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“Now that the selections are made, we will depart in half an hour,”

Elder Yanxin said in a deep voice. “Kai, the three of you and your beast will lead the way, maintaining a distance of a thousand feet. If you notice anything unusual, immediately raise the alarm. Do not be reckless.”

“Understood.”

Half an hour later, the group began its ascent into the canyon.

Kai, leading Lin Feng, Shi Meng, and Wang Cai, was the first to step onto the path leading to the bottom of the canyon.

This path, carved out by predecessors, was narrow and steep, allowing only two people to walk side by side.

The lower they went, the higher the temperature became.

The pervasive smell of sulfur in the air was almost suffocating, and the scorching air burned the skin.

Ordinary mortals would probably be instantly dried out upon reaching this point.

But for cultivators, as long as they circulated their immortal power to protect themselves, they could endure it.

Kai walked at the front, his chaotic immortal power flowing quietly within his body, not only isolating him from the high temperature and poisonous gas but also continuously absorbing the pure fire-attribute spiritual energy around him.

He could even feel that cultivating fire-type techniques in this environment would be twice as effective.

“Watch out!”

Lin Feng suddenly shouted, his longbow already in hand, a cyan arrow nocked.

Ahead, around the bend in the path, a dozen crimson lizard-like creatures clung to the rock face.

Each was about three feet long, covered in crimson scales that blended almost seamlessly with the rock, making them difficult to spot without close inspection.

“Crimson fire lizards, social creatures, adept at spitting poisonous fire and ambushing,”

Lin Feng said quickly. “I’ll handle them.”

He drew his bow to its fullest extent, and the cyan arrow shot out with a “whoosh,” splitting into three in mid-air, then nine, transforming into nine streaks of cyan light that accurately struck nine of the crimson fire lizards.

“Pfft! Pfft! Pfft!”

The sounds of arrows piercing scales rang out in quick succession, and nine crimson fire lizards fell dead instantly.

But the remaining few were enraged, hissing and lunging forward, spewing dark red poisonous fire from their mouths.

Shi Meng roared, swinging his twin hammers, their earthen-yellow light surging forth to form a barrier that blocked the poisonous fire.

Wangcai transformed into a golden-red blur, its sharp claws slashing through several fire lizards, tearing them to shreds.

The battle ended in a few breaths.

Kai hadn't even made a move, merely observing the characteristics of these ferocious beasts and his companions' fighting styles.

Lin Feng's archery was precise and efficient, his arrows incredibly fast and penetrating.

Shi Meng possessed solid defense and astonishing strength, making him well-suited for close combat.

Wangcai's speed and attack power were even more extraordinary, comparable to a sixth-grade Celestial Immortal cultivator.

"Cleared up, let's continue," Kai said.

The three continued their descent.The deeper they ventured into the canyon, the more numerous and powerful the ferocious beasts they encountered.

There were "magma worms" that spewed corrosive lava, "shadow fire leopards" that lurked in the shadows and launched sudden attacks, and swarms of fearless "fire ants"...

Kai gradually revealed his strength.

Facing an attack from dozens of fire ants, he pointed his fingers like a sword, unleashing a sweeping gray sword aura that instantly pulverized all the fire ants upon contact.

When ambushed by three "lava giant lizards" comparable to fifth-grade Celestial Immortals, he pressed his left hand down, transforming chaotic immortal power into an invisible force field that imprisoned the three giant lizards, leaving them vulnerable to Lin Feng and Shi Meng's attacks.

On one occasion, a “fire dragon” lurking in the lava river suddenly leaped up to ambush them, only to be struck on the head by Kai’s fist, its skull shattered and it plummeting back into the lava.

Lin Feng and Shi Meng’s initial caution gradually turned to admiration, and then to awe.

They finally understood why Kai, with only a superficial cultivation level of the first rank of the Celestial Immortal Realm, could pass such a monstrous test.

His strength was definitely at the eighth rank of the Celestial Immortal Realm or even higher!

A thousand feet behind, the large group from the Earth Fire Pavilion advanced along the safe path cleared by Kai and his companions, making things much easier.

Yan Lie watched as Kai easily dealt with one ferocious beast after another, his face growing increasingly grim.

He had originally wanted Kai to suffer while clearing the way, even hoping that Kai would be severely injured or killed by the beasts.

Unexpectedly, Kai not only emerged unscathed but also displayed great power, stealing the spotlight from the Earth Fire Pavilion disciples.

“Damn it…” Yan Lie gritted his teeth and muttered.

Huo Ling’er’s eyes shone brightly, and every time she saw Kai make a move, she couldn’t help but cheer softly, “So amazing! Kai has taken down another one!”

“Wangcai is great too! Tear it to pieces!”

She even wanted to run ahead to watch up close, but was sternly stopped by Elder Yan Xin.

“Ling’er, you must not stray from the group. The Crimson Flame Canyon is fraught with danger at every turn; we must not be careless,” Elder Yan Xin said solemnly.

Huo Ling’er had to suppress her excitement, but her gaze remained fixed on the azure figure ahead.

After traveling for about an hour, the group reached the middle layer of the canyon.

The environment here was even harsher.

The ground was riddled with crisscrossing cracks, from which surged crimson magma, radiating terrifying heat.

Visible particles of fire poison floated in the air; inhaling too much would damage one’s meridians.

Strange crimson plants began to appear on the surrounding rock walls: there were “Crimson Flame Grass” swaying like flames, “Flame Crystal Vine” bearing fiery red fruit, and “Earth Fire Mushrooms” emitting a dense fire elemental aura…

but these were not their target.

“The Flame Spirit Basin is just five miles ahead,” Lin Feng pointed to an area shrouded in crimson mist in the distance. “The concentration of fire elemental aura there is ten times that of outside, but it’s also much more dangerous. According to intelligence, ‘Flame Bats’ and ‘Lava Giant Apes’ are active in the basin.”

Kai nodded and continued leading the group forward.

However, just as they were about to reach the edge of the Flame Spirit Basin, a sudden change occurred!

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“Rumble—!”

The ground ahead suddenly trembled violently, and a massive crack abruptly split open, spewing scorching magma into the sky like a fountain!

Immediately afterward, three colossal creatures crawled out of the crack.

They were three monstrous lava apes, each five zhang tall, their bodies composed entirely of black rock and crimson lava!

Each one exuded an aura that reached the peak of the seventh rank of the Celestial Immortal Realm!

Even more terrifying was that they didn’t appear alone; on the shoulders of each ape stood hundreds of densely packed crimson bats—fire bats!

These bats were only the size of a palm, but their fangs were sharp, their wings edged with flames, and they flew at incredible speed.

Most troublesome of all, they could spew a special kind of “corrosive fire,” specifically designed to corrode a cultivator’s protective immortal aura and the spiritual light of their magical artifacts!

“Not good! It’s a three-headed lava giant ape and a swarm of fire bats!”

Lin Feng’s expression changed drastically. “How could they be gathered together? The intelligence didn’t mention it!”

Shi Meng gripped his double hammers tightly, sweat beading on his forehead. “We’re doomed. This lineup is too much for the three of us to handle… Quickly send a signal for help!”

Kai, however, narrowed his eyes, staring at the three-headed lava giant ape.

He noticed that the ape's eyes were flashing with an abnormal crimson light, and its behavior was somewhat sluggish, as if it were being controlled by something.

"Someone's tampering with things..." This thought flashed through Kai's mind.

A thousand feet behind, the Earth Fire Pavilion team also saw the sudden change ahead.

"Three-headed lava giant apes? And a swarm of fire bats?"

Elder Yan Xin's face darkened. "This doesn't make sense. The two kinds of ferocious beasts have different habits and rarely act together."

