously licked the blood from Kai's lips, emitting a mournful whimper.

After a full incense stick's time of meditation, Kai barely managed to suppress his churning blood and trembling soul, but the internal injuries and depleted immortal power couldn't be recovered in a short time.

He recalled the scene with lingering fear; the powerful Wanhun Demon Sect expert who had attacked from afar possessed unfathomable cultivation!

This Tenth Heaven was indeed a place where hidden dragons and crouching tigers lurked, fraught with danger!

"Senior... how are you?"

The tiger-striped man struggled to sit up, looking at Kai's pale face, asking with worry, his tone filled with gratitude and lingering fear.

The leopard-tailed woman also cast a concerned glance.

"I'm fine, I'll be alright after a short rest."

Kai waved his hand, his voice slightly hoarse. He looked outside the cave, his gaze grave.

"The person who attacked just now was extremely powerful, probably a high-ranking member of the Wanhun Demon Sect, perhaps even the sect leader."

Upon hearing this, both the tiger-striped man and the leopard-tailed woman showed fear on their faces.

The Wanhun Demon Sect leader—that was a monstrous demon infamous throughout the entire Tenth Heaven!

“Senior, why would you…”

The tiger-striped man hesitated, clearly puzzled by Kai’s sudden act of helping him and thus incurring such a powerful enemy. Kai looked at them and said in a deep voice, “I have some old grudges with the Myriad Souls Demon Sect. You call this place the Myriad Beasts Mountain Range, who are you?”

“We are disciples of the Myriad Beasts Sect!”

the tiger-striped man said. “This is Shi Yan, and this is Ying Wu. We are both patrol disciples of the Myriad Beasts Sect, responsible for guarding this outer area to prevent outsiders from trespassing and… to deal with harassment from the Myriad Souls Demon Sect.”

His tone lowered at the end.

Kai nodded.

The Myriad Beasts Sect sounded like the native force of this vast mountain range, and they were enemies of the Myriad Souls Demon Sect.

This suited him perfectly.

He needed to learn more about the Tenth Heaven, especially about the Myriad Souls Demon Sect, and these two local beastmen disciples were undoubtedly a good breakthrough point.

At the same time, saving them would also be considered as forging a good relationship with the Myriad Beasts Sect.

He looked at the two still-shaken people and the little fire unicorn beside him who looked at him dependently, and his mind raced.

The Soul Devourer is hiding in the Myriad Souls Demon Sect, a powerful sect with countless experts. For him to rush there now would be tantamount to throwing an egg against a rock.

Perhaps the Myriad Beasts Sect could serve as a temporary foothold and a source of information.

“This place is not safe to linger. Although that expert hasn’t personally pursued us, there’s no guarantee he won’t have follow-up measures.”

Kai stood up, his face still pale, but his eyes had regained their calm and sharpness. “Let’s leave here first and find a safe place to discuss this further. Do you know of any hidden hideouts nearby?”

Shi Yan and Ying Wu exchanged a glance, both seeing hope in each other’s eyes.

Kai was powerful and had a grudge against the Myriad Souls Demon Sect; if they could get his help, it would undoubtedly be a good thing for the Myriad Beasts Sect.

“Senior, we know of a few hidden strongholds. Please follow us!”

Shi Yan struggled to his feet. Although his injuries were serious, his familiarity with the terrain allowed him to act as a guide.

Kai nodded, and with the little fire unicorn, disappeared into the darkness deep within the cave.

Chapter 5754

Led by Shi Yan and Ying Wu, Kai, accompanied by the little fire qilin, traversed rugged mountain paths and hidden trails.

Although both were seriously injured, they were extremely familiar with the terrain, avoiding several areas where dangerous demonic beasts might lurk.

After traveling for about half a day, as the setting sun painted the sky orange-red, they arrived at a secluded valley nestled between two mountain peaks.

The valley entrance was obscured by dense vines and illusion arrays, making it extremely difficult to spot without a guide.

Passing through the illusion arrays, the valley's interior suddenly opened up.

