# Chapter 5841

Upon hearing this, the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord's face paled slightly, but his eyes remained resolute: "Thank you for informing me, Sect

Master Ling. No matter what, even if there's only a sliver of hope, I will brave mountains of knives and seas of fire!" Kai pondered, "Sect Master Ling, do you know the approximate location of the Blood Soul Cold Pool? And when the next Blood Lotus blooming season will be?"

Ling Yunzi thought for a moment and said, "The exact location is vaguely recorded in the ancient texts, only saying that it's 'in the heart of the icy plains, surrounded by three ten-thousand-foot-tall ice peaks arranged in a triangular shape.'"

"As for the blooming season... based on scattered records, the last time the Blood Lotus bloomed and its fluctuations were noticed was approximately two hundred and eighty years ago."

"If we calculate based on a century cycle, the next blooming season might be... within the next twenty years! But whether it's this year, next year, or a dozen years from now is uncertain." "

Within twenty years..." The Crimson Cloud Demon Lord's eyes shone even brighter; for a cultivator, this wasn't a very long time.

"I possess the ultimate fire and also have the ice elemental origin; obtaining that Blood Lotus shouldn't be difficult,"

Kai said confidently.

He possessed the essence of supreme fire, especially after absorbing the Chaos Origin Fire, which greatly enhanced his essence.

A small, icy pool held no fear for him.

Upon hearing this, Ling Yunzi stroked his long beard, pondered for a moment, and then slowly spoke, his voice carrying a hint of gravity:

“Senior Chen, even if you are not afraid of the dangers of the icy plains and are determined to go, there is something else that might be more troublesome than the frigid winds and the ferocious beasts in the pool.”

“Why?” Kai looked at Ling Yunzi.

“The Eternal Ice Plains is not unclaimed land; rather, its core area has always been considered a forbidden zone by an extremely special and arrogant race.”

Ling Yunzi paused, then uttered four words, “The Northern Darkness God Clan.”

“The Northern Darkness God Clan?” Kai had never heard of this name before. “Are all these people gods?”

“That’s right.”

Ling Yunzi nodded. “This race has a long history. Legend has it that they possess the bloodline of an ancient ice god, are naturally close to the laws of ice, have powerful bodies, and long lifespans.”

“They have lived in the deepest part of the Eternal Ice Plains for generations, establishing a force called the ‘Northern Darkness Palace,’ controlling most of the Ice Plains’ precious resources, especially several secret locations in the core area. The Blood Soul Cold Pool is likely also under their control or surveillance.”

“The people of the Northern Darkness God Clan are cold and aloof, considering themselves descendants of gods, and have always disdained to interact with ‘mortal’ cultivators outside the Ice Plains, being extremely xenophobic.”

“Let alone human cultivators, even powerful beings from other races, if they trespass into their designated restricted areas without invitation or special reason, will be expelled at best, and killed outright at worst, with absolutely no room for negotiation.” “Within

the Ten Heavens, there have been numerous examples of those who, relying on their superior cultivation, ventured into the Ice Plains to search for treasures, only to perish at the hands of the gods.”

After hearing this, Kai understood that the so-called Northern Underworld God Clan was actually a branch of the gods.

However, they all shared the same arrogant and disdainful personality…

The reason for this was simply that they hadn’t been beaten enough.

A few more beatings would have taught them a lesson.

Even Kai, with his Golden Dragon bloodline, had never acted so arrogantly!

The Crimson Cloud Demon Lord’s face turned extremely ugly, his clenched fists turning slightly white at the knuckles. This was like adding insult to injury; not only was the environment treacherous and the treasures rare, but they also had to face such a troublesome local tyrant.

“So what if they’re gods?”

Kai’s voice was calm, yet carried an undeniable firmness. “I’m going to fight the gods. Even if it’s not a branch of the gods, even the true divine territory, I’ll storm it.”

“Don’t worry, senior. Since I promised you, I will definitely find a way to obtain the Blood Lotus. However, the strategy needs to change; we can’t just blindly charge in.”

Kai wasn’t afraid of the gods, and besides, he still needed to find the god patriarch and get him to release Wan Jianxing.

Seeing that Kai's mind was made up, Ling Yunzi knew that further persuasion was useless and would only be looked down upon.

He pondered for a moment and said, "Senior Chen is a man of great integrity, which I greatly admire. Since you are determined to go, although my Xuantian Sword Sect has little connection with the Beiming Divine Clan, we at least have records of the terrain, climate changes, and certain potentially dangerous areas in the outer reaches of the Eternal Ice Plains and even parts of the Central Region."

"You are new to the Tenth Heaven and completely unfamiliar with this place. Having someone familiar with the situation to guide you may avoid many unnecessary troubles and conflicts."

He looked outside the hall and called out, "Shuang'er, come in."

The hall door opened slightly, and Ling Shuang, dressed in a plain white sword outfit and with a cold and aloof temperament, stepped in. She first bowed to Ling Yunzi and Kai, saying, "Father, Senior Chen."

When her gaze swept over the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord, she paused slightly, but did not show much surprise, obviously having overheard something outside.

"Shuang'er, Senior Chen and Fellow Daoist Chiyun intend to travel to the Eternal Ice Plains in search of a life-saving elixir."

"You once traveled with the Heavenly Fire Sword Venerable throughout the Ten Heavens, so you are quite familiar with the area. You will guide Senior Chen and must assist him wholeheartedly,"

Ling Yunzi instructed, his eyes showing both trust in his daughter and a barely perceptible worry.

Ling Shuang didn't hesitate, clasping her hands in a fist and replying, "Yes, Father. Your daughter will do her utmost."

She turned to Kai, “Senior Chen has given the Sword Sect and me a second life. I will obey any orders, even unto death.”

Ling Shuang was extremely grateful to Kai. If it weren’t for him, the Xuan Tian Sword Sect would be gone, and she herself might have been in danger.

If Kai asked her to strip naked and serve him now, Ling Shuang would do it without hesitation.

Serving a great hero like Kai was an honor for her.

Being played with by such a man was also a source of pride.

Kai looked at Ling Shuang, and in her eyes he saw admiration and a spirit of devotion.

Having encountered so many women, Kai could instantly discern their gazes and thoughts, knowing that none of them could resist falling for him.

It seemed Ling Shuang was no exception. The journey to the Ice Plains wouldn’t be lonely and boring anymore; having a woman to confide in and cultivate together would be quite nice.

“In that case, thank you very much, Sect Master Ling, and thank you for your trouble, Miss Ling Shuang,” Kai said, bowing in thanks.

The Crimson Cloud Demon Lord also quickly rose and bowed deeply to Ling Yunzi and Ling Shuang: “Great kindness needs no words of thanks; Crimson Cloud will remember it forever!”

# Chapter 5842

“There’s no time to lose,”

Kai decided decisively. “Let’s set off immediately. Sect Master Ling, the sect is newly established and we still need your presence to oversee and manage things. We’ll take our leave now.”

Ling Yunzi rose to see them off, escorting them all the way to the mountain gate. He gave Ling Shuang a few more words of advice, and finally solemnly said to Kai, “Senior Chen, the strength of the Northern Underworld Clan is unfathomable, especially on their home turf, the Ice Plains, where they are even more formidable

.” “If things become unfavorable, please prioritize your own safety. There will be other

opportunities in the future. The Sword Sect will always welcome you.” Kai nodded, “Sect Master Ling, rest assured, I know what I’m doing.”

With that, the three transformed into a streak of light even faster and more dazzling than before, soaring into the sky and heading straight towards the far north of the Tenth Heaven Continent.

The further north they flew, the more rapidly the temperature dropped.

The landscape below gradually changed from green mountains and clear waters to barren frozen wastelands, and then to continuous snow-capped mountains and glaciers.

The howling wind began to carry ice crystals and snowflakes, striking the protective aura and producing a fine rustling sound.

Even ordinary cultivators, without venturing deeper, would need to circulate their magical power to resist the extreme cold.

Ling Shuang was indeed quite familiar with the route, frequently offering directions to avoid known, easily disorienting blizzard zones or hidden spatial rifts.

Her words were concise and clear, displaying the competence consistent with her appearance.

The Crimson Cloud Demon Lord remained silent throughout, spending most of his time meditating with his eyes closed, adjusting his state to its peak. Only occasionally, when he glanced at the vast white expanse to the north that seemed to connect with the sky, would a flash of urgency and determination appear in his eyes. Chen

Ping, meanwhile, flew while silently sensing the unique laws of nature in this far north.

Here, the laws of ice and water were exceptionally active and abundant, while other attributes were relatively dormant.

The chaotic immortal power within his body flowed, simulating and evolving the characteristics of ice and cold, quietly adapting to the environment.

Occasionally, their divine senses would pierce through the swirling snow and wind, gazing into the far distance, attempting to detect any trace of the so-called divine race or any unusual energy fluctuations.

The snowstorm in the far north grew increasingly violent, leaden clouds pressing low over the icy plains, and howling winds whipping up ice shards that crackled against the protective auras of the three. After

flying for two full days, Ling Shuang pointed to a natural cave surrounded by giant ice floes ahead: “Senior Chen, Fellow Daoist Chi Yun, that ice cave ahead can shelter us from the snowstorm. Let’s rest for the night and continue our journey tomorrow.”

Kai nodded, and with a flick of his sleeve, a gentle surge of chaotic immortal power broke through the swirling snow and wind, escorting the three to the entrance of the cave.

The cave was unexpectedly dry, the ground covered with a thin layer of ice crystals, and in the corners, ice pillars of various shapes condensed, emanating a faint chill.

The Crimson Cloud Demon Lord remained silent, finding a corner to sit cross-legged, closing his eyes to regulate his breathing, his body enveloped in a faint demonic aura, isolating him from external interference.

Ling Shuang took out several pieces of warm jade and spread them on the ground, then took out spiritual fruits and water from her storage bag, handing them to Kai: “Senior Chen, you must be tired from your

journey, please replenish your spiritual energy.” Her movements were gentle, her slender white fingers gleaming in the dim light, her eyes showing a hint of barely perceptible unease as she spoke, her cheeks still flushed from the journey, making her even more radiant.

Kai took the spiritual fruits, his fingertips inadvertently touching the back of her hand, feeling only a cool sensation. “Thank you for your trouble, Miss Ling Shuang.” He spoke softly, his gaze falling on her slightly shy face.

Ling Shuang quickly withdrew her hand, twisting the hem of her clothes, and said softly, “Senior is too kind. You have done me a great service to the Xuan Tian Sword Sect, and this is what I should do.”

She paused, as if gathering her courage, and then asked, “Senior, are you confident in facing the Northern Netherworld Clan on your journey to the Eternal Ice Plains?”

“I will meet force with force, and water with earth.” Kai’s tone was calm, yet it exuded complete confidence. “They are just some arrogant branches of the divine race; they cannot stop me.”

A hint of admiration flashed in Ling Shuang’s eyes, and she said softly, “Senior is indeed incredibly powerful. Actually… I have heard of the Northern Netherworld Clan’s domineering nature when I traveled with the Heavenly Fire Sword Venerable. Almost no one dares to provoke them on the Ice Plains. Senior, you must be extremely careful on your journey.”

Her voice was filled with genuine worry, and her eyes were fixed on Kai, full of concern.

Kai understood.

Since their departure from the Xuan Tian Sword Sect, every time they rested, Ling Shuang would find various topics to chat about with him, from the sect's past to her cultivation insights, and even the local customs and culture along the way. Her admiration and closeness were obvious in her words.

With his experience, he naturally understood the girl's feelings.

Looking at Ling Shuang's flushed cheeks and evasive eyes, he suddenly spoke, "Miss Ling Shuang, is there something you want to say to me?"

Ling Shuang stiffened, abruptly raising her head to meet Kai's deep gaze. Her cheeks instantly turned bright red, like ripe apples.

She opened her mouth, but didn't know how to respond for a moment. Her eyes darted away in a panic, and her voice was barely audible: "I... I just think that Senior's cultivation is profound, and I would like to ask you more questions about cultivation."

Kai chuckled, his tone playful but not frivolous: "Ask about cultivation? I think you want to cultivate with me, don't you?"

"Ah!"

Ling Shuang exclaimed in surprise, as if her secret had been exposed. She was instantly at a loss, tears welling up in her eyes.

"Senior...I...I didn't mean it..."

she hurriedly explained, "I just felt that you, Senior, are a genius. If I could cultivate with you, not only would my cultivation improve rapidly, but I could also better assist you in finding the Ice Soul Blood Lotus...I

didn’t mean anything else. If you’re not willing, just pretend I didn’t say anything…”

Seeing her incoherent and on the verge of tears,

Kai’s joking expression faded, and his tone became serious: “Ling Shuang, you don’t need to be shy. On the path of cultivation, it’s common for cultivation partners to accompany each other. I can see that you’re interested in me; and I don’t dislike you either.”

He paused, then continued, “We are both cultivators, and strength is paramount. Cultivating together can both enhance our relationship and rapidly improve our cultivation—a win-win situation.”

“This journey to the Eternal Ice Plains is fraught with danger. The more strength we have, the more secure we are. If you truly have this intention, there’s no need to hide it; just come directly.”

Ling Shuang was stunned, staring blankly at Kai, seemingly not expecting him to be so direct.

She originally thought she would need to do more groundwork and was even prepared to be rejected, but she didn’t expect Kai to be so decisive.

# Chapter 5843-5844

He activated his divine sense, carefully probing the icy plain ahead, attempting to locate the three towering ice peaks arranged in a triangular pattern, as Ling Yunzi had mentioned.

Simultaneously, a faint dragon’s might and chaotic aura emanated from his body, a constant vigilance against the appearance of the Northern Underworld God Clan.

The three stood side-by-side at the edge of the Eternal Ice Plain, with the continuous snow-capped mountains behind them and the treacherous, unknown forbidden land of the ice plain ahead.

The wind and snow whipped at their robes, yet could not dispel the determination in their eyes.

The path to the Blood Soul Cold Pool had only just begun. And the threat of the Northern Underworld God Clan was already imminent.

After flying for about ten days, the scene before them finally became utterly monotonous and magnificent.

An endless white ice plain stretched to the horizon, almost merging with the gray-white sky.

Huge glaciers, like silent dragons, snaked and crawled, the gale whipping up millennia-old snow dust, forming white curtains that blurred the vision.

The chill here was bone-chilling, enough to freeze ordinary iron instantly. Ordinary True Immortal cultivators, without powerful protective magic treasures or special techniques, would likely not last more than a few hours here.

“Senior, we’ve entered the outer edge of the Eternal Ice Plains,”

Ling Shuang’s voice came through the wind and snow. A layer of crystalline sword energy surrounded her, isolating her from the bitter cold and storm.

“Several thousand miles further ahead, we’ll gradually approach the Central Region, which is also the area usually patrolled by the Northern Underworld God Clan. We need to be even more careful.”

Kai nodded, lowering his altitude and speed. His divine sense, like the most sophisticated radar, swept forward in a fan shape, centered on himself, with greater detail.

The ice plains were not lifeless. He could sense faint but resilient life forces beneath the ice, the life force of ice-type demonic beasts or spiritual plants adapted to the extreme environment. He

could also occasionally detect faint fluctuations of magical power belonging to other cultivators, mostly ancient and carrying an ominous sense of impending doom.

Sure enough, after traveling another two thousand miles, Kai's divine sense keenly detected several unique auras.

These auras were cold and pure, carrying an innate nobility and aloofness, rapidly approaching from the side and front. Their movement wasn't simple flight, but rather a gliding motion, blending seamlessly with the icy snow beneath their feet.

"Someone's coming," Kai said calmly, halting his escape.

The Crimson Cloud Demon Lord immediately became alert, a faint dark red demonic energy flowing around him.

Ling Shuang also gripped her sword hilt tightly, her pretty face tense.

A moment later, three figures silently emerged from the snowstorm ahead, like ghosts.

They all wore ancient-style ice-blue armor, intricately engraved with snowflakes and divine patterns.

They were tall, with skin a cold, pale white, untouched by sunlight, and deep, handsome features, but their eyes were like ancient ice, devoid of warmth.

On their foreheads, a faint blue ice crystal pattern was visible, glowing slightly.

The leader, possessing the strongest aura, had reached approximately the third rank of the Celestial Immortal Realm. He wielded a crystal-clear ice spear, its tip pointing at Kai and his companions. In a cold, flat tone, he said,

“This is the territory of the Northern Underworld Divine Clan. Unauthorized entry by outsiders is forbidden. You will retreat immediately to avoid death.”

His voice, though not loud, clearly pierced through the gale, carrying an unquestionable command, as if driving away ants that had strayed into a divine realm. The arrogance and xenophobia of the divine race were vividly displayed in this single sentence.

Kai looked at the three haughty warriors of the Northern Underworld Divine Race before him, his brows furrowing almost imperceptibly.

He was not a bloodthirsty person; he had only come to retrieve medicine to save lives and did not wish to cause any unnecessary trouble or make enemies.

He stepped forward and spoke calmly, “Friends of the divine race, we have no intention of offending your noble territory. We only have urgent business and need to go to the Blood Soul Cold Pool to retrieve a life-saving elixir, the ‘Millennium Ice Soul Blood Lotus.'”

“This medicine concerns the life and death of our dear friend and Daoist partner. We humbly request that you grant us passage. We will be generously rewarded afterward, or perhaps offer treasures of equal value as compensation.”

The Crimson Cloud Demon Lord’s lips moved as if he wanted to say something, but he ultimately held back, only watching the three divine race members with nervousness.

Ling Shuang also sheathed her longsword and bowed slightly to show her sincerity.

However, the lead spear-wielding divine warrior showed no emotion. Instead, as if he had heard something utterly ridiculous and offensive, a cold sneer curled at the corner of his mouth.

“Mortal ants, do you dare to call yourselves friends with my divine race?”

His voice was more piercing than the cold wind. “The Blood Soul Cold Pool is one of the sacred pools of my Northern Underworld Divine Race. Every blade of grass and every tree within belongs to the divine race. How dare we allow outsiders to covet and defile it?”

A divine warrior beside him sneered, “Help? What do your mortal lives have to do with my divine race? Get out of the icy plains at once, or you will leave your lives behind and become a skeleton on this icy plains!”

The last divine warrior raised his longbow, formed from condensed ice crystals, and a chilling arrow was locked onto Kai, his killing intent palpable.

“Captain, why waste words with these lowly beings? Just kill them all to deter other fools who dare to covet the Holy Land.”

The three spoke one after another, their attitude extremely arrogant, leaving no room for negotiation.

That ingrained arrogance and extreme contempt for “those not of our kind” gradually chilled Kai’s eyes.

The Crimson Cloud Demon Lord’s face drained of color, his eyes filled with despair and rage.

Ling Shuang’s grip on her sword tightened again, her knuckles turning white.

“So, there’s no room for negotiation?”

Kai’s voice remained calm, but those familiar with him, like the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord, could already hear the storm brewing beneath the calm.

“Negotiation?”

The spear-wielding Divine Clan captain seemed to have heard the biggest joke in the world. He swung his icy spear, drawing a cold arc in the air.

“The will of the Divine Clan is the will of Heaven. Letting you leave is already a great favor. Since you won’t leave, then… die!”

The moment the word “die” was uttered, the three Divine Clan warriors moved simultaneously!

The spear-wielding captain vanished like a ghost, appearing a moment later above Kai. His ice spear, carrying a chilling aura capable of freezing the soul, pierced straight for Kai’s crown!

The bowstring of the archer vibrated, and three arrows, entirely condensed from the ultimate laws of ice, formed a triangular shape, shooting towards the chests of Kai, the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord, and Ling Shuang respectively. Wherever the arrows passed, even the space itself cracked with fine ice fissures! The last warrior formed hand seals, and the wind and snow within a hundred-foot radius instantly raged, transforming into countless ice blade tornadoes that swept in from all directions, sealing off all escape routes!

Their coordination was impeccable, their attacks ruthless; they were clearly accustomed to this kind of driving-and-killing.

“You’re asking for it!”

Kai finally lost all patience, a sharp golden light suddenly flashing in his eyes!

He didn’t even use any overly complex divine abilities.

He simply raised his hand, his fingers forming a sword, and lightly slashed at the ice spear thrusting down from above.

“Clang—!”

A clear, dragon-like sword cry resounded across the icy plains!

A chaotic sword aura, condensed to its extreme, seemingly capable of cleaving the laws of heaven and earth, erupted from his fingertips!

The ice spear, of exceptional quality and imbued with the full power of a third-grade Celestial Immortal, shattered like a fragile ice crystal before this chaotic sword aura!

The spear-wielding captain's pupils constricted in horror; he tried to retreat, but it was too late.

The sword energy continued its relentless advance, effortlessly grazing his neck.

His face still bore the lingering look of disbelief, terror, and bewilderment as his head flew high into the air. No blood gushed from his severed neck, for even his blood and soul were utterly annihilated by the terrifying chaotic power the instant they came into contact with the sword energy!

Simultaneously, Kai's left hand clenched, grabbing at the three incoming ice arrows and the swirling tornado of ice blades.

A phantom dragon claw, condensed from chaotic immortal power, materialized out of thin air and gently grasped.

"Crack! Crack! Boom—!"

The three incredibly powerful ice arrows instantly shattered into primordial ice-elemental spiritual energy.

The swirling tornado of ice blades, as if striking an invisible barrier, crumbled and transformed back into harmless blizzard.

The arrogance and killing intent on the faces of the remaining two divine warriors froze instantly, replaced by boundless fear.

They never imagined that this seemingly young, calm human cultivator possessed such terrifying strength!

Their captain was a third-grade Celestial Immortal, already among the top in their team, yet he was instantly killed by a casual sword aura?

“Run!”

The two were terrified, turning to flee into the snowstorm without hesitation.

“Trying to escape now? Too late.”

Kai’s icy voice was like the pronouncement of death.

With a thought, two strands of chaotic sword aura, thin as hair yet swift as lightning, struck first, easily piercing their protective divine light and ice-blue armor, entering from their backs and exiting through their chests.

The two divine warriors froze, their eyes quickly dimming. They looked down in disbelief at the tiny yet deadly sword holes in their chests, which were frantically annihilating their life force and souls. Then, they collapsed helplessly to the ground, lifeless.

From the moment the three attacked to their deaths, only two breaths had passed.

The snowstorm continued to howl, but the scene fell into a deathly silence.

“Senior, killing the Northern Underworld Divine Clan members, they will never let this go,” Ling Shuang quickly calmed down and reminded them.

“I know,”

Kai said calmly. “I didn’t want to cause trouble, but trouble keeps coming my way. Since we’ve made enemies, let’s settle it. As long as they don’t stop me from getting the medicine, I won’t bother with them. If they come again… I’ll just kill them.”

His tone was calm, but it contained an undeniable and powerful confidence and decisiveness. ”Let’s go, keep going, and find the Blood Soul Cold Pool as soon as possible.”

Kai stopped looking at the three corpses, rolled up his sleeves, and led the two of them to continue speeding deeper into the icy plains.

As expected, the reaction of the Northern Underworld God Clan was faster than expected.

Kai and the others had only been away from the three God Clan warriors' corpses for less than a thousand miles when a sharp whooshing sound came from behind them.

It was not the sound of wind and snow, but the shriek of some kind of specially made ice crystal whistles tearing through the air. The sound had extremely strong penetrating power and could be heard for hundreds of miles across the open icy plains.

"They came really fast."

Kai didn't even turn his head; his divine sense had already taken in the situation behind him.

Five streams of ice-blue light were chasing after them at an astonishing speed, each carrying a fully armed Northern Underworld God Clan warrior.

They were riding on specially made ice crystal skateboards, with almost zero friction with the ice surface, making them more than 30% faster than normal flight.

The leader was exceptionally tall, wielding a double-edged ice axe, and his aura had clearly reached the peak of the fifth rank of the Heavenly Immortal Realm.

The other four were all at the fourth rank of the Celestial Immortal Realm, spread out in a fan shape, clearly a well-trained hunting team.

"Those who trespass ahead, stop immediately and surrender!"

A furious shout echoed through the snowstorm, carrying an unquestionable command. “Murdering my clan’s patrol guards is a capital offense! Surrender now, and perhaps you’ll be spared a complete corpse!”

Kai didn’t stop, only calmly saying to the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord and Ling Shuang, “You continue forward, following the original route. I’ll handle things.”

“Senior, be careful.”

Ling Shuang glanced at him with concern, then quickened her pace without hesitation.

The Crimson Cloud Demon Lord followed, knowing Kai was more than capable of dealing with these lowly soldiers.

Only then did Kai slowly turn around, standing alone in the swirling snow, his white robes and black hair fluttering in the wind, calmly watching the five approaching Divine Clan warriors.

Fifty zhang, thirty zhang, ten zhang!

The lead Divine Warrior, seeing Kai not only not flee but also stop to wait for them, felt a flicker of surprise in his eyes, which was quickly replaced by anger.

Never before in the Eternal Ice Plains had any outsider dared to so provoke the Divine Race’s majesty!

“Form the ‘Mystic Ice Dragon-Trapping Formation’!” he roared, slamming his double-bladed ice axe into the ice.

“Boom!”

The ice shattered, and five thick ice pillars shot into the sky from around Kai, each pillar covered in dense ancient divine runes.

These ice pillars were not stationary; instead, they began to rotate at high speed, creating a violent storm of ice blades that trapped Kai at the center.

Simultaneously, a powerful magnetic field was generated between the ice pillars, and the immense force of the field would make it difficult for an ordinary Celestial Immortal cultivator to even stand within this formation.

The other four warriors each occupied a side, their hands forming hand seals, frantically pouring their ice-elemental immortal power into the formation.

The array shone brightly, the temperature plummeted, and even the moisture in the air instantly condensed into fine ice crystals, which adhered to Kai's protective aura, constantly eroding and thickening, attempting to completely freeze him.

"Interesting."

Kai looked around at the rotating ice pillars and the complex divine runes with interest, "However, it's still too weak."

He hadn't even drawn his Dragon-Slaying Sword.

# Chapter 5845-5846

He simply raised his right index finger and gently touched the ice pillar directly in front of him.

A point of chaotic light flashed at his fingertip.

The light was initially only the size of a grain of rice, yet it seemed to contain the birth and destruction of a universe.

The next moment, the light suddenly spread!

There was no earth-shattering explosion, no blinding light.

But centered on Kai's fingertip, an invisible wave silently swept across the surroundings.

"Crack—crack crack—"

A series of teeth-grinding cracking sounds rang out.

The five ice pillars, containing the combined power of a Celestial Immortal Realm expert and inscribed with ancient divine script, were like glass struck by an invisible giant hammer, their surfaces instantly covered with spiderweb-like cracks.

The cracks spread rapidly, covering the entire ice pillar in the blink of an eye.

Then, with a deafening roar, all five ice pillars collapsed simultaneously, turning into a shower of ice dust!

The five divine warriors who were presiding over the formation simultaneously spat out a mouthful of blood, their faces instantly turning ashen, their eyes filled with horror.

The formation was forcibly broken, and they suffered a severe backlash!

"This is impossible! Even a sixth-grade Celestial Immortal would be trapped in the 'Mysterious Ice Dragon Trapping Formation' for a short while..." the leading double-axe warrior exclaimed in shock.

His only response was Kai's indifferent gaze and five sword energies, drawn with fingers like swords, seemingly

slashing through the air. The sword energies were invisible, yet faster than thought.

The five Divine Race warriors felt a chill on their necks, and their vision spun.

They saw their headless bodies standing in place, their blood frozen into scarlet ice pillars before it could even spurt out, and then their consciousness sank completely into darkness.

Kai didn't even glance at the five slowly falling corpses. He turned, took a step, and was already a thousand feet away. In a few flashes, he caught up with the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord and Ling Shuang ahead.

The entire process, from stopping to killing the five and then leaving, took no more than a few breaths.

"Continue on your way." Kai's tone was completely calm, as if he had merely swatted a few flies.

As the three ventured deeper, the environment grew increasingly harsh.

A massive, bottomless ice-cracked canyon appeared ahead, its sides sheer and precipitous, barely a dozen feet wide, serving as one of the only routes to the heart of the ice plains.

"Senior, this place is treacherous and easily ambushed,"

Ling Shuang warily observed the ice walls, her divine sense meticulously scanning every inch of ice.

Kai nodded, his golden vertical pupils subtly appearing as he scanned the canyon.

In his vision, the energy fluctuations hidden within the ice walls were as clear as fireflies in the night—twelve in total!