Huo Ling'er said urgently, "Kai and the others are in danger! Quickly send reinforcements!"

As she spoke, she was about to lead several Earth Fire Pavilion disciples to rush over.

"Stop!"

Yan Lie flashed to block her way. "Junior Sister Ling'er, don't be impulsive! The situation ahead is unclear; it's too dangerous to rush forward!"

"But Kai and the others..."

"They're just hired guards,"

Yan Lie said coldly. "Since we accepted the mission to clear the way, we should bear the risks. The lives of us Earthfire Pavilion disciples are precious; how can we risk our lives for a few guards?"

He then turned to Elder Yan Xin: "Elder, I think we should postpone our advance and observe the situation. If Kai and the others can handle it,

that would be best. If they can't... it will buy us time to find another path into the Flame Spirit Basin."

These words sounded grand, but in reality, they were ruthless. They were using Kai and the others as cannon fodder to draw the beasts' fire so that the Earthfire Pavilion could take the opportunity to detour or retreat.

Huo Ling'er was stunned, exclaiming incredulously, "Senior Brother Yan Lie, how could you say that? They are our companions!"

"Companions?"

Yan Lie scoffed. "Junior Sister Ling'er, you're too naive. They're only here for the reward. If they were truly in a life-or-death situation, they'd be the first to run. It's just an employment relationship, why take it so seriously?"

He looked at the other guards: "Don't you agree?"

The other guards remained silent.

Although they were indignant, they dared not refute Yan Lie.

After all, they were indeed here for the reward, and there was no need for them to risk their lives for the Earth Fire Pavilion.

Elder Yan Xin pondered for a moment, then slowly nodded: "Yan Lie is right. Our primary task is to collect the Flame Spirit Grass; we shouldn't cause any unforeseen complications. Since Kai and the others accepted the path-clearing mission, they should be prepared."

He looked ahead: "Observe for a while. If they are outmatched, we'll decide whether to provide support or retreat."

"Elder!" Huo Ling'er stamped her foot anxiously. Elder Yanxin had already made his decision; the disciples of the Earthfire Pavilion remained on guard, showing no intention of providing support.

At the front lines, on the battlefield,

Kai heard the conversation behind him, his expression remaining calm.

Lin Feng and Shi Meng, however, looked grim.

“Damn it, they really are using us as cannon fodder!”

Shi Meng spat. “I shouldn’t have accepted this mission!”

Lin Feng smiled bitterly: “It’s too late to say that now. Fellow Daoist Chen, what do we do? Fight or retreat?”

Kai looked at the three approaching Lava Giant Apes and the swarms of Fire Bats flying overhead, and said calmly: “You all retreat and protect yourselves. I’ll handle this.”

“You alone?” Lin Feng was shocked.

“Yes.”

Kai took a step forward, his body surging with a hazy, chaotic immortal power.

Faced with such a formidable force, he held nothing back.

The first Lava Giant Apes had already charged forward, their millstone-sized rock fists carrying scorching heat as they slammed towards Kai!

Kai neither dodged nor evaded, his right fist meeting the attack head-on.

The two fists, one large and one small, collided.

“Boom—!”

With a deafening roar, the Lava Giant Ape’s incredibly hard rock arm shattered inch by inch, starting from its fist!

Cracks spread all the way to its shoulder, and the entire arm exploded, sending debris and lava flying everywhere!

The giant ape roared in pain, its massive body staggering backward.

Kai's figure flashed, appearing above the giant ape's head, his right foot slamming down heavily.

"Crack!"

The giant ape's head was crushed by the stomp, its massive body crashing to the ground, turning into a pile of rubble and cooled lava.

All of this happened in the blink of an eye.

The other two Lava Giant Apes and the swarm of Firebats hadn't even reacted yet.

"Roar—!"

The remaining two giant apes roared angrily, pouncing simultaneously. The sky full of Firebats also swooped down with strange squeaking sounds, spewing out dense, corrosive fireballs, like a crimson rainstorm!

Kai formed hand seals and softly uttered, "Chaotic Domain, open."

Within a radius of thirty feet centered on him, space suddenly distorted.

A hazy gray mist spread out, causing all the fireballs that entered the area to slow abruptly, then vanish silently like melting snow.

The swooping fire bats, upon entering the gray mist, seemed to lose their sense of direction, spinning in place before plummeting to the ground, their life extinguished before they even hit the ground.

Chaotic Domain—this was the rudimentary form of a domain that Kai had created by combining his chaotic immortal power with his shallow understanding of space and time.

Although still imperfect, it was sufficient to deal with these lowly, ferocious beasts.

Two giant lava apes rushed into the domain, their movements instantly slowing, as if struggling in a quagmire.

Kai, his figure like a ghost, appeared beside one of the giant apes, his fingers forming a sword, unleashing a burst of gray sword energy.

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“Swoosh!”

Sword energy shot into the giant ape’s temple and out through the back of its head, killing it instantly. Seeing the

situation was dire, the other giant ape turned to flee.

Kai raised his hand, his chaotic immortal power transforming into a large gray hand that grabbed the giant ape and slammed it to the ground!

“Bang!”

The ground trembled, and the giant ape was thrown around, completely disoriented.

Wangcai seized the opportunity, transforming into a golden-red lightning bolt, piercing through the giant ape’s eye and exiting through the back of its head, bringing with it a spray of lava-like blood.

The battle was over.

From start to finish, it took less than twenty breaths.

Three lava giant apes at the peak of the seventh rank of the Heavenly Immortal Realm, along with hundreds of troublesome fire bats, were completely annihilated.

Lin Feng and Shi Meng were dumbfounded, forgetting even to breathe.

A thousand feet behind, everyone in the Earth Fire Pavilion was also petrified.

Huo Ling'er's mouth was agape, her eyes wide, and after a long while, she murmured, "This…this is too…"

Yan Lie's face was ashen, his fists clenched so tightly they cracked.

He never expected Kai's strength to be this formidable!

Three peak seventh-grade ferocious beasts, dealt with so easily?

This is a first-grade Heavenly Immortal?!

Elder Yan Xin's eyes flashed with a sharp light as he stared at Kai's figure, as if trying to see through him.

"A nascent form of a chaotic attribute domain… This kid is not simple."

He muttered to himself, "No wonder the spirit-testing crystal couldn't accurately measure his cultivation. Chaos encompasses all things, its changes are endless, and it is indeed difficult to measure."

Then he looked at Yan Lie and said indifferently, "It seems you underestimated him."

Yan Lie gritted his teeth and said, "Elder, the stronger he is, the more suspicious he is! How could a rogue cultivator have such strength and inheritance? He might be a spy sent by another force!"

Elder Yan Xin remained noncommittal: "Complete the mission first. We'll talk about other things when we get back."

Ahead, Kai withdrew his domain, and the gray mist dissipated.

He walked to the corpse of a giant lava ape and examined it carefully.

Sure enough, on the back of the giant ape's neck, he found a tiny, almost imperceptible crimson rune.

The talisman was slowly dissipating, but the lingering aura…

Kai's eyes turned cold.

The aura of this talisman was seven or eight parts similar to the Evil Path Hall cultivators he had encountered in Black Wind Valley!

"The Evil Path Hall… has infiltrated this place?"

Alarm bells rang in his mind.

"Fellow Daoist Chen, are you alright?" Lin Feng and Shi Meng stepped forward, their attitude even more respectful.

"I'm fine."

Kai shook his head. "Continue onward, reach the Flame Spirit Basin as soon as possible."

He glanced back at the Earth Fire Pavilion team, his gaze lingering on Yan Lie for a moment, then turned and continued leading the way.