Dozens of houses built of massive stones and timber stood against the mountainside, with a relatively tall stone hall in the center. In the plaza before the hall stood a blurry stone sculpture of a colossal beast, exuding an ancient and desolate aura.

Several cultivators with distinctly beastly features were active in the valley, some cultivating, some patrolling, and some processing the demonic beast materials they had hunted.

This was the Rock Valley, an important stronghold of the Ten Thousand Beasts Sect located on the outskirts of the Ten Thousand Beasts Mountain Range.

Seeing Shi Yan and Ying Wu return with a strange human youth and a powerful-looking Qilin cub, the beastmen cultivators in the valley cast curious and scrutinizing glances.

Especially when they sensed Kai's mere seventh-grade Human Immortal aura, many looked on with disdain and a hint of rejection.

In the dog-eat-dog world of the Tenth Heaven, especially among the beastmen who revered strength, those of lower cultivation levels were often disregarded.

Shi Yan and Ying Wu didn't bother to explain, leading Kai directly to the largest stone hall in the center.

Inside, an old man wearing brown leather armor, with gray hair, a dignified face, and a ferocious claw mark on his forehead, sat in the main seat, listening to a disciple's report.

The old man possessed a powerful aura, clearly a fifth-grade Heavenly Immortal, none other than Elder Li Yan, who oversaw this place.

"Elder Li!"

Shi Yan and Ying Wu stepped forward and respectfully bowed.

Elder Li Yan raised his eyelids, glanced at the two, and frowned slightly when he saw their injuries: "What happened? Did you run into those scum from the Myriad Souls Demon Sect again?"

His voice was like the friction of sand and gravel, carrying an unquestionable majesty."Reporting to Elder, that's right!"

Shi Yan hurriedly recounted his ordeal of being surrounded and nearly killed by the Myriad Souls Demon Sect team, and how Kai saved him.

He emphasized Kai's lightning-fast attacks and astonishing strength in instantly killing five Demon Sect disciples.

However, when Elder Li Yan's sharp, hawk-like gaze fell upon Kai,

and he carefully sensed that Kai was indeed only at the seventh rank of the Human Immortal Realm, the slight solemnity on his face instantly turned into undisguised suspicion and disdain.

"Seventh rank of the Human Immortal Realm? Instantly killing five Demon Sect disciples, including a fifth-rank Heavenly Immortal?"

Elder Li Yan sneered, his voice filled with sarcasm. “Shi Yan, Ying Wu, are you two perhaps too badly injured and hallucinating? Or have you been deceived by this person using some kind of illusion?”

He simply didn’t believe it!

A Human Immortal challenging a Heavenly Immortal was already incredibly difficult, let alone instantly killing multiple opponents of a higher realm?

This was simply a fantasy! In his view, this stranger must have used some trickery or scheme to help by chance, and then exaggerated the story, probably trying to take advantage of the Ten Thousand Beasts Sect.

“Elder, it’s absolutely true! This junior is willing to guarantee it with his life!”

Shi Yan said urgently, and Ying Wu nodded vigorously beside him.

“Hmph!”

Elder Li Yan snorted coldly, ignoring Shi Yan and Ying Wu, and looked at Kai with arrogance, as if he were appraising a piece of merchandise, “Boy, no matter what methods you used, since you saved my Ten Thousand Beasts Sect disciple, my Ten Thousand Beasts Sect will not treat you unfairly.”

He casually took out a few low-quality, spiritually weak immortal stones from his storage bag and threw them at Kai’s feet like charity.

Then he said indifferently, “Take these immortal stones and leave Rock Valley. This is not a place for you. The Ten Thousand Beasts Mountain Range is full of dangers. Be careful not to lose your life here.”

Chapter 5755

The few immortal stones rolled to the ground, covered in dust. The spiritual energy they contained was utterly useless to Kai in his current state.

This almost insulting expression of gratitude made Shi Yan and Ying Wu blush with embarrassment.

Kai looked at the immortal stones at his feet, then glanced at Elder Li Yan, who stood high above him with a face full of contempt. His eyes remained calm and unwavering, showing no sign of anger.