Each spot harbored a divine warrior, the weakest being at least a fourth-grade Celestial Immortal, the two strongest even reaching the sixth grade!

They were almost one with the ice walls, their heartbeats, breathing, and energy fluctuations reduced to a minimum, clearly masters of stealth and assassination.

Furthermore, beneath the ice at the canyon's entrance and exit lay three interconnected, trigger-activated ice explosion arrays.

Once stepped inside, it would trigger a chain reaction of explosions, powerful enough to severely injure a sixth-grade Celestial Immortal cultivator.

"Twelve ambushes, three ice-blast formations,"

Kai calmly stated the enemy's arrangement. "Two sixth-grade Celestial Immortals, four fifth-grade, and six fourth-grade. Quite stronger than the last batch."

The Crimson Cloud Demon Lord gasped upon hearing this.

With such a lineup, combined with the advantageous terrain, even an eighth-grade Celestial Immortal could easily perish here if they weren't careful.

Ling Shuang also gripped her sword hilt, preparing for a fierce battle.

"Stay close to me, don't stray more than three zhang away," Kai ordered, stepping into the canyon first.

The instant he entered the canyon, the ambushes on the ice wall moved!

There were no shouts, no warnings, only the purest killing intent erupting!

"Whoosh whoosh whoosh whoosh—!" Twelve ice-blue figures shot out from the ice wall like ghosts, their speed leaving afterimages in the air.

Their weapons varied—ice swords, ice spears, ice wheels, ice spikes—but all exuded a deadly chill, attacking Kai and his companions from all directions, sealing off any space for escape.

Simultaneously, three ice explosion arrays beneath the ice layer were triggered!

“Boom boom boom—!”

Terrifying explosions erupted from beneath their feet, releasing extremely compressed icy energy in an instant, forming three ice-blue energy pillars over thirty feet in diameter that shot skyward, completely engulfing Kai and his companions!

The shockwave from the explosions caused countless ice spikes to fall from the ice walls on both sides, and the entire canyon trembled.

The twelve ambushers wore cold smiles.

Such coordination, such a deadly trap, even the clan elders would have to temporarily retreat; these three reckless outsiders were doomed!

However, their smiles froze on their faces the next second.

A point of golden light suddenly appeared within the ice-blue energy pillars.

The golden light was initially weak, but in the blink of an eye, it expanded and spread, like the rising sun, unstoppable!

“Roar—!”

A faint dragon’s roar seemed to echo through the canyon! Wherever

the golden light passed, the violent ice explosion energy melted and vanished as quickly as spring snow meeting the blazing sun!

A golden sphere, three zhang in diameter, hovered steadily in mid-air. Inside the sphere, Kai stood with his hands behind his back, protecting the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord and Ling Shuang unharmed. On

the surface of the sphere, chaotic immortal power and a trace of true dragon blood intertwined and flowed, forming an absolute defense.

“What?!” The twelve ambushers were horrified.

Their fully activated ice explosion formation couldn't even break through the opponent's defense?

Kai raised his eyes, his gaze sweeping over the surrounding divine race ambushers, and said calmly, "The ambush was well done, but unfortunately, the power is a bit lacking."

Before he finished speaking, he moved.

This time, he didn't use sword energy.

Instead, he formed an ancient and profound hand seal.

"Chaos—Suppress Prison!"

"Boom!"

Centered on Kai, an indescribable heavy pressure suddenly descended!

That wasn't physical pressure, but suppression at the level of laws!

It was as if the weight of the entire world had converged here, pressing down on these twelve divine soldiers!

"Thump! Thump! Thump!"

The twelve soldiers plummeted from mid-air like dumplings being dropped into a pot, crashing heavily onto the ice.

They were horrified to find that the flow of their ice-type immortal power had completely stopped, their bloodline abilities were completely suppressed, and they couldn't even move a single finger!

They could only watch helplessly as the white-robed figure slowly approached.

"You... who exactly are you?!"

A fifth-grade Celestial Immortal leader struggled to raise his head, his eyes filled with fear and disbelief.

He had only ever felt this absolute suppression of laws on a few of the clan's top elders!

Kai didn't answer his question, but simply reached out and gently grasped the twelve men from a distance.

"Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!..."

Twelve muffled thuds followed, like twelve ice grapes being crushed.

The bodies of the twelve divine soldiers simultaneously exploded, turning into twelve clouds of blood mist, which were then frozen by the extreme cold into twelve poignant ice sculptures of blood, adorning the pristine white ice surface.

Kai dispersed his hand seals, and the golden sphere of light vanished as well. "Let's go."

Kai didn't even glance at the "ice sculptures" and continued walking forward, his steps unhurried, as if he had just taken a stroll.

The Crimson Cloud Demon Lord and Ling Shuang exchanged a glance, both seeing deep awe in each other's eyes.

With a mere gesture, he had suppressed and annihilated twelve Celestial Immortal Realm experts, including two Rank Six experts!

Such strength was beyond their comprehension.

The three emerged from the canyon, leaving behind only twelve dazzling crimson ice flowers and the remnants of the destroyed ice explosion array, silently recounting the brief but brutal battle that had just taken place.

Beyond the canyon lay a relatively open ice basin.

In the center of the basin grew a sparse but tall patch of “Ice Crystal Ironwood.” This spiritual wood was crystal clear, yet its wood was several times harder than refined iron, making it an excellent material for crafting ice-type magical artifacts.

However, at this moment, this Ice Crystal Ironwood forest had become the most dangerous killing field.

As Kai and his companions stepped onto the edge of the basin, a series of low, rumbling roars echoed from the forest.

The roars were filled with ferocity and hunger, clearly not from benevolent creatures.

“It’s the Ice Soul Wolf pack, and… the Xuanbing Giant Bear!”

Ling Shuang’s expression changed slightly. “These two are the most ferocious pack beasts on the ice plains. Adults are at least equivalent to the fifth rank of the Heavenly Immortal Realm, and their leaders can reach the seventh rank. Judging by this commotion, their numbers are definitely considerable! The Northern Underworld God Clan can actually command them?”

Kai scanned the area with his divine sense and understood.

In the Ice Crystal Ironwood Forest, over three hundred Ice Soul Wolves lurked, twice the size of ordinary wolves, covered in ice-blue fur, their fangs like daggers, their claws gleaming coldly.

Among the pack were three exceptionally powerful wolf kings with a single horn on their foreheads, their aura reaching the seventh rank of the Heavenly Immortal Realm.

Behind the wolf pack were eight colossal Ice Bears, each the size of a small mountain, standing five zhang tall, their muscles bulging, covered in thick ice armor. A single slap of their paws could shatter mountains and split rocks.

One of them, a bear king with silvery fur, possessed an aura of a peak seventh-grade Celestial Immortal!

These ferocious beasts were even more powerful than the major sects of the tenth heaven.

What was more troublesome was that these beasts were clearly enraged or controlled by some means, their eyes bloodshot, radiating a violent aura, completely displaying a do-or-die attitude.

“It wasn’t driven, but some kind of provocation or enticement was used to lure them onto our inevitable path,”

Kai calmly analyzed. “Using these beasts to deplete our strength is much easier.”

As soon as he finished speaking, the forest echoed with mournful wolf howls and ferocious bear roars!

“Awooo—!!!”

“Roar—!!!”

More than three hundred Ice Soul Wolves surged out of the forest like a blue tide, their speed extremely fast, running like the wind on the ice, stirring up a cloud of snow mist.

Eight colossal ice bears followed closely behind, each step causing the ice to tremble.

A beast tide!

A true beast tide!

Even a cultivator at the eighth rank of the Heavenly Immortal Realm would have to temporarily retreat and choose to fight on the move against such a massive charge, daring not to confront it head-on.

The Crimson Cloud Demon Lord's face paled. Even if Kai could handle so many ferocious beasts, he and Ling Shuang would likely be unable to protect themselves.

Ling Shuang took a deep breath, drew her longsword, and a chilling sword aura condensed before her.

Kai, however, smiled.

# Chapter 5847-5848

"Perfect, let's try out my newly mastered technique."

He stepped forward, facing the surging tide of beasts alone.

Against the backdrop of hundreds of ferocious beasts, his figure appeared so small, yet so unwavering.

He slowly raised both hands, his left hand outstretched, his right hand held upright with fingers together in front of his chest. In

his left palm, a tiny crimson spark quietly appeared, then rapidly expanded, transforming into a slowly rotating twelve-petaled fire lotus shrouded in chaotic energy! At

the center of the fire lotus, a wisp of dark golden dragon-shaped flame could be faintly seen moving, radiating a terrifyingly high temperature capable of incinerating the heavens!

This was the "Chaotic Dragon Flame," a fusion of chaotic source fire and true dragon blood!

At the fingertips of his right hand, an icy blue light shone, not from cold air, but from an extreme chill that froze the laws of nature and solidified spacetime!

This was Kai's simulation and evolution of the ice-elemental source power to its ultimate form using chaotic immortal power!

Ice and fire, two extremely opposing forces, now coexisted harmoniously in his hands, and began to slowly approach and merge!

"Return to the Origin of Chaos—A Dual Realm of Ice and Fire!"

Kai roared, thrusting his hands forward with a mighty shove!

"Boom—!!!"

Centered on him, the left half of the world instantly transformed into a crimson sea of fire!

These were no ordinary flames, but chaotic dragon flames, capable of incinerating magical treasures and scorching the soul with a mere touch!

The sea of fire churned, with faint dragon shadows flitting about; the temperature was so high that even the distant ice crystals and ironwood began to melt!

The right half of the world transformed into an absolute zero frozen world!

An extreme chill permeated the air, even space itself seemed frozen, revealing fine black cracks!

This was a spatial instability phenomenon that could only be triggered when the freezing law reached a certain level!

The boundary between ice and fire was clearly defined ten feet in front of Kai, yet they strangely intertwined and rotated, forming a Tai Chi diagram of ice and fire with a diameter of one hundred feet!

At this moment, the vanguard of the beast tide had already reached the edge of the Tai Chi diagram!

“Swoosh—!!!”

The Ice Soul Wolves that charged into the sea of fire didn’t even have time to howl before they were reduced to wisps of smoke in the crimson flames,

their bodies and souls utterly destroyed! Their icy blue fur and protective chilling aura were like paper before the Chaotic Dragon Flame.

The Ice Soul Wolves that rushed into the frozen world instantly froze into lifelike ice sculptures, maintaining their running posture, before being smashed to pieces by their companions surging from behind.

The extreme cold directly froze their life force and soul. The

Ice and Fire Tai Chi Diagram slowly advanced, and wherever it passed, whether Ice Soul Wolves or Xuanbing Giant Bears, they all melted like snow under the blazing sun!

The three-headed wolf king tried to bypass the Tai Chi Diagram from the side, but three chaotic sword energies unleashed by Kai instantly pierced its head, and its massive corpse crashed to the ground.

The silver-haired bear king was the most ferocious, and it roared wildly, its ice armor bursting with dazzling light, enduring the pressure of the dual ice and fire, charging towards Kai like a chariot!

With each step it took, a huge crater was blasted open on the ice, its imposing presence was terrifying! Kai glanced at it, extended his right index finger, and flicked it lightly at the charging bear king.

“Clang!”

A crisp snap.

The bear king’s charging figure abruptly froze. It looked down in astonishment at its chest.

There, a hole the size of a thumb had appeared, its edges smooth as a mirror. No blood flowed, because the flesh, bones, and even the soul surrounding the hole had been instantly and completely “erased” by an incomprehensible force.

“Thump.”

The massive bear carcass fell to the ground, kicking up a cloud of icy dust.

The remaining ferocious beasts finally felt their instinctive fear, whimpering and retreating, dispersing. But the Ice and Fire Tai Chi Diagram had already spread out, enveloping them all.

A moment later, the ice and fire dissipated.

The basin returned to calm.

More than three hundred Ice Soul Wolves, eight Xuanbing Giant Bears, including their king, had all vanished without a trace, leaving not even a trace of remains, as if they had never existed.

Only the craters on the ice, melted and quickly frozen by the flames, and the eerie aura of lingering heat and cold in the air, testified to the brief but terrifying massacre that had just occurred.

Kai lowered his hands, his face slightly pale.

Simultaneously manipulating two extremely opposing laws to form such a large-scale killing move was quite taxing, even for someone with his current Celestial Immortal cultivation and the inclusiveness of Chaos Immortal Power.

But the effect was clearly satisfactory.

Crimson Cloud Demon Lord and Ling Shuang were completely speechless.

What they had just witnessed had exceeded their understanding of "power."

That ice-fire Tai Chi diagram was practically like the work of a legendary immortal!

"Rest for half an hour, then continue on our way."

Kai sat cross-legged, took out a pill to restore his immortal power, swallowed it, and closed his eyes to meditate.

Crimson Cloud Demon Lord and Ling Shuang quickly protected him, vigilantly observing their surroundings. But after experiencing that world-destroying scene, it was unlikely that any living being would dare approach this basin for a short time.

Half an hour later, Kai had fully recovered, and the three of them set off again.

The closer they got to the heart of the ice plains, the more frequent and intense the ambushes became.

After defeating the fourth wave of interception by thirty divine warriors, an extremely unusual area appeared ahead.

It was a circular ice plain with a diameter of over five hundred miles, its surface as smooth as a mirror, reflecting the hazy sky.

But above this area, a layer of pale blue, visible light membrane shrouded it. Complex divine runes flowed on the light membrane, radiating a powerful spatial confinement force.

"It's an anti-air zone and a gravity superposition zone!"

Ling Shuang's expression was grave. "I can feel that the airspace in this area is filled with chaotic spatial turbulence and a gravity field more than a hundred times stronger! Forcing flight will not only greatly reduce

speed, but may also tear us apart by the spatial turbulence. We can only cross on foot."

The Crimson Cloud Demon Lord tried to sense it, and sure enough, the flow of immortal power within his body became much sluggish, as if he were carrying a mountain on his back.

Kai looked up at the pale blue light membrane, his golden vertical pupils flickering slightly.

In his vision, the light membrane was not a simple barrier, but rather a complex network of countless tiny divine runes interwoven together, connected to the earth veins deep within the ice plains below, continuously drawing upon the cold air of the ice plains and the power of the earth veins to maintain its operation. Its complexity and energy level far surpassed the formations encountered previously.

"This should be part of a large-scale defensive barrier set up by the Northern Underworld God Clan, covering the main passage to the core area,

" Kai analyzed. "Traversing on foot is exactly what they want."

Sure enough, the moment the three stepped into the no-fly zone, three neat military formations silently appeared on the icy plain ahead!

Each formation had fifty men, totaling one hundred and fifty God Clan warriors.

They were all dressed in standard ice-blue heavy armor, wielding uniform ice crystal halberds, their auras stern and their killing intent soaring to the sky.

This was clearly not the previous patrol or ambush, but the true regular army of the God Clan!

The three formations were arranged in a "品" shape, their auras connected, vaguely forming a larger battle formation.

At the front of each formation stood a powerful God General.

The general on the left wielded a massive ice crystal shield, his aura as steady as a mountain, a sixth-grade Celestial Immortal;

the general on the right held twin ice spikes, his figure agile, a peak sixth-grade Celestial Immortal;

the central general, though empty-handed, possessed the most terrifying aura, reaching a seventh-grade Celestial Immortal!

A flash of icy blue divine light flickered in his eyes, clearly indicating he was the true commander of this allied army.

Their strength and scale likely surpassed all the sects of the Tenth Heaven.

“You trespassed into the forbidden land of the Divine Race, breaching seven of our race’s defenses and killing over a hundred of our warriors,”

the central general declared, his voice as cold and piercing as ice rubbing together. “Your sins are countless. Today, we will use your blood to appease the heroic souls of our race and restore the dignity of the Divine Race!”

“Form the formation—’Northern Dark Ice Immortal Slaughtering Formation’!”

With his command, one hundred and fifty Divine Race warriors roared in unison, their voices shaking the surrounding wilderness!

“Boom!”

The three military formations simultaneously erupted with soaring icy blue light, which converged and merged in mid-air, transforming into a massive array phantom covering several miles in radius!

Within the phantom, the shape of the Black Tortoise was faintly visible, emanating a chilling aura of slaughter.

As soon as the array was formed, the temperature in the entire no-fly zone plummeted again, and the gravity field surged to nearly two hundred times its normal level!

Countless sharp ice shards condensed in the air, like swords hanging overhead, ready to fall at any moment.

Even more terrifying was that the array perfectly integrated the power of 150 people, forming a unified whole.

Any attack that landed on the array would be distributed among all those who set it up, making it extremely difficult to break through. And the attack launched by the array was equivalent to the combined strike of 150 people, with terrifying power!

“This is getting interesting.”

A hint of seriousness finally flashed in Kai’s eyes.

The Northern Underworld God Clan was indeed quite powerful, capable of dominating the Eternal Ice Plains.

But he felt no fear; on the contrary, he was eager to try.

# Chapter 5849

“Ling Shuang, Senior, step back and protect yourselves. I’ll break this formation.”

Kai slowly drew his Dragon-Slaying Sword.

The sword was ancient and unadorned, but the moment it was drawn, a sharp sword intent that severed cause and effect and annihilated all laws soared into the sky, even diluting some of the killing intent emanating

from the “Northern Darkness Profound Ice Immortal Slaughtering Formation”!

The central divine general’s pupils constricted slightly; he sensed the extraordinary nature of the sword.

“Kill!”

But he had absolute confidence in his battle formation and issued the attack order without hesitation.

“Xuanwu Suppresses the World—Freeze the World!”

The Xuanwu in the formation’s illusory image roared to the sky, spitting out a beam of icy blue light with a diameter of over ten zhang!

Wherever the beam passed, space was frozen into solid ice crystal paths, carrying terrifying power to freeze all things and crush everything, heading straight for Kai!

The power of this attack had reached the level of the eighth rank of the Heavenly Immortal Realm!

Kai neither dodged nor evaded, gripping the sword with both hands and holding it upright in front of him.

He closed his eyes, his mind becoming one with the Dragon-Slaying Sword.

The chaotic immortal power within his body surged, and the chaotic fire lotus and true dragon blood in his dantian erupted simultaneously, the immense power flowing through his meridians into the sword.

The Dragon-Slaying Sword emitted an excited hum, fine dragon scale patterns appearing on its blade, and an ancient, vast, terrifying sword intent capable of annihilating everything began to coalesce.

Kai suddenly opened his eyes, golden light bursting forth from them like a tangible force!

“Dragon-Slaying Sword Technique, Third Form—Severing the Sky!”

He gripped the sword with both hands and slashed diagonally upwards!

There was no dazzling sword light, no deafening sound.

Only a slender, almost transparent gray sword thread silently extended from the tip of the sword.

That sword thread looked so fragile, as if it would break at the slightest touch.

However, the instant it touched the ten-zhang-diameter ice-blue pillar of light—

“Sizzle!”

Like a hot knife through butter.

The terrifying pillar of light, containing the power of an eighth-grade Celestial Immortal’s strike, was easily and smoothly cleaved in two by the gray sword thread!

The two halves of the pillar grazed Kai’s sides, striking the ice behind him and blasting two bottomless craters, yet failing to harm him in the slightest.

The sword thread continued its momentum, drifting lightly towards the enormous array phantom.

“Not good! Defend with all your might!” The central Divine General’s expression changed drastically, and he roared fiercely.

One hundred and fifty Divine Warriors frantically activated their immortal power, causing the array's light to surge to its peak, and the Xuanwu phantom to solidify as if real, radiating an indestructible aura.

The gray sword thread landed on the Xuanwu phantom's tortoise shell.

Time seemed to freeze for a moment.

The next instant.

"Crack..."

A soft yet clear cracking sound rang out.

Centered on the point where the sword thread landed, countless fine cracks instantly spread throughout the entire Xuanwu phantom! Cracks rapidly spread to the 150 divine warriors below, their ice-blue heavy armor, their ice crystal halberds, and even their bodies, all began to crack!

"No—!!!"

The central divine general roared in despair.

"Boom—!!!"

The massive Xuanwu phantom, along with the 150 divine warriors below, collapsed and shattered like a toppled stack of blocks!

It transformed into countless ice-blue specks of light and blood mist, scattering across the pristine ice plain.

One sword strike, shattering the battle formation!

Kai stood holding his sword, slightly panting. This single strike had consumed nearly 30% of his immortal power. But the effect was awe-inspiring.

The anti-air domain, having lost its maintainer, began to fluctuate violently. The pale blue light membrane flickered, finally bursting and dissipating with a “pop,” like a bubble.

The hundredfold gravity also vanished.

Crimson Cloud Demon Lord and Ling Shuang stared speechlessly at the devastated battlefield before them, and at Kai, who stood with his sword, seemingly both god and demon.

“Let’s go. We should be close to the Blood Soul Cold Pool area soon,”

Kai said, sheathing his sword, his expression calm as ever, as if his earth-shattering strike had been merely a casual gesture.

The three stepped across the blood-stained, rapidly freezing ice surface and continued forward.

Behind them lay only shattered armor, weapons, and frozen crimson ice crystals, silently testifying to the destruction of the divine battle formation.

Less than an hour after Kai shattered the “Northern Dark Ice Immortal Slaughtering Formation” with a single sword strike, an unprecedentedly terrifying pressure, like the awakening of a slumbering ancient beast, erupted from the depths of the ice field and approached at an astonishing speed!

This pressure was so intense that Crimson Cloud Demon Lord and Ling Shuang instantly found it difficult to breathe, their souls trembling, as if an iceberg were pressing down on their hearts.

Even the howling wind and snow around them froze and fell silent under this oppressive force.

Kai stopped, turned around, and looked in the direction from which the pressure came, his eyes revealing a solemn expression for the first time.

The newcomer was very strong!

Far surpassing everyone he had intercepted before, even a level stronger than the previous seventh-grade Heavenly Immortal Battle Formation General!

“Heavenly Immortal Realm… peak eighth grade! Moreover, his aura is condensed and profound, his foundation is solid, he is definitely not a superficial person who has been forcibly enhanced by drugs or secret techniques.”

Kai quickly judged in his mind.

A few breaths later, a streak of icy blue light streaked across the sky and landed a hundred feet in front of Kai.

The light dissipated, revealing the figure within.

It was a middle-aged man who looked to be about forty years old, with a face as resolute as if carved by a knife, eyes as deep as cold pools, and a deep blue ice crystal divine mark between his brows that was more complex and dazzling than any of the gods he had seen before.

He wore a simple ice-blue robe, without armor, yet the chill emanating from him subtly distorted the surrounding space.

In his hand lay an ancient, crystalline longsword, seemingly carved from ice crystals. The blade was blunt, yet it radiated an extreme cold that stung even the soul.

“I am Han Yu, the third divine general of the Northern Underworld Palace,”

the middle-aged man spoke, his voice low but clear, carrying a condescending scrutiny. “So it was you who breached my clan’s defenses and killed hundreds of my soldiers?”

His gaze fell on Kai, scrutinizing him before revealing a hint of surprise: “First-grade Celestial Immortal? No… your aura is peculiar, primordial chaos, with a hint of dragon’s might… I have never seen the cultivation technique you practice before.”

Kai calmly met his gaze: “Step aside. I only seek medicine to save lives; I do not wish to commit further bloodshed.” “Slaughter?”

The Cold Prison God General’s lips curled into a cold smile. “In the eyes of my divine race, you outsiders are nothing but ants and weeds.”

“Crushing a few ants counts as slaughter? Hand over the sword you carry, seal your cultivation, and return with me to the Northern Underworld Palace to await judgment, and perhaps I may spare the lives of the two behind you. Otherwise…”

He gently trembled his ice crystal sword, and where the tip pointed, thick ice instantly froze on the ground, rapidly spreading towards Kai and the other two!

“Otherwise, this place will be your burial ground!”

As his words fell, the Cold Prison God General’s aura exploded!

“Buzz—!”

Centered on him, the world within a thousand feet suddenly changed color!

No longer howling winds and snow, it transformed into an absolutely silent, absolutely cold world of ice and snow!

What fell from the sky was no longer snowflakes, but countless thin, sharp-edged ice blades!

Countless ferocious ice spikes grew from the ground, like fangs ready to devour their prey!

Domain!

The power that only high-level Celestial Immortal cultivators can initially grasp—the Frost Domain!

Within this domain, the Frost Prison General is the absolute ruler!

He can freely manipulate all ice-based powers within, greatly weakening his opponents and amplifying his own strength. This is a qualitative difference, far beyond what ordinary formations or battle arrays can match.

Crimson Cloud Demon Lord and Ling Shuang's faces turned deathly pale. They felt their immortal power circulating within their bodies become incredibly difficult, their blood was about to freeze, and even their thoughts seemed to become sluggish.

Within this domain, they probably couldn't even withstand a single move from the Frost Prison General!

Kai frowned slightly.

The opponent's domain was already quite perfect, and its power should not be underestimated.

Most importantly, he didn't want Crimson Cloud Demon Lord and Ling Shuang to be affected.

"You two retreat to the edge of the domain and protect yourselves,"

Kai transmitted to the two, and at the same time, he took a step forward, voluntarily entering the core of the Frost Prison General's domain.

"Seeking death!"

A cold light flashed in the Frost Prison General's eyes, and he slashed through the air with his ice crystal longsword!

Within the domain, countless ice blades instantly changed direction, shooting towards Kai like a torrential rain!

At the same time, ice spikes on the ground grew wildly, piercing him from all directions!

Each ice blade and each ice spike contained the power of the freezing law, enough to easily pierce the defense of an eighth-grade Celestial Immortal!

Facing this overwhelming attack, Kai neither dodged nor evaded.

He simply slowly raised his right hand, palm facing upward.

“Your domain is not bad, but unfortunately, you’ve met me.”

“Chaotic Immortal Domain—Open!”

“Boom—!!!”

An indescribable, all-encompassing, and supremely vast aura erupted from Kai’s body!

Centered on him, within a radius of eight hundred feet, the ice blades, ice spikes, and extreme cold, as if encountering their nemesis, rapidly melted and retreated! In their

place was a hazy, gray scene, resembling the chaotic scene at the beginning of the world!

Within this chaotic realm, there were no Five Elements, no Yin and Yang, no light or darkness, only the most primordial and fundamental chaotic energy flowing.

Unlike the Frost Domain, it didn’t possess strong offensive or overt suppressive power, but it had a characteristic of “assimilation” and “negation” of everything.

When the Frost Prison General's ice blades and spikes entered the chaotic realm, they quickly lost their original form and legal characteristics, transforming into basic ice-type spiritual energy, which was then devoured and assimilated by the chaotic energy, becoming part of the chaotic realm's nourishment!

"This... what kind of domain is this?!"

The Frost Prison General's pupils suddenly contracted, his face showing disbelief for the first time. He had never seen such a bizarre and powerful domain!

His Frost Domain, in the face of the opponent's domain, was like ice meeting boiling water, rapidly melting and retreating!

"Impossible! Freeze it!"

The Frost Prison General roared, fully activating his domain, the ice crystal divine pattern between his brows erupting with dazzling light, attempting to suppress it.

Kai's expression remained unchanged, a thought flashing through his mind.

In the center of the chaotic domain, the illusory chaotic fire lotus appeared, slowly rotating.

At the center of the lotus, a wisp of dark golden dragon-shaped flame rose.

"Chaotic Dragon Flame, Burn!"

"Roar—!"

Amidst the faint roar of a dragon, the dark golden flame swept out, causing the temperature within the chaotic domain to drop instead of rise—a terrifyingly high temperature capable of burning even the laws themselves!

The flame clashed violently with the Frost Prison General's icy domain, producing a hissing sound. Large swathes of ice-based laws were directly evaporated and incinerated!

The Frost Prison General groaned, a trickle of blood spilling from the corner of his mouth. His domain had been forcibly burned and eroded, and he suffered a backlash!

"What kind of monster are you?!"

he cried out in shock and rage, no longer daring to hold back. "Ice God Bloodline—Awaken!"

"Roar!"

He roared to the sky, the ice crystal divine pattern between his brows igniting completely, transforming into a blue pillar of light that shot into the heavens!

His body began to swell, fine, icy-blue scales appearing on his skin. His eyes turned a pure icy blue, and his aura surged wildly, instantly breaking through the eighth rank of the Celestial Immortal Realm and approaching the ninth rank!

This was a forbidden bloodline technique of the Northern Underworld God Clan, capable of briefly awakening the ancient Ice God bloodline within one's body, granting power far exceeding one's own realm!

However, the price was immense, leaving one in a prolonged period of weakness afterward.