Yan Lie felt a chill run down his spine from that glance, but then a deeper resentment surged within him: "What are you looking at! Wait until we get back to the Earth Fire Pavilion, and see how I deal with you!"

The team continued onward.

With the terrifying strength Kai had displayed, the rest of the journey went much more smoothly.

Occasionally, ferocious beasts appeared, but they were quickly dealt with. Half an hour later, the group finally arrived at the Flame Spirit Basin.

This was a circular basin about three miles in diameter, surrounded by mountains on all sides, with only a narrow entrance.

The basin was extremely hot, and the ground was dark red, crystalline soil that made a crisp “crack” sound when stepped on.

In the center of the basin was a lava lake a hundred feet in diameter, with a small crimson island in its center.

On the island grew a patch of crimson spirit grass. The grass leaves were slender with golden veins along the edges, and crimson light flowed faintly within the stems, like flowing flames.

This was their target—the Flame Spirit Grass!

A rough count revealed at least forty or fifty plants, more than thirty of which were already mature, their tips blooming with faint golden flame-like flowers.

“Found it!”

the disciples of the Earth Fire Pavilion exclaimed excitedly.

Elder Yanxin’s expression turned grave: “Be careful, the Flame Dragon might be nearby.”

He looked at Kai and the guards: “Gentlemen, as agreed, you are responsible for guarding and defending against possible attacks from ferocious beasts. The harvesting work will be carried out by the disciples of the Earth Fire Pavilion.”

“The reward will be doubled upon completion of the task.”

The guards nodded and dispersed at the entrance and around the basin, standing guard.

Kai and the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord chose a high rock overlooking the entire basin.

Under Elder Yanxin's command, the disciples of the Earth Fire Pavilion carefully entered the basin and began harvesting the Flame Spirit Grass.

Huo Ling'er followed in as well. She seemed very skilled at harvesting spirit grass, her movements gentle and swift, and she quickly picked three mature Flame Spirit Grasses.

Yan Lie followed beside her, harvesting while vigilantly observing the surroundings.

Everything seemed to be going smoothly.

However, just as the disciples of the Earth Fire Pavilion were harvesting their twentieth Flame Spirit Grass—

"Roar—!!!"

A deafening dragon's roar erupted from the depths of the lava lake!

The entire basin trembled violently, the lava lake churning as if boiling, unleashing towering waves of lava several meters high!

A colossal, suffocating figure slowly rose from the lava lake.

It was a dragon over thirty meters long! Its entire body was covered in crimson-gold scales, each the size of a washbasin, with edges as sharp as knives.

Its head was ferocious, its horns were like forged crimson gold, and its eyes burned with tangible golden flames.

The terrifying dragon's might swept across the entire basin like a tsunami, causing all cultivators below the seventh rank of the Heavenly Immortal Realm to feel difficulty breathing and their immortal energy to stagnate.

The peak of the ninth rank of the Heavenly Immortal Realm—the Flame Dragon!

“Not good! We’ve alerted it!”

Elder Yan Xin’s expression changed drastically. “Retreat quickly!”

The disciples of the Earth Fire Pavilion rushed frantically towards the edge of the basin.

But it was too late.

The Flame Dragon opened its massive maw and spewed out a torrent of golden flames over three meters in diameter!

Wherever the flames passed, even space itself was scorched and distorted!

“Form a defensive array!” Elder Yan Xin shouted.

The disciples of the Earthfire Pavilion quickly formed a crimson defensive array, barely managing to block the first wave of fire attacks.

However, the array’s protective barrier fluctuated violently, clearly indicating that it wouldn’t last long.

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“All guards, advance and assist!”

Yan Lie shouted to the guards on the outer perimeter while maintaining the formation.

However, facing the Flame Dragon, a peak ninth-grade Celestial Immortal, these guards, whose highest rank was only sixth-grade Celestial Immortal, dared not step forward.

“Damn it, this is not something we can handle!”

One guard turned and ran. “Is money more important than life? I quit!”

With one taking the lead, the other guards scattered like birds and beasts.

They were only hired, and there was no need for them to risk their lives for the Earth Fire Pavilion.

Faced with the invincible Flame Dragon, running away was the most rational choice.

Crimson Cloud Demon Lord looked at Kai: “Shall we retreat too?”

Kai stared at the Flame Dragon, then looked at the Earth Fire Pavilion disciples who were still struggling in the basin, especially Huo Ling’er, who was being protected by Yan Lie and whose face was pale…

“You go first, wait for me in a safe place,” Kai said.

“You want to save her?”

Crimson Cloud Demon Lord frowned. “That’s Yan Long, a peak ninth-grade Celestial Immortal! Even if you unleash your full power, you might not be a match for him!”

“I know,”

Kai said calmly, “but I promised to protect her.” ”

Her” naturally referred to Huo Ling’er.

Crimson Cloud Demon Lord looked at him for a few seconds, then sighed: “Alright, be careful. If things get too difficult, run. Don’t be reckless.”

With that, he turned and retreated—he wasn’t a member of the Earth Fire Pavilion, so there was no need for him to take risks.

In the basin, the Earth Fire Pavilion’s defensive array was already on the verge of collapse.

“Crack!”

The first crack appeared in the array’s light shield.

“Elder, we can’t hold on any longer!”

A disciple coughed up blood and collapsed.

Elder Yan Xin gritted his teeth, took out a crimson jade talisman, and crushed it.

The talisman transformed into a crimson light shield, temporarily replacing the broken array.

But this talisman could only hold for a moment.

“Yan Lie, you take Ling’er and go first!”

Elder Yan Xin roared, “I’ll cover the rear!”

“Elder!” Yan Lie hesitated.

“Run!”

Elder Yanxin spat out a mouthful of blood essence, pouring it into the fiery ruby at the tip of his cane.

The ruby burst forth with blinding light, transforming into a crimson fire python that lunged at the Flame Dragon, attempting to buy time.

Yan Lie gritted his teeth and grabbed Huo Ling’er’s hand: “Junior Sister Ling’er, let’s go!”

“But Elder… he…” Huo Ling’er struggled.

“If we don’t leave now, we’ll all die!” Yan Lie forcefully pulled her towards the edge of the basin.

However, the Flame Dragon had already noticed them.

Or rather, the Flame Dragon had noticed Huo Ling'er—the pure and rich fire spirit aura emanating from her held a natural attraction for the Flame Dragon.

"Roar!"

The Flame Dragon swatted away Elder Yanxin's fire python with a claw, its massive tail sweeping across, sending Elder Yanxin flying and crashing into a rock wall, his fate unknown.

Then, it turned its head, its golden dragon eyes locking onto Huo Ling'er, and opened its massive maw, spewing out a second golden flame!

This flame was even more solid and terrifying than the first, melting the ground into magma wherever it passed!

Yan Lie's face turned pale. He let go of Huo Ling'er's hand and dodged to the side first. He actually abandoned Huo Ling'er! "Senior Brother?!"

Huo Ling'er was stunned.

Just as the torrent of flames was about to engulf her—

a figure in azure descended from the sky like a meteor, blocking her path.

Kai!

He held his hands in front of his chest, and chaotic immortal power surged forth, transforming into a constantly spinning gray vortex.

The golden torrent of flames crashed into the vortex, like a mud ox entering the sea, quickly decomposed, devoured, and annihilated!

But the flames of the Flame Dragon were too powerful. Although Kai blocked it, he still groaned, a trace of blood spilling from the corner of his mouth, and took three steps back to steady himself.

“Kai!” Huo Ling’er was both surprised and delighted.

“Get behind me.”

Kai wiped the blood from the corner of his mouth, staring at the Flame Dragon with a solemn expression.