Having endured the beating from the Soul Devouring Venerable and the trials of the early stages of the Tenth Heaven, his temperament had long since settled, and he would not lose his composure due to such contempt.

He didn't even bother to bend down and pick up the immortal stones. He simply spoke calmly, his voice steady: "No need for thanks. I have an old grudge against the Myriad Souls Demon Sect. Saving those two was merely a favor."

After speaking, he didn't look at Elder Li Yan again and turned to walk out of the hall.

The little fire unicorn let out a low growl, glared at Li Yan, and quickly followed Kai.

"Senior!"

Shi Yan and Ying Wu called out anxiously, trying to persuade him to stay, but were stopped by Elder Li Yan's cold gaze.

"Ignorant brat!"

Watching Kai's departing figure, Elder Li Yan sneered, "A seventh-grade Human Immortal dares to boast about having old grudges with the Myriad Souls Demon Sect? He probably hasn't even seen their outer disciples before! Let him go; staying here is just a burden!"

Kai walked out of the stone hall, feeling the curious, sympathetic, or equally contemptuous gazes of the beastmen cultivators around him. He remained expressionless and walked straight out of the valley.

He hadn't planned to stay long anyway; Li Yan's attitude was merely a way to get him to leave early.

The Tenth Heaven was vast; there was bound to be a place for him to find shelter and gather information.

Less than an hour after Kai stepped out of the illusion array of Rock Valley and disappeared into the forest outside the valley

, night quietly fell. The bright moonlight draped the valley in a silver veil, and scattered lights lit up within Rock Valley, creating a tranquil scene.

Elder Li Yan was meditating in the hall, while Shi Yan and Ying Wu were applying medicine to heal their injuries. Most of the disciples had returned to their residences.

Suddenly—

"Buzz!!!"

The illusion array covering the valley emitted a violent buzzing sound, unable to bear the strain any longer, and then, like shattered glass, it exploded with a deafening roar! Thick plumes of black mist shot into the sky from outside the valley like smoke from a wolf's beacon, instantly enveloping the entire Rock Valley!

A chilling, malevolent, and resentful pressure of souls swept down like a tidal wave, covering every corner of the valley!

"Enemy attack! It's the Myriad Souls Demon Sect!!"

A shrill alarm shattered the tranquility of the night!

Elder Li Yan abruptly opened his eyes, his gaze flashing with a terrifying light, and his figure appeared in the plaza outside the hall in a flash.

From the direction of the valley entrance, dozens of black-robed cultivators surged in, the two leading figures both possessing auras that had reached the fifth rank of the Heavenly Immortal Realm, on par with him!

One wielded a white bone mourning staff, while the other manipulated three skulls encircled by green flames.

Behind them were more than twenty demonic cultivators of the third and fourth ranks of the Heavenly Immortal Realm, as well as a large number of early-stage Heavenly Immortal Realm disciples, surging in like a tide!

“Form ranks! Prepare for battle!”

Elder Li Yan roared, his hair and beard bristling, but his heart was filled with icy coldness.

The opposing side had deployed two experts of equal rank and so many elite troops, clearly indicating they were well-prepared and determined to win!

Although the beastmen disciples within Rock Valley were panicked, their long history of fighting against the Demonic Sect had honed their skills, and they quickly assembled into battle formations.

Various beast roars rang out, demonic energy soared to the sky, clashing fiercely with the eerie ghostly aura of the demonic cultivators!

A great battle erupted instantly!

The light of spells, the clash of weapons, the roars of demonic beasts, the wails of vengeful spirits... all these sounds intertwined into a bloody symphony of death!

The Myriad Souls Demonic Sect's techniques were bizarre and vicious, specializing in attacking the soul, and they had come prepared.

With each swing of the white bone mourning staff, soul-snatching demonic sounds ignored physical defenses, penetrating directly into the sea of consciousness. Many of the weaker beastmen disciples immediately clutched their heads, screaming in agony, bleeding from their seven orifices, and died.

Chapter 5756

The three green fire skulls spewed viscous ghostly fire, igniting anything that touched it, scorching not only flesh but also corroding the soul!