"Ice God Slash—Eternal Frozen Sorrow!"

The Frost Prison God General gripped his sword with both hands, raising it high above his head. The ice crystal sword instantly expanded to a hundred feet in size, countless ancient divine runes appearing on its blade, radiating a terrifying aura that could freeze time and space and end everything!

This sword strike had already touched upon a trace of the “Dao,” its power enough to threaten a ninth-rank Celestial Immortal Realm cultivator!

He faced Kai, pouring all his strength into a single strike!

The hundred-foot-long ice crystal giant sword tore through the chaotic domain, carrying a blue light that froze all things, and cleaved down!

Before the sword even arrived, the ice field below had already been crushed, creating a huge fan-shaped crater!

Kai looked up at the earth-shattering sword strike, his eyes calm and undisturbed.

He slowly raised the Dragon-Slaying Sword, its tip pointing towards the heavens.

Within his body, Chaotic Immortal Power, Chaotic Fire Lotus, True Dragon Blood, and a trace of the Chaotic Law’s true meaning, which he had only recently comprehended, were all poured into the sword without reservation!

The Dragon-Slaying Sword emitted an unprecedented hum, and the dragon scale patterns on its blade seemed to come alive. A blurry chaotic dragon shadow coiled around the sword, roaring towards the sky!

# Chapter 5850

“The final move of the Dragon-Slaying Sword Technique—Chaos Returns to Nothingness!”

Kai gripped the sword with both hands, cleaving upwards against the heavens!

There was no sound.

No light.

Only a thin, seemingly all-encompassing “black crack,” capable of swallowing the entire world, spread from the tip of the Dragon-Slaying Sword, meeting the hundred-foot-long ice crystal giant sword.

The instant the “black crack” touched the ice crystal giant sword—

time seemed to stand still.

Space seemed to freeze.

The next moment.

“Crack…crack crack…boom!!!”

The hundred-foot-long ice crystal giant sword shattered inch by inch, starting from its tip! The fragments didn’t scatter everywhere, but were silently swallowed and annihilated by the “black crack,” returning to nothingness!

The speed of shattering was unbelievable, spreading to the hilt in the blink of an eye.

The Cold Prison God General’s eyes were filled with extreme fear and bewilderment. He couldn’t understand why his supreme attack, unleashed by burning his bloodline, was so easily defeated.

“No…this isn’t real…”

*Swoosh!*

A “black crack” gently sliced across his body.

The Cold Prison God General’s movements froze abruptly.

He looked down and saw a thin, long black line appear on his chest.

The black line spread rapidly, and wherever it passed, his body, armor, the ice crystal longsword in his hand, and even the boiling Ice God bloodline and boundless immortal power within him, all rapidly lost their color, life, and existence, ultimately turning into the most primordial particles, devoured by the “black crack.”

“Chaos…return to nothingness…” he murmured the last four words, his eyes completely dimming.

A gust of cold wind blew by.

The Cold Prison God General’s figure vanished like a sand sculpture in the wind, leaving no trace, as if he had never existed.

His icy domain also collapsed and dissipated.

The chaotic domain slowly returned to Kai’s body.

Kai’s face was as pale as paper, his sword-wielding hand trembling slightly, even needing to plant the sword in the ice to stand steady.

Using the “Return to Nothingness” technique nearly drained all his power, leaving even his soul feeling weak.

But he ultimately won.

With his peak cultivation at the first rank of the Celestial Immortal Realm, he overcame seven minor realms to directly kill the third Divine General of the Northern Underworld Clan, a peak eighth-rank Celestial Immortal Realm expert who had just touched the threshold of the ninth rank! This scene was deeply etched into the minds of Crimson Cloud Demon Lord and Ling Shuang, unforgettable for life.

“Senior!” Ling Shuang exclaimed, rushing forward to support Kai.

Crimson Cloud Demon Lord also rushed over, his eyes filled with gratitude and shock.

He knew that Kai had fallen into such danger to help him.

“It’s nothing, just a bit too much exertion.”

Kai waved his hand, took out a handful of recovery pills and stuffed them into his mouth, then sat cross-legged to meditate. “I need to meditate for an hour. You

two protect me.” “Yes!” Crimson Cloud Demon Lord and Ling Shuang immediately flanked him, extremely vigilant.

An hour later, Kai’s aura had recovered by more than half. Although not at his peak, he already had the strength to fight.

He stood up and looked deeper into the icy plain, where three towering ice peaks, arranged in a triangular shape

, were already in the distance. “The Blood Soul Cold Pool is over there.”

“And the Northern Underworld Palace… shouldn’t be far either.”

The three continued forward, their steps firm. Having endured a series of bloody battles, especially the epic duel with the Frost Prison God General, their aura was completely transformed.

It was a fierce confidence born from countless battles, a power that could slay any obstacle.

The icy winds of the Eternal Ice Plains seemed to change direction because of them.

The Northern Underworld Clan’s interception did not cease with the fall of the Frost Prison God General; instead, it became even more frenzied and desperate.

But before Kai, who had recovered most of his strength, these interceptions were like a mantis trying to stop a chariot, easily crushed.

Finally, as the setting sun painted the ice plains with a poignant hue, they arrived at the depression surrounded by the three triangular ice peaks. They saw the dark red Blood Soul Cold Pool, and the thousand-year-old Ice Soul Blood Lotus budding beside it.

They also saw the forbidden protective array, shimmering with light, that enveloped the entire depression.

And behind the array, deep within the ice plains, stood the majestic, magnificent, and infinitely awe-inspiring Northern Underworld Palace!

The real challenge had only just begun. Kai's gaze had already passed over the icy pool and the great formation, landing on the deepest part of the ice crystal palace.

There, not only lay the method to break the forbidden formation, but also possibly other secrets of the divine race!

Kai knew far too little about the divine race.

"The Northern Underworld Palace..."

Kai murmured to himself, the Dragon-Slaying Sword emitting a slight tremor in its sheath, as if responding to its master's fighting spirit.

"I've arrived."

# Chapter 5851-5852

When Kai and his companions finally arrived at the depression surrounded by three towering ice peaks, night had already fallen on the Eternal Ice Plains.

There were no stars in the sky, only the aurora borealis, like flowing, colorful rivers, dancing silently in the dark firmament, illuminating the entire ice plain with a bizarre and surreal light.

In the center of the depression, the Blood Soul Cold Pool, no more than ten feet in diameter, gleamed with an eerie dark red light under the aurora. The water was calm and still, yet it exuded a chilling aura and a bloody stench that sent shivers down one's spine.

Beside the pool, the thousand-year-old Ice Soul Blood Lotus swayed slightly in the cold wind, its nine petals as crystalline as rubies, its central bud as crimson as blood, seemingly ready to bloom at any moment.

However, the forbidden protective array that enveloped the entire depression stood like an insurmountable chasm.

Ancient and intricate divine runes flowed across the icy blue light screen, and at the ends of the icy blue chains hanging from it, the grotesque phantoms of ice beasts flickered in and out, radiating a terrifying pressure.

What weighed heavily on the heart even more was what lay beyond the grand formation—deeper within those three ice peaks, a magnificent ice crystal palace complex, beyond description, stood silently amidst the night and aurora. The

Northern Underworld Palace.

It wasn't a single palace, but a sprawling cluster of ice crystal buildings.

The main hall, a thousand feet high, was carved entirely from millennia-old black ice and earth-core jade, crystal clear, reflecting the magnificent colors of the aurora, yet retaining a cold and austere sacred majesty.

Countless smaller palaces, towers, and corridors surrounded the main hall like stars around the moon, connected by ice crystal staircases and suspended walkways, forming a beautiful yet perilous ice crystal city.

Faintly visible within the city were flickering ice-blue lights, and powerful auras seemed to emanate from within.

The entire palace complex exuded an ancient, aloof, and inviolable aura, like a slumbering ice and snow deity.

“Finally here…”

The Crimson Cloud Demon Lord gazed at the Blood Lotus, so close at hand, his eyes filled with both longing and anxiety.

With the protective array in front and the Northern Underworld Palace behind, the path to obtaining the medicine remained arduous.

Ling Shuang gripped her longsword tightly and whispered, “Senior, that array…”

“We must find a way to break it first.”

Kai’s gaze swept past the icy pool and the array, landing on the distant Northern Underworld Palace. “And the solution must lie within the palace.”

The three paused briefly to catch their breath before heading towards the Northern Underworld Palace.

The closer they got, the more they felt the grandeur and oppressive aura of this ice crystal city.

There were no city walls surrounding the palace; instead, there were rings of ice crystal fences, hundreds of feet high and as sharp as knives, inscribed with defensive divine runes, radiating a cold sense of rejection.

The only entrance was a fifty-foot-high ice crystal archway.

On either side of the archway stood a ten-foot-tall ice sculpture statue, each holding an ice halberd, gazing forward. Though inanimate, they gave the impression that they might come to life at any moment.

When Kai and the others were still a hundred feet away from the archway, two figures slowly emerged from within.

The two newcomers were of different heights and builds, one tall and one short, the other strong and the other thin, yet both exuded a suffocatingly terrifying aura. The man on the left was nine feet tall, broad-shouldered and muscular, with a rugged, rock-carved face, a full beard, and large, piercing eyes.

He was shirtless, revealing his bronze-colored, scarred, muscular physique, clad only in an ice-blue battle skirt, and carried a massive ice crystal axe the size of a door.

Just standing there, he exuded a mountain-like weight.

His aura had reached the peak of the eighth rank of the Celestial Immortal Realm, just like the Third Divine General, Han Yu!

The man on the right was tall and slender, with a sinister face, appearing to be about thirty years old. His face was as pale as paper, his thin lips tightly pressed together, and his narrow eyes were as cold as a venomous snake.

He wore a magnificent ice-blue robe with wide sleeves, his hands tucked into them. He seemed frail, but the chill emanating from him was more concentrated and deadly than that of the giant.

His aura was also at the peak of the eighth rank of the Celestial Immortal Realm, but the sense of danger he exuded was even greater!

“The First Divine General of the Northern Underworld Palace, Manshan,” the giant spoke, his voice booming like a bell, causing the surrounding ice crystals to tremble.

“The Second Divine General of the Northern Underworld Palace, Xuanming,” the sinister man’s voice was shrill, like an ice needle slicing through glass.

The two stood side by side, blocking the entrance to the archway. Behind them, dozens of elite divine warriors could be vaguely seen standing ready inside the archway.

“To have fought your way here, even falling to the Cold Prison, you do have some skill.”

Xuanming’s narrow eyes swept over Kai and the other two, lingering on Kai for a moment before revealing a hint of surprise. “First-grade Celestial Immortal Realm? Interesting… It seems you have quite a few secrets.”

Manshan impatiently swung his giant axe, creating a gust of cold wind: “Enough nonsense! Trespassing into the forbidden area of the Northern Underworld Palace and killing my people, you deserve to die! Boy, state your name, for I do not kill nameless ghosts!”

Kai took a deep breath, stepped forward, and cupped his hands, saying, “I am Kai. I have no ill intentions here, only to retrieve the Thousand-Year Ice Soul Blood Lotus from the Blood Soul Cold Pool to save people.”

“This item is of great use to me, and I am willing to exchange it for treasures of equal value. I humbly request that you two divine generals grant me this favor.”

“Do me a favor?”

Man Shan laughed as if he’d heard the funniest joke in the world, his laughter cracking the ice. “Boy, have you lost your mind? The Blood Soul Cold Pool is the sacred pool of my Northern Underworld Palace; every blade of grass and every tree within belongs to the divine race!”

“You killed so many of us, and you expect us to do you a favor?”

Xuan Ming coldly retorted, “Hand over the sword you’re carrying, along with the cultivation techniques and secret arts you practice, then cripple your own cultivation, and perhaps we can spare your corpse.”

“As for the two behind you… the man will have his soul extracted and refined, the woman will be used as a servant—this is the consequence of trespassing within the divine race!”

The arrogance and malice in his words were undisguised.

Kai's face darkened.

He knew negotiation was impossible, but the other side consisted of two peak eighth-grade Heavenly Immortals, far stronger than any enemy he had encountered before.

Though confident, he was not arrogant. "Since that's the case, then there's nothing more to say."

Kai slowly drew his Dragon-Slaying Sword. "Today, I will take the Blood Lotus. Those who stand in my way—die!"

"Arrogant!" Man Shan roared, taking the initiative!

He took a step forward, and the ice surface shattered with a deafening roar. His massive body moved with lightning speed, instantly covering a distance of fifty feet. His giant ice crystal axe, carrying the force to split mountains and cleave the earth, cleaved down towards Kai!

This axe strike, seemingly simple and brutal, contained terrifying power and laws!

Before the axe blade even arrived, the immense pressure had already created a large crater in the ice beneath Kai's feet, and the surrounding air was compressed, causing it to explode!

"Senior, be careful!" Ling Shuang exclaimed.

Kai dared not take the blow head-on. He swayed, using the Soaring Dragon Steps to narrowly dodge to the side.

"Boom!!!"

The giant axe struck the ice surface, and a crack hundreds of feet long and bottomless instantly spread out!

The violent shockwave forced Kai back more than ten steps, his blood churning.

“You dodged pretty fast!” Man Shan grinned maliciously, sweeping his giant axe across the room, creating a cloud of icy blue axe shadows that blocked all of Kai’s escape routes.

At the same time, Xuan Ming also moved.

He didn’t step forward, but instead extended his hands from his sleeves, his ten fingers moving rapidly in the air in front of him like playing a zither.

With each finger strike, a thin, almost transparent, icy blue thread shot out.

These threads were not physical entities, but were condensed from the ultimate laws of ice, ignoring physical defenses and specifically targeting the soul and meridians!

“Xuan Ming Ice Soul Threads!”

Ling Shuang’s expression changed drastically, “They specifically injure the soul and corrode the meridians; anyone hit by them will die! Senior, dodge quickly!”

Kai also felt the deadly threat of those threads.

While using his movement techniques to dodge Man Shan’s giant axe, he swung his Dragon-Slaying Sword, unleashing several chaotic sword energies in an attempt to sever the Ice Soul Threads.

However, the Ice Soul Threads were extremely tough and strange; the chaotic sword energies struck them as if striking flowing water, only causing them to distort slightly, but not completely severing them.

Instead, several threads pierced through the gaps in the sword energy, attacking Kai!

Kai's heart tightened, and he hurriedly activated his Chaotic Immortal Power to protect himself. At the same time, a golden light flashed between his brows, and a faint dragon's might erupted, deflecting the threads slightly and narrowly avoiding fatal blows.

However, his arm was still grazed by a thread, and instantly, a bone-chilling coldness invaded his meridians, making his entire arm numb and stiff, and his immortal power flowed sluggishly.

"Not bad, you can dodge my Ice Soul Silk." Xuan Ming smiled coldly, "But how many times can you dodge?"

As he spoke, he flicked his fingers, and more Ice Soul Silk, like a spider web, enveloped Kai from all directions, while Man Shan's giant axe followed closely, its attacks becoming increasingly ferocious.

The two, one close and one far, one strong and one skillful, cooperated seamlessly, completely suppressing Kai!

"Ling Shuang, Senior, help me!" Kai gritted his teeth and shouted.

Kai was fighting two people alone, and he had no chance of winning at all.

He could only rely on Crimson Cloud Demon Lord and Ling Shuang to hold one of them off while he desperately killed the other first!

"Alright!"

Ling Shuang drew her longsword, transforming into a dragon, her sword energy like a rainbow, attacking Xuan Ming's flank, attempting to disrupt his Ice Soul Silk.

Crimson Cloud Demon Lord also roared, his dark red demonic energy transforming into a towering demonic cloud, within which fierce ghosts howled, attacking the lower part of the Savage Mountain.

"How dare an ant be so presumptuous?"

Xuan Ming didn't even look at Ling Shuang, casually waving his left hand, dozens of Ice Soul Silks changed direction, instantly shattering Ling Shuang's sword energy and wrapping around her. Ling Shuang's face turned deathly pale. She hurriedly changed her move to defend, but was still struck by several threads. She groaned and flew backward, blood trickling from the corner of her mouth, clearly seriously injured.

Man Shan stomped his giant axe on the ground: "Get out of the way!"

A terrifying shockwave spread out from him, shattering most of the demonic clouds surrounding the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord. The Crimson Cloud Demon Lord was also forced to retreat, his blood churning.

In just one exchange, Ling Shuang and the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord were already injured, almost unable to restrain each other.

Kai's pressure increased even more.

"Boy, you can be proud of yourself for holding out against the two of us for so long."

Man Shan laughed wildly, his giant axe attack like a storm. "But this ends here! Barbarian God's Mountain-Splitting Axe – Earth-Splitting!"

He held the axe with both hands, raising it high above his head. A dazzling ice-blue light erupted from the axe, and a terrifying power was gathering!

The power of this axe strike was several times stronger than any of the previous attacks!

At the same time, Xuan Ming also got serious.

He clasped his hands together, chanting incantations. The icy crystal divine pattern between his brows shone brightly, and countless icy threads intertwined before him, condensing into a crystal-clear, thumb-sized, ice-blue prism!

“Mysterious Nether Thorn—Soul Breaker!”

The prism shot out silently, its speed exceeding the limits of divine sense!

Wherever it passed, space froze, cracking with fine black fissures—a manifestation of condensing the laws of ice to their extreme, reaching the spatial level!

One force, one soul—two deadly attacks descended simultaneously!

Kai’s pupils constricted, feeling an unprecedented threat of death!

“I can’t take it head-on!”

His mind raced, and he made a decision instantly.

“Little Fire Qilin!” Kai released the Little Fire Qilin.

The Little Fire Qilin was a divine beast, a fire-type divine beast, thus countering the techniques of the Northern Nether Palace.

“Roar—!!!”

A deafening roar echoed across the icy plains!

From Kai’s storage ring, a majestic Qilin divine beast, three zhang tall and engulfed in golden flames, stepped out!

After being constantly fed by Kai in the Demon Beast Forest, the little fire qilin’s body had grown much stronger!

Moreover, its aura had already reached the seventh rank of the Celestial Immortal Realm!

The golden flames swirling around its body were not ordinary fire, but contained a trace of innate fire source power, possessing a strong restraint on ice-type power!

As soon as the little fire qilin appeared, it sensed its master's danger and the threat of the two powerful enemies before it. Without hesitation, it opened its maw and spewed out a golden fire pillar over ten feet in diameter, directly piercing the giant axe that was cleaving down from the Savage Mountain!

At the same time, the flames around its body surged, transforming into a fiery barrier that blocked Kai's path!

"Boom—!!!"

The golden fire pillar collided fiercely with the icy blue giant axe!

The extreme heat and extreme cold clashed, producing a terrifying explosion!

The energies of ice and fire collided and annihilated each other wildly, forming an energy storm tens of feet in diameter, instantly evaporating and freezing the surrounding ice surface—a horrifying sight!

# Chapter 5853-5854-5855

The little fire qilin grunted and staggered back several steps, its flames dimming considerably, clearly indicating that taking the full force of Man Shan's axe blow had not been easy.

At that moment, Xuan Ming's "Xuan Ming Thorn" arrived!

The icy blue prism ignored the little fire qilin's flame barrier, piercing through it like an illusion, heading straight for Kai's brow!

"Roar!"

The little fire qilin roared in desperation, trying to block with its body, but the prism was too fast; it was too late!

In that critical moment, a resolute glint flashed in Kai's eyes.

He abandoned all defense, gripped his sword with both hands, and his mind quickly recalled the ancient, vast sword technique passed down to him by Wan Jianxing in the void passage—a technique containing the true meaning of shattering all constraints.

He hadn't fully comprehended that sword technique, but at this critical juncture of life and death, he had no choice but to fight desperately!

The chaotic immortal power within Kai's body circulated wildly along the special path of that sword technique, and a completely different, extremely sharp sword intent erupted from his body!

"Slash—the—void—the—space!"

Kai roared, unleashing the Dragon-Slaying Sword with an unfathomable trajectory!

There was no sword energy, no light.

Only a will to "sever," a intent to "break"!

This sword strike did not sever matter, nor energy, but... "connection"!

"Clang!"

A soft sound rang out.

The deadly Xuanming Thorn, only three inches from Kai's brow, suddenly froze.

The next moment, the invisible "connection" between it and Xuanming, formed by the laws of ice, was severed by Kai's sword!

The Xuanming Thorn, now out of control, instantly disintegrated, transforming into primordial ice-elemental spiritual energy, vanishing into the air.

"What?!"

Xuanming's expression changed drastically for the first time, his eyes filled with disbelief. "You... how could you sever my legal connection?! What kind of sword technique is this?!"

Man Shan was also stunned; he had never seen such a bizarre attack method.

After unleashing this sword strike, Kai's face was ashen, he gasped for breath, and his whole body trembled.

Forcibly activating a sword technique he hadn't fully mastered, and severing the law connection formed by an eighth-grade Celestial Immortal, was too much of a burden for him. It almost drained his last bit of strength, and his soul felt a tearing pain.

The little fire unicorn anxiously nuzzled Kai, whimpering.

Ling Shuang struggled to her feet, staggered to Kai's side, and supported his swaying body, tears streaming down her face: "Senior!"

The Crimson Cloud Demon Lord's eyes also reddened, and he stood in front of Kai, his demonic energy surging, ready to fight to the death.

"Hmph, at your last gasp!"

Xuan Ming quickly recovered from his shock, his killing intent intensifying. "No matter what kind of sword technique you have, you must die today! Such a sword technique must not fall into the hands of foreigners!"

Man Shan also grinned maliciously: "Boy, what other tricks do you have up your sleeve? Show them off! Grandpa wants to see how many more moves you can last!"

The two closed in again, their killing intent palpable.

Looking at the relentlessly closing in enemy, then at the heavily injured Ling Shuang beside him, the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord desperately

protecting him, and the anxiously whimpering Little Fire Qilin, Kai felt a surge of helplessness.

Was he really going to die here?

He hadn't yet obtained Ling Yue's life-saving medicine, Senior Wan Jianxing was still trapped in the void passage, and he hadn't fulfilled his promise...

He was unwilling to accept this! "I'll fight you to the death!"

A mad glint flashed in Kai's eyes as he prepared to burn his life force for a final, desperate gamble.

However, at that moment—

"Stop."

A clear, ethereal female voice, seemingly untouched by worldly concerns, suddenly echoed from the depths of the Northern Underworld Palace.

The voice wasn't loud, but it resonated clearly in everyone's ears, carrying an undeniable authority.

Man Shan and Xuan Ming froze, their faces simultaneously showing astonishment, confusion, and even a hint of fear.

Kai was also startled, looking in the direction of the voice.

Deep within the Northern Underworld Palace, atop the tallest main hall, a thousand feet high, a white figure had appeared.

She wore a flowing white dress, the hem fluttering, appearing ethereal and otherworldly against the aurora and the night.

She looked to be about twenty-seven or twenty-eight years old, with exquisite beauty, snow-white skin, and exquisitely beautiful features, yet shrouded in an unyielding coldness and sorrow.

Her aura was elusive, seemingly blending into the surrounding ice and snow, yet giving off an unfathomable aura.

She stood suspended in mid-air, descending step by step from the palace rooftop, as if treading on an invisible staircase.

With each step, an ice crystal lotus bloomed beneath her feet, supporting her jade-like feet.

In just a few breaths, she arrived at the archway, landing between Kai and the two divine generals.

“Palace Master!”

Man Shan and Xuan Ming bowed simultaneously, their tone respectful yet tinged with doubt. “Why have you emerged from seclusion? Such petty villains can be dealt with by your subordinates.”

Palace Master?

Kai’s heart skipped a beat.

This woman before him, with her aloof and exquisite beauty, was the Palace Master of the Northern Underworld Palace?

The woman ignored the two divine generals, instead focusing her gaze on Kai, or more precisely, on the Dragon-Slaying Sword in Kai’s hand, and the lingering, unique sword intent emanating from him.

Her gaze was initially icy, but the moment it met that sword intent, it trembled violently! A

storm of emotions suddenly surged within those eyes, which seemed like millennia-old ice!

Shock, disbelief, longing, pain, hope… a complex tapestry of emotions raged within them!

“You…”

Her voice trembled slightly, her gaze fixed on Kai. “The sword technique you just used…where did it come from?!”

Kai was taken aback, not expecting her to ask this.

He forced himself to remain calm despite his weakness and replied, “This sword technique was taught to me by a senior.”

“That senior…what is his name? Where is he?”

The Palace Master’s voice grew increasingly urgent, even taking a step forward.

Kai hesitated for a moment, but remembering that she was the Palace Master of the Northern Underworld Palace and might know something, he answered truthfully, “That senior called himself Wan Jianxing, and was trapped in a special void passage. I entered by chance and received his sword technique.”

Kai didn’t mention the Heavenly Dragon Palace, nor that Wan Jianxing was a hall master of the Heavenly Dragon Palace. “Wan Jianxing… Wan Jianxing…”

the Palace Master murmured, repeating the name. Her delicate body swayed slightly, and tears welled up in her eyes, but those tears were instantly frozen by the extreme cold, turning into ice crystals that slid down her cheeks.

She took a deep breath, trying to calm her turbulent emotions, but her voice still trembled: “He… he’s still alive? He really… is still alive?”

“Yes, Senior Wan Jianxing is still alive, but he’s trapped and can’t escape,” Kai affirmed.

“Impossible!”

Xuanming suddenly interrupted, his tone filled with surprise and doubt. “Wan Jianxing violated the divine race’s prohibition, and… and…”

He glanced at the Palace Master, not daring to continue, “He should have been personally suppressed by the patriarch long ago, his soul and spirit destroyed! How could he still be alive? Boy, don’t talk nonsense and deceive the Palace Master!”

“I’m not lying.”

Kai met his gaze calmly. “Senior Wan Jianxing said it himself. He was cast into a void rift by the divine race’s patriarch with supreme divine power, imprisoned for eternity. If it weren’t for his extraordinary cultivation and special secret method protecting his soul, he would probably have perished long ago.”

The Palace Master closed her eyes, remaining silent for a long time.

When she opened her eyes again, the emotional storm in her eyes had subsided, returning to its previous coldness, but deep within that coldness lay an indescribable complexity.

“All of you, step back.”

She commanded Manshan, Xuanming, and the divine race warriors within the archway.

“Palace Master!”

Man Shan cried out anxiously, “This boy’s origins are unknown. He trespassed into the forbidden area and killed our warriors. He must not be let go! Moreover, his words may not be credible. The matter of Wan Jianxing is a taboo of the Divine Race…”

“I said, step back.”

The Palace Master’s voice remained calm, yet carried an undeniable authority.

Man Shan and Xuan Ming exchanged a glance, both seeing the resentment in each other's eyes, but ultimately dared not disobey the Palace Master's order, bowing and saying, "Yes."

The two led the warriors within the archway and quickly retreated, disappearing into the depths of the palace. Only

Kai and the other two, along with the mysterious Palace Master of Beiming, remained in the room.

The Palace Master's gaze fell on Kai again, this time not with scrutiny, but with a complex assessment.

She slowly spoke, "Your name is Kai?"

"Indeed."

"You say Wan Jianxing is still alive, do you have any proof?" the Palace Master asked, her gaze fixed on Kai's eyes.

Kai pondered for a moment, then said in a deep voice, "When Senior Wan Jianxing taught me his swordsmanship, he left behind a wisp of his innate sword intent, instructing me to show it to any trustworthy person as proof."

As he spoke, he forcefully channeled a faint wisp of chaotic immortal power into the Dragon-Slaying Sword, simultaneously recalling the unique Daoist aura Wan Jianxing had imparted when teaching the swordsmanship. The

Dragon-Slaying Sword trembled slightly, and a wisp of extremely faint yet pure silver sword intent, containing the essence of severing all laws and roaming freely across heaven and earth, slowly rose from the sword.

This wisp of sword intent was very faint, almost dissipating at any moment, but the "flavor" it contained was unique!

The moment she saw this wisp of silver sword intent, the Palace Master's delicate body trembled violently, staggering back half a step, her face instantly turning ashen.

She reached out her trembling hand, wanting to touch the sword intent, but stopped just before touching it, as if afraid it was a fragile dream.

"It really is him…it really is his sword intent…" She murmured softly, her voice choked with emotion, "Thousands of years… I thought you had long ago… long ago…"

Two lines of clear tears finally slid uncontrollably down her cheeks, but before they could fall, they froze into glistening ice beads.

Kai sheathed his sword intent and waited quietly.

He could sense that there was probably a very deep connection between the Palace Master before him and Wan Jianxing.