Peak ninth-grade Celestial Immortal Realm, indeed terrifying.

He had used all his strength to barely block that attack, and had even suffered a minor injury.

Seeing its attack blocked, the Flame Dragon let out an angry roar, its massive body flying completely out of the lava lake, hovering in mid-air, blotting out the sun.

It stared at Kai, a hint of doubt flashing in its dragon eyes. This tiny human could actually withstand its dragon breath?

But then, the doubt turned into fury. The dragon’s might intensified, and the temperature of the entire basin soared again!

“Kai, run! Don’t worry about me!” Huo Ling’er cried urgently, “It’s too strong, you can’t beat it!”

Kai didn’t respond, his mind racing.

A direct confrontation was definitely out of the question. Although the Chaos Immortal Power was profound, the difference in realm was too great; the total amount and quality of his immortal power were far inferior to the Flame Dragon’s. Dragging it out would inevitably lead to defeat.

The only way...

Kai thought of his True Dragon bloodline.

Among dragons, bloodline suppression was extremely severe. Although this Flame Dragon was powerful, it was just an ordinary dragon, and its bloodline was not pure.

But Kai possessed the Five-Clawed Golden Dragon bloodline, the king of the dragon race!

If he fully activated his Golden Dragon bloodline, he might be able to intimidate it and buy time to escape.

But once he activated his bloodline, his identity might be exposed. The Golden Dragon bloodline was too conspicuous; what if

someone with ulterior motives saw it… ?

Kai glanced at Huo Ling'er, whose face was pale behind him, then at Elder Yan Xin, whose fate was unknown in the distance, and Yan Lie, who had already escaped to the edge of the basin but was looking back… "I can't worry about that now." Chen Ping took a deep breath and made his decision. He formed an ancient and complex hand seal, and his blood and qi began to boil. "Roar—!" The Flame Dragon attacked again. This time, it swooped down, its massive claws tearing through the air, aiming for Kai! Before the claws even reached him, the terrifying pressure had already cracked the ground and turned rocks into dust! Huo Ling'er closed her eyes in despair. However, the expected death did not come. She opened her eyes and saw a scene she would never forget— Kai stood there, roaring to the sky! It wasn't a human roar, but… a dragon's roar! A high-pitched, majestic, soul-shaking dragon's roar! With this dragon's roar, a dazzling golden light erupted from Kai's body!

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The golden light was so pure and sacred, it seemed capable of dispelling all darkness and evil in the world!

Within the golden light, the faint phantom of a five-clawed golden dragon could be seen, coiled around Kai, its head held high, its eyes like the sun and moon, looking down upon all living beings! The

terrifying dragon's might was ten or even a hundred times stronger than that of the Flame Dragon!

It was a suppression from the deepest part of its bloodline, the absolute dominion of a superior over an inferior!

The Flame Dragon, which was swooping down, was struck by lightning the moment it heard the dragon's roar and saw the phantom of the golden dragon, abruptly halting its descent!

Its enormous dragon eyes were filled with unbelievable terror and...awe!

"Roar..."

The Flame Dragon let out a low, almost mournful roar, its massive body trembling.

The dragon race had a strict hierarchy of bloodlines. The five-clawed golden dragon was the emperor among dragons, a legendary being capable of commanding all dragons.

Even a trace of its bloodline pressure was enough to make ordinary dragons tremble and unable to muster the slightest thought of resistance.

Although this fire dragon had reached the peak of the ninth rank of the Celestial Immortal Realm, its bloodline was only of medium quality. Faced with Kai's fully activated five-clawed golden dragon bloodline, it instinctively felt fear and wanted to submit.

Kai seized the opportunity, took a step forward, and the golden dragon phantom moved accordingly, its dragon might even intensifying!

He pointed at the fire dragon and uttered ancient dragon language: "Retreat!"

A simple word, yet it was like an imperial decree, carrying unquestionable majesty.

“Woo…”

The fire dragon let out a mournful cry of unwillingness, its huge body slowly retreating and sinking back into the lava lake.

Its golden dragon eyes looked deeply at Kai, filled with awe and doubt, but in the end, it disappeared beneath the churning lava.

The crisis was over.

Kai immediately withdrew his bloodline power, and the golden light and the golden dragon phantom quickly dissipated. His face was pale, and his body swayed—fully activating the golden dragon bloodline had consumed a great deal of energy, almost draining thirty percent of his blood and immortal power.

“Kai!”

Huo Ling’er quickly helped him up. “Are you alright?”

“I’m fine, let’s go.”

Kai said urgently, “The Flame Dragon is only temporarily intimidated, it could react at any moment. Take Elder Yan Xin with us and leave immediately!”

Huo Ling’er nodded and ran to Elder Yan Xin’s side, finding that although he was seriously injured and unconscious, he was still breathing.

She quickly took out a crimson pill and put it into the elder’s mouth, then looked at Yan Lie at the edge of the basin: “Senior brother, come and help!”

Yan Lie then seemed to wake from a dream, his expression complicated as he ran over and, together with Huo Ling'er, helped Elder Yan Xin up.

His eyes as he looked at Kai were filled with shock, jealousy, fear… and a deeply hidden killing intent.

He had seen that scene clearly.

Golden Dragon Bloodline!

This Kai actually possessed the Golden Dragon Bloodline!

No wonder he was so powerful! No wonder the princess looked at him differently!

"I must get rid of him…"

Yan Lie thought to himself, "Otherwise, will I still have a place among the younger generation of the Earth Fire Pavilion? I'm afraid he will also completely steal the princess's heart…"

But on the surface, he showed gratitude: "Fellow Daoist Chen, thank you for saving us! The Earth Fire Pavilion will definitely repay this kindness!"

Kai glanced at him and said indifferently: "Let's leave first." The three of them carried the unconscious Elder Yanxin away from the Flame Spirit Basin.

On the way, Huo Ling'er gripped Kai's arm tightly, her eyes red: "Kai, thank you… If it weren't for you, I would have…"

"Princess, you don't need to be so polite,"

Kai said calmly. "I was entrusted with this task, and I must be loyal to it. Since I accepted the escort mission, it's natural to protect the princess's safety."

Huo Ling'er looked at his calm profile, a complex emotion welling up inside her.

The scene of Kai standing in front of her, activating his Golden Dragon bloodline to intimidate the Flame Dragon, was deeply etched in her heart.

At that moment, he was like a god descended to earth, majestic and powerful, making one's heart tremble, and even more so... moved.

"What was that just now..." she couldn't help but ask.

"Just some life-saving trump cards," Kai interrupted her. "Princess, please keep this a secret. I don't want to cause unnecessary trouble."

Huo Ling'er was taken aback, then nodded emphatically: "I understand! Don't worry, I absolutely won't tell anyone! Senior Brother Yan Lie, you must keep it a secret too!"

Yan Lie forced a smile: "Of course, Fellow Daoist Chen is our Earth Fire Pavilion's benefactor, how could I harm him?"

But in his heart, that thought grew stronger and stronger.

The group quickly reunited with the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord, Lin Feng, Shi Meng, and others on the outer perimeter.

The other guards had long since disappeared, only Lin Feng and Shi Meng were still loyal and waited in a safe area.

Seeing Kai and the others emerge safely, the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord breathed a sigh of relief: "It's good that you're alright. That dragon roar just now... did you use your bloodline power?"

Kai nodded: "The situation was urgent, there was no other way."

The Crimson Cloud Demon Lord glanced at Yan Lie and transmitted his voice: "That kid saw it?"

“Yes.”

“Trouble. He probably won’t keep it a secret for you.”

“Let’s take it one step at a time.”