Elder Li Yan fought two demonic cultivators of the same level alone. Though incredibly brave, his tiger claws tearing through the void and repelling attacks, he quickly fell into a disadvantageous position due to the opponents' tacit cooperation and the interference of strange magical artifacts.

Several deep, bone-revealing wounds appeared on his body, and his left arm was grazed by the ghostly fire, emitting a sizzling sound and excruciating pain.

Shi Yan and Ying Wu fought back to back against several demonic cultivators. Their injuries had not yet healed, and they were now in grave danger.

Shi Yan's giant axe was entangled by a demonic cultivator's chain, and another demonic cultivator seized the opportunity to unleash a poisoned dagger, aiming straight for his back!

Ying Wu wielded her twin daggers like the wind, desperately trying to block, but was struck in the shoulder by a sudden soul dagger. She groaned, her movements faltering, and it seemed she was about to die on the spot!

The entire Rock Valley had been transformed into a battlefield!

Houses collapsed, flames soared into the sky, and the ground was littered with the corpses of disciples from both sides, their blood staining the earth red.

Although the beastmen disciples were fierce, their defeat was only a matter of time under the absolute superiority of their strength and techniques.

Elder Li Yan's eyes were bloodshot as he watched his familiar disciples fall one by one, his heart filled with despair and regret.

Was Rock Valley about to be washed away in blood today?

Just as Shi Yan and Ying Wu closed their eyes to await their deaths, and Elder Li Yan himself felt despair—

a clear and cold sword cry, like the roar of a dragon from the heavens, suddenly came from outside the valley, drowning out all the noise of the battlefield!

Immediately afterward, a dazzling, multicolored sword aura, seemingly condensing all the light in the world

, shot across the sky with superhuman speed, like a meteor tearing through the night, and with unparalleled precision, towards the demonic cultivator who was about to plunge his dagger into Shi Yan's back!

"Pfft!"

The demonic cultivator, whose strength was at the third rank of the Celestial Immortal Realm, didn't even have time to react. His protective demonic aura was pierced through like paper, leaving a gaping, bloody hole between his brows.

The savage smile in his eyes instantly froze, replaced by endless terror and bewilderment, before his body slumped to the ground.

This sudden sword strike silenced the entire chaotic battlefield!

Everyone instinctively looked in the direction from which the sword light had come. Under the moonlight, at the shattered illusion array at the valley entrance, a figure in a green robe stood with his hands behind his back, his clothes fluttering gently in the night breeze, his expression calm, as if he were simply strolling leisurely.

It was Kai, who had returned!

Behind him, the little fire qilin stood majestically, its body surrounded by crimson flames, making it appear like a sacred beast from mythology.

He hadn't actually gone far; he had been meditating in the nearby mountains and forests. Sensing the violent energy fluctuations and soaring demonic energy erupting from the direction of Rock Valley, he knew something was wrong and immediately rushed back.

"It's...it's Senior!"

Shi Yan, having escaped death, looked at the figure, his voice trembling with excitement.

Ying Wu's beautiful eyes widened, filled with unbelievable joy.

Elder Li Yan was even more shaken, looking at the young man he had previously despised and even insulted, now appearing like a divine warrior descending from the heavens, rescuing Shi Yan and the other from their deadly predicament with a single sword strike.

His facial muscles twitched violently, his mind churning with turbulent emotions: "How could this be?! It really is him?!"

"Who are you?! Daring to interfere in the affairs of my Ten Thousand Souls Demon Sect!"

The demon cultivator leader, wielding a white bone mourning staff, roared in shock and rage.

Kai completely ignored his shouts.

His gaze swept across the ravaged valley, littered with the dead and wounded, finally settling on the ferocious black-robed demon cultivators, his eyes instantly turning icy cold.

“Those who harm my followers die.”

His words, though simple, contained an undeniable resolve and killing intent.

He moved.

With a single step, his figure vanished like a ghost, appearing the next moment at the most densely packed spot among the demon cultivators!

Chapter 5757

“Five Elements Sword Domain, full power!”