After a long while, the Palace Master calmed down. She wiped away the icy tears on her face, regaining her cold expression, but the look in her eyes towards Kai had softened considerably.

"This is not the place to talk. Come with me."

She said, turning and walking towards the Northern Underworld Palace.

Kai looked at Ling Shuang and the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord beside him, then at the Blood Soul Cold Pool in the distance, and hesitated, "Palace Master, my friend urgently needs the Thousand-Year Ice Soul Blood Lotus in the Blood Soul Cold Pool to save his life, I wonder…"

The Palace Master paused, then said without turning her head, "We'll talk about the Blood Lotus later. Come with me first. I have something to ask you, and some things… I need to tell you."

Her tone left no room for argument.

Kai remained silent for a moment, then nodded to Ling Shuang and the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord: “Let’s follow.”

The three followed the Palace Master into the mysterious and majestic Northern Underworld Palace.

Passing through the tall archway, a completely different scene unfolded inside. Along the wide, icy avenue stood various exquisite ice sculptures and ice crystal lampposts, emitting a soft glow.

The palace complex was intricate, with interconnected corridors and cascading icefalls, beautiful as a dreamlike fairyland, yet eerily silent.

Along the way, they occasionally encountered patrolling divine warriors, who bowed respectfully to the Palace Master, but cast curious, wary, and even hostile glances at Kai and his companions. However, under the Palace Master’s imposing presence, no one dared to approach and question them.

Finally, the Palace Master led them to a relatively smaller, but more exquisite, side hall.

The hall was simply furnished, with only a few ice crystal chairs and an ice table. The walls were smooth as mirrors, reflecting their figures.

“Sit,”

the Palace Master gestured for Kai and his companions to sit, while he himself took the main seat.

Once everyone was seated, the Palace Master’s gaze fell upon Kai again, and she slowly spoke, “Now, tell me everything you know about Wan Jianxing. Don’t leave anything out.”

Kai nodded and recounted in detail how he had mistakenly entered the void passage, encountered Wan Jianxing, and received his inheritance and instructions, omitting only the matter of the Heavenly Dragon Palace.

The Palace Master listened quietly, her face expressionless, but her tightly clenched hands and slightly trembling eyelashes betrayed her inner turmoil.

When she heard that Wan Jianxing had endured thousands of years of torment in the void passage, suffering the pain of spatial rupture day and night, yet still held onto hope and remembered his old friend, she finally couldn't help but close her eyes, taking several deep breaths to barely suppress her surging emotions.

"Did he... did he say anything else about me?"

The Palace Master opened her eyes, a glimmer of hope in them.

Kai recalled for a moment, then shook his head and said, "Senior Wan Jianxing didn't mention a specific name, only that... if there's an opportunity, help him find an old friend from the Divine Race, tell them he's still alive, and don't seek revenge for him, just live well."

Kai made up a story; he had long suspected that the Palace Master and Wan Jianxing were not simple.

The two might have a secret affair, or even be lovers.

# Chapter 5856

The palace mistress trembled and gave a bitter smile: "Don't seek revenge... Live well... Sword Star, you're still so foolish."

She was silent for a moment before looking at Kai again: "Do you know what my relationship is with Wan Jianxing?"

Kai shook his head.

"We were lovers."

The Palace Master's voice was soft, yet it carried a deep, unforgettable pain. "Ten thousand years ago, I was a Holy Maiden of the Divine Race, and he was a dazzling swordsmanship genius of the Divine Race. We could have been the most enviable couple in the Divine Race, but..."

Her eyes turned cold and resentful: "The Divine Race has an ironclad rule: the Holy Maiden must remain pure and chaste, serve the Ice God for life, and cannot marry, much less have any romantic relationship with any man of another race... no, with any man at all."

"Sword Star... he openly defied the clan rules for me, even attempting to elope with me."

"The Clan Chief was furious and personally suppressed me. I should have died, but Sword Star spared my life by bearing most of the punishment himself."

"In the end, I was stripped of my Holy Maiden title and exiled to this bitterly cold northern land, where I established the Northern Underworld Palace, effectively severing ties with the Divine Race."

"And Jianxing... the clan leader publicly declared that he had annihilated his soul and spirit as a warning to others. I have searched for him for thousands of years, but I have never been able to find a trace of him, and can only assume that he really..."

She choked up at this point, unable to continue.

Kai was deeply moved, never expecting that Wan Jianxing and the palace master before him had such a tragic and heroic past.

Defying orders for love, not hesitating to become an enemy of the entire divine race, ultimately ending up imprisoned for eternity...

Ling Shuang and the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord were also moved.

“For thousands of years, I have never stopped thinking about avenging Jianxing, overthrowing those cold-blooded clan rules, and overthrowing the clan leader who suppressed him!”

The Palace Master’s eyes burned with raging anger. “But I am weak and alone. Although I founded the Northern Underworld Palace and it seems independent, it is actually still under the surveillance of the gods. I can only endure, accumulate strength, and wait for an opportunity.”

She looked at Kai, her eyes filled with gratitude: “Thank you for telling me that he is still alive. This is more important to me than anything else.”

Kai shook his head: “Senior has taught me skills, so informing me of his situation is what I should do.”

The Palace Master pondered for a moment and asked: “You just said that you want to take the Thousand-Year Ice Soul Blood Lotus to save people?”

“That’s right.”

Kai quickly gave a brief account of the matter between the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord and the Spirit Moon Fairy.

After listening, the Palace Master nodded slightly: “You are quite a devoted lover. Although the Thousand-Year Ice Soul Blood Lotus is precious, it is nothing to me. I can give it to you, and I can even help you remove the protective array outside the Cold Pool.”

The Crimson Cloud Demon Lord was overjoyed upon hearing this and was so excited that he was about to get up and thank him.

“However,” the Palace Master changed the subject, “I have conditions.”

Kai’s heart skipped a beat: “Palace Master, please speak.” “First, I need to know the exact location of your void passage and how to enter it. If I have the chance in the future, I want to see him.”

The Palace Master's gaze was firm.

Kai thought for a moment, then nodded in agreement: "Okay. However, that void passage is extremely hidden and dangerous. Even with my current strength, I can't guarantee a safe entry again. Moreover, the area where Senior Wan Jianxing is located is extremely unstable; going there rashly might be..."

Kai didn't know how to enter, and he knew that Wan Jianxing now only had a wisp of his soul left, and it was even uncertain whether his soul still existed.

Back then, to save him, Wan Jianxing forcibly left the void passage, causing his soul to dissipate!

But Kai couldn't say any of this; if he did, the Palace Master might turn against him.

"I know it's dangerous, but I must go,"

the Palace Master interrupted him. "After a century of longing, I must see for myself that he's safe. As for the danger... I'm prepared."

"Secondly,"

the Palace Master continued, "since you've received Sword Star's inheritance, you're, in a sense, his disciple. I need you to promise me that if you're strong enough in the future, you'll find a way to help him escape!"

"If possible... overthrow the corrupt rules of the God Clan, so that lovers no longer have to suffer this torment!"

Kai nodded!

He had already wanted to challenge the God Clan Chief!

Although he wasn't strong now, it didn't mean he wouldn't be in the future.

Even if he encountered the God Clan Chief now, Kai dared to curse him.

The God Clan Chief was known to be ruthless; Kai knew Mr. Shi would definitely appear.

Then, what would the God Clan be worth?

Mr. Shi would wipe them out.

"I promise you."

Kai nodded. "Once I am strong enough, I will definitely go to the God Clan and demand that the Clan Chief release Senior Wan Jianxing. If he refuses... I will fight until he agrees! As for those outdated rules, they will be broken!"

"Good! You have spirit!" A hint of admiration flashed in the Palace Master's eyes. "No wonder you were chosen by Jianxing."

She paused, then added, "However, your strength is still weak, and you know too little about the God Clan. Going there blindly is tantamount to suicide."

"Take this opportunity to ask me any questions you have about the God Clan. I will tell you everything I know."

# Chapter 5857

Kai's spirits lifted; this was exactly what he needed.

"Palace Master, what kind of existence is the Divine Race? Why are they so arrogant and xenophobic? Just how strong are they? And what realm is their patriarch?" Kai asked several questions in a row.

The Palace Master composed himself and slowly began to speak:

“The Divine Race is not a single race, but a vast and ancient alliance.”

“They claim to be descendants of ancient primordial gods and demons, their bloodline imbued with divinity, naturally attuned to various laws, their cultivation speed far surpassing ordinary races, and their lifespans far exceeding theirs.”

“This has instilled in them a deep-seated sense of superiority, viewing other races as ‘mortals’ and ‘inferior beings.’”

“The Divine Race is further divided into many branches, such as the ‘Ice God Branch,’ from which I originate, specializing in ice-based laws; there are also the ‘Fire God Branch,’ the ‘Thunder God Branch,’ the ‘Wood God Branch,’ and so on, each with its own strengths.”

“The various branches jointly elect a ‘Divine Emperor’ to govern the entire race, under whom are established a ‘Council of Elders’ and a ‘Hall of Divine Generals.’”

“The current Divine Emperor is said to have reigned for over 30,000 years, his cultivation unfathomable, at least… at the Golden Immortal realm!”

Golden Immortal!

Kai’s pupils constricted.

Above the Celestial Immortal is the Upper Immortal, above the Upper Immortal is the True Immortal!

And above the True Immortal is the Golden Immortal.

That was a truly peerless powerhouse capable of dominating an entire realm and establishing a new lineage!

Kai's head started to ache at the thought. With his current strength, even a mere Immortal could easily kill him!

He dared not even consider taking on a Golden Immortal?

He wouldn't dare dream of it unless Mr. Shi could help him.

But regardless, he had to rescue Wan Jianxing in the end; after all, Wan Jianxing was a hall master of the Heavenly Dragon Palace.

"The reason the Divine Race is so xenophobic is partly due to their sense of bloodline superiority, and partly because they possess many ancient secrets and powerful inheritances, which they fear being leaked."

"At the same time, they need to maintain the purity of their divine lineage, therefore strictly prohibiting intermarriage with other races, especially for a saintess like myself; the rules are outrageously strict."

The Palace Master sneered, "The Sword Star incident is just the tip of the iceberg. Countless similar tragedies have unfolded over the past hundred years."

"Then the Northern Underworld Divine Race…"

"The Northern Underworld Divine Race is actually a force I established after arriving in the Eternal Ice Plains, by gathering some Ice God branch members who were also dissatisfied with the Divine Race or frustrated within it."

The Palace Master explained, "Nominally, we are still a branch of the Divine Race, under their control, but in reality, we have already become disloyal."

"The Divine Race is aware of my intentions, so they have always been on guard and monitoring us. Your rampage here has likely already alerted the main Divine Race."

Kai's heart sank.

If this attracted the attention of the main Divine Race, the trouble would be immense. The Palace Master, noticing his worry, said calmly, “Don’t worry, the main sect of the Divine Race won’t easily intervene in the short term. They’re used to their arrogance and will only think it’s the Northern Underworld Palace’s incompetence.”

“Besides, I’ve been operating here for thousands of years, and I’m not without my trump cards. Even if the main sect of the Divine Race sends people, I have room to maneuver.”

“The most urgent thing is for you to improve your strength as quickly as possible. Your cultivation technique is extremely special, seemingly encompassing all things and possessing dragon might, with limitless potential. But your realm is too low; you’re still no match for the true powerhouses of the Divine Race.”

Kai nodded, “I understand. So after obtaining the Blood Lotus this time, I plan to go to the Eleventh Heaven to find the Earth Core Jade Marrow Milk, and also to seek an opportunity for a breakthrough.”

“The Eleventh Heaven…”

the Palace Master pondered, “It’s more dangerous there than the Tenth Heaven, and the competition for resources is even fiercer. However, with your strength and potential, it’s worth a try.”

“My Northern Underworld Palace also has several hidden strongholds in the Eleventh Heaven, which can provide you with some information and assistance.”

Saying this, she took out an ice-blue, rhombus-shaped token and handed it to Kai: “This is the Northern Underworld Token. With this token, you can obtain certain assistance at my Northern Underworld Palace’s strongholds in the Eleventh Heaven.” Kai

took the token; it was icy cold to the touch. The front was engraved with the character “冥” (Underworld), while the back was covered with intricate snowflake patterns.

He carefully put it away: “Thank you, Palace Master.”

Kai carefully put the token away. He knew that with the Palace Master’s strength, she could easily venture into the Eleventh Heaven, or even the Twelfth Heaven.

It seemed that staying here was an order from the main sect of the Divine Race, preventing her from wandering around.

“No need to thank me. You are the successor of Sword Star, just like my junior.”

The Palace Master’s tone softened considerably. “You will rest in this hall tonight. I will have someone bring you healing pills.”

“Tomorrow morning, I will take you to retrieve the Blood Lotus and tell you some precautions regarding the Eleventh Heaven.”

She stood up. “Rest well.” ”

Palace Master, I didn’t know beforehand that I had killed so many disciples of your Northern Underworld Palace. I…”

Seeing the Palace Master about to leave, Kai said apologetically.

“It’s alright…” After the Palace Master finished speaking, she gently waved her hand.

Inside a transparent light barrier, the disciples of the Northern Underworld Palace that Kai had killed lay one by one.

Even Han Yu, the Third Divine General, was there.

However, these people seemed to be asleep.

“Don’t worry, as long as they are within this icy plain, their souls will not be destroyed and will recover.”

After saying this, the Palace Master drifted away, leaving Kai and the other two in the quiet side hall.

# Chapter 5858

The Crimson Cloud Demon Lord couldn't hide his excitement: "Kai, that's wonderful! There's hope for the Blood Lotus!"

"Yes!" Kai nodded excitedly as well!

Not long after the Palace Master left, several divine maids entered the side hall carrying ice jade trays.

On the trays were several kinds of crystal-clear pills, exuding a rich medicinal fragrance, as well as some pastries made from spiritual fruits unique to the Ice Plains and a pot of steaming spiritual tea.

"The Palace Master instructed that our distinguished guest should rest and heal in peace."

The head maid's voice was cold. After bowing, she put down the items and quietly withdrew.

The Crimson Cloud Demon Lord picked up a bottle of pills. After opening it, the fragrance of the medicine was overwhelming. Just smelling it made him feel that the turbulent blood and qi in his body had calmed down considerably: "These are all top-quality healing medicines. The Palace Master of the Northern Underworld is indeed thoughtful."

Ling Shuang also took a pill and closed her eyes to regulate her breathing.

Her injuries were not too serious. The main problem was that her meridians had been eroded by the cold energy of the Xuanming Ice Soul Silk, which needed time to heal.

Kai took out a pill to restore his immortal power and swallowed it.

He then looked at the healing pills and said to the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord, “Senior, these pills are mild yet potent, perfect for your recovery.” The Crimson Cloud Demon Lord didn’t stand on ceremony; he indeed needed to recover quickly. Ling Yue was waiting for the Blood Lotus to save her life; every moment of delay increased the risk.

The little fire qilin lay at Kai’s feet, looking somewhat tired.

Its clash with Man Shan had taken a toll, and it was now dozing with its eyes half-closed, its golden flames dimmed considerably.

Kai gently stroked its head, injecting a wisp of chaotic immortal power into its body to aid its recovery.

The little fire qilin rubbed comfortably against Kai’s hand, making a soft purring sound.

That night, the three of them quietly healed and recuperated in the side hall.

Occasionally, the orderly footsteps of patrolling warriors could be heard outside, along with the ceaseless howling of wind and snow on the distant ice plains.

As Kai healed, he recalled the words of the Palace Master.

The Divine Race, the Divine Emperor, the Golden Immortal Realm, the millennia-old grudges…

this information gave him a clearer understanding of the Divine Race, and also made him feel the pressure.

The Golden Immortal Realm was an existence he could only look up to.

As for himself, he was at the first rank of the Heavenly Immortal Realm. Although his combat power far surpassed that of his peers, and he could even kill peak eighth-rank cultivators, he probably couldn’t even withstand a fart from a Golden Immortal.

“My strength… is still too weak.”

Kai thought to himself, “I must go to the Eleventh Heaven. Only there can I improve faster. I must obtain the Earth Core Jade Marrow Milk, and I must find the Nine Aperture Divine Soul Grass, but more importantly, I must find an opportunity for breakthrough.”

His Chaotic Immortal Power encompassed all things, but the resources and insights required for breakthrough were more numerous and more difficult than those of ordinary cultivators.

He had already touched the barrier of the second rank of the Heavenly Immortal Realm, but he always felt that something was missing.

When the first ray of light of the next morning shone through the ice crystal window into the side hall, Kai slowly opened his eyes. After a night of recuperation, his immortal power had recovered to seventy or eighty percent, and his injuries were basically healed. The slight fatigue left by forcibly using “Severing the Void” had also dissipated under the nourishment of the elixir.

Ling Shuang and the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord also woke up one after another, their complexions much better.

The little fire unicorn also stood up spiritedly, its golden flames shining brightly again.

Just then, the palace doors opened silently, and the palace master appeared at the door.

She was still wearing a plain white dress, but today her hair was combed more neatly, and she looked less sad than last night, and more aloof and dignified.

“How did you rest?” the palace master asked.

“Thank you for the medicine, palace master. I’m much better now,” Kai said as he stood up.

“That’s good.” The palace master nodded. “Come with me, I’ll take you to the Cold Pool.”

The three of them quickly followed.

The palace master didn’t bring many attendants, only four composed divine maidens. The group moved through the palace complex, heading towards the three ice peaks at the rear.

Along the way, the Beiming Palace personnel they encountered, whether warriors or maids, all bowed respectfully to the Palace Master, but their gazes towards Kai and his companions were far more complex.

There was curiosity, hostility, and a hint of inquiry. Clearly, news of the Palace Master’s personal reception and accommodation of the three the previous night had already spread throughout the palace.

Passing through numerous palaces and covered bridges, they finally arrived at a secluded side gate. Pushing open the door, they saw the depression outside, with the Blood Soul Cold Pool just a few hundred feet away.

The sky was already bright, the aurora had faded, but the icy plain remained a hazy gray.

The three towering ice peaks, like three silent giants, guarded the central depression. The surface of the cold pool was still a dark red, like blood, and the blood lotus buds on the pool’s edge trembled slightly in the morning breeze, seemingly fuller than the night before.

“The Blood Lotus is about to bloom,”

the Palace Master said softly, gazing at the bud. “It only lasts three days; you’ve come at the perfect time.”

The Crimson Cloud Demon Lord trembled with excitement, his eyes fixed on the Blood Lotus, as if he saw a glimmer of hope for Lingyue’s resurrection.

“However,”

the Palace Master’s tone shifted, “my consent alone isn’t enough to harvest the Blood Lotus.”

Kai’s heart tightened: “What does the Palace Master mean?”

“The Blood Soul Cold Pool is a naturally formed, extremely yin and cold poisonous place. The fact that this thousand-year-old Ice Soul Blood Lotus can grow here is extraordinary,”

the Palace Master explained. “It’s not ownerless; rather, it has its own guardian.”

“Guardian?” The three of them simultaneously looked at the Cold Pool.

The water was calm and still, revealing nothing special except for its eerie dark red color and bone-chilling cold.

# Chapter 5859

“It’s not in the water.”

The Palace Master shook her head, pointing to the tallest of the three ice peaks. “It’s over there.”

Kai looked in the direction she was pointing and saw a huge ice cave halfway up the mountain.

The entrance was shrouded in a perpetually thick, frigid mist, obscuring the interior, but a faint yet incredibly powerful aura emanated from it.

That aura… ancient, cold, and majestic, carrying the savage ferocity unique to wild beasts.

“That is…” Kai’s pupils constricted slightly.

“The guardian spirit beast of the Ice Soul Blood Lotus is also one of the true natives of this eternal ice plain,”

the Palace Master said slowly. “It has guarded the Blood Lotus here for over a thousand years, and has a special symbiotic relationship with it.”

“The Blood Lotus grows by absorbing the cold poison and the blood energy of the earth’s veins, while it cultivates by absorbing the pure cold essence emitted by the Blood Lotus.”

“To harvest the Blood Lotus, one must obtain its consent, or… defeat it.”

The Crimson Cloud Demon Lord’s face paled: “Defeat it? What is the spirit beast’s strength?”

The Palace Master glanced at him: “When I first arrived thousands of years ago, it was already a seventh-grade Celestial Immortal. Now… I don’t know its strength.” A

seventh-grade Celestial Immortal thousands of years ago!

The Crimson Cloud Demon Lord gasped, his newly risen hope instantly plummeting.

Such an existence, let alone them, even if the Palace Master himself were to take action, he probably wouldn’t be able to easily defeat it.

Kai also frowned.

A seventh-grade Celestial Immortal?

In the past few thousand years, if the opponent’s strength had broken through, it would be an eighth or ninth-grade Celestial Immortal, or even higher.

This was already beyond his current limits.

Even if he exerts all his strength and uses all his trump cards, he can at most defeat a peak eighth-grade Celestial Immortal, and he can keep up with a ninth-grade one.

But if that spirit beast is stronger, I'll be in trouble.

What's more, generally speaking, human cultivators are no match for such spirit beasts at the same cultivation level.

"Palace Master, isn't there any other way?" Ling Shuang asked anxiously.

"Yes,"

the Palace Master nodded. "I can try to communicate with it and exchange it for treasures of equal value. However, this beast is arrogant and violent, and has coexisted with the Blood Lotus for thousands of years, sharing a deep bond. It might not agree. Moreover..."

"What it hates most is the mortal aura on human cultivators. Yesterday, you fought your way here, your blood energy soaring to the sky, which probably already alarmed it. The fact that it didn't attack immediately is already out of consideration for me."

Kai was silent for a moment, then asked, "What if the communication fails?"

"Then you'll have to rely on yourself,"

the Palace Master said calmly. "I can temporarily suppress the protective array outside the Cold Pool to allow you to enter the depression. But whether you can obtain the Blood Lotus depends on your ability."

"Can't the Palace Master lend a hand?" the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord couldn't help but ask.

The Palace Master shook his head: "I made an agreement with it that we would not interfere with each other. It guards the Blood Lotus, and I will not step into the depression;

I rule the Northern Underworld Palace, and it will not attack my people. If I take action, it will be breaking the agreement, and if it goes berserk, the entire Northern Underworld Palace will suffer."

Then the Palace Master looked at Kai: "I can tell you that this beast possesses a trace of the ancient Ice Dragon bloodline. Although it is not pure blood, it is still extraordinary. It is extremely sensitive to dragon might and the aura of divine beasts. If you have any special methods, perhaps you can give it a try." Ancient Ice Dragon Bloodline?

Dragon Might?

Kai's heart stirred.

He possessed pure Golden Dragon Bloodline. The other party was a spirit beast, and even a divine beast would kneel and worship upon seeing him, a Golden Dragon.

Although Kai's Golden Dragon Bloodline couldn't fully erupt yet, it was still pure.

Perhaps, he really could give it a try.

"I understand."

Kai took a deep breath, a determined look flashing in his eyes. "Please, Palace Master, open the great formation for me. I'll go and meet that guardian spirit beast."

"Kai!" Crimson Cloud Demon Lord exclaimed anxiously. "That's a ferocious beast of the fifth rank or higher in the True Immortal Realm! You..."

"Senior, this is our only hope."

Kai interrupted him. "No matter what, I have to try. Senior Lingyue can't wait much longer."

Crimson Cloud Demon Lord opened his mouth, but finally let out a long sigh, patting Kai's shoulder heavily: "Be careful... If things don't work out, retreat immediately. We'll think of another way to deal with Lingyue."

Ling Shuang also looked at Kai worriedly, but knew she couldn't dissuade him, so she could only whisper: "Senior, you must come back safely."

Kai nodded to the two of them, then patted the little fire qilin's head: "Little guy, I might need your help this time."

The little fire qilin rubbed against his hand, its eyes blazing with fighting spirit, and let out a low growl, indicating that it was ready to fight at any time.

The Palace Master looked at Kai, a hint of approval flashing in her eyes: "You have courage. Remember, if things become unbearable, immediately retreat to the edge of the depression. I will reactivate the great formation to ensure your temporary safety."

With that, she formed hand seals, chanted incantations, and the icy crystal divine rune between her brows lit up.

"Buzz—!"

The forbidden protective formation enveloping the depression began to fluctuate violently, the icy blue light curtain rippling like water. A narrow gap, just wide enough for one person to pass through, slowly opened directly in front of Kai.

From within the gap, an even stronger aura of cold poison and blood rushed out, causing Kai to shiver involuntarily.

"Go," the Palace Master said.

Kai no longer hesitated. He nodded to the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord and Ling Shuang, then bowed respectfully to the Palace Master. His

figure blurred, transforming into a stream of light, passing through the gap and entering the depression.

The little fire qilin roared and followed closely behind.

The crack in the great formation quickly closed after Kai entered, returning to its original state.

Crimson Cloud Demon Lord and Ling Shuang stood tensely outside the great formation, their eyes fixed on Kai's back.

The Palace Master stood silently, his gaze deep, lost in thought.

The moment Kai stepped into the depression, he felt the surrounding temperature drop by at least ten times!

The bone-chilling cold seemed capable of freezing the soul; even with his Chaos Immortal Power protecting him, he still felt the chill seeping into his body.

The ice beneath his feet wasn't pure white, but rather tinged with faint crimson patterns, as if blood flowed beneath the ice.

The air was thick with the stench of blood and a chilling toxin; inhaling it made even the circulation of his immortal power sluggish.

# Chapter 5860 5861

"Your reaction wasn't slow."

The Ice Dragon sneered, opening its massive maw and spewing out an icy blue breath!

That breath wasn't fire, but an extremely concentrated form of ice law!

Wherever it passed, even light was frozen and distorted, forming a strange icy blue tunnel that instantly reached Kai!

“Indestructible Golden Body!”

Kai didn’t dare to be careless, fully activating his Chaos Immortal Power, his entire body covered in a layer of golden scales.

The Little Fire Qilin also opened its mouth and spewed out a golden pillar of fire, attempting to counteract the breath.

“Sizzle—!”

The golden pillar of fire collided with the icy blue breath, emitting a violent hissing sound, and large swaths of white mist rose up.

But the Little Fire Qilin’s flames were clearly at a disadvantage; the golden pillar of fire was constantly compressed and extinguished, and the icy blue breath continued its unstoppable charge towards Kai!

“Bang!”

The Chaos Shield collided with the breath, producing a dull thud.

Kai felt an irresistible force surge through him. His shield instantly cracked, and he was sent flying hundreds of feet away as if struck by an ancient divine mountain, crashing heavily onto the ice. He coughed up a mouthful of blood, mixed with tiny ice crystals.

The little fire qilin was also swept away by the aftershock of the breath, screaming and rolling away. Many of its scales were shattered, and its golden flames were almost extinguished.

In just two moves, Kai and the little fire qilin were already severely injured!

The strength of the peak ninth rank of the Heavenly Immortal Realm was terrifying!

“Too weak.”

The Ice Dragon shook its head, its eyes full of disdain. “I thought I could stretch my muscles, but I didn’t expect it to be so easily defeated. Oh well, let’s end this sooner rather than later.”

It slowly raised its huge forepaw, the tip of which gleamed with cold light, and was about to strike down on Kai.

If this claw landed, Kai would probably be turned into mincemeat on the spot.

Outside the great formation, the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord and Ling Shuang watched with bloodshot eyes, wishing they could rush in to help, but they were blocked by the great formation and could only watch in despair.

The Palace Master frowned slightly, seemingly wanting to say something, but ultimately remained silent.

At this critical moment, a mad glint flashed in Kai’s eyes.

“I can’t die here… absolutely not!”

He bit his tongue, spitting a mouthful of blood onto the Dragon-Slaying Sword. Simultaneously, his hands rapidly formed hand seals, and the chaotic immortal power, chaotic fire lotus, and true dragon blood within his body began to burn and merge wildly!

“With my blood essence, call my true name! With my soul, guide my true form!”

“Chaotic Dragon Transformation—Golden Dragon Transformation!”

Kai roared hoarsely, his voice carrying an ancient and majestic rhythm!

“Roar—!!!”

A dragon’s roar, more ancient, more majestic, and more soul-shaking than the Ice Dragon’s roar, suddenly erupted from Kai’s body!

It was not a phantom, not an illusion!

But a real roar, originating from the depths of his bloodline, belonging to a primordial true dragon!

As the dragon's roar resounded, a dazzling golden light erupted from Kai's body!