The group dared not linger and retreated from the Crimson Flame Valley at full speed.

They arrived cautiously, and fled in panic. Fortunately, the Flame Dragon didn’t pursue them, and they didn’t encounter any other powerful beasts along the way.

Two hours later, the group finally escaped the canyon and returned to safety.

Elder Yanxin awoke under Huo Ling’er’s care; although his injuries were severe, his life was not in danger.

He looked at Kai, his expression complex: “Young friend Chen, I will forever remember your life-saving grace. The Earth Fire Pavilion owes you a great favor.”

Kai shook his head: “Elder, you flatter me. Since I accepted the mission, it is what I should do.”

“No, it’s different.”

Elder Yan Xin looked at him deeply, “That Flame Dragon was at the peak of the ninth rank. The fact that you were able to save us from its claws shows a strength and courage far beyond what ordinary guards should do.”

He paused, then added: “Young friend, rest assured, the Earth Fire Pavilion will give you a satisfactory explanation for today’s events.”

“Double the reward is the bare minimum. In addition, you can choose three treasures from the Earth Fire Pavilion’s treasury. I will also

personally inquire about the clues to the Earth Core Jade Marrow Milk for you."

This promise was truly weighty.

Kai clasped his hands in thanks: "Thank you, Elder."

Chapter 5886

Beside him, Yan Lie lowered his head, a cold glint in his eyes.

He secretly crushed a communication talisman—not for the Earth Fire Pavilion, but… for the Evil Path Hall!

The talisman contained only a brief message: "Target: Kai, possessing the bloodline of the Golden Dragon, recently engaged in fierce battle with the Flame Dragon, possibly injured. Currently located thirty miles north of the Crimson Flame Canyon."

After doing this, he raised his head, his face regaining its grateful expression: "Fellow Daoist Chen, thank you so much this time. After returning to the Earth Fire Pavilion, I will definitely inform my father and ask for credit for you!"

Huo Ling'er also said, "Yes! I will ask Father to reward you handsomely!"

Kai looked at them and smiled faintly: "Then thank you in advance. However, the most urgent matter is to leave here as soon as possible. Although the Flame Dragon was intimidated, it is hard to guarantee that it will not pursue us."

"Fellow Daoist Chen is right." Elder Yan Xin nodded, "Set off immediately and return to Crimson Flame City!"

The group set off again, but the atmosphere was completely different.

When they arrived, Kai was just a mercenary guard who was ostracized and used as cannon fodder.

Now, he was everyone's savior, a guest of honor at the Earthfire Pavilion.

Huo Ling'er followed him almost every step of the way, showering him with concern, her eyes filled with undisguised affection.

Yan Lie appeared respectful, but his heart was burning with murderous intent.

The Crimson Cloud Demon Lord was secretly on guard, reminding Kai to be careful.

Kai himself, while recovering, pondered his next move.

The Golden Dragon bloodline had been exposed, and although only Yan Lie and Huo Ling'er had seen it for the time being, Yan Lie was... untrustworthy.

The pursuit of the Evil Path Hall was relentless, and he had to improve his strength as soon as possible.

The clues about the Earth Core Jade Marrow Milk still needed to be obtained from the Earthfire Pavilion...

The convoy sped towards the edge of the canyon.

Behind them, deep within the Crimson Flame Canyon, in the lava lake, the Flame Dragon slowly opened its eyes, a trace of confusion flashing in its dragon pupils, which then transformed into deep awe.

It let out a low roar, its voice carrying a hint of... submission?

At the same time, in the shadows on the outskirts of the Crimson Flame Canyon, several figures in black robes quietly emerged.

The leader was none other than Elder Blood Soul of the Evil Path Hall.

His scarlet eyes gazed in the direction the caravan had departed, a cruel smile curving his lips: “Golden Dragon Bloodline… truly an unexpected delight. Bone Demon, is the formation set up?”

Beside him, a strange figure covered in pale bone spurs chuckled, “Elder, rest assured, the Myriad Ghosts Devouring Soul Formation has been set up. Once they step into the ‘Dragon Burial Ravine’ on the outer edge of the canyon, they’ll be trapped!”

“Very good.”

Elder Blood Soul licked his lips. “Notify everyone to prepare to close the net. This time, I, the elder, will personally extract his Golden Dragon Bloodline… that’s a great tonic…”

A murderous aura, like an invisible net, quietly tightened.

…

After leaving the Crimson Flame Canyon for a hundred miles, Kai and his caravan entered a treacherous mountain ravine called “Dragon Burial Ravine.”

The terrain here was unique, with towering, dark red cliffs hundreds of feet high on both sides. The cliffs were riddled with honeycomb-like holes, said to be the place where a true dragon once perished, its blood staining the cliffs for millennia, hence the name “Dragon Burial Ravine.”

There was only one narrow passage in the ravine, no more than three zhang wide, winding and dimly lit. A faint, decaying aura permeated the air, starkly different from the vibrant heat of other parts of the Flame Domain.

“Speed up, get through the Burial Dragon Ravine as quickly as possible.”

Elder Yan Xin, seated in the carriage, was still pale despite taking healing pills.

He ordered in a deep voice, “The Yin energy here is extremely heavy; we shouldn’t linger.”

Upon hearing this, the disciples of the Earth Fire Pavilion urged their Crimson Flame Beasts to increase their speed.

Kai and the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord continued to fly along the sides of the convoy, vigilantly observing their surroundings.

Since leaving the canyon, Kai had had a premonition of something ominous.

It was too quiet.

Although the Burial Dragon Ravine was known for its Yin energy, there were usually a few ferocious beasts adapted to this environment.

But now, apart from the rolling wheels and the thuds of the Crimson Flame Beasts, the surroundings were deathly silent; not even the wind could be heard.

“Something’s wrong,”

the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord transmitted telepathically. “The Yin energy here is too heavy; even my demonic arts are becoming restless.”

Kai nodded, his Chaos Immortal Power quietly circulating within him, expanding his perception to its maximum range.

He could sense a faint life force emanating from the holes in the cliffs on both sides, but the aura was cold and obscure, unlike that of wild beasts, more like… cultivators practicing evil arts!

“An ambush!”

Kai suddenly transmitted his voice to everyone, “Prepare for battle!”

Almost simultaneously with his transmission—

“Hehehe… quick reaction, too late!”

A sinister, shrill laugh echoed from all directions, reverberating through the ravine, its exact direction indiscernible.

Immediately afterward, countless ghastly green lights suddenly shone from the honeycomb-like holes in the cliffs on both sides!

Each light was a pair of eyes! Hundreds

upon hundreds of black-robed figures leaped out of the holes, like locusts swarming across, instantly covering the cliffs on both sides of the ravine.

They were all dressed in the distinctive black robes of the Evil Path Hall, wearing demon masks, and wielding various strange and evil weapons.

Even more terrifying, the moment these black-robed figures appeared, countless ghastly green runes simultaneously lit up the ground, cliffs, and air of the entire Burial Dragon Ravine!

The runes intertwined, forming a massive array covering the entire mountain ravine!

“Ten Thousand Ghosts Devouring Soul Array, activate!”

The eerie voice from before rang out again. Two ghastly green light curtains, each ten feet high, rose simultaneously at the entrance and exit of the ravine, completely sealing off the entire Burial Dragon Ravine!

The array activated, and countless translucent vengeful spirits crawled out from the runes, emitting shrill screams as they wandered within the array.

A chilling wind howled, and the temperature plummeted; despite being a fiery region, it felt as if one had fallen into an icy abyss!.

Chapter 5887

“The Evil Path Hall!”

Elder Yan Xin’s expression changed drastically. “How did you know our whereabouts?!” ”

Hahaha, old man Yan Xin, you should ask Yama, the King of Hell, that question!”