“Buzz—!”

The five-colored sword domain, several times larger and more solid than when dealing with the previous small teams, roared open, instantly covering an area of nearly a hundred feet!

Countless fine and sharp sword energies were generated out of thin air within the domain, slicing wildly! The flow of time slowed drastically, and the spatial structure slightly distorted!

The demonic cultivators trapped within the sword domain, whether at the early stage of the Heavenly Immortal Realm or the fifth rank, felt as if they were trapped in viscous amber, their movements becoming incredibly sluggish.

Their demonic energy stagnated, and they had to constantly resist the omnipresent, incomparably sharp cutting of the Five Elements sword energies!

Screams erupted everywhere!

“Time acceleration! Space folding!”

Kai’s figure flashed within the sword domain as if teleporting, his Dragon-Slaying Sword transforming into streaks of deathly light.

His sword was faster than the eye could perceive; with each appearance, a demonic cultivator perished!

Their throats were pierced, their heads severed, or they were directly shredded into a bloody mist by the violent sword energy!

He specifically targeted the core members of the Celestial Immortal realm.

A third-grade Celestial Immortal demonic cultivator attempted to defend with a soul shield, but a flash of sword light cleaved the shield and the cultivator in two.

A fourth-grade Celestial Immortal demonic cultivator used the Ghostly Shadows technique, but under the time-slowing domain, his movements were riddled with flaws, and Kai pierced his heart with a single sword strike, his soul scattered.

The little fire qilin was not idle either; it let out a majestic roar, spewing forth qilin true fire like a torrent of magma, specifically targeting demonic cultivators attempting to attack from the outside or escape the sword domain.

The blazing flames contained holy power to purify evil spirits; demonic cultivators who touched them instantly ignited, turning to ashes amidst agonizing screams!

Man and qilin, like tigers among sheep, were invincible!

The originally imposing demonic sect's army was instantly routed, their formation thrown into chaos!

The two fifth-grade Celestial Immortal leaders were both shocked and enraged, attempting to join forces to attack Kai and break the sword domain.

Elder Li Yan, however, would not allow them to succeed.

His spirits soared, and disregarding his injuries, he roared as he entangled the leader controlling the green fire skeleton. Kai then approached the leader wielding the white bone mourning staff.

"Die, you brat! A thousand souls howl to the heavens!"

The demonic cultivator leader swung the staff like a windmill, unleashing countless vengeful spirits that formed a powerful soul shockwave that blasted towards Kai.

"Nonsense."

Kai's eyes were icy cold as he casually thrust his Dragon-Slaying Sword forward.

This seemingly slow strike, however, seemed to contain the ultimate principles of space, ignoring the soul shockwave and striking the staff directly.

"Crack!"

The extraordinary demonic treasure couldn't withstand the sword strike imbued with chaotic immortal power and spatial cutting force, shattering in two!

The demonic cultivator leader suffered a backlash, spitting out a mouthful of black blood, his eyes filled with horror.

Kai's sword strike didn't stop; with a flick of his wrist, a condensed sword aura, like a venomous snake emerging from its hole, instantly pierced the leader's heart. The sword energy exploded, shredding his internal organs and soul!

Seeing their companion killed instantly, the other leader was terrified and tried to escape after a feint.

Kai snorted coldly, his fingers forming a sword-like shape as he slashed through the air.

"Spatial Rift!"

A thin, black spatial rift appeared silently in the path of the demonic leader's escape.

By the time he noticed, it was too late; half his body was instantly swallowed by the rift, letting out a short scream before disappearing completely!

With their leader dead, the remaining demonic cultivators crumbled. Under the pursuit of Kai and the little fire unicorn, and the counterattack of Elder Li Yan and the remaining beastmen disciples, they were quickly wiped out.

The battle ended, and the valley was deathly silent, save for the crackling of burning embers and the groans of the wounded.

A strong stench of blood and burnt flesh filled the air.

Chapter 5758

The once orderly Rock Valley was now a ruin, with less than a third of the beastmen disciples surviving, all wounded.