The golden light was pure, sacred, and majestic, carrying an unparalleled pressure that surpassed all beasts!

Within the golden light, Kai's body began to undergo astonishing changes!

Fine golden dragon scales appeared on his skin!

His hands transformed into dragon claws, their fingertips sharp as divine weapons! Two small, yet infinitely majestic dragon horns slowly emerged from his forehead!

Behind him, a thick, powerful dragon tail lashed out, shattering the ice surface!

His eyes transformed into pure golden vertical pupils, cold, majestic, and indifferent to everything!

A dragon's might, more ancient, purer, and nobler than that of the Ice Dragon, spread from Kai like a tide, instantly filling the entire depression!

Under this dragon's might, the Ice Dragon's originally overwhelming pressure melted and retreated rapidly, like ice and snow meeting the blazing sun!

The Ice Dragon's giant claw, which had been slamming down, stopped abruptly in mid-air.

Its enormous, ice-blue vertical pupils were filled with unprecedented shock, horror, and… a trace of fear originating from the depths of its bloodline!

“This… this is… the pressure of a true dragon?!”

The Ice Dragon’s voice trembled for the first time, “Impossible! How can a human possess such pure true dragon blood?! You… who exactly are you?!”

Kai did not answer.

At this moment, he felt an immense surge of power within him, yet he also bore a tremendous burden.

The Chaos Dragon Transformation was a forbidden technique he used to simulate a true dragon’s form and unleash its true dragon bloodline with chaotic immortal power. Its power was immense, but the strain on his physical body and soul was also enormous, making it unsustainable.

He had to finish this quickly.

“Now, am I qualified to take the Blood Lotus?”

Kai spoke, his voice like the scraping of metal, carrying the unique majesty and coldness of the dragon race.

The Ice Dragon’s massive body trembled slightly, its fierce glint replaced by fear.

It possessed a trace of Ice Dragon bloodline, already quite remarkable among dragon-type beasts, but facing the true, pure pressure of a true dragon, the suppression of its bloodline was fatal!

Like a subject before a king, a mouse before a cat—it was an instinctive awe etched into its very bones!

“You…you…”

The Ice Dragon tried to say something, but the words turned into a low whimper.

Its massive body slowly lowered, finally prostrating itself on the ice, bowing its proud head.

This was an expression of submission.

Outside the great formation, the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord and Ling Shuang were stunned.

The Palace Master's eyes also flashed with shock, and he murmured to himself, "Such pure True Dragon pressure... Sword Star, what is the origin of this successor you chose?"

Seeing the Ice Dragon submit, Kai breathed a sigh of relief, but dared not relax in the slightest.

He maintained his Golden Dragon Transformation state and walked step by step towards the icy pool.

The Ice Dragon lay prostrate on the ground, not daring to move, not even daring to look up at Kai.

Reaching the edge of the icy pool, Kai looked at the thousand-year-old Ice Soul Blood Lotus.

The bud was already half open, its crimson petals delicate and alluring, emitting a tempting fragrance.

He reached out and carefully plucked the entire blood lotus, roots and all, placing it into a pre-prepared icy jade box and sealing it.

Throughout the entire process, the Ice Dragon watched silently, a trace of reluctance flashing in its eyes, but mostly reverence.

After plucking the blood lotus, Kai didn't linger, turning and walking towards the edge of the depression.

The little fire qilin limped along, its eyes filled with awe as it looked at Kai.

Only after Kai stepped out of the gap in the formation did the ice dragon slowly raise its head, gazing in the direction Kai had left, its huge vertical pupils displaying a complex expression.

# Chapter 5862 5863

After leaving the Xuan Tian Sword Sect, Kai and the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord found a secluded valley.

“Senior, let’s open the passage to the Eleventh Heaven,” Kai said.

The Crimson Cloud Demon Lord nodded, “Alright. The Eleventh Heaven is different from the Tenth Heaven; there are more powerful beings there, and the environment is more complex. We must proceed with caution.”

Kai said no more, forming hand seals and circulating his chaotic immortal power. He had received the inheritance of the Myriad Swords Star in the void passage, gaining a preliminary understanding of the laws of space. Combined with his own chaotic immortal power encompassing all things, opening the boundary passage was not difficult.

“Open!”

Kai shouted, tearing forward with both hands!

“Sizzle—!”

The space ahead was torn open like cloth, revealing a deep, dark passage shimmering with starlight.

Spatial turbulence whistled faintly within the passage, but it remained relatively stable.

“Let’s go!” Kai stepped into the passage first, followed closely by the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord.

As soon as the two entered, the entrance to the passage behind them slowly closed.

The passage wasn’t completely dark; instead, countless bizarre and fantastical lights flashed by—projections from different spatial dimensions.

Intense spatial pressure pressed in from all directions; without the cultivation of a Celestial Immortal, one would likely be instantly crushed into mincemeat.

Kai erected a Chaos Immortal Power shield, enveloping the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord within it, and the two traversed the passage rapidly.

After about half a day, a light appeared ahead.

“We’ve arrived!” Kai’s spirits lifted, and he accelerated forward.

“Whoosh!”

The two tumbled out of the passage, landing on a desolate Gobi Desert.

Looking back, the entrance to the passage had vanished, as if it had never existed.

“This is the Eleventh Heaven?” The Crimson Cloud Demon Lord surveyed his surroundings.

Before him stretched an endless expanse of brown Gobi Desert, with three suns of varying sizes hanging in the sky, radiating scorching light.

The air was dry and scorching, a stark contrast to the extreme cold of the Eternal Ice Plains.

The spiritual energy between heaven and earth was several times denser than in the Tenth Heaven, but also far more violent, mixed with turbulent currents of energy of various attributes.

“The spiritual energy is so rich, but it’s also more dangerous.”

Kai sensed his surroundings. “The space here is more stable, and the gravity is much stronger than in the Tenth Heaven.”

He tried flying and found that his speed was about 30% slower than in the Tenth Heaven, and he was consuming more immortal energy.

“It seems that in the Eleventh Heaven, one’s strength will be somewhat suppressed.” The Crimson Cloud Demon Lord also noticed this problem.

Kai nodded: “However, with rich spiritual energy, the cultivation speed will be faster. Let’s go, let’s find a populated place to gather information first.”

The two took off and flew towards the edge of the Gobi Desert.

After flying for about two hours, an oasis appeared ahead, and the outlines of buildings could be vaguely seen in the oasis.

“There’s a town.”

Kai’s eyes lit up, and the two sped up their flight.

As they got closer, they could see more clearly.

It was a town built on the oasis, not large in scale, probably able to accommodate tens of thousands of people.

The city walls were built of the local brown rocks, about ten zhang high, and there were cultivators guarding the city gate.

Kai concealed his aura and landed outside the city gate with the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord.

There were four cultivators guarding the gate, all dressed in uniform gray outfits with the character “沙” (sand) embroidered on their chests.

Their aura… was around the third rank of the Celestial Immortal Realm. Kai felt somewhat relieved.

It seemed that although the overall strength of the Eleventh Heaven was greater, it wasn’t teeming with experts.

At least in this outlying town, those at the third or fourth rank of the Heavenly Immortal Realm were already the backbone of the gatekeepers.

“Halt! Entry requires a payment of ten low-grade spirit stones, or equivalent supplies.”

A gatekeeper stopped the two, his tone not exactly polite, but not arrogant either.

Kai didn’t want trouble, so he took out twenty low-grade spirit stones and handed them over.

The gatekeeper took the spirit stones, glanced at the two, and seeing that Kai’s aura was only at the first rank of the Heavenly Immortal Realm, he didn’t ask any further questions and waved them through.

Entering the town, the streets were fairly clean, with various shops and stalls on both sides.

The pedestrians were bustling, mostly cultivators at the fourth or fifth rank of the Heavenly Immortal Realm, with the occasional sixth-rank Heavenly Immortal surrounded by attendants, clearly of high status.

“Sure enough, the fourth or fifth rank of the Heavenly Immortal Realm is just average here, while the sixth rank is considered an expert.”

Kai had a better understanding of the situation.

With his current strength, he should be able to handle anyone below the eighth rank of the Celestial Immortal realm, and even manage to hold his own against those at the ninth rank.

As long as he doesn't encounter any old monsters at the Upper Immortal realm, he should be able to protect himself.

"Let's find a place to stay first, and while we're at it, let's inquire about the Earth Core Jade Marrow Milk,"

Kai said to the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord.

The two strolled around the streets for a while and found an inn that looked fairly clean.

"Esteemed guests, would you like to stay overnight or have a meal?"

the waiter greeted them respectfully. Anyone who could run an inn in a place like this must have good eyesight. Although Kai appeared to be only at the first rank of the Celestial Immortal realm, his composed demeanor clearly indicated that he was not an ordinary cultivator.

"Stay overnight, two superior rooms," Kai said. "Also, I have something to ask you."

As he spoke, he took out a mid-grade spirit stone and placed it on the counter.

The waiter's eyes lit up, and he quickly put away the spirit stone, his smile becoming even brighter: "Please ask, sir. I've lived in Sandstone City for hundreds of years, and I'll tell you everything I know."

"Earth Core Jade Marrow Milk, have you heard of it?" Kai asked directly.

"Earth Core Jade Marrow Milk?"

The waiter paused, thought for a moment, and shook his head. "Never heard of it. Sir, what kind of treasure is this?"

Kai's heart sank. Even the locals hadn't heard of it?

"Sir, what you're talking about are probably rare treasures, not something a small place like ours would know about,"

the waiter said. "Perhaps you could try asking at Wanbao Pavilion. It's the largest merchant house in Shayan City, well-informed, and occasionally sells rare treasures."

"Where is Wanbao Pavilion?"

"It's in the city center, the tallest building."

Kai nodded, settled into their room with the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord, and then headed to Wanbao Pavilion.

Wanbao Pavilion was indeed magnificent, a five-story building with carved beams and painted rafters. Two fourth-grade Celestial Immortal guards stood at the entrance.

People came and went in a constant stream, all of them possessing considerable cultivation.

Kai and the other entered the first-floor hall, which was filled with various shelves, displaying a dazzling array of pills, magic weapons, and materials.

An elderly man who appeared to be in charge approached them: "Fellow Daoists, what do you need?"

"We're inquiring about a material," Kai said bluntly, "Have you heard of Earth Core Jade Marrow Milk?"

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The old man frowned slightly, pondering for a moment: "Earth Core Jade Marrow Milk... I seem to have seen a record of it in an ancient book,

saying it is produced in the Earth Core Jade Vein at the deepest part of the Lava Demon Abyss, with only one drop obtained

every ten thousand years, possessing the miraculous effects of strengthening the foundation, nourishing the vital energy, and locking the soul." "However, this is just a legend. I have lived in the Eleventh Heaven for thousands of years and have never heard of anyone actually seeing this thing."

It was the same answer again.

Kai was disappointed, but still asked, "Where is the Lava Demon Abyss?"

"The Lava Demon Abyss is in the Flame Domain in the southern part of the Eleventh Heaven, at least a million miles away from here,"

the old man said. "The environment there is extremely harsh, with raging subterranean fire and flowing lava. It is a forbidden land that even True Immortal Realm experts are unwilling to easily set foot in. If you want to go, you need to be fully prepared."

A million miles... Even at Kai's current speed, it would take a month to fly at full speed.

Moreover, the Flame Domain is dangerous, so it really needs to be planned carefully.

Kai was unaware that ever since they entered this Sandstone City, a pair of eyes had been watching them.

News of their arrival at the Eleventh Heaven had already spread rapidly to the headquarters of the Evil Path Hall in the Twelfth Heaven!

Just as Kai was conversing with the elder of the Myriad Treasures Pavilion, in a private room of a three-story teahouse not far from the pavilion, a man dressed in a gray robe with an ordinary face was quietly watching the entrance of the Myriad Treasures Pavilion through a crack in the window.

He held a pale black communication jade talisman in his hand, its surface faintly shimmering with a ghostly light.

“The target has been confirmed to have entered Sandstone City and is currently inquiring about ‘Earth Core Jade Marrow Milk’ at the Wanbao Pavilion,”

the man whispered into the jade talisman, his voice flat. “He’s accompanied by one demonic cultivator. The target’s aura is only at the first rank of the Heavenly Immortal Realm, but his demeanor is calm, suggesting he’s concealing his true strength.”

A hoarse voice came from the other end of the jade talisman: “Continue surveillance, don’t alert them. The Palace Master has ordered that this boy must die, but we must confirm his whereabouts are stable before taking action.”

“Also, find out their purpose in coming to the Eleventh Heaven, especially their reason for searching for Earth Core Jade Marrow Milk.”

“Yes,”

the gray-robed man replied, then put away the jade talisman and continued his observation posture, like a lifeless sculpture.

His surveillance was extremely covert, without using any divine sense, relying solely on his naked eyes and the excellent observation position of the teahouse.

Although Kai was vigilant, having just entered the Eleventh Heaven and facing a completely new environment, he was inevitably prone to oversights.

Moreover, who could have imagined that they would be so closely watched after only a few hours of arrival?

All of this stemmed from the Evil Path Hall’s vast and efficient intelligence network in the Eleventh Heaven.

As a massive force spanning multiple heavens, the Evil Path Hall maintained secret outposts in the major towns of each heaven. These outposts often disguised themselves as ordinary shops, inns, or gangs, secretly gathering intelligence and carrying out missions.

Although Sandstone City was not large, as an important supply point in the northern Gobi Desert region of the Eleventh Heaven, it naturally had spies of the Evil Path Hall.

When Kai and the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord paid their spirit stones to enter the city, their appearance and aura were already recorded and uploaded by the sentries at the city gate.

The Evil Path Hall headquarters had already distributed Kai's portrait and characteristics to all branches and outposts, with a bounty so high that it tempted countless people. The Evil Path Hall's leader in Sandstone City received the alert immediately.

Meanwhile, at the Evil Path Hall headquarters in the Twelfth Heaven!

This was a mountain range shrouded in black mist year-round, and deep within the mountains stood eerie and sinister black palaces.

In the center of the palace complex, a colossal tower, a thousand feet tall, pierced the clouds, its summit ablaze with an inextinguishable ghostly fire that cast an eerie dark green hue over the surrounding hundreds of miles.

This was the headquarters of the Evil Path Palace—Mount Netherworld.

At this moment, inside the grand hall atop the tower, the atmosphere was so heavy it was almost frozen.

Above the hall, on a massive throne constructed of countless skulls, sat a figure shrouded in thick black mist. Black mist churned, obscuring only a pair of blood-red eyes that radiated a chilling aura that could freeze one's soul.

This was Zhan E, the Lord of the Evil Path Hall.

Below, dozens of powerful high-ranking members of the Evil Path Hall stood on either side, the lowest being at the seventh rank of the Heavenly Immortal Realm. Several of them were unfathomable, clearly elders of the Evil Path Hall.

Everyone bowed their heads, not daring to breathe.

Just moments before, Elder Shadow Fiend, in charge of intelligence, had reported news that shocked everyone:

Kai, the guy who had killed so many disciples of the Evil Path Hall, had actually arrived at the Eleventh Heaven!

“Is the news confirmed?”

Zhan E’s voice echoed from within the black mist, hoarse and icy, like a chilling wind from the deepest hell.

“It’s confirmed.”

Elder Shadow Fiend bowed and said, “The images and aura transmitted from the Sand Rock City stronghold confirm it’s Kai. He’s accompanied by a demonic cultivator. They were inquiring about ‘Earth Core Jade Marrow Milk’ as soon as they entered Sand Rock City.”

“Earth Core Jade Marrow Milk…”

Zhan E repeated in a low voice, “That’s a sacred object for strengthening the foundation, nourishing the vital energy, and locking the soul. What’s he looking for? Is it to heal someone? Or… to counter our hall’s Soul Devouring Technique?”

“This subordinate doesn’t know.”

Elder Shadow Fiend shook his head, “But according to the intelligence transmitted from the Sixth Heaven, Kai seems to have a close relationship with a rogue cultivator named Hu Mazi.”

“The Hu clan members were once subjected to our soul-binding and soul-refining techniques, and Kai once declared that he would seek justice for them.”

“Hmph, an ignorant brat.” Zhan E sneered, his scarlet eyes blazing with killing intent. “I originally thought he would stay in the lower world for decades, but I didn’t expect him to dare to come to the Eleventh Heaven so soon. Very well, saves me the trouble of searching for him.”

He looked down at a thin, sinister-looking old man: “Elder Poison Heart, you are in charge of the northern region of the Eleventh Heaven. This matter is entrusted to you. You must kill this brat in the shortest possible time and bring his head to me!”

Elder Poison Heart was one of the seventy-two Earthly Fiend Elders of the Evil Path Hall, with an eighth-grade Heavenly Immortal cultivation. He was proficient in poison and assassination, and his methods were ruthless and vicious, making him infamous within the Evil Path Hall.

“Rest assured, Lord Palace Master.”

Elder Poison Heart bowed, his voice sharp as a needle. “A mere junior at the first rank of the Heavenly Immortal Realm, even with some trump cards, is nothing but an ant before absolute power. I will personally arrange for him to disappear without a trace.”

“We cannot be careless.”

Zhan E shook his head. “This boy, with his Human Immortal Realm cultivation, has repeatedly thwarted our palace’s plans, even managing to kill several Heavenly Immortal Realm members of our palace despite being of a higher level. He is no ordinary person.”

“I suspect he may be hiding his strength, or harboring other earth-shattering secrets.”

He paused, then continued, “Furthermore, Kai may have some powerful backing, so killing Kai must be swift, but clean, leaving no evidence. It would be best to create an accident, or have him die in a revenge killing or treasure-grabbing conflict.”

“Lord Palace Master is wise.” A knowing glint flashed in Elder Poison Heart’s eyes. “I understand what to do.”

“Go.”

Zhan E waved his hand. “I want to hear good news within a month. Also, the clues about the Earth Core Jade Marrow Milk can be used as bait… Perhaps he will willingly walk into the trap himself.”

“Yes!” Elder Poison Heart accepted the order, his figure slowly merging into the shadows and disappearing.

Silence returned to the hall, broken only by the crackling of the Netherworld Ghost Fire.

Zhan E sat on his throne, his scarlet eyes gazing into the void, as if piercing through layers of space to see that young figure far away in Sandstone City of the Eleventh Heaven.

# Chapter 5865

After leaving the Myriad

Treasures Pavilion, Kai and the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord did not immediately return to the inn. Instead, they strolled around Sandstone City, familiarizing themselves with the surroundings and trying to inquire about the Earth Core Jade Marrow Milk through other channels.

They visited several smaller shops and stalls, but the answers were all similar: they had heard of it, but had never seen it, let alone knew its exact location.

“It seems the Earth Core Jade Marrow Milk is indeed rare

,” the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord sighed. “Even cultivators at the eleventh level of the Heavenly Realm know very little about it.”

Kai nodded: “After all, it’s a rare treasure that only yields a drop every ten thousand years. I’m afraid only top-tier forces or ancient monsters who have lived for countless years would know the exact clues.”

“We’re new here, so it’s indeed not easy to find out.”

Just as the two were feeling somewhat discouraged and were preparing to return to the inn to discuss their next move, a voice sounded behind them:

“Fellow Daoists, are you looking for the Earth Core Jade Marrow Milk?”

Kai’s heart skipped a beat, and he turned around abruptly.

The speaker was a scholar in a blue robe who looked to be about thirty years old. He was fair-skinned and beardless, with an ordinary appearance, but his eyes were exceptionally bright, carrying a shrewdness unique to merchants.

His aura was calm, and his cultivation was at the fifth rank of the Celestial Immortal Realm. He was currently smiling at Kai and his companion, his attitude friendly.

“And who are you?”

Kai asked calmly, while his divine sense subtly swept over the other party.

He didn’t detect any obvious malice or abnormal aura, but his intuition, honed over many years of experience, kept him on guard.

“I am Liu Wenyuan, the manager of Tingfeng Tower in Shayan City,”

the scholar in blue robes said with a cupped-fist salute. “Just now, outside the Wanbao Pavilion, I overheard you two asking Elder Liu about Earth Core Jade Marrow Milk, so I took the liberty of approaching you. I hope you won’t take offense.”

Tingfeng Tower? Kai had never heard of this organization.

Seemingly sensing Kai’s confusion, Liu Wenyuan explained with a smile, “Tingfeng Tower is a small local organization in Shayan City, mainly engaged in information trading and brokerage. They have some connections in Shayan City and the surrounding area.”

“Manager Liu knows about Earth Core Jade Marrow Milk?” the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord couldn’t help but ask.

Liu Wenyuan smiled slightly: “I know a little. This isn’t the place to talk. If you two don’t mind, why don’t we move to Tingfeng Tower to discuss this in detail?”

“Don’t worry, it’s just business.

Whether it succeeds or not depends entirely on your wishes.” Kai and the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord exchanged a glance, both seeing interest in each other’s eyes. The clue to the Earth Core Jade Marrow Milk was too important to them; they couldn’t let go of even the slightest hope.

“Then we’ll have to trouble Steward Liu.” Kai nodded.

“Please follow me.” Liu Wenyuan’s smile widened, and he turned to lead the way. Tingfeng Tower is located in the central area of Shayan City. It is a three-story wooden building with a modest facade but an excellent location.

The interior is elegantly furnished, with a reception hall on the first floor, private rooms on the second floor, and what appears to be office space on the third floor.

Liu Wenyuan led the two directly to a private room by the window on the second floor, instructed a maid to serve tea, and then closed the door.

“Please sit down, fellow Daoists.”

Liu Wenyuan gestured for them to sit, then sat down himself, getting straight to the point, “Earth Core Jade Marrow Milk is produced in the Earth Core Jade Vein at the deepest part of the Lava Demon Abyss in the Flame Domain. Only one drop is obtained every ten thousand years. It has the miraculous effects of strengthening the foundation, nourishing the vital energy, and locking the soul. Even in the Eleventh Heaven, this is a legendary treasure, and it is indeed difficult to obtain through ordinary channels.”

“Since Steward Liu knows about this, you must have some clues?” Kai asked.

“Indeed, I have some clues.”

Liu Wenyuan nodded, but then changed the subject, “However, I’m sure you two understand the value of such precious information…”

“Name your price.” Kai said directly.

Liu Wenyuan held up five fingers: “Five thousand top-grade immortal stones. Or treasures or materials of equivalent value.”

Five thousand top-grade immortal stones!

Kai frowned.

This price was almost several times his entire fortune.

Although he had accumulated some wealth in the Ninth and Tenth Heavens, the value of those high-grade immortal stones and materials had greatly diminished in the higher-level worlds.

Five thousand top-grade immortal stones were equivalent to five hundred thousand high-grade immortal stones.

Kai couldn't afford that many top-grade immortal stones right now.

"Too high,"

Kai shook his head. "We've just arrived in the Eleventh Heaven and can't afford that many top-grade immortal stones."

Liu Wenyuan seemed to have anticipated this and smiled, "If you don't have enough immortal stones, you can pay in other ways. For example… do something for Tingfeng Tower."

"What is it?"

Kai's vigilance increased even more.

There's no such thing as a free lunch; if the other party made this offer, it was probably not a simple matter.

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"Actually, it's not that difficult,"

Liu Wenyuan said in a low voice. "Three thousand miles east of Shayan City, an ancient cultivator's cave is about to be revealed. According to our information, the cave's owner is an ancient True Immortal, and it's very likely to contain rare cultivation techniques and treasures."

"We, Tingfeng Tower, want a share, but we lack manpower, especially powerful allies."

“You two fellow Daoists have managed to travel all the way from the lower realm to the eleventh heaven; you must be quite powerful.”

“If you can lend us a hand, I, Liu, will offer you the clues to the Earth Core Jade Marrow Milk without asking for a penny.”

“Moreover, the proceeds from the cave will be distributed according to contribution; you two will definitely not be at a disadvantage.”

An ancient cultivator’s cave?

Kai’s mind was filled with doubt.

Why would such a good thing be so easily offered to two strangers?

And how did they know they were powerful?

Just because they came from the lower realm?

“Why did Manager Liu choose us?”

Kai asked directly. “Sand Rock City shouldn’t lack experts, right?”

Liu Wenyuan sighed. “To be honest, news of this cave has already leaked to a small circle, and the other two major forces in Sand Rock City, the Mad Sand Gang and the Iron Rock Society, have also set their sights on it.”

“Our Listening Wind Pavilion is slightly weaker. If we act alone, we probably won’t even get a taste. As for why we chose the two of you…”

He looked at Kai, then at the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord. “Firstly, you two are unfamiliar faces, so you won’t easily attract the attention of the other two parties;” ”

Secondly, I observe that you two are composed, especially you. Although you appear to be only at the first rank of the Heavenly Immortal Realm,

your eyes are sharp, and your aura is restrained, far beyond that of an ordinary first-rank cultivator."

"Sometimes, when exploring such caves, what's needed isn't the person with the highest cultivation level, but the most reliable and cautious partner."

This explanation sounded reasonable, but Kai's doubts weren't completely dispelled.

He felt that Liu Wenyuan's appearance was too coincidental, and his attitude too enthusiastic.

"We need to consider this matter." Kai didn't immediately agree.

"Of course."

Liu Wenyuan didn't press the matter, taking out a jade slip and handing it to Kai. "This contains general information about the cave and the meeting point. Three days from now, at noon, in Black Wind Valley, three hundred miles east of the city."

"If you two are interested, you may come and meet me. Also, to show my sincerity, I can reveal some information about the Earth Core Jade Marrow Milk."

"Although the location of the Lava Demon Abyss is hidden, in Crimson Flame City of the Flame Domain, there is a force called the Earth Fire Pavilion, which has studied earth fire and earth veins for generations. They may have more detailed clues."

Crimson Flame City, Earth Fire Pavilion.

Kai silently memorized these two names.

"Thank you for informing me, Steward Liu."

Kai put away the jade slip. "We will give you an answer in three days."

“We await good news.” Liu Wenyuan stood up to see him off.

Leaving Tingfeng Tower and walking back to the inn, the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord couldn’t help but ask, “Kai, do you think this Liu Wenyuan is trustworthy?”

“Hard to say

,” Kai pondered. “I glanced at the information about the cave he gave me, and it doesn’t seem fake. The clues from the Earth Fire Pavilion might actually be valuable. But all of this is too coincidental, unsettlingly so.”

“You suspect… this is a trap?” “We can’t rule out that possibility.”

A cold glint flashed in Kai’s eyes. “However, we can’t give up on the clue about the Earth Core Jade Marrow Milk. We’ll go to Black Wind Valley in three days. But we must be fully prepared, and if things go wrong, we must escape immediately.”

Crimson Cloud Demon Lord nodded: “I’ll listen to you.”

The two returned to the inn, and Kai immediately began to study the jade slip given to him by Liu Wenyuan.

The jade slip described in detail the location of the ancient cultivator’s cave in Black Wind Valley, the characteristics of the outer restrictions, and the possible dangers, and even included a simple map.

The information was detailed and didn’t seem to be made up on the spot.

“Could it be that we’re being too suspicious?” Crimson Cloud Demon Lord also wavered after reading it.

Kai didn’t speak, but silently memorized the contents of the jade slip.

Whether it was a trap or not, since they had decided to go, they had to be prepared for the worst.

He took out a pile of materials and began to set up arrays in the room.

Concealment arrays, early warning arrays, simple teleportation array bases… various arrays were layered on top of each other. Although the power was not very strong due to the limitations of materials and environment, it might play an unexpected role at a critical moment.

The Crimson Cloud Demon Lord was also busy, carefully checking his magical treasures and elixirs to ensure he was in peak condition.

The little fire unicorn seemed to sense the tense atmosphere, quietly lying at Kai's feet, golden flames slowly swirling around its body.

Time passed quietly as they prepared.

Unbeknownst to Kai, deep beneath Sandstone City, in a hidden chamber, Liu Wenyuan stood respectfully before a black-robed elder.

"Elder Poison Heart, the fish have taken the bait,"

Liu Wenyuan bowed. "They accepted the jade slip and should be heading to Black Wind Valley in three days."

The black-robed elder was none other than Elder Poison Heart, one of the seventy-two Earthly Fiend Elders of the Evil Path Hall.

He had completely concealed his aura, appearing like an ordinary, sinister old man, but the occasional flash of green light in his triangular eyes sent chills down one's spine.

"Well done."

Elder Poison Heart's voice was hoarse. "Is everything arranged at Black Wind Valley?"

"Everything is ready."