At the highest point of the cliff, a blood-red figure slowly emerged.

It was Elder Blood Soul of the Evil Path Hall!

He was shrouded in blood-red mist, his scarlet eyes like two ghostly lamps, staring intently at Kai in the caravan.

“You are Kai?”

Elder Blood Soul licked his lips, his eyes filled with greed. “Golden Dragon Bloodline… truly a treasure bestowed by heaven. Today, this elder is determined to have it!”

Before he finished speaking, he waved his hand: “Kill! Leave no one alive! Kai must be alive!”

“Kill—!”

Thousands of Evil Path Hall cultivators roared in unison, their voices like the wails of ten thousand ghosts, shaking the mountain stream.

They surged down from both sides of the cliff like a tidal wave, while at the same time, the vengeful spirits and vengeful ghosts in the formation also shrieked as they rushed towards the caravan!

“Form a defensive array!”

Elder Yan Xin, though severely injured, remained calm in the face of danger. He mustered his immortal power and slammed his cane heavily on the ground: “Earth Fire Profound Gang Array!”

The surviving dozen or so Earth Fire Pavilion disciples quickly formed an array, and a crimson light shield rose again, protecting the three carriages within.

However, this time the light shield was noticeably dimmer—having experienced the continuous attacks of the Flame Dragon and the elder's serious injury, the Earth Fire Pavilion disciples had exhausted their immortal power and were in extremely poor condition.

Kai, the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord, and the few remaining guards protected the outer perimeter of the array, facing the first wave of attack from the Evil Path Hall.

"Heh heh, ants dare to block the way?"

Three seventh-grade Celestial Immortal level Evil Path Hall deacons were the first to arrive, one wielding a bone staff, one holding a blood blade, and one controlling a ghost banner, attacking Kai from three directions.

The bone staff swung, and thousands of bone spikes poured down like a torrential rain;

the blood blade slashed, and crimson blade light tore through the air; the

ghost banner waved, and dozens of fierce ghosts bared their fangs and claws as they pounced.

Kai's eyes turned cold, and the Dragon Slayer Sword was finally drawn!

"Clang—!"

A clear, resonant sword cry echoed through the mountain stream, and a hazy, chaotic sword aura soared into

the sky. One sword, and chaos was cleaved! The

gray sword aura swept across, shattering bone spikes, shattering blood blades, and vanishing vengeful spirits wherever it passed!

Three Evil Path Hall deacons screamed and staggered backward. The one wielding the bone staff was grazed on the shoulder by the sword aura, his entire arm severed at the root, blood gushing out!

“A fine sword!”

Elder Blood Soul’s eyes lit up. “This sword must also belong to me!”

He personally took action!

Elder Blood Soul’s figure blurred, transforming into a blood-red afterimage, instantly traversing a hundred-foot distance. A blood-red hand materialized out of thin air, carrying overwhelming bloodthirsty aura, grabbing towards Kai!

A full-force attack from the peak of the eighth rank of the Heavenly Immortal Realm!

Kai dared not be careless, unleashing the full power of his Dragon Slayer Sword. The hazy sword aura collided with the blood-red hand.

“Boom—!”

A terrifying energy shockwave erupted, and several Evil Path Hall cultivators nearby were sent flying backward, vomiting blood, by the aftershocks.

Kai staggered back seven steps, felt a sweet taste in his throat, and forced back the blood that was rising in his throat. Elder Blood Soul also took three steps back, a look of surprise flashing in his eyes: “Good lad, you can still withstand an attack from me while injured? It seems the defeat of Black Wind Valley was indeed not accidental.”

“However, this ends here!”

“Boundless Blood Sea, Ten Thousand Ghosts Pay Homage!”

Elder Blood Soul formed hand seals, and the blood mist around him surged wildly, transforming into a blood-red ocean that dyed half of the mountain stream crimson.

In the blood sea, countless hideous ghost faces emerged, emitting piercing shrieks, sweeping towards Kai!

This was Elder Blood Soul’s signature technique—Blood Sea Ghost Domain!

Once caught in it, not only would the physical body be corroded by the blood sea, but the soul would also be torn apart by ten thousand ghosts, a fate worse than death!

Kai took a deep breath, knowing he could no longer hold back.

He pointed his left hand like a sword, placed it on his brow, and whispered: “Dragon Soul, awaken!”

“Roar—!”

A high-pitched dragon roar rang out again, but this time it did not come from Kai’s body, but from the Dragon-Slaying Sword!

The Dragon-Slaying Sword trembled violently, the ancient dragon patterns on its blade seemingly coming to life. A phantom of a five-clawed golden dragon rose from the sword, much smaller than the one Kai had previously unleashed, yet its dragon might remained awe-inspiring!

This Dragon-Slaying Sword had once slain a true dragon, and a wisp of dragon soul was sealed within it!

Now, awakened by Kai’s own golden dragon bloodline, its power surged!

The golden dragon phantom hovered above Kai's head, its mouth opening to spew forth a golden dragon breath that clashed fiercely with the encroaching sea of blood!

"Sizzle sizzle sizzle—!"

The golden dragon breath and the blood-red ocean corroded each other, erupting with a piercing sound and a cloud of blood mist.

The myriad ghosts in the sea of blood, upon touching the dragon breath, melted away like ice and snow meeting the blazing sun.

"What?!"

Elder Blood Soul's expression changed drastically. "You can actually summon a golden dragon?"

Kai didn't answer. Taking advantage of Elder Blood Soul's shock, he unleashed the Dragon Slayer Sword with all his might: "Dragon Slayer—Breaking Army!"

The golden dragon soul merged with the sword energy, transforming into a hundred-zhang-long golden-gray sword aura that tore through the sea of blood, directly slashing at Elder Blood Soul!

Elder Blood Soul roared, summoning a blood-red shield to block in front of him.

"Clang—!!!"

The sound of metal clashing echoed through the mountain stream. A deep crack appeared in the blood-red shield, and Elder Blood Soul flew backward, blood spilling from the corner of his mouth, clearly suffering a serious injury.

But Kai was also in bad shape.

After continuously battling the Flame Dragon and forcibly summoning the golden dragon, more than half of his immortal power had been consumed, and his blood and qi were severely depleted.

At this moment, his face was as pale as paper, and his hand holding the sword was trembling slightly.

“Kai!”

Huo Ling’er saw clearly from within the formation and cried out in distress, “Are you alright?!”

She wanted to rush out of the formation to help, but Yan Lie held her back tightly: “Junior Sister Ling’er, don’t go out! It’s too dangerous outside!”

“But Kai, he…” Huo Ling’er struggled.

“He’s strong, he has his own way!”

Yan Lie said, a hint of pleasure flashing in his eyes—it would be best if Kai died here, saving him the trouble of doing it himself.

Chapter 5888

While Kai was locked in fierce combat with Elder Blood Soul, battles raged elsewhere as well.

Crimson Cloud Demon Lord, transformed into a hundred-foot-tall demonic body with three heads and six arms, wielding six demonic weapons, fought against Elder Bone Demon of the Evil Path Hall.

Lin Feng and Shi Meng, back to back, battled dozens of Evil Path Hall cultivators.

Lin Feng's arrows were unerring, each one claiming a life; Shi Meng wielded his twin hammers like a war god, smashing any approaching enemy into a bloody pulp.

However, the Evil Path Hall outnumbered them, and the two had already sustained over a dozen wounds, bleeding profusely.

The Earth Fire Pavilion's defensive formation, besieged by hundreds of Evil Path Hall cultivators and countless vengeful spirits, was on the verge of collapse. Cracks covered the protective shield, threatening to shatter at any moment.