Elder Li Yan, leaning on his half-broken battle sword, stood with great difficulty, his eyes filled with complex emotions as he looked at Kai slowly approaching.

There was relief at surviving, shock at Kai's strength, but more than anything, there was endless regret, like poisonous insects gnawing at his heart!

He recalled his previous arrogant attitude, the few low-grade immortal stones he had thrown on the ground, and his merciless dismissal.

Each scene was like a resounding slap across his face and his heart!

If he hadn't judged him by his appearance and underestimated him, if he had treated this unfathomably powerful young man with courtesy and kept him in the valley, Rock Valley wouldn't have suffered such heavy losses.

So many excellent disciples wouldn't have died in vain.

"Senior...Senior..."

Elder Li Yan opened his mouth, a hoarse voice escaping his dry throat. His face burned, his previous arrogance vanished, replaced by a humble plea.

"Thank you...Thank you for saving me, Senior...I was blind and offended you before. I beg you...save me! I'm willing...willing to pay any price..."

He felt his meridians, corrupted by the Netherworld Ghost Fire, rapidly deteriorating, his life force rapidly draining away.

Without the help of a powerful figure to expel the demonic fire, he would surely die.

This young man before him was his only hope.

Kai stopped, looking at him calmly, his gaze like a deep, still pool, utterly undisturbed.

He saw regret, fear, and pleading in Li Yan's eyes, but nothing more.

Kai felt no pity for such a snobbish person, so arrogant before and so obsequious, only realizing his worth at the brink of death.

He saved Shi Yan and Ying Wu because of a promise and his own conscience; He killed the demonic cultivator because of an old grudge with the Myriad Souls Demonic Sect; but what did Elder Li Yan's life or death have to do with him?

He didn't speak, not even bothering to offer a mocking glance, simply shifting his gaze indifferently to Shi Yan and Ying Wu who were walking quickly towards him.

This indifference caused Elder Li Yan more despair and pain than any insult or revenge!

"Pfft—"

Overwhelmed by rage and the onset of his injuries, Elder Li Yan suddenly spat out a mouthful of foul blood mixed with fragments of internal organs, his body trembling violently.

He stretched out his hand, as if trying to grasp at a last straw, his eyes filled with resentment, regret, and hatred for his previous actions.

Finally, his outstretched hand fell limply, his eyes glazed over, his massive body crashed to the ground, and his breath ceased completely.

Even in death, his eyes remained wide open, filled with deep regret.

An elder of the fifth rank of the Celestial Immortal Realm, because of a moment of arrogance and prejudice, ultimately met such an end, a truly lamentable fate.

Elder Li Yan's body lay at the feet of those he had scorned.

His wide-open eyes were frozen in endless regret and despair, creating a poignant scene against the backdrop of the surrounding carnage.

The surviving beastmen disciples watched this scene with complex emotions, a mixture of sorrow for their elder's passing and, more so, awe for Kai's unfathomable strength and ruthless decisiveness.

Shi Yan and Ying Wu looked at the dead Elder Li Yan, their feelings complex, but primarily filled with gratitude and reverence for Kai.

They approached Kai and bowed deeply once more: "Thank you again for saving our lives, Senior! If you hadn't returned in time, we...we would already be..."

Kai waved his hand, his gaze sweeping over the ravaged valley and the few survivors, his tone still calm: "This place is no longer safe. Since the Myriad Souls Demon Sect has already dispatched such forces, there will likely be even stronger reinforcements to follow."

Chapter 5759

"Senior is absolutely right!"

Shi Yan nodded hurriedly, his face pleading. "Senior, Elder Li Yan has perished, and Rock Valley has been destroyed. We must immediately return to the headquarters of the Myriad Beasts Sect to report this matter."

"Senior has shown us kindness as if we were second nature. We implore you to come with us to the headquarters!"

"The headquarters is filled with powerful experts; they will surely be able to better receive you, and the sect leader will also know of your kindness and strength!"

Ying Wu also nodded vigorously, her vertical pupils filled with anticipation.