Liu Wenyuan replied. “The ‘Blood Refining Soul Array’ has been set up. As soon as they step into the core area, the array will activate, enough to trap and kill cultivators below the eighth rank of the Heavenly Immortal Realm.” ”

In addition, the three ‘Ghost Fiend Envoys’ are also in position and ready to act at any time.”

Ghost Fiend Envoys are elite assassins trained by the Evil Path Hall, specializing in assassination missions. They work in groups of three, specializing in combined attacks, and their strength is all above the seventh rank of the Heavenly Immortal Realm.

“Not enough.”

Elder Poison Heart shook his head. “The Hall Master specifically instructed that this boy is extraordinary and must be killed with swift and decisive action, without giving him any chance to recover.”

“Notify the three Ghost Fiend Envoys to use the ‘Netherworld Three Kill Array’ directly when the time comes, and be sure to kill him in one strike!”

Liu Wenyuan’s heart trembled.

The Netherworld Three Kill Array is a forbidden killing array that requires burning one’s essence blood to activate, and its power is enough to threaten cultivators at the peak of the ninth rank of the Heavenly Immortal Realm!

Is it necessary to resort to such methods to deal with a junior at the first level of the Celestial Immortal Realm?

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Liu Wenyuan dared not ask further and hurriedly replied, “Yes! I will go and inform them immediately.”

Elder Poison Heart gazed at the flickering candlelight in the secret chamber, a cruel smile curving his lips.

“Kai… I’d like to see how many breaths you can withstand under the Netherworld Three Killing Formation. After you die, your soul will become nourishment for me… Hehehe…”

A chilling laugh echoed in the secret chamber, like a venomous snake flicking its tongue.

Three days passed in the blink of an eye.

When Kai and the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord stood once again outside the east gate of Sand Rock City, both were fully prepared.

Kai had changed into a light blue outfit that allowed for easy movement, with several storage bags and small array plates hanging from his waist.

On the surface, his aura remained that of a first-grade Celestial Immortal, but chaotic immortal power flowed slowly within his body, ready to unleash a thunderous strike at any moment.

The Crimson Cloud Demon Lord wore a dark red robe with demonic patterns, his demonic energy concealed, but his eyes were sharp as an eagle’s. He carried several bottles of secret medicine to stimulate life potential, his trump card for the worst-case scenario.

The little fire qilin was stored in Kai’s storage ring; otherwise, it would attract too much attention.

“Let’s go,” Kai said, looking eastward towards Black Wind Valley.

The two took to the air, transforming into two streaks of light, flying towards Black Wind Valley, three hundred miles away.

The space of the eleventh heaven was more stable, and the resistance during flight was greater.

Kai estimated that his maximum speed was about 40% lower than in the tenth heaven.

This meant that if they encountered a powerful enemy, escape would be much more difficult.

About half an hour later, a black canyon appeared ahead.

Steep black rock walls lined both sides of the canyon, and strange black gales constantly blew through it, whipping up sand and stones, making visibility extremely low.

This was the origin of the name “Black Wind Valley.”

Following the instructions in the jade slip, the two landed at the valley entrance.

At this time, more than twenty people had already gathered at the entrance, all with cultivation levels between the fourth and sixth ranks of the Heavenly Immortal Realm.

Liu Wenyuan was indeed among them. Upon seeing Kai and his companion, he immediately greeted them with a smile.

“You two fellow Daoists are indeed punctual,”

Liu Wenyuan introduced warmly. “This is Fellow Daoist Kuangdao, a peak sixth-grade Heavenly Immortal, the leader of our operation. And this is…”

He introduced all the main figures present.

Kai observed these people discreetly. Most of them appeared to be experienced rogue cultivators or members of small factions, their eyes wary, maintaining a distance from one another.

Kuangdao was indeed imposing, carrying a ghost-headed saber the size of a door panel on his back. His gaze towards Kai carried a hint of scrutiny and disdain.

Clearly, Kai's apparent first-grade Heavenly Immortal cultivation level didn't earn him much respect.

"Everyone's here, let's set off,"

Kuangdao said gruffly, taking the lead into the valley.

The others followed closely behind.

Upon entering Black Wind Valley, the eerie black gale immediately assaulted their senses.

The wind carried fine sand and pebbles, which rustled against their protective aura.

Even more troublesome was that the gale seemed to have an effect on eroding divine sense; Kai discovered that the range of his divine sense's detection had been compressed to less than a hundred feet.

"Everyone be careful, the gale in Black Wind Valley interferes with divine sense. Stay close and don't fall behind,"

Liu Wenyuan reminded, walking in the middle of the group, appearing quite cautious. The group ventured deeper into the canyon. The terrain was complex, with numerous branching paths, but Kuangdao seemed intimately familiar with the route, leading them through the labyrinthine canyon, occasionally stopping to observe unusual markings on the rock walls.

Kai's vigilance intensified.

Black Wind Valley was perfect for ambushes; if someone had set a trap here, they would be trapped like turtles in a jar.

After walking for about the time it takes for an incense stick to burn, a hidden cave entrance appeared ahead, half-hidden by several massive black rocks.

“This is it,”

Kuangdao pointed to the entrance. “According to intelligence, the entrance to this cave is protected by a restriction; we’ll need to break it together. Everyone, prepare yourselves.”

The group unleashed their magical treasures, gathering their immortal power.

Kuangdao gave a low shout, and his Ghost Head Blade erupted with a dazzling crimson light, slashing towards the cave entrance first!

“Boom!”

The rocks at the entrance shattered, revealing a shimmering, transparent barrier.

The other cultivators also attacked, their various strikes landing on the barrier, creating ripples.

Kai didn’t use his full strength, only symbolically unleashing a few sword strikes.

He noticed that Liu Wenyuan had also made a move, but he was holding back as well.

About a quarter of an hour later, the barrier shattered with a “pop” under the combined attack of the group, revealing a dark cave entrance.

“Go!” Kuangdao charged in first.

The others followed in single file.

The cave was more spacious than expected, with winding passages leading downwards. The rock walls on either side were adorned with blurry ancient murals depicting flames, lava, and strange creatures.

A scorching heat filled the air, a stark contrast to the chill of Black Wind Valley.

“The owner of this cave might be an ancient cultivator who practiced fire-based techniques,” someone speculated.

Kai, however, felt a strange unease.

The flame and lava patterns on the murals reminded him of the “Flame Domain” and “Lava Abyss” Liu Wenyuan had mentioned.

This was too much of a coincidence.

After continuing downwards for about a quarter of an hour, the space suddenly opened up, revealing a huge underground cavern.

In the center of the cave stood a crimson stone platform, three zhang high. On the platform rested an exquisite jade box, its surface shimmering with iridescent light and radiating an alluring spiritual energy. Scattered

around the platform were several skeletons and fragments of broken magical artifacts, all appearing to be ancient.

“Treasure!” someone’s eyes lit up, and they were about to rush forward.

“Wait!” Kuang Dao shouted, “Be careful, there’s a restriction!”

But his warning came too late.

The first two to rush out had just stepped within ten zhang of the platform when countless eerie crimson patterns suddenly lit up on the ground!

“Boom!”

A crimson light barrier, over twenty zhang in diameter, shot into the sky, completely engulfing the two.

From within the light barrier came piercing screams; the two bodies melted and vaporized at a visible speed, their souls unable to escape, utterly annihilated!

# Chapter 5868

“Blood Refining Soul Array!”

a knowledgeable old cultivator exclaimed in shock. “This is an ancient demonic array! Retreat!”

Everyone’s expression changed drastically, and they frantically retreated.

Kai also retreated immediately, but he already understood that this was indeed a trap!

Moreover, the person who set up this trap was extremely vicious; they not only wanted to kill but also refine souls!

Just as everyone was still in shock, more than a dozen figures silently emerged from the shadows around the cave.

They were all dressed in black, wearing hideous demon masks, and their auras were cold and murderous.

The three leaders possessed auras that had reached the seventh rank of the Heavenly Immortal Realm!

The other dozen or so were also experts at the fifth or sixth rank of the Heavenly Immortal Realm.

They completely blocked everyone’s escape route.

“The Evil Path Hall!”

Kuang Dao’s face was ashen as he gritted his teeth and spat out these three words.

Liu Wenyuan had already retreated to the side of the Evil Path Hall members and bowed to the leader of the men in black, saying, “Lord Ghost Fiend Envoy, the person has been brought.”

The leader of the men in black nodded, his gaze sweeping over the trapped people before finally landing on Kai. His voice was hoarse and cold: “You are Kai?”

Kai’s heart sank. Sure enough, the other party was after him!

“It’s me.”

Kai stepped forward, his expression calm. “The Evil Path Hall’s intelligence network is truly impressive. I’ve only just arrived at the eleventh heaven, and you’re already eager to die.”

“Die?”

The man in black sneered as if he’d heard a joke. “A first-grade Heavenly Immortal, daring to spout such nonsense?”

“Boy, the Hall Master has ordered that whoever takes your head will be rewarded with a million high-grade immortal stones and promoted to elder. We three brothers will accept this generous reward.”

He looked at his two companions: “Third brother, you go and deal with the others, leave no survivors.”

“Second brother, come with me to capture this kid. Remember, alive, the Hall Master needs his soul.”

“Yes!” The other two men in black responded. One lunged at the trapped cultivators like Mad Blade, while the other, along with the leader, slowly approached Kai.

The Crimson Cloud Demon Lord roared, blocking Kai’s path, his dark red demonic energy surging forth.

“Demonic cultivator? Interesting, but not enough.”

The leader of the black-clad men sneered, raising his hand and waving, “Attack!”

Before his words even finished, he and another black-clad man attacked simultaneously!

One wielded a short, jet-black dagger, its tip gleaming with a ghostly blue poisonous light, silently stabbing towards Kai’s throat!

Its speed was like a viper’s flick of its tongue!

The other held a pair of metallic, ghostly claws, the claws tearing through the air, aiming straight for Kai’s heart!

The attack was powerful and heavy, accompanied by a piercing shriek!

The two worked in perfect coordination, one fast and one ruthless, one skillful and one heavy, sealing off all of Kai’s escape routes, clearly aiming to defeat him in one move and end the battle quickly.

In their view, dealing with a mere first-grade Celestial Immortal was a trivial matter for the two of them working together; there was absolutely no possibility of failure.

Meanwhile, the trapped cultivators, including Kuang Dao, were being besieged by the third black-clad man and his men, in dire straits, and had no time to spare for anything else.

The Crimson Cloud Demon Lord wanted to help, but was entangled by several fifth or sixth-rank cultivators from the Evil Path Hall and couldn't break free.

Seeing that Kai was about to die on the spot—

Kai moved.

He neither dodged nor defended. Instead, he drew his sword.

The instant the Dragon-Slaying Sword was drawn, a sharp sword intent that severed cause and effect and annihilated all laws soared into the sky, and the temperature of the entire cave seemed to drop several degrees!

"Slash—Void—!"

Kai shouted softly, his longsword tracing an unfathomable path as it lightly sliced through the incoming short dagger and ghostly claws.

There was no deafening sound, no dazzling light.

Only a thin, almost transparent gray sword thread silently extended from the tip of the sword.

Where the sword thread passed, subtle ripples appeared in the space, as if a pebble had been thrown into a calm lake.

The next moment—

"Swoosh! Swoosh!"

Two soft sounds, like cloth being torn by a sharp blade.

The poisoned short dagger, only three inches from Kai's throat, suddenly snapped in two! The break was as smooth as a mirror!

The two powerful ghostly claws, upon touching the sword thread, shattered like rotten wood, turning into countless metal fragments!

The two men in black, who were charging forward, froze abruptly, their eyes filled with disbelief and horror.

They looked down at their weapons, then at the slowly dissipating gray sword thread, as if witnessing the most unbelievable thing in the world.

“This… what kind of swordsmanship is this?!” the leader exclaimed in shock.

His answer was Kai’s cold gaze and the second sword strike.

This time, the sword thread was no longer a single, thin strand, but split into two, like two serpentine snakes, silently slithering towards the necks of the two men.

Fast!

Faster than thought!

The two men in black’s expressions changed drastically as they frantically activated their protective immortal power, trying to dodge and block.

But the sword thread seemed to ignore spatial distance; the moment they even had the thought of dodging, it had already grazed their necks.

“Pfft! Pfft!”

Two heads wearing demon masks flew high into the air, blood gushing from their severed necks, which was then vaporized into a blood mist by the scorching heat of the cave.

Two elite assassins from the Evil Path Hall, both at the seventh rank of the Celestial Immortal Realm, were instantly killed without even a single blow!

The entire arena fell silent.

Whether it was the third black-clad man besieging Mad Blade and his group, or the Evil Path Hall cultivators locked in combat with the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord, everyone stopped, staring in disbelief as the two headless corpses slowly collapsed.

Liu Wenyuan's smugness and obsequiousness froze completely, replaced by boundless terror, his body trembling like a leaf.

Mad Blade and the others were also stunned. The elation of surviving a calamity hadn't even begun to rise before the shocking scene before them left their minds blank.

A first-rank Celestial Immortal Realm expert, killing two seventh-rank assassins with a single sword strike?!

This…this completely overturned their understanding!

Kai sheathed his sword, his face slightly pale.

Using "Severing the Void" twice in succession had consumed nearly half of his immortal power.

While this sword technique was powerful, it was a considerable burden for him in his current state.

But he had no time to recover, because the third man in black had already reacted, letting out a shrill scream:

"Form the formation! The Netherworld Three Kill Formation!"

# Chapter 5869

Upon hearing the order, the remaining dozen or so cultivators from the Evil Path Hall immediately abandoned their opponents and swiftly gathered around the third man in black, taking their positions according to some mysterious orientation.

Simultaneously, they all bit their tongues, spitting out their essence blood, forming hand seals, and chanting incantations.

“Buzz—!”

A sinister, evil, and terrifying wave of killing intent erupted from them!

The essence blood and immortal power of the thirteen men intertwined in the air, rapidly condensing into a black magic array with a diameter exceeding thirty feet!

In the center of the array, a blurry, three-headed, six-armed demonic phantom slowly emerged, its six eyes opening simultaneously, shooting out six scarlet beams of blood-red light, locking onto Kai!

“With my essence blood, I sacrifice my divine soul, summoning the evil spirits of the netherworld to slay this scoundrel!”

the third man in black roared hoarsely, his face ashen white from the loss of his essence blood, but the killing intent and madness in his eyes reached their peak.

The Netherworld Three Killing Formation—one of the forbidden killing formations of the Evil Path Palace—requires at least three seventh-grade Heavenly Immortal cultivators as the main force, assisted by more than ten fifth-grade Heavenly Immortal cultivators, and requires the burning of their essence blood to activate.

Once activated, this formation’s power is enough to threaten first and second-grade True Immortal cultivators!

The Evil Path Palace has spared no expense this time to kill Kai!

“Kai, be careful!”

Crimson Cloud Demon Lord shouted anxiously, trying to rush over, but was forced back by the terrifying pressure emanating from the black formation.

Mad Blade and the others were pressed to the ground, unable to move, their eyes filled with despair.

Liu Wenyuan lay limp on the ground, his crotch soaked, muttering, “It’s over…it’s over…the Netherworld Three Killing Formation has been activated…”

Kai felt the overwhelming killing intent and pressure emanating from the black formation, his pupils slightly contracting.

This power had indeed surpassed the realm of Heavenly Immortals, touching the threshold of True Immortals.

To withstand it head-on would likely result in serious injury.

But he had no way out, for the three-headed, six-armed demonic phantom was already upon him, its six arms lashing out simultaneously, six crimson beams of light, as thick as arms, like six venomous dragons, tearing through space and hurtling towards him!

Wherever the crimson beams passed, even the scorching heat of the cave was frozen and corroded, the ground and rock walls silently melting into deep ravines!

This attack was unavoidable!

Kai took a deep breath, a golden light flashing in his eyes.

Since he couldn’t dodge it, he would shatter it head-on!

He gripped the Dragon-Slaying Sword tightly with both hands, the remaining chaotic immortal power within his body burning wildly, the chaotic fire lotus spinning violently in his dantian, and that faint trace of true dragon blood was also fully activated!

“Chaos Returns to Origin—Dragon Flame Break!”

Kai roared, and the Dragon-Slaying Sword slammed into the ground!

“Boom—!”

Centered on Kai, an indescribable chaotic aura erupted!

The hazy, chaotic immortal power intertwined with the dark golden flames of the true dragon, transforming into a ferocious chaotic fire dragon, roaring to the sky, and charging headlong at the six scarlet beams of light! The fire

dragon and the blood-red light collided violently in mid-air!

“Boom—!!!”

A terrifying explosion swept through the entire cave! The blinding light temporarily blinded everyone, and the deafening roar ruptured everyone’s eardrums, causing them to bleed!

The violent energy shockwave spread outwards like a tsunami, scraping off a thick layer of rock from the cave walls, and shattering the ground inch by inch!

Crimson Cloud Demon Lord, Mad Blade, and others were thrown back by the shockwave, crashing heavily against the rock walls, spitting out blood.

Liu Wenyuan was even directly knocked unconscious by the shockwave.

Of the thirteen Evil Path Hall cultivators who had set up the formation, except for the third black-clad man who barely stood up due to his seventh-grade cultivation, the rest were all blasted by the backlash, bleeding from all seven orifices, and collapsed to the ground, the formation instantly collapsing!

The dust slowly dissipated.

In the center of the cave, Kai knelt on one knee, propping himself up with his sword, panting heavily, blood trickling from the corner of his mouth, his face as pale as paper. His cyan martial attire was torn in

several places, revealing skin beneath that shimmered with a faint golden light—even his indestructible golden body had been ripped open in several places.

But he was still alive.

Opposite him, the third man in black stood rooted to the spot, his eyes unfocused, a gaping hole the size of a bowl in his chest, his heart and internal organs already burned away by the Chaos Dragon Flame.

His lips moved, as if he wanted to say something, but ultimately he couldn't utter a single word, collapsing straight down, lifeless.

The Netherworld Three Killing Formation, broken!

Thirteen elites of the Evil Path Hall, including three Ghost Fiend Envoys at the seventh rank of the Heavenly Immortal Realm, were completely wiped out!

This formation, capable of trapping even a peak ninth-rank Heavenly Immortal, failed to trap Kai!

However, Kai was also injured.

Three seventh-rank Heavenly Immortal experts from the Evil Path Hall plus ten fifth-rank Heavenly Immortal elites had managed to create such a formidable force. Chen

Ping had to take the Evil Path Hall seriously.

The surviving members of the Mad Blade and the others struggled to their feet, looking at Kai with the awe, fear, and disbelief of someone who had descended from ancient times. The

Crimson Cloud Demon Lord staggered to Kai's side and supported him: "Kai! How are you?"

"I'm fine… just exhausted."

Kai shook his head, took out a handful of pills and popped them into his mouth, then handed a few to the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord.

He looked at the surviving cultivators and said in a deep voice, “I don’t want this to get out. You can leave now.”

The Mad Blade and the others felt as if they had been granted a pardon, nodding repeatedly: “Fellow Daoist, rest assured! We will remember your life-saving grace today and would never dare to divulge a single word!”

With that, they helped each other and fled the cave without looking back, fearing that Kai would change his mind.

After everyone had left, Kai looked at the unconscious Liu Wenyuan.

The Crimson Cloud Demon Lord understood and splashed a basin of cold water on him to wake him up.

Liu Wenyuan slowly awoke, terrified by Kai’s cold gaze and the corpses of the Evil Path Hall scattered on the ground. He kowtowed repeatedly, pleading, “Fellow Daoist Chen, spare my life! Senior Chen, spare my life! I was forced into this! The Evil Path Hall captured my family and forced me to cooperate with their scheme… I had no choice!”

Kai remained unmoved: “Is the clue about the Earth Core Jade Marrow Milk real or fake?”

“Real! Real!”

Liu Wenyuan hurriedly replied, “The Lava Demon Abyss is in the southern part of the Flame Domain, and the Earth Fire Pavilion does indeed possess some clues!”

“I also know that the Earth Fire Pavilion organizes a ‘Earth Fire Trial’ every hundred years, and the top ten have the opportunity to enter the outer perimeter of the Lava Demon Abyss to seek opportunities! The next trial is in three months!”

“Earth Fire Trial…”

Kai noted this information and then asked, “How many strongholds does the Evil Path Hall have in the Eleventh Heaven? What is their strength?”

“This… I’m just a nobody, I only know the strongholds in Sand Rock City and a few nearby towns…” Liu Wenyuan tremblingly recited a few locations.

Kai then asked for more information about the Evil Path Hall and the forces of the Eleventh Heaven. Liu Wenyuan answered everything he knew, only asking to live.

Finally, Kai looked at Liu Wenyuan and said coldly, “You helped the Evil Path Hall set a trap to harm people, and you should be executed. But considering you provided information, I will spare your life.”

“Thank you, thank you…” Liu Wenyuan quickly thanked him.

“If I have someone else kill you, are you satisfied?” Kai said!

“Damn…”

Liu Wenyuan was stunned!

The Crimson Cloud Demon Lord understood and struck out with a palm.

Liu Wenyuan was instantly killed.

# Chapter 5870

“Let’s go,”

Kai said to the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord. “We shouldn’t linger here.”

The two quickly cleaned up the battlefield, collected the storage equipment and useful items of the Evil Path Hall members, destroyed

any traces inside the cave, and then left Black Wind Valley, returning to Sand Rock City.

Unbeknownst to them, less than an incense stick's time after they left, a figure in black robes silently appeared in the cave.

It was Elder Poison Heart!

Looking at the corpses and battle traces scattered on the ground, especially the remaining array patterns after the collapse of the Netherworld Three Kill Array, his face was so grim it was almost dripping with water.

"What a Kai… actually managed to break the Netherworld Three Kill Array…"

Elder Poison Heart's voice was hoarse. "It seems I underestimated you."

He crouched down, examining the corpses of the three Ghost Fiend Envoys, a hint of surprise flashing in his eyes: "This sword intent… severing the connection of laws? Could it be… the inheritance of Ten Thousand Swords Star?!"

As a high-ranking member of the Evil Path Hall, Elder Poison Heart was no stranger to the name Ten Thousand Swords Star.

That sword genius who once amazed the entire divine race, yet was ultimately suppressed!

"The successor of the Myriad Swords Star…" Elder Poison Heart's eyes flashed with cold light, "This child must not be allowed to live!"

He took out a blood-red jade talisman and whispered to it, "Order all branch halls of the Eleventh Heaven to investigate Kai's whereabouts with all their might."

“At the same time, notify Elders ‘Blood Soul’ and ‘Bone Demon’ to set off immediately and lie in wait in Crimson Flame City of the Flame Domain. This child will definitely go to the Earth Fire Pavilion!”

“Yes!” came the reply from the other end of the jade talisman.

Elder Poison Heart put away the jade talisman, took one last look at the cave, and his figure slowly merged into the shadows, disappearing from sight.

Three days after the battle of Black Wind Valley, Kai’s injuries had basically healed.

After digesting the spoils obtained from the assassins of the Evil Path Hall, he and Crimson Cloud Demon Lord quietly left Sand Rock City.

Before leaving, Kai went to Listening Wind Tower again.

He found several records about the Evil Path Hall’s strongholds in the northern region of the Eleventh Heaven, as mentioned by Liu Wenyuan, and took away some valuable intelligence and supplies.

“The Flame Domain is in the southern part of the Eleventh Heaven, more than a million miles away from here.”

Kai unfolded a map he had obtained from Tingfeng Tower. “We will pass through hundreds of towns and cities along the way. According to the clues provided by Liu Wenyuan, there are at least three of them with strongholds of the Evil Path Hall.”

A cold light flashed in the eyes of the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord: “You mean…”

“Since the Evil Path Hall wants to kill me, then I don’t need to be polite.” Kai said calmly, “Let’s head south and clear out these strongholds along the way.”

“Firstly, it will weaken the Evil Path Palace’s power; secondly, we can acquire resources; and thirdly… perhaps we can find out more about the Earth Core Jade Marrow Milk and the souls of the Hu Ma Zi clan.”

“Alright!” Crimson Cloud Demon Lord nodded, “I’ll go with you!”

The two didn’t delay any longer, taking to the skies and speeding south.

The territory of the Eleventh Heaven was vast beyond imagination; even a Celestial Immortal cultivator would need several months to traverse from north to south.

Fortunately, Kai and Crimson Cloud Demon Lord were both powerful, and although their flying speed was suppressed, they could still travel ten thousand miles a day.

The towns they passed through were mostly similar in size to Sandstone City, with a few large cities boasting towering walls and formidable formations, clearly guarded by True Immortal Realm experts

. Kai didn’t enter the large cities, only stopping in small and medium-sized towns to resupply and secretly inquire about the Evil Path Palace’s strongholds.

The clues provided by Liu Wenyuan were largely accurate, which greatly facilitated Kai’s mopping-up operation.

The first stronghold was located in a small town called Qing Shi Town, disguised as a herbal medicine shop.

Kai and the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord infiltrated under cover of night, swiftly eliminating the two fifth-grade Celestial Immortal level Evil Path Hall cultivators and several of their subordinates, seizing a batch of pills and materials, and obtaining some intelligence about the Evil Path Hall’s activities in the surrounding area.

The second stronghold was a bandit hideout called Blackwater Village.

The Evil Path Hall cultivators here colluded with local bandits, making their actions even more ruthless. Kai showed no mercy, cooperating with the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord to wipe out the entire village overnight, killing three Evil Path Hall cultivators and rescuing a group of kidnapped cultivators and civilians.

The third stronghold was hidden beneath a gambling den in the medium-sized city of Iron Rock City.

The defenses here were even tighter, with a seventh-grade Celestial Immortal level Evil Path Hall deacon stationed there.

Kai adopted a more cautious strategy. He first infiltrated the gambling den using disguise to ascertain the structure and personnel distribution of the stronghold. Then, in coordination with the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord, he launched a surprise attack at the moment of greatest relaxation before dawn.

This battle was more difficult than the previous two. The seventh-rank steward was quite powerful and possessed several vicious evil arts.

However, Kai did not give him a chance to use them. He immediately used the Void Slash to break through the demon's protective magic treasure. Then, the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord and the Little Fire Qilin launched a fierce attack together, while Kai seized the opportunity to pierce the demon's heart with his sword. Of

the more than twenty Evil Path Hall cultivators in the entire stronghold, only three escaped in the chaos; the rest were all killed.

After eliminating three strongholds in succession, Kai obtained a large amount of spirit stones, pills, materials, and several jade slips recording some of the Evil Path Hall's missions and personnel lists.

More importantly, in a secret room in the Iron Rock City stronghold, he found a secret book recording some of the Evil Path Hall's strongholds and contact methods in the southern region of the Eleventh Heaven.

# Chapter 5871

“It seems the Evil Path Hall’s influence in the Eleventh Heaven is indeed formidable.”

Crimson Cloud Demon Lord frowned as he flipped through the secret manual. “This manual alone records five strongholds near the Flame Domain, the largest being in Crimson Flame City, reportedly overseen by an elder of the Eighth Rank Celestial Immortal Realm.”

Kai nodded. “Crimson Flame City is the largest city in the Flame Domain, and the Earth Fire Pavilion is also there. The Evil Path Hall has considerable power there; we must be even more cautious once we arrive.”

“There are still over two months until the Earth Fire Trial, enough time,”

Crimson Cloud Demon Lord calculated. “While clearing out strongholds along the way has delayed us somewhat, it has weakened the Evil Path Hall’s power, making it difficult for them to organize an effective encirclement in the short term.”

“Indeed.”

A cold glint flashed in Kai’s eyes. “Moreover, I suspect the Evil Path Hall’s higher-ups already know about the failure of Black Wind Valley. They are likely to lay a trap for us in Crimson Flame City. The commotion we’ve caused along the way might disrupt their plans.”

The two continued south, clearing out two smaller Evil Path Hall strongholds along the way.

As they drew closer to the Fiery Domain, the environment underwent significant changes.

The temperature gradually rose, and the fire-attribute spiritual energy in the air became increasingly concentrated.

The landscape below transformed from a barren Gobi desert into crimson hills and canyons, with occasional steaming hot springs and sporadic volcanic eruptions.

The vegetation also became sparse, consisting mostly of peculiar drought- and heat-resistant plants.

“We’re almost at the Fiery Domain,”

Kai said, sensing the scorching heat in the air. “The environment here is favorable for fire-type cultivators, but oppressive for others. The Evil Path Hall mainly cultivates sinister techniques, so their strength will likely be affected here.”