"Elder, we can't hold on any longer!"

A disciple of the Earth Fire Pavilion coughed up blood and collapsed, further dimming the formation.

Elder Yanxin gritted his teeth, took out a crimson jade slip, and crushed it—it was an emergency distress signal from the Earth Fire Pavilion, but this place was too far from Crimson Flame City, and reinforcements couldn't arrive in time.

"Hold on!" Elder Yanxin roared, "We can't die here!"

But reality was cruel.

"Crack—!"

The Earth Fire Profound Gang Array finally shattered!

Dozens of Evil Path Hall cultivators and hundreds of vengeful ghosts, like sharks smelling blood, swarmed in, attacking the Earth Fire Pavilion disciples and the carriage.

Screams rang out one after another.

In just a few breaths, three Earth Fire Pavilion disciples were killed by Evil Path Hall cultivators, and two had their consciousness invaded by vengeful ghosts, turning them into walking corpses.

Huo Ling'er was targeted by two Evil Path Hall deacons, who saw her special identity and wanted to capture her alive.

"Princess, be careful!"

Yan Lie stood in front of her, summoning a crimson longsword, and fought with the two deacons.

But Yan Lie's performance was strange.

He seemed to be fighting desperately, but his swordsmanship was always slightly off, unable to truly harm his enemies.

The attacks from the two Evil Path Hall deacons were always narrowly avoided by him, or accidentally blocked by other Earth Fire Pavilion disciples.

Kai caught a glimpse of this scene in the midst of the fierce battle, and his mind was filled with doubt.

However, he had no time to think about it at the moment, because Elder Blood Soul had recovered and attacked again.

"Boy, you have indeed surprised this elder."

Elder Blood Soul wiped the blood from the corner of his mouth, his eyes becoming even more greedy, "But that's enough! Myriad Ghost Soul Devouring Formation, full power!"

He raised his hands high and chanted obscure incantations.

The entire pale green formation of the Burial Dragon Ravine suddenly shone brightly, and all the runes burned at the same time!

In the center of the formation, a pale green light sphere with a diameter of three zhang condensed, and countless twisted ghost faces could be faintly seen wailing within the light sphere.

“Soul Devouring Ghost King, appear!”

Elder Blood Soul spat out a mouthful of blood essence and merged it into the light sphere.

“Roar—!”

The sphere of light exploded, and a ghost king phantom, ten feet tall, with three heads, six arms, a blue face, and fangs, emerged from it!

The ghost king opened all six eyes at the same time, its ghastly green gaze sweeping across everyone, causing a sharp pain in their souls, as if they were being pulled out of their bodies!

This was the strongest killing move of the Myriad Ghosts Devouring Soul Formation—using the power of ten thousand ghosts to condense a ghost king, specifically targeting the soul! Even a ninth-grade Celestial Immortal cultivator would suffer soul damage if locked onto by the Ghost King’s gaze!

The Ghost King raised all six arms simultaneously, unleashing six ghastly green beams of light towards Kai!

It was a pure soul attack, ignoring physical defenses and striking directly at the soul!

Kai’s expression changed drastically.

In this critical moment, the Dragon Pattern Bell on his chest suddenly flew out automatically, hovering above his head.

“Clang—!”

A melodious bell rang out, and the Dragon Pattern Bell emitted a soft golden light, enveloping Kai.

Within the golden light, a true dragon could be faintly seen swimming, forming a barrier around the soul.

The six soul beams struck the golden light, erupting with dazzling brilliance, but were ultimately blocked.

The Dragon Pattern Bell trembled violently, several fine cracks appearing on its surface, and the Dragon Pattern Bell itself was damaged.

“Another treasure?!”

Elder Blood Soul’s eyes turned red. “Good, good, good! They’re all mine!”

He frantically activated the formation, and the Ghost King’s six arms swung continuously, unleashing a torrential downpour of soul beams.

Protected by the Dragon Pattern Bell, Kai barely managed to hold on, but his face grew increasingly pale, and blood began to seep from his seven orifices—although the Dragon Pattern Bell had blocked the soul light, the impact still transmitted into his sea of consciousness.

On the other side, the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord was besieged by the Bone Demon Elder and three Evil Path Hall deacons, already in dire straits, his demonic body riddled with holes.

Lin Feng, having exhausted his arrows and broken his longbow, was hacked to death by several Evil Path Hall cultivators. Before dying, he detonated all the explosive talismans on his body, perishing together with his enemies.

Shi Meng’s twin hammers shattered, his body covered in blood, yet he fought on relentlessly, finally pierced through the heart by a bone spike from the Bone Demon Elder, dying a heroic death.

The Earth Fire Pavilion disciples suffered even heavier casualties; of the original ten, only five remained, all wounded, surrounded by dozens of Evil Path Hall cultivators, like lambs to the slaughter.

Elder Yanxin was besieged by three Evil Path Hall deacons. Although he killed one, he was struck by the evil weapons of the other two, leaving two deep, bone-revealing wounds on his chest. He was on the verge of death.

Huoling'er, protected by Yanlie, was unharmed, but seeing her fellow disciples fall one by one, she wept uncontrollably.

Despair enveloped everyone.

"Kai… we might die here,"

the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord transmitted weakly.

Kai gritted his teeth, looking at the horrific battlefield around him, at his fallen comrades, at the dying Elder Yanxin, at the weeping Huoling'er…

He couldn't die here.

So many promises remained unfulfilled.

So many enemies remained unslain.

"Ah—!!!"

Kai roared to the sky, his last remaining blood and immortal power burning wildly!

With the Dragon-Slaying Sword in his right hand and a hand seal in his left, he chanted ancient dragon language: "With my blood, I summon the dragon's soul; with my life, I open the gates of heaven!"

"Forbidden – Dragon Blood Burns the Heavens!"

This was a forbidden technique Kai had obtained from the Golden Dragon bloodline inheritance—burning his own essence and lifespan in exchange for a temporary surge in strength!

As the incantation was chanted, golden flames ignited around Kai. These were not ordinary flames, but true dragon blood fire formed from the burning essence of his Golden Dragon!

Chapter 5889

“Break!!!”

Kai gripped his sword with both hands, the Dragon-Slaying Sword merging with the Dragon Blood True Fire, transforming into a golden-red sword aura that pierced the heavens and earth, fiercely slashing down at the Ghost King and Blood Soul Elder!

This sword drained all his power!

The Ghost King raised all six arms, attempting to block.

“Swoosh—!”

Like a hot knife through butter, the golden-red sword aura cleaved the Ghost King’s phantom in two from head to toe! Undeterred, it slashed towards Blood Soul Elder!

Blood Soul Elder’s expression changed drastically, and he retreated frantically, simultaneously summoning three defensive evil artifacts.

“Bang bang bang!”

The three evil artifacts shattered one after another, the sword aura finally weakening, but still striking Blood Soul Elder’s chest.

“Pfft—!”

Blood Soul Elder spat out a mouthful of black blood, a huge wound from shoulder to abdomen left on his chest, deep enough to expose bone, almost as if he had been disemboweled!

He screamed and flew backward, crashing heavily against the cliff wall, his aura extremely weak.

Elder Blood Soul, who was in charge of the formation, was seriously injured, causing the Myriad Ghosts Devouring Soul Formation to become unstable. The light barrier fluctuated violently, revealing several weak points.

“Now!”

Kai roared, his voice hoarse, “Charge out!!!”

He mustered his last bit of strength and rushed towards the weakest point of the light barrier, unleashing the Dragon Slayer Sword once more!

“Crack!”

A three-zhang-wide gap was cleaved in the light barrier!