Having witnessed Kai's true combat power, they knew that if they could persuade this mysterious expert to go to the headquarters,

it could bring a turning point, both for them personally and for the Myriad Beasts Sect, which was currently in fierce conflict with the Myriad Souls Demon Sect.

Kai pondered for a moment.

He needed to find a place to stay to gather information about the Myriad Souls Demon Sect and the Soul Devouring Venerable. The Myriad Beasts Sect, as the local power and an enemy of the Myriad Souls Demon Sect, was undoubtedly the best choice.

Although their initial encounter at Rock Valley was unpleasant, Shi Yan and his companion were sincere, so there was no need to completely reject them because of Li Yan alone.

"Alright,"

Kai replied simply.

Shi Yan and Ying Wu were overjoyed and immediately gathered the belongings of their fallen comrades, then set fire to all the corpses in the valley to prevent them from being used by the Demonic Sect.

Afterward, the group dared not delay and, under the cover of night, led by Shi Yan and Ying Wu, hurried towards their headquarters deeper into the Ten Thousand Beasts Mountain Range.

Leaving the scorched Rock Valley, the group traversed even denser and more dangerous primeval forests.

The deeper they went into the mountains, the denser the spiritual energy in the air became, even condensing into a faint spiritual mist, but this also meant that the lurking demonic beasts were more powerful.

If it weren't for Kai, this formidable figure, being there to oversee things, Shi Yan and his injured disciples would never have been able to venture so deep.

Along the way, they encountered a group of Bloodwing Demon Bats, whose strength was generally at the second or third rank of the Celestial Immortal Realm, which attacked like a dark cloud covering the sky. This also alerted a Xuanbing Flood Dragon, a powerful being comparable to a seventh-grade Celestial Immortal, lurking deep within the icy pool. Its mouth could freeze an area of a hundred miles in an instant.

But these dangers were utterly insignificant before Kai.

A flash of sword light, and demonic bats rained down; a punch, imbued with the supreme yang power of chaotic immortal energy and fire-based laws, shattered the Xuanbing Flood Dragon's scales, sending it howling and burrowing back to the bottom of the pool, never daring to show its face again.

Kai's actions were swift and decisive; often, before anyone could react, the threat was already eliminated.

This earned him even greater awe from the surviving beastmen disciples, their eyes filled with admiration and trust.

The little fire unicorn also feasted during this time; the essence of the powerful demonic beasts' flesh and blood, and their inner cores, were highly nourishing for it. Its size subtly increased, its body shimmering with crimson-gold light, displaying extraordinary majesty.

Shi Yan and Ying Wu seized the opportunity to introduce Kai to the Ten Thousand Beasts Mountain Range and the Ten Thousand Beasts Sect.

The Ten Thousand Beasts Mountain Range stretches for millions of miles, one of the largest gathering places for demonic beasts in the Tenth Heaven, and a vital foundation for the beast race. The

Ten Thousand Beasts Sect is not a strictly unified sect, but rather a vast alliance formed by numerous beast tribes, worshipping a common totem and jointly led by a few of the strongest elders and the sect leader.

Disciples cultivate different beast soul combat techniques based on their bloodline and talent, enabling them to communicate with demonic beasts and even transform into beast forms to fight, making them formidable forces.

Their mortal enemy, the Ten Thousand Souls Demonic Sect, entrenched itself on the Crimson Blood Plains adjacent to the Ten Thousand Beasts Mountain Range. Its cultivators are skilled at devouring souls and refining demonic heads, acting with ruthless cruelty.

In the last thousand years, they have become increasingly rampant, constantly eroding the resources of the Ten Thousand Beasts Mountain Range, leading to increasingly fierce conflicts between the two sides.

Kai listened quietly, noting down all this information.

He noticed that when the Ten Thousand Souls Demonic Sect was mentioned, Shi Yan and the others' eyes held not only hatred but also a subtle hint of worry, clearly indicating immense pressure from the Demonic Sect.

After traveling for three days and three nights, crossing several dangerous canyons and swift rivers, the group finally arrived at the main peak area of a magnificent mountain range.