“It’s not all good for us either,”

the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord frowned. “I’m a demonic cultivator, and the fire spiritual energy here is too intense; staying here for a long time will make me uncomfortable. Your Chaotic Immortal Power is highly inclusive, so it shouldn’t be a big problem. The Little Fire Qilin, on the other hand, is thriving.”

Indeed, since entering the edge of the Fiery Domain, the Little Fire Qilin had been unusually excited, frequently emerging from its storage ring to greedily absorb the fire spiritual energy in the air, its golden flames growing even brighter.

After flying for several more days, a magnificent crimson city appeared on the horizon ahead.

The city walls, hundreds of feet high, were entirely constructed of crimson flame stone, reflecting a scorching luster under the sunlight.

Above the walls, a faint red light shield enveloped the city—its protective array.

The city’s buildings stood in dense rows, the tallest pavilions reaching hundreds of feet high, piercing the clouds.

From afar, one could sense countless powerful auras emanating from the city, some of which were subtle and profound, clearly belonging to True Immortal Realm experts.

Crimson Flame City, the number one city in the Flame Domain, had arrived.

Kai and the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord landed several miles outside the city, concealing their auras, and followed the flow of people towards the city gate.

Crimson Flame City was more than a hundred times larger than Sandstone City. The city gate was teeming with people, and those entering and leaving were generally of higher cultivation levels. Sixth and seventh-grade Heavenly Immortal Realm cultivators were commonplace, and occasionally, even ninth-grade Heavenly Immortal Realm experts could be seen flying directly into the city—clearly, Crimson Flame City's no-fly zone was ineffective against ninth-grade Heavenly Immortal Realm cultivators.

The entrance fee to the city is also astonishingly high: 10,000 high-grade spirit stones per person. Kai paid 20,000 spirit stones and entered the massive city of the Flame Domain with the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord.

The city streets were wide, paved with polished crimson stone slabs, and lined with shops.

Most of the shops sold fire-elemental materials, pills, and magical artifacts. The air was thick with the smell of sulfur and magma, and the temperature was several degrees higher than outside the city. Even ordinary True Immortal cultivators would likely need to circulate their immortal power to withstand the intense heat.

"Let's find a place to stay first, then head to the Earth Fire Pavilion," Kai said.

The two found a medium-sized inn in the city to stay at.

The inn was called Flame Heart Residence. Its location wasn't central, but the environment was acceptable. Most importantly, the owner seemed honest and upright, unlike someone from the Evil Path Hall.

After settling in, Kai asked the innkeeper for directions to the Earth Fire Pavilion.

"The Earthfire Pavilion?"

The shopkeeper, a clever young man, was only at the fifth rank of the Celestial Immortal Realm, but he was very familiar with Crimson Flame City. "You two seniors are here to participate in the Earthfire Trial, right? The Earthfire Pavilion is in the city center; it's the largest crimson tower. However, not just anyone can enter the Earthfire Pavilion. You either need an introducer or be an invited participant."

"An introducer?"

Kai frowned. "We've come from afar and don't have an introducer. How can we obtain the qualification to participate in the trial?"

"This…"

The shopkeeper scratched his head. "The qualification selection for the Earthfire Trial ended three months ago. If you want to participate now, you either need special permission from an elder within the Earthfire Pavilion, or… before the trial begins, complete certain special tasks issued by the Earthfire Pavilion to obtain contribution points to exchange for qualification."

Special tasks?

Kai's heart skipped a beat: "Where does the Earthfire Pavilion post missions?"

"In the Mission Hall in the south of the city. All the major forces post missions there, and the Earthfire Pavilion is no exception. However…"

the shopkeeper lowered his voice, “The missions posted by the Earthfire Pavilion are usually very dangerous. They’re either about collecting rare materials in the treacherous depths of the Flame Domain, or hunting powerful fire-type beasts. Many cultivators who want to take shortcuts have accepted these missions, but none of them have returned.”

“Understood, thank you.” Kai handed the shopkeeper a few spirit stones as a reward.

The shopkeeper happily accepted them and added, “If you two seniors wish to go to the Mission Hall, I can lead the way.”

“Also, a word of caution: Crimson Flame City is currently in turmoil. I heard that a cultivator named Kai has offended the Evil Path Hall, and they are currently searching the entire city for him, offering a bounty of a million high-grade spirit stones.”

“If you two seniors encounter anyone suspicious, it’s best to stay far away.”

Kai and Crimson Cloud Demon Lord exchanged a glance, both seeing the gravity in each other’s eyes.

The Evil Path Hall was indeed swift; the bounty had already reached Crimson Flame City.

Moreover, judging from the waiter’s tone, the bounty had caused quite a stir in the city, and many people were probably already secretly searching for Kai’s whereabouts.

# Chapter 5872

“We understand, thank you for the reminder.” Kai remained calm.

After the waiter left, the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord set up a soundproof barrier and said in a deep voice, “Kai, the Evil Path Hall’s influence in

Crimson Flame City is probably quite significant. We need to proceed with caution."

"Hmm."

Kai nodded. "Let's go to the Mission Hall first and see if there's a way to quickly obtain the Earth Fire Trial qualification."

"Also, we need to go to the Earth Fire Pavilion. Even if we can't get in, at least we can find out its location and the guards."

After a short rest, the two left the inn and headed to the Mission Hall in the south of the city.

The Mission Hall was a vast circular building, bustling with activity. Hundreds of huge jade walls floated in mid-air, displaying various mission information.

Cultivators were constantly coming and going, accepting, turning in, and issuing missions, creating a noisy atmosphere.

Kai quickly found the area where the Earth Fire Pavilion issued missions.

The jade walls there were crimson red, and while the number of missions was not large, the rewards for each one were extremely generous.

Each mission was marked "Extremely Dangerous."

"These tasks simply cannot be completed in a short time."

After reviewing the list, the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord shook his head. "Moreover, the risks are too great."

Kai also frowned.

The qualification for the Earth Fire Trial requires 10,000 contribution points. Based on the difficulty and rewards of these tasks, at least two or three extremely dangerous missions would need to be completed.

There simply isn't enough time.

"It seems the conventional methods won't work,"

Kai muttered. "We need to think of another way."

Just then, he overheard the chatter of several cultivators nearby:

"Have you heard? Elder Yan Xin of the Earth Fire Pavilion is leading a team to the Crimson Flame Canyon to collect Flame Spirit Grass and is recruiting temporary guards."

"Flame Spirit Grass? That's the main ingredient for refining Flame Heart Pills. It only grows deep within the Crimson Flame Canyon, protected by Flame Dragons. Elder Yan Xin is personally leading the expedition this time, so the demand must be considerable."

"What's the reward?"

"It's said to be quite good. Guards who complete the mission will not only receive a generous amount of spirit stones, but will also get a discount on future purchases of Earth Fire Pavilion's pills and magic treasures. If they perform exceptionally well, they might even catch Elder Yan Xin's eye and be recruited into the Earth Fire Pavilion."

"Then what are we waiting for? Let's sign up quickly! Elder Yan Xin is one of the three great alchemists of the Earth Fire Pavilion. Following him is a rare opportunity!"

Several cultivators hurried towards the recruitment area on the other side of the hall.

Kai's eyes lit up.

Elder Yan Xin?

The alchemist of the Earth Fire Pavilion?

Leading a team to collect Flame Spirit Grass?

This might be an opportunity.

If they could infiltrate this team and perform exceptionally well in the mission, they might directly gain Elder Yanxin's favor, thus qualifying for the Earth Fire Trial, or even directly obtaining clues about the Earth Core Jade Marrow Milk!

"Let's go take a look,"

Kai said to the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord.

The two arrived at the recruitment area, where dozens of cultivators had already gathered, all with cultivation levels above the fifth rank of the Heavenly Immortal Realm.

On a makeshift wooden platform ahead, a steward from the Earth Fire Pavilion was explaining the recruitment requirements.

"...This escort mission will last for seven days, with the destination being the Crimson Flame Canyon. The main responsibilities are guarding and assisting with resource gathering. Cultivation level required is above the fifth rank of the Heavenly Immortal Realm."

"The reward is five thousand high-grade spirit stones per person, with additional rewards for successful mission completion. Applicants must pass a simple test; places are limited, only the top ten will be accepted."

The conditions weren't harsh, and the reward was reasonable.

More importantly, this was an excellent opportunity to get close to the higher-ups of the Earth Fire Pavilion. Kai and the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord exchanged a glance and both decided to sign up.

The test was simple, merely demonstrating their cultivation and attack/defense capabilities.

However, when he arrived at the testing area to register, a young steward from the Earth Fire Pavilion glanced at him and immediately frowned.

“Fellow Daoist, are you sure you want to sign up?”

The young steward’s tone was clearly suspicious. “The guard mission requires a minimum cultivation level of the fifth rank of the Heavenly Immortal Realm, and you… seem not to meet the requirements.”

Kai was currently only at the first rank of the Heavenly Immortal Realm, completely failing to meet the requirements.

His words immediately attracted the attention of the other registrants around him.

Dozens of gazes focused on Kai, and when they sensed his first-rank Heavenly Immortal Realm aura, many people revealed undisguised contempt and mockery.

“A Celestial Immortal Level One cultivator wants to join the fun? Isn’t that just courting death?”

“What kind of place is Crimson Flame Canyon? It’s the dwelling place of the Flame Dragon! Even a Celestial Immortal Level Six expert wouldn’t dare say they could escape unscathed. What’s a Level One cultivator doing there? Becoming the Flame Dragon’s snack?”

“Probably some hothead from some small place, thinking the Earth Fire Pavilion’s guard duty is some easy job.”

“Tch, ignorant of the immensity of heaven and earth.”

Whispers rose and fell, their tone full of sarcasm. In the eyes of these cultivators, at least at the Celestial Immortal Level Five, a Celestial Immortal Level One cultivator was no different from an ant.

Crimson Cloud Demon Lord stood behind Kai, his face slightly grim, but Kai gestured with his eyes for him to calm down.

Kai remained calm and said to the young deacon, “Although my cultivation level is not high, I believe I have some protective techniques that might come in handy. Since I’m here, may I try out for a test?”

The young deacon hesitated for a moment, about to speak, when a gruff voice interrupted:

“Try out? Kid, what do you think this place is? Playing house?”

The speaker was a burly man, nine feet tall with a face full of scars, carrying two cartwheel-sized axes on his back, his aura at the peak of the sixth rank of the Celestial Immortal Realm.

He walked up to Kai, looking down at him condescendingly, and sneered, “Guard missions are for risking your life, not for newbies like you to broaden your horizons. If you know what’s good for you, get lost and don’t delay our legitimate cultivators from registering.”

A burst of laughter erupted around them.

Kai looked up at the burly man, his tone still calm: “Fellow Daoist, the test hasn’t even started yet, how can you be so sure I’m not good enough?”

“Ha! You need to be sure?”

The burly man seemed to have heard a joke. “With your cultivation level, I could crush ten of you with a single finger! Kid, stop making a fool of yourself here, hurry up…”

His words trailed off.

Because Kai suddenly moved.

Not an attack, not a defense.

He simply took a step forward.

But in that instant, a trace of Kai's aura leaked out.

Not a fifth-grade Celestial Immortal, nor a sixth-grade.

But an indescribable, seemingly all-encompassing yet transcendent aura!

Although it was only a fleeting moment, the burly man closest to Kai felt as if he had instantly been placed in endless chaos, all the laws around him trembling and submitting!

The raging spiritual power within him suddenly became stagnant and dormant, as if he had encountered a natural enemy!

The burly man's expression changed drastically. He stumbled back three steps, cold sweat instantly beading on his forehead, his eyes filled with astonishment and uncertainty as he looked at Kai.

The surrounding laughter abruptly ceased.

Those cultivators who had been mocking Kai now felt a strange unease.

Although they didn't know exactly what had happened, the burly man's reaction and the fleeting, strange aura were enough to tell the story.

This young cultivator, who appeared to be only at the first rank of the Heavenly Immortal Realm... was probably not simple!

# Chapter 5873

The young deacon also noticed the anomaly. He re-examined Kai, his attitude becoming much more cautious: "Fellow Daoist, since you insist, then participate in the test. The test consists of three parts: cultivation level test, attack test, and defense test. Please follow me."

Kai nodded and followed the deacon to the testing area.

The first part was the cultivation level test.

A spirit-testing crystal was placed on the testing table. The cultivator placed their hand on it and injected immortal power. The crystal would display the approximate cultivation level based on the quality and quantity of the immortal power.

Some cultivators would deliberately hide their realm or use drugs to enhance their realm aura.

If one relied solely on aura to discern the other's realm, there would be errors.

This would be considered cheating, but there was no way to cheat in front of this spirit-testing crystal.

For the cultivators who had been tested before, the crystal mostly lit up with red, orange, and yellow lights, corresponding to the fifth, sixth, and seventh ranks of the Heavenly Immortal Realm, respectively.

When it was Kai's turn, he placed his hand on the crystal and slowly injected chaotic immortal power.

The crystal first lit up with a faint white light, which was the weakest realm of the Heavenly Immortal Realm, the first rank.

Seeing the light, the young deacon's eyes filled with disdain.

The others also began to point and whisper.

The burly man who had been frightened by Kai, seeing this scene, also revealed a fierce glint in his eyes.

This spirit-testing crystal couldn't be faked; it seemed Kai's realm was indeed the first rank of the Heavenly Immortal Realm.

In that case, he no longer needed to fear him.

That terrifying aura just now was probably created using some kind of magical artifact.

Thinking this, the burly man wanted to step forward and teach Kai a lesson, to vent his anger.

But just as the burly man was about to step forward, the spirit-testing crystal suddenly changed.

The white light began to shift, turning gray, and then within the gray, seven halos of red, orange, yellow, green, cyan, blue, and purple emerged, the seven colors flowing and finally intertwining into a chaotic, undefined gray hue!

“What… what’s going on?”

The young deacon was stunned.

He had presided over tests for many years and had never seen the spirit-testing crystal react like this.

The surrounding crowd also whispered among themselves, bewildered.

The burly man’s eyes widened in shock, and he stopped in his tracks.

Kai understood.

The Chaotic Immortal Power encompassed all things, not to mention the baleful aura, the power of the Divine Dragon, the power of the three races, and the power of various supreme fires within Kai’s body. These mixed powers made it impossible for the Spirit Testing Crystal to accurately determine his cultivation level, hence this abnormal reaction.

“Perhaps there’s something wrong with the crystal,”

Kai said calmly. “How about we proceed to the next test?”

The young steward hesitated for a moment, then looked at an elderly man not far away who had closed his eyes to meditate. He was an elder sent by the Earth Fire Pavilion to supervise this recruitment.

The old man opened his eyes, gave Kai a deep look, and slowly nodded: “Continue.”

The second test was an attack test.

Three specially made test pillars stood in the testing area, corresponding to the defensive strength of the fifth, sixth, and seventh ranks of the Heavenly Immortal Realm, respectively.

The cultivator had to launch an attack from ten feet away, and the attack power was judged based on the degree of damage to the test pillars.

Most cultivators who had passed the test before could only leave deep marks on the fifth-grade trial pillar, and a few sixth-grade cultivators could leave shallow marks.

As for the seventh-grade trial pillar, no one had been able to budge it.

Kai walked to the testing position, did not take out the Dragon-Slaying Sword, but instead pointed his fingers like a sword, and pointed at the sixth-grade trial pillar in the middle from a distance.

A gray sword aura shot out from his fingertip, silent and not very fast.

“That’s it?”

someone muttered softly, “Weak and powerless, not even a sound…”

Before the words were finished, the gray sword aura had already lightly landed on the sixth-grade trial pillar. There was no earth-shattering explosion, no ear-piercing clang of metal.

Only a soft “hiss,” like a red-hot iron rod piercing snow.

Before everyone’s stunned eyes, the testing pillar, strong enough to withstand a full-force attack from a sixth-grade Celestial Immortal, was easily pierced by the gray sword energy!

A thumb-sized hole, smooth as a mirror, remained, completely transparent!

Even more bizarrely, the material around the hole wasn't violently destroyed, but rather seemed… to have been wiped from the face of the earth by some force!

The entire arena

fell silent. A pin drop could be heard.

A few breaths later, gasps of astonishment rose and fell.

"This… how is this possible?!"

"A sixth-grade testing pillar… pierced through?!"

"What kind of supernatural power did he use? I didn't even see it!"

"That sword energy is strange! It's definitely not ordinary sword energy!"

The burly man who had previously mocked Kai the most was now deathly pale, filled with lingering fear.

He secretly rejoiced that he hadn't actually attacked; otherwise, he would likely be the one with a hole in his body now.

The young deacon opened his mouth, speechless for a long time.

In all his years of overseeing tests, the strongest Celestial Immortal cultivators he'd ever seen only left a half-inch deep slash mark on the sixth-grade trial pillar.

A direct piercing like this… unheard of!

The supervising elder opened his eyes again, his gaze flashing with a sharp light, staring intently at Kai, as if trying to see right through him.

Kai, however, acted as if he'd done something insignificant, turning to the third test.

The third test: defense.

In the testing area, there were three puppets, each capable of launching attacks equivalent to fifth, sixth, and seventh-grade Celestial Immortals.

The cultivator had to stand in a designated position, neither dodging nor evading, and withstand three blows from the puppets, their defensive strength judged by the degree of injury.

Kai walked to the testing position.

"Please select the puppet level."

The young deacon's voice now carried a hint of respect.

"Seventh grade, I'll say." Kai said calmly.

"Seventh grade?" Another gasp rippled through the crowd.

The attack of a seventh-grade puppet—that was the real power of a seventh-grade Celestial Immortal!

Even a seventh-grade Celestial Immortal wouldn't dare claim they could withstand three blows unscathed!

This young man, with only a first-grade aura, actually wants to challenge a seventh-grade puppet?

"Fellow Daoist, a seventh-grade puppet is extremely powerful, perhaps…" the young deacon kindly reminded him.

"No problem, let's begin." Kai interrupted him.

The young deacon looked at the supervising elder, who nodded slightly.

“Activate the seventh-grade puppet, first strike!” the young deacon announced loudly.

A three-zhang-tall, crimson metal puppet’s eyes glowed red, its right arm rose, and a blinding crimson light condensed on its fist, emanating a scorching and violent aura.

“Boom!”

The puppet unleashed a punch, the crimson fist shadow tearing through the air, carrying a scorching shockwave, heading straight for Kai’s face!

# Chapter 5874

Kai neither dodged nor evaded, not even bothering to condense any protective immortal light; he simply stood there calmly.

“He’s gone mad?!” someone exclaimed in shock.

Just as the fist shadow was about to strike Kai—

Kai raised his right hand, fingers spread, and gently clenched it against the terrifying crimson fist shadow.

“Pfft.”

Like crushing a bubble.

The fist shadow, powerful enough to severely injure a sixth-grade Celestial Immortal cultivator, suddenly dissipated and vanished three feet from Kai’s palm, transforming into primordial fire-elemental spiritual energy and dissipating into the air.

Kai’s hand didn’t even tremble slightly.

“This…” The young deacon’s eyes nearly popped out of their sockets.

The onlookers were completely petrified.

To withstand a strike from a seventh-grade puppet, not only unharmed but also so effortlessly crush it?

What kind of monster was this?!

“Second strike!”

The young deacon’s voice trembled slightly.

The puppet’s eyes glowed even brighter red, its arms rising simultaneously, its fists colliding, condensing into a violently spinning crimson fireball about a foot in diameter!

The fireball crackled with electricity, radiating destructive energy, at least 30% stronger than the first strike!

“Go!”

The puppet thrust its arms forward, sending the fireball hurtling out, scorching the air and distorting its path!

Kai still didn’t dodge.

This time, he didn’t even raise a hand.

With a thought, golden light instantly enveloped his entire body, activating his Indestructible Golden Body.

“Boom!”

The crimson fireball slammed into the golden light membrane, erupting with blinding light and a deafening roar!

The dust settled.

Kai stood motionless.

The golden light membrane around his body rippled slightly, completely undamaged.

Even the ground beneath his feet didn't crack—all the impact had been completely absorbed and neutralized by that thin membrane!

"Impossible..."

someone murmured, as if their faith had crumbled.

"The third strike!"

The young deacon practically roared, completely stunned by the scene before him, losing all ability to think.

The puppet's eyes blazed with intense red light, its entire body trembled violently, and a complex array of patterns lit up on its chest, frantically drawing in the surrounding fire-elemental spiritual energy!

"Buzz—!"

A giant sword, entirely formed from crimson flames, slowly materialized above the puppet's head!

The sword was three zhang long, its blade wreathed in crimson dragon shadows, radiating terrifying heat and sharp sword energy that sent shivers down one's spine!

This was the seventh-grade puppet's ultimate killing move—the Flaming Dragon Slash!

Its power was comparable to the full-force strike of a peak seventh-grade Celestial Immortal!

"Slash!"

The puppet cleaved downwards with both arms, the flaming giant sword carrying the force to cleave everything, slashing down at Kai!

This strike caused many fifth and sixth-grade Celestial Immortal cultivators around to feel breathless, instinctively retreating.

Kai finally moved.

He raised his left hand, his index and middle fingers together, and gently pinched the descending flaming giant sword.

Yes, a pinch.

Using two fingers to pinch the three-zhang-long flaming giant sword.

To everyone else, this was tantamount to suicide.

However—

“Clang!”

A crisp metallic clang rang out.Kai’s two fingers firmly gripped the tip of the flaming giant sword!

The sword’s downward momentum abruptly halted, the crimson dragon shadow coiled around its blade letting out a resentful roar, yet unable to advance even an inch further!

Kai tightened his fingers slightly.

“Crack…”

Fine cracks appeared on the flaming giant sword, starting from its tip.

The cracks spread rapidly, covering the entire sword in the blink of an eye!

“Shatter,”

Kai uttered softly.

“Bang—!”

The three-zhang-long flaming giant sword shattered with a deafening roar, transforming into a rain of fire that fell in a flurry, only to be repelled and annihilated by the golden light membrane covering Kai’s body as it approached.

Within the testing area, only a puppet, its energy depleted and dimming, remained, along with the azure figure standing with hands behind his back, his robes fluttering.

Deathly silence.

A deathly silence that lasted for more than ten breaths.

Then, a deafening roar of surprise and discussion erupted!

“My God! What did I just see?!”

“He caught a seventh-grade puppet’s Flaming Dragon Slash with his bare hands?! And crushed it?!”

“He…he’s really a first-grade Celestial Immortal? You’re kidding me!”

“This strength is at least an eighth-grade Celestial Immortal…no, a ninth-grade! He might even have touched the threshold of an Upper Immortal!”

“The Earth Fire Pavilion has struck gold this time!”

The cultivators who had previously mocked Kai were now all red-faced, wishing they could disappear into the ground.

Especially the burly man, who had quietly retreated to the back of the crowd, afraid of being noticed by Kai.

The young deacon took several deep breaths before he could barely calm his agitated emotions.

He walked up to the supervising elder and bowed, saying, “Elder, what do you think…”

The supervising elder slowly rose, walked to Kai, and carefully examined him, his eyes full of admiration and inquiry: “Young friend, you have skillful methods. May I ask where your master is? What is your honorable name?”

Kai clasped his hands in a fist salute: “This junior is Kai, a rogue cultivator with no fixed master.”

“Rogue cultivator?”

A hint of surprise flashed in the elder’s eyes, but he didn’t delve into it. “Young friend Chen’s strength is outstanding, fully meeting the requirements for a guard. No, far exceeding the requirements. With you joining this mission, the safety will be greatly increased.”

“I am an outer elder of the Earthfire Pavilion, surnamed Zhao. If you are interested, after the mission, I can recommend you to join the Earthfire Pavilion and become an inner disciple directly.”

Become an inner disciple directly!

A chorus of envious gasps rose from the surrounding crowd.

As one of the overlords of the Flame Domain, the Earthfire Pavilion’s inner disciples enjoyed extremely high treatment and status; ordinary cultivators would fight tooth and nail to get in.

Kai simply said calmly, “Thank you for your kindness, Elder Zhao. I am here only for the mission rewards and training. We can discuss joining the sect later.”

Elder Zhao didn’t press the matter, smiling, “Very well, everyone has their own ambitions. Since you have passed the test, you will be a guard for our Earth Fire Pavilion on this mission. And this is…”

He looked at the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord.

“This is my companion, Fellow Daoist Crimson Cloud,” Kai introduced.

The Crimson Cloud Demon Lord stepped forward, releasing the aura of a sixth-grade Celestial Immortal.

Although far less impressive than Kai’s, it was still respectable.

“Fellow Daoist Crimson Cloud has also passed

,” Elder Zhao nodded. “Please register here and receive your guard tokens. Meet outside the South Gate tomorrow at Chenshi (7-9 AM). Don’t be late.”

“Yes.”

Kai and the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord registered, received two crimson guard tokens, and then left the mission hall.

Behind them, countless gazes followed them for a long time, and discussions continued unabated.

“Kai… that name is about to spread throughout Crimson Flame City.”

“Such strength, yet such a low profile; this person is definitely not simple.”

“The Evil Path Hall is currently searching for someone named Kai… could it be him?”

“Shh! Be careful what you say! You can’t just say things like that!”

# Chapter 5875

Stepping out of the mission hall, the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord whispered, “Kai, the strength you just displayed will likely attract more attention. The Evil Path Hall…”

“It’s alright,”

Kai replied calmly. “They’ll come knocking sooner or later anyway. Showing some strength will actually deter some troublemakers and save us a lot of trouble.”

“Besides, the Earth Fire Pavilion is now interested in me; this relationship might provide us with some protection.”

The Crimson Cloud Demon Lord thought it over and, finding it reasonable, said no more.

The two returned to the inn to prepare for tomorrow’s mission.

Unbeknownst to them, shortly after their departure, everything that had happened in the mission hall had quickly spread through various channels to the ears of the major powers in Crimson Flame City.

A mysterious, powerful, and seemingly concealing young cultivator, Kai, had become the focus of attention for many.

This included, of course, the Evil Path Hall, entrenched deep within the Ghost Market.

“The Flame Dragon Slash that crushed a seventh-grade puppet with bare hands?”

Elder Blood Soul listened to his subordinate’s report, a dangerous glint in his crimson eyes. “It seems the failure of Black Wind Valley was not accidental. This boy does indeed have some skill.”

“Elder, should we make a move now?” a subordinate asked.

“No rush.”

Elder Blood Soul shook his head. “He is currently a guard for the Earth Fire Pavilion’s mission. Making a move openly would offend the Earth Fire Pavilion.”

“Wait until they leave the city and reach Crimson Flame Canyon… the environment there is complex, making it a good place to make a move. Notify Bone Demon to take his men ahead and set up the ‘Ten Thousand Ghosts Devouring Soul Array’ on the outskirts of Crimson Flame Canyon.”

“This time, I, the elder, will personally take action. I absolutely cannot let him escape again!”

“Yes!”

A killing intent quietly gathered in the shadows.

At this moment, Kai was in his inn room, meditating with his eyes closed, making final preparations for the upcoming trip to Crimson Flame Canyon.

The next day at dawn, outside the south gate of Crimson Flame City.

Kai and Crimson Cloud Demon Lord arrived at the meeting point on time.

More than twenty people had already gathered here, including ten recruited guards and more than ten disciples and stewards of the Earthfire Pavilion.

In front of them were three magnificent carriages pulled by four Crimson Flame Beasts.

Crimson Flame Beasts were third-tier spirit beasts resembling fine horses but entirely crimson with flames burning on their hooves. They possessed exceptional endurance, making them suitable for long journeys in the Flame Domain.

At 7:15 AM, an elderly man with white hair and a youthful face, dressed in a crimson robe, emerged from the city gate surrounded by disciples.

The old man had a kind face, but a sharp glint flashed in his eyes, and his aura was as deep as the sea—clearly a peak eighth-grade Celestial Immortal!

He held a crimson jade cane, the tip of which was inlaid with a fist-sized fiery red gem, radiating a heat-like yet gentle aura.

“Greetings, Elder Yanxin!” the members of the Earthfire Pavilion bowed in unison. The recruited guards quickly bowed.

This was Elder Yan Xin, one of the three great alchemists of the Earthfire Pavilion.

“No need for formalities , everyone,”

Elder Yan Xin said gently. “I’m troubling you all for this trip to Crimson Flame Canyon to collect Flame Spirit Grass. I’ll be grateful for your protection.”

“Before we set off, I have a few words to say: Deep within Crimson Flame Canyon dwells a Flame Dragon, a ferocious creature with strength comparable to a ninth-grade Celestial Immortal.”

“Our goal is to quickly collect enough Flame Spirit Grass and retreat before the Flame Dragon notices. Therefore, speed and safety are our priorities, and we must avoid direct confrontation with the Flame Dragon as much as possible. Do you all understand?”

“Understood!” everyone responded.

“Alright, let’s go.”

Elder Yan Xin boarded the middle carriage.

The convoy moved smoothly along the wide official road outside Crimson Flame City. Crimson Flame Beasts, their hooves pounding fire, pulled the carriages at a considerable speed.

The guards followed on horseback or flew alongside the convoy, vigilantly observing their surroundings.

Kai and the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord chose to travel by air, which offered a wider field of vision and allowed them to respond to any unexpected situations.

As Kai flew, he silently sensed the unique fire-attribute spiritual energy of the Flame Domain, his chaotic immortal power quietly circulating within him, adapting to and absorbing this intense yet pure energy.

After traveling for about half an hour, the caravan entered a reddish-brown hilly area.

The temperature here was noticeably higher, and a faint smell of sulfur permeated the air.

Just then, the carved wooden window of the foremost carriage, which had been closed, creaked open gently.

A stunningly beautiful face emerged from behind the window.

It was a girl who looked to be about seventeen or eighteen years old, with skin as white as snow, exquisite features, and a pair of bright, fiery eyes like burning flames.

She wore an elaborate updo adorned with a crimson jade hairpin, and a flowing, fiery red fairy dress embroidered with lifelike golden crow patterns on the hem.

Although still young, she already possessed a captivating beauty, especially the innate nobility and liveliness in her eyes, which were unforgettable.

The girl's gaze curiously swept through the convoy, finally settling on Kai, who was flying through the air.

Their eyes met.

Kai also saw her.

Her fiery eyes were filled with undisguised curiosity and inquiry, as if she had discovered some interesting new toy.

Kai was slightly taken aback, then nodded politely and looked away.

However, this single glance attracted the attention of many people around them.

# Chapter 5876

"It's Princess Huo Ling'er!" someone exclaimed in a low voice.

"The apple of the eye of the Earth Fire Pavilion Master, why is she here too?"

"I heard that Princess Huo Ling'er has extremely high talent, having already reached the fifth rank of the Heavenly Immortal Realm at a young age, and is deeply favored by the Pavilion Master and all the elders. She rarely leaves the pavilion, but this time she actually came out with Elder Yan Xin."

"What is she looking at? She seems to be paying attention to that guard named Kai?"

"Tsk tsk, to be noticed by the princess, this kid is quite lucky..."

The whispers rang out.

The Crimson Cloud Demon Lord nudged Kai with his elbow, teasingly transmitting his voice, "Kai, not bad, you've only just arrived at the

Eleventh Heaven and you're already having some good fortune with women?"

"This young lady's identity is extraordinary, she's the daughter of the Earth Fire Pavilion Master. If you take her, wouldn't the Earth Fire Pavilion become your backyard?"

Kai glared at him irritably, "Senior, don't talk nonsense. She's just curious and looking around."

"Looking around?"

The Crimson Cloud Demon Lord chuckled, "Why do I feel like there's more than just curiosity in her eyes? Young man, seize the opportunity. I think this young lady is quite good, beautiful, of noble status, and talented..."

"Anyway, you have plenty of women, what's one more in the Eleventh Heaven? Besides, all the young ladies who have seen you, didn't they all end up being played with by you?"

"Stop."

Kai interrupted him helplessly, "We already have enough trouble, let's not create any more problems."

Despite his words, Kai felt a strange unease.

That girl named Huo Ling'er had clear, bright eyes, truly unique. And he could sense that besides curiosity, there seemed to be a faint...approval?

Even a subtle sense of closeness?

Was it because he possessed Chaotic Immortal Power and True Dragon Bloodline, making him sensitive to her fire-attribute spiritual energy and dragon aura?

Just as he was pondering this, a young man dressed in the robes of a disciple of the Earth Fire Pavilion flew to Kai's side, his attitude polite but carrying a barely perceptible scrutiny: "Fellow Daoist Chen, the princess requests your presence in the carriage."

A wave of envious and jealous glances immediately swept over them.

Kai hesitated slightly, then nodded: "Alright."

Amidst the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord's meaningful smile, Kai followed the disciple to the ground and walked to the carriage at the front.

The carriage door opened, and a faint fragrance mixed with cool spiritual energy wafted out.

The carriage clearly had a special cooling array inside, a stark contrast to the sweltering outside air.

"Fellow Daoist Chen, please come in,"

the maid who had opened the window earlier said respectfully from the carriage door. Kai stepped into the carriage. The space was more spacious than he had imagined, elegantly yet luxuriously furnished.

Soft sable fur carpets covered the floor, and the walls were inlaid with moonstones that emitted a soft glow. Several exquisite low tables were set with spiritual fruits and refreshments.

Princess Huo Ling'er sat in the main seat, resting her chin on her hand, curiously observing Kai as he entered.

Kai sized up the princess, looking at the luxurious carriage, wondering if the princess had summoned him here for some kind of sexual encounter.

"You've come to see the princess, why aren't you bowing?" A maidservant, seeing Kai staring intently at the princess

and seemingly lost in thought, whispered angrily.

“Kai greets the princess,”

Kai quickly clasped his hands in a respectful but firm bow.

“No need for formalities, please sit.”

Huo Ling’er’s voice was clear and melodious, like a mountain stream. “I heard from Elder Zhao that you performed amazingly during the test, even crushing the Flaming Dragon Slash of a seventh-grade puppet with your bare hands. Is that true?”

She blinked, her face full of curiosity, completely lacking the airs of a princess, more like a curious girl next door.

Kai sat down at the low table opposite her, and a maid served him spiritual tea.

“Just a trivial skill, I’m afraid the princess will find it laughable,” Kai said calmly.

“A mere trick?”

Huo Ling’er curled her lip. “Elder Zhao said he’d never seen anything like it in all his years, that sword energy pierced through a sixth-grade trial pillar.”

“Also, the spirit-testing crystal couldn’t accurately determine your cultivation level, displaying only chaotic seven colors—this is the first time it’s ever happened. You’re quite mysterious.”

She leaned forward slightly, her fiery eyes fixed on Kai: “What is your cultivation level? Are you really only at the first grade of the Heavenly Immortal Realm?”

“I don’t believe it. Also, your cultivation method is so strange. I feel your aura… is very special, both familiar and unfamiliar.”

Kai’s heart skipped a beat.

Princess Huo Ling'er's senses were indeed sharp. He calmly sipped his tea. "I am indeed only at the first rank of the Celestial Immortal Realm, but my cultivation method is somewhat special, so my combat strength is slightly higher than my realm. As for my aura... perhaps it's due to my cultivation method."

"Slightly higher than your realm?"

Huo Ling'er tilted her head. "You call that 'slightly higher'? A first-rank Celestial Immortal Realm cultivator can crush a seventh-rank puppet with a killing move. If that's 'slightly higher,' how are the others supposed to survive?"

She seemed very interested in Kai, bombarding him with questions: "Where did you come from? Who is your master? Why did you come to Crimson Flame City? Why did you participate in the guard mission? You didn't even want the opportunity to become an inner disciple of the Earth Fire Pavilion, so what do you want?"

The barrage of questions left Kai somewhat overwhelmed.

# Chapter 5877

Kai carefully considered his words before answering, "I come from the Tenth Heaven, a rogue cultivator without a fixed master."

"I came to Crimson Flame City to find a material called 'Earth Core Jade Marrow Milk' to save someone. I participated in the guard mission partly for the reward, and partly to take this opportunity to contact the Earth Fire Pavilion and gather information."

He didn't completely conceal his true intentions, but he didn't reveal everything either.

The pursuit by the Evil Path Hall was something he couldn't disclose for the time being.

“Earth Core Jade Marrow Milk?”

Huo Ling’er’s eyes lit up. “That’s a legendary item, produced from the deepest part of the Lava Demon Abyss, only a single drop is obtained every ten thousand years. Who do you need to save? Why would you need such a treasure?”

“A senior’s Daoist partner, whose physical body is on the verge of decay, needs this to lock in their life force,” Kai explained simply.

“Oh…”

Huo Ling’er nodded thoughtfully, her gaze towards Kai now filled with admiration. “Loyal and righteous, not bad. However, Earth Core Jade Marrow Milk is extremely rare. Even my Earth Fire Pavilion only possesses some clues about the Lava Demon Abyss; we don’t have any readily available stock. Obtaining it is as difficult as ascending to heaven.”

“I’ll try no matter how difficult it is,” Kai said firmly.

Huo Ling’er stared at him for a few seconds, then suddenly smiled. “You’re quite interesting. Alright, seeing how sincere you are, this princess might be able to ask your father for you. But…”

She winked mischievously, “You have to promise me you’ll chat with me along the way and tell me stories about the outside world. I’ve hardly ever left the Earth Fire Pavilion since I was little; I’m so bored.”

Kai chuckled.

This princess was indeed charmingly frank.

“As long as the princess doesn’t find it boring, I’ll gladly oblige,”

Kai also wanted to play with the princess.

From that day on, Huo Ling’er indeed frequently sought out Kai to chat.

Sometimes she would have a maid invite him to the carriage, and other times she would take the initiative to go to Kai and the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord's resting place when the caravan was resting.

She was full of curiosity about the outside world, especially Kai's experience of breaking through from the tenth heaven to the eleventh heaven, which made her exclaim in amazement.

"Is the Eternal Ice Plains of the tenth heaven really that cold? Colder than the coldest 'Ice Cave' in our Flame Domain?"

"Are the Northern Underworld Gods really that arrogant? What do they look like?"

"You actually defeated a peak eighth-grade Celestial Immortal General? How did you do that?"

The questions were varied, and Kai answered what he could and glossed over what he couldn't.

Even so, Huo Ling'er listened with great interest, occasionally exclaiming in amazement or sighing.

And from her, Kai also learned more about the Earth Fire Pavilion and the Flame Domain.

As one of the overlords of the Flame Domain, the Earth Fire Pavilion was famous for alchemy and weapon crafting, and the pavilion was divided into three branches: "Alchemy Hall," "Weaponry Hall," and "Martial Arts Hall."

Huo Ling'er's father, the head of the Earth Fire Pavilion, was a peak ninth-grade Celestial Immortal and one of the top alchemy masters of the eleventh heaven.

Huo Ling'er displayed fire-elemental talent from a young age and was highly regarded, but also extremely protected, rarely venturing out for training.

“Father always says it’s dangerous outside and won’t let me go out casually,”

Huo Ling’er complained, pouting. “If I hadn’t pleaded and begged, and Grandpa Yan Xin had spoken up for me, I wouldn’t have been able to come. In the end, I’m still stuck in the carriage, unable to go anywhere, so boring!”

Kai comforted her, “The Pavilion Master is only thinking of the princess’s safety. The Crimson Flame Canyon is indeed dangerous; the Flame Dragon is incredibly powerful. It’s always better to be careful.”

“I know, I know, why do you sound just like my father?”

Huo Ling’er waved her hand, then her eyes lit up. “By the way, what good things do you have on you? Let me see them!”

Kai was somewhat stunned! What good stuff could he possibly have on him?

The Dragon-Slaying Sword?

The Dragon-Patterned Bell

? The God-King Bow?

The Demon-Slaying Whip?

Or maybe his own…

Kai looked down at his lower body. If he were to take that out, it would definitely scare Huo Ling’er.

“You don’t have anything on you, do you?” Huo Ling’er asked.

Seeing her expectant face, Kai summoned the little fire qilin from his storage ring.

After this period of rest and nourishment from the fire elemental energy of the Flame Domain, the little fire qilin had grown even larger, now reaching over four zhang in height. Its golden-red scales shone brightly, and its four hooves trod on golden flames, making it both majestic and divine.

As soon as it appeared, it affectionately rubbed its large head against Kai, then curiously surveyed its surroundings and Huo Ling'er.

"Wow! So beautiful!"

Huo Ling'er exclaimed in surprise, not shy at all, and ran over to touch the little fire qilin's head.

The little fire qilin was initially wary, but perhaps sensing the pure fire spirit aura emanating from Huo Ling'er, or perhaps realizing that Kai meant no harm, it didn't flinch. Instead, it lowered its head, allowing Huo Ling'er to stroke it.

"So warm, so comfortable!"

Huo Ling'er's eyes crinkled into crescents with joy. "What's its name?"

"It hasn't been named yet. We just call it Little Fire Qilin," Kai said.

"How can that be! Such a majestic divine beast shouldn't be nameless!"

Huo Ling'er thought for a moment. "Look at its golden-red body, surrounded by flames. How about we call it Wangcai? It has such a good meaning."

"Wangcai?"

Kai was stunned. He hadn't heard that name in a long time.

Back on Earth, his neighbor had a Wangcai.

But that was just a pug.

How could it compare to the fire qilin now?

In this celestial realm, it was truly rare for a princess of the eleventh heaven to come up with such a down-to-earth name.

The little fire qilin seemed to understand, letting out a low growl and rubbing its head against Huo Ling'er's hand in approval.

"Look, it likes it!" Huo Ling'er was even happier.

Kai laughed. This little fire qilin was quite naive; it seemed unaware of what the name Wangcai meant.

However, since the little fire qilin had no objections, Kai had none either.

"Let's listen to the princess and call it Wangcai!"

Kai said helplessly.

# Chapter 5878

Upon hearing this, Huo Ling'er happily led Wangcai around, chasing and playing.

Wangcai was also quite affectionate towards Huo Ling'er, often carrying her for walks around the camp, drawing envy from the disciples of the Earth Fire Pavilion and the other guards.

"Fellow Daoist Chen is truly blessed, not only with outstanding strength but also with the princess's favor."

"That little fire unicorn is so magnificent, actually a pure-blooded unicorn descendant, Fellow Daoist Chen's fortune is extraordinary."

"Her Highness the princess is lively and adorable, a perfect match for Fellow Daoist Chen..."

Some were envious, some praised, and there were also some with ulterior motives in their discussions.

However, not everyone was happy to see this scene.

Among the disciples of the Earth Fire Pavilion who accompanied them this time was a young steward named Yan Lie, a rising star among the younger generation of the Earth Fire Pavilion.

He was about twenty-five or twenty-six years old, handsome, and his cultivation had reached the peak of the seventh rank of the Heavenly Immortal Realm, making him a rare rival among the younger generation.

Even more remarkable was his talent in alchemy, which earned him the favor of several elders, and he was considered one of the strong contenders for the future Pavilion Master.

Yan Lie had always admired Huo Ling'er, a fact known to everyone in the Earth Fire Pavilion.

He held himself in high esteem, believing only a genius like himself was worthy of the princess.

His volunteering to accompany her as a guard was not only a duty but also a way to spend more time with Huo Ling'er.

However, since Kai's arrival, Huo Ling'er's attention had been almost entirely drawn to this outsider. She

spent her days either chatting with Kai or playing with the little fire unicorn, ignoring her childhood sweetheart and senior brother.

This fueled Yan Lie's burning jealousy.

"A rogue cultivator who appeared out of nowhere, relying on some strange abilities, dares to approach the princess?"

Yan Lie glanced at Kai, who was laughing and talking with Huo Ling'er in the distance, a sinister glint in his eyes. "Just a temporary guard, does he really think he's someone important?"

Several times, he tried to intervene, attempting to distract Huo Ling'er from Kai.

"Junior Sister Ling'er, Elder Yan Xin is looking for you. He says he has something to discuss."

Yan Lie walked up to the two of them and spoke gently to Huo Ling'er, but his gaze towards Kai carried undisguised coldness.

"Ah? Grandpa Yan Xin is looking for me?" Huo Ling'er was engrossed in listening to Kai's fascinating tales of the Tenth Heaven, and somewhat reluctantly asked, "What is it? Can't we talk about it later?"

"It's about the precautions for the Crimson Flame Canyon, it's very important," Yan Lie emphasized.

Huo Ling'er sighed helplessly and said to Kai, "I'll go first, I'll come back to you later."

Watching Huo Ling'er's departing figure, Yan Lie didn't immediately follow. Instead, he turned to look at Kai, his gentle expression vanishing instantly, replaced by a cold scrutiny and warning.

"Kai, is it?"

Yan Lie's voice was low, carrying a condescending tone. "I don't care what tricks you played during the test, nor do I care why the princess is interested in you."

"But I warn you, know your place. You're just a temporary guard; get out of here after the mission."

"The princess is of noble status, not someone you can aspire to. Staying away from her won't do you any harm."

Kai looked up at Yan Lie, his expression calm: “Steward Yan, you’re overthinking it. I was merely at the princess’s invitation for a casual chat. I have no other intentions.”

“That’s for the best.” Yan Lie snorted coldly. “Remember, the Earth Fire Pavilion is not a place for rogue cultivators like you to run wild. If I discover that you have any improper thoughts, or that you’re detrimental to the princess… you can’t bear the consequences.”

With that, he turned and left.

Kai watched his retreating figure and shook his head.

He had no interest in this kind of jealous drama.

If it weren’t for the clues to the Earth Core Jade Marrow Milk, he wouldn’t have bothered with such trivial matters at all.

However, the tree may wish to remain still, but the wind will not cease.

In the following days, Yan Lie intensified his actions.

Whenever he saw Huo Ling’er and Kai together, he would try every means to find an excuse to call Huo Ling’er away.

Sometimes it was a summons from an elder, sometimes it was to ask about cultivation problems, and sometimes he would simply say, “Men and women should not be too close.”

After this happened many times, even Huo Ling’er noticed that something was wrong.

# Chapter 5879

“What’s wrong with Senior Brother Yan Lie lately? He keeps calling me.”

After being summoned by Yan Lie again under the pretext of discussing alchemy, Huo Ling'er couldn't help but complain to Kai, "He's never been this enthusiastic before."

Kai smiled faintly, "Perhaps Steward Yan really cares about the princess."

"Come on."

Huo Ling'er pouted, "Do you think I don't know what he's thinking? He's just uncomfortable seeing me getting close to you. Humph, petty guy."

She looked at Kai, a sly glint in her eyes, "But don't be afraid of him. With me here, he wouldn't dare do anything to you."

"If he dares to cause you trouble again, just tell me, and I'll have my father deal with him!"

Kai chuckled, "Thank you for your protection, Princess. It's just a small matter; I can handle it."

"You can handle it? How will you handle it?"

Huo Ling'er asked curiously. "Senior Brother Yan Lie is at the peak of the seventh rank of the Heavenly Immortal Realm, ranking among the top three of the younger generation in the Earth Fire Pavilion. Although you are powerful, your realm is still..."

She didn't finish her sentence, but her meaning was clear—Kai was only at the first rank of the Heavenly Immortal Realm on the surface, and even with extraordinary combat power, he probably wouldn't fare well against Yan Lie at the peak of the seventh rank.

Kai didn't explain, only saying, "Princess, rest assured, I know what I'm doing."

Two more days passed, and the caravan was about to arrive at the Crimson Flame Canyon.

During a rest stop at the camp, Yan Lie appeared again. This time, he went directly to Huo Ling'er and Kai, who were feeding Wangcai Fire Spirit Fruit.

"Junior Sister Ling'er, Elder Yan Xin wants you to come over to discuss the specifics of entering the canyon tomorrow." Yan Lie's tone left no room for doubt.

Huo Ling'er frowned: "Didn't we just discuss it? Why do we need to discuss it again?"

"The situation has changed. The elder has discovered new clues." Yan Lie said without changing his expression.

Huo Ling'er reluctantly got up and said to Kai, "Then I'll go first. You take care of Wangcai for now."

After Huo Ling'er left, Yan Lie didn't leave immediately. Instead, he stared coldly at Kai: "Didn't you listen to what I said last time?"

Kai stroked Wangcai's mane and said calmly, "I naturally remember what Steward Yan said. But since the princess came to see me, I can't just turn her away, can I?" "

If Steward Yan has any objections, he can speak directly to the princess and tell her not to come to see me again."

These words seemed polite, but they were actually barbed—it's your inability to control the princess, what does it have to do with me?

Yan Lie's face darkened: "Are you provoking me?" "I wouldn't dare,"

Kai said calmly. "I'm merely stating the facts. If Steward Yan has nothing else, I'll take Wangcai for a walk."

He patted Wangcai's head and turned to leave.

"Stop!"

Yan Lie shouted, a scorching and sharp aura locking onto Kai. “Kai, don’t think you can act recklessly just because the princess is protecting you. I’m warning you one last time: stay away from the princess. Otherwise…”

“Otherwise what?”

Kai stopped, slowly turning around, his eyes still calm, but a cold glint flashed deep within them. “Is Steward Yan going to make a move here? Don’t forget, our mission is to protect the princess and Elder Yan Xin as they collect the Flame Spirit Grass.”

“If personal grudges lead to internal strife, causing mission failure or even casualties… can Steward Yan bear that responsibility?”

Yan Lie’s breath hitched.

He truly dared not make a move here.

Firstly, he feared injuring the princess or causing chaos; secondly, he worried about Elder Yan Xin’s punishment.

More importantly, Kai’s performance during the test was too strange. Although he was confident of victory, he wasn’t entirely certain.

“Sharp-tongued.”

Yan Lie took a deep breath, suppressing his anger. “Fine, very well. After the mission is over, back at the Earth Fire Pavilion, we’ll settle the score slowly. I hope you’ll still be this tough then.”

With that, he glared fiercely at Kai and turned to leave.

Kai watched his retreating figure, shaking his head slightly.

He’d seen far too many people blinded by jealousy.

As long as it didn’t interfere with his search for the Earth Core Jade Marrow Milk, he wouldn’t bother with it. But if it dared to lay a hand on him… he wouldn’t mind chopping off that paw.

Beside him, Wangcai seemed to sense Kai’s emotions, growling softly and nuzzling his arm with its head in comfort.

Kai smiled and patted it: “Let’s go for a walk.”

The next day, the caravan finally arrived at the edge of the Crimson Flame Canyon.

# Chapter 5880

The Crimson Flame Canyon, like a hideous scar, stretches across the boundless crimson wasteland.

Standing at the canyon’s edge and looking down, one sees sheer cliffs on both sides, a deep, dark red, like congealed blood.

Not a blade of grass grows on the cliffs, only strange, crimson crystals reflecting the blinding sunlight.

Deep within the canyon, billowing heat waves distort the air into undulating ripples.

Visible crimson currents rise from the valley floor, carrying a strong sulfurous odor and scorching heat.

Further in, dark red lava rivers flow slowly, occasionally bursting into bubbling, boiling sounds, spewing waves of lava several meters high.

Occasionally, strange crimson creatures can be seen swimming in these lava rivers, moving with lightning speed.

“Roar—!”

A deep, majestic roar echoes from the deepest part of the canyon, causing rocks to tumble down the cliff walls.

That was the oppressive aura of the Fiery Dragon; even the aftershocks caused many cultivators at the fifth or sixth rank of the Celestial Immortal Realm to feel a chill.

“This is the Crimson Flame Canyon…”

Kai narrowed his eyes, sensing the almost tangible fire-attribute spiritual energy in the air.

Here, the speed of his Chaos Immortal Power circulation noticeably increased, and his perception of the surrounding environment became much sharper.

Crimson Cloud Demon Lord stood beside him, his expression grave: “Such dense baleful energy and fire poison. Many powerful figures must have perished deep within this canyon.”

The Earth Fire Pavilion’s team camped on a relatively flat area at the edge of the canyon.

Elder Yanxin gathered everyone and said in a deep voice, “The Crimson Flame Canyon is divided into three layers: the outer layer, the middle layer, and the core. The Flame Spirit Grass grows in the ‘Flame Spirit Basin,’ which is located at the junction of the middle layer and the core. This is also an area where the Flame Dragon frequently operates.” ”

Our objective is clear: quickly enter the Flame Spirit Basin, collect at least thirty mature Flame Spirit Grasses, and then immediately evacuate. The entire process must not exceed three hours, otherwise the Flame Dragon will inevitably detect it and launch an attack.”

He looked around at everyone, especially at the ten guards he had recruited: “Gentlemen, since you have accepted this mission, you should know the risks involved. But as long as you follow orders and cooperate

properly, the chances of survival are still very high. The Earth Fire Pavilion will not mistreat those who have made contributions."

Despite these words, Kai could sense that there was a subtle line between the Earth Fire Pavilion disciples and the hired guards.

The Earth Fire Pavilion disciples gathered around Elder Yanxin and Huo Ling'er, while the guards were arranged to guard the outer perimeter.

Yan Lie stood beside Elder Yanxin, his gaze intentionally or unintentionally sweeping over Kai, a barely perceptible cold smile curling at the corner of his mouth.

"Now, let's assign tasks,"

Elder Yan Xin continued. "After entering the canyon, someone needs to lead the way, clearing away the ferocious beasts and obstacles along the way. This task..."

He looked at the guard team.

Yan Lie suddenly spoke up: "Elder, the path-clearing task is dangerous and important, requiring someone with formidable strength and quick reflexes. I recommend Fellow Daoist Kai."

He turned to Kai, a seemingly sincere smile on his face: "Fellow Daoist Chen performed amazingly during the test, his strength far surpassing others of the same level. You are the most suitable person to lead the way."

Upon hearing this, the guards' expressions changed slightly.

Leading the way, to put it nicely, is being a vanguard; to put it bluntly, it's being cannon fodder for scouting.

The Crimson Flame Canyon is fraught with danger; whoever walks in the front will be the first to encounter various ferocious beasts, poisonous insects, and traps.

Although the reward will be higher, the risk is also the greatest.

Most of the other guards who passed the test were at the fifth or sixth rank of the Heavenly Immortal Realm, and naturally, they were unwilling to take on this arduous task.

Everyone looked at Kai.

Kai remained calm, exchanged a few breaths with Yan Lie, and slowly nodded: “It’s fine.”

“Kai…” the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord tried to dissuade him. “It’s alright,”

Kai replied. “I also want to observe the canyon environment up close.”

A hint of triumph flashed in Yan Lie’s eyes as he added, “Since we’re clearing a path, we shouldn’t have too many people, lest we disturb the Flame Dragon. Fellow Daoist Chen, you can choose two or three more to accompany us.”

This was to isolate him.

Kai glanced at the guard team; most of them lowered their heads, not daring to meet his gaze.

Only a tall, thin middle-aged cultivator carrying a longbow and a short, stocky man wielding two hammers stepped forward.

“I am Lin Feng, a sixth-grade Celestial Immortal, skilled in ranged attacks and reconnaissance. I am willing to accompany Fellow Daoist Chen to clear the path,”

the bow-carrying cultivator

said, clasping his hands in greeting. “My name is Shi Meng, a fifth-grade Celestial Immortal. I’m tough and can be of help,”

the stocky man said in a deep voice.

Kai nodded to the two: “Thank you for your trouble.”

“I’ll go too!”

a clear voice rang out.

Huo Ling’er stepped out from among the disciples of the Earth Fire Pavilion and ran to Kai’s side. “I haven’t really had any real training yet. This is a good opportunity to see what it’s like.”

“Nonsense!”

Yan Lie’s expression changed. “Junior Sister Ling’er, clearing the path is dangerous. How can you take the risk? Come back!”

Elder Yan Xin also frowned and said, “Ling’er, don’t be willful. Stay with me. Safety comes first.”

“But…” Huo Ling’er wanted to argue.

Kai said, “Your Highness is of noble status and it is indeed not advisable for you to take risks. Leave the clearing the path to us.”

Huo Ling’er looked at Kai’s calm and firm eyes, bit her lip, and finally retreated, but did not forget to remind him, “Then be careful… Wangcai, you have to protect Kai!”

Wangcai growled and rubbed against Kai, indicating that he understood.

Yan Lie watched this scene, his eyes becoming even more sinister.

“Kai, I’ll go with you too!” said the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord.

“Senior, we can’t both risk our lives at the same time. If we both die, there won’t even be anyone to deliver the message.”

“Just follow behind,”

Kai said. “If there’s any danger, you can come to my rescue in time!”

He hadn’t chosen Crimson Cloud Demon Lord because he was afraid Crimson Cloud Demon Lord might be in danger.

Crimson Cloud Demon Lord looked at Kai, his eyes filled with gratitude.

Once upon a time, when he was just a wisp of soul, he was willing to help Kai, completely disregarding him.

But now, his physical body had recovered, and Kai was someone he couldn’t reach.

Now, he needed Kai’s protection.