“Go!” Kai shouted back.

Crimson Cloud Demon Lord was the first to react, transforming back into human form, grabbing the dying Elder Flame Heart, and rushing towards the gap.

The remaining five disciples of Earth Fire Pavilion also reacted, protecting Huo Ling’er as they rushed out.

Yan Lie’s eyes flickered, hesitating for a moment before following.

“Stop them!” Elder Bone Demon roared.

Dozens of Evil Path Hall cultivators rushed towards the gap, attempting to reseal it.

“All of you—get out of here!!!”

Kai stood in front of the gap, covered in blood, like a war god crawling out of hell. Holding

the Dragon-Patterned Bell in his left hand and the Dragon-Slaying Sword in his right, though his aura was weak, the resolute and madness in his eyes instilled fear in all the Evil Path Hall cultivators.

The Dragon-Patterned Bell rang again, the sound waves sweeping across, sending the first dozen or so Evil Path Hall cultivators flying backward, bleeding from all seven orifices.

The Dragon-Slaying Sword slashed continuously, each strike taking a life.

He stood alone with his sword and bell, blocking the gap, buying time for his companions to escape.

One, two, three… the Evil Path Hall cultivators fell like wheat being harvested, but Kai’s wounds multiplied. His left shoulder was pierced by a bone spur, his right abdomen slashed open by a bloody blade, and his back was struck by three evil weapons, leaving it a bloody mess.

But he did not retreat an inch.

“Kai!”

Huo Ling’er cried out, wanting to return to help him.

“Go!!!”

Kai roared without turning his head, “Go quickly!!!”

The Crimson Cloud Demon Lord gritted his teeth and forcibly pulled Huo Ling'er out of the gap. Yan Lie and the other Earth Fire Pavilion disciples followed closely behind.

The moment the last person rushed out of the gap, Kai finally couldn't hold on any longer and knelt on one knee, using the Dragon Slayer Sword to support his body so that he wouldn't fall. "Kill him!" Elder Bone Demon roared.

The remaining Evil Path Hall cultivators swarmed forward.

Kai looked at the charging enemies, a cold smile curving his lips.

He had one last move.

"Explode!"

He detonated the remaining Dragon Blood True Fire within his body.

"Boom—!!!"

Terrifying golden flames erupted from Kai, engulfing the entire gap area!

Dozens of Evil Path Hall cultivators who rushed up were instantly engulfed by the flames, turning to ashes before they could even scream!

Elder Bone Demon was also affected by the flames, screaming as he retreated, half his body charred.

The shockwave from the explosion sent Kai flying, landing right in the gap on the mountain path outside.

"Kai!"

Huo Ling'er, who had already escaped to safety, rushed back like a madwoman, embracing the blood-covered, unconscious Kai.

Crimson Cloud Demon Lord checked him over and breathed a sigh of relief: “He’s still alive, but severely injured. He needs immediate treatment.”

He looked into the Burial Dragon Ravine—the gap in the formation was slowly closing. The Evil Path Hall cultivators, stunned by the explosion, dared not pursue him.

Elder Blood Soul was seriously injured, and Elder Bone Demon was also badly wounded. The Evil Path Hall had temporarily lost its ability to pursue.

“Hurry, before they catch up!”

Crimson Cloud Demon Lord carried Kai on his back, Elder Flame Heart was carried by a disciple of the Earth Fire Pavilion, and the group fled in panic.

They dared not take the main road and could only venture into the mountains and forests, taking a long detour back to Crimson Flame City.

The atmosphere along the way was terrifyingly heavy.

Of the twenty-odd people who came, only nine remained: Kai, Crimson Cloud Demon Lord, Elder Flame Heart, Fire Spirit, Yan Lie, and four heavily wounded disciples of the Earth Fire Pavilion.

Everyone else had died in battle.

Fire Spirit held the unconscious Kai, tears streaming down her face, constantly feeding him healing pills and using her immortal power to heal him.

Yan Lie stood to the side, his expression shifting between anger and uncertainty. He wanted to speak several times, but seeing Huo Ling’er’s sorrowful yet wary eyes, he swallowed his words.

Several days later, the group finally returned to Crimson Flame City in a disheveled state and went directly to the Earth Fire Pavilion.

The entire Earth Fire Pavilion was shaken.

Pavilion Master Huo Fentian personally emerged from seclusion. Seeing his daughter unharmed but weeping uncontrollably, Elder Yan Xin critically injured and on the verge of death, and his disciples suffering heavy casualties, he flew into a rage.

“What happened?! How did the Evil Path Hall know your whereabouts?! And how did they manage to ambush you so precisely at the Burial Dragon Ravine?!”

He glared at the survivors, his aura as a peak ninth-grade Celestial Immortal making the entire hall vibrate.

Elder Yan Xin, after receiving emergency treatment, barely regained consciousness and weakly said, “Pavilion Master… this matter… is suspicious. The Evil Path Hall’s ambush… was too precise… as if… they already knew our route…”

Huo Fentian’s eyes were sharp as knives as he swept over everyone: “Among you, did someone leak your whereabouts?”

The group exchanged glances, the same question rising in their minds.

Yes, how could the Evil Path Palace know their exact route and time of return from Crimson Flame Canyon?

And how could they have set up such a large formation in Dragon Burial Ravine beforehand?

There must be a traitor among them!

Chapter 5890

Yan Lie suddenly stepped forward and knelt on one knee: “Sect Master, this disciple believes that the traitor is likely among those hired guards! Their origins are unknown, and they’ll do anything for profit!”

“Moreover… those who escaped in the end were all from our Earth Fire Pavilion; all the guards died in battle, leaving no way to verify the truth!”

This seemed reasonable, but Huo Ling’er suddenly looked up, glaring at Yan Lie: “Senior Brother Yan Lie, what do you mean?! Kai was also a hired guard! He risked his life to cover our retreat and almost died in battle! And now you suspect him?!”

Yan Lie hurriedly said: “Junior Sister Ling’er, you misunderstand. I don’t suspect Fellow Daoist Chen. We all saw Fellow Daoist Chen risk his life to save us.”

“But the other guards are hard to say… for example, Lin Feng and Shi Meng, who knows if they were spies from the Evil Path Hall, deliberately dying in battle to clear their names?”

“And that cultivator named Chi Yun, he’s also a demonic cultivator, and it’s entirely possible that he colluded with the Evil Path Hall.”

Yan Lie desperately tried to smear them.

“You!” Huo Ling’er trembled with anger.

Crimson Cloud Demon Lord coldly spoke, “You can suspect me of being a traitor, but right now, the one you should suspect the most is you.”

“What do you mean?” Yan Lie frowned. ”

The Evil Path Hall’s ambush was so precise; this isn’t information that ordinary hired guards could obtain. Only the management of the Earth Fire Pavilion knew the retreat route, and…”

“And what?” Huo Fentian pressed.

“And,” Crimson Cloud Demon Lord slowly said, “during the battle at Burial Dragon Ravine, I noticed a detail: the cultivators of the Evil Path Hall seemed to intentionally avoid Deacon Yan Lie, rarely striking him deadly. And Deacon Yan Lie’s attacks were always intentionally or unintentionally a beat slow, more like a performance.”

Upon hearing this, the hall fell silent.

Everyone looked at Yan Lie.

Yan Lie’s face paled, then he roared in fury, “Bullshit! What do you mean?! Are you saying I’m a traitor?! I, Yan Lie, am utterly loyal to the Earth Fire Pavilion, how dare you slander me!” ”

Pavilion Master, please understand! This disciple risked his life to protect Junior Sister Ling’er, and was injured in the process! This Chi Yun is clearly sowing discord and trying to exonerate