Chapter 5760

The mountains here, like sharp swords piercing the clouds, are shrouded in mist.

Countless magnificent buildings, built against the mountainsides, are vaguely visible, their style rugged and ancient. Huge animal bones and totem poles are scattered everywhere, and the air is filled with a vast and powerful primordial aura.

Before a massive mountain gate, carved with patterns of galloping beasts, the group was stopped by guards.

The guards were all fierce beastmen warriors, and they were surprised to see Shi Yan and his group in such a disheveled state and with such a small number of people.

“Shi Yan? Ying Wu? Aren’t you stationed at Rock Valley? How come…”

The guard captain, a burly man with a rhinoceros horn on his forehead, asked in a deep voice, his gaze warily sweeping over Kai, the unfamiliar human, and the strange little fire unicorn beside him.

“Captain Rhinoceros Warrior, Rock Valley… is gone!”

Shi Yan’s voice was filled with grief as he quickly recounted the events of the attack by the elite forces of the Myriad Souls Demon Sect, the death of Elder Li Yan, the near annihilation of the valley’s disciples, and his eventual rescue by Kai.

“What?! Elder Li Yan, he…”

Captain Xi Wu’s body trembled, his eyes filled with horror and anger.

He looked at Kai again, his gaze different now, less wary, more suspicious and scrutinizing.

A seventh-grade Human Immortal?

Single-handedly defeating an elite team led by two fifth-grade Heavenly Immortal leaders of the Demon Sect?

This sounded utterly unbelievable!

“This matter is of great importance, I must report to the Sect Master and all the elders immediately! Follow me!”

Captain Xi Wu dared not delay, immediately leading everyone through the massive mountain gate, along the winding stone steps, towards the most magnificent and imposing Beast Hall at the summit.

Along the way, many Beast Sect disciples cast curious glances, especially seeing Kai, a human with a weak aura, being personally led by Captain Xi Wu, which sparked much discussion.

Stepping into the Beast Hall, an even more ancient and heavy pressure swept over them.

The interior of the main hall is extremely spacious, constructed from countless huge animal bones and rocks, with lifelike carvings of various ancient mythical beasts on the surrounding walls. The atmosphere in the main hall was heavy. A powerful lion-clan member, with a towering physique, a resolute face, and an aura of terror, sat in the main seat—this was Sect Master Lie Tian.

Several elders with profound auras sat to his left and right, clearly discussing important matters.

“Sect Master! Elders!”

Captain Xi Wu stepped forward, knelt on one knee, and reported in a deep voice, “Disciples Shi Yan and Ying Wu, stationed at Pan Shi Valley, have returned to report that Pan Shi Valley... was breached by the Ten Thousand Souls Demon Sect three days ago. Elder Li Yan fought valiantly and died in battle. Only thirteen disciples remain in the valley!”

“What?!”

The hall erupted in uproar! Sect

Master Lie Tian abruptly stood up, an overwhelming pressure instantly enveloping the entire hall, almost suffocating the surviving disciples like Shi Yan. Even Kai felt a slight pressure.

“What exactly happened? Tell me in detail!”

Sect Master Lie Tian’s voice echoed like thunder in the hall.

Shi Yan, enduring the pressure, recounted the events once more.

This time, the details were more elaborate, especially emphasizing Kai’s miraculous intervention at the crucial moment, swiftly slaying the demonic cultivators and saving them. It also mentioned Kai’s claim of having a past grudge against the Myriad Souls Demonic Sect.

All eyes instantly focused on Kai.

The elders’ gazes were sharp, filled with scrutiny, suspicion, and even a hint of barely perceptible contempt.

“Seventh-grade Human Immortal?”

An elder named Yu Sha, dressed in feathered robes with eagle-like eyes, spoke first, his tone filled with undisguised skepticism.

“Shi Yan, are you sure you didn’t see wrong? Elder Li Yan, a fifth-grade Heavenly Immortal, fought fiercely against the Martyr’s Valley. You’re saying this kid routed the Demonic Sect’s forces and killed two fifth-grade Heavenly Immortal leaders? That’s utterly ridiculous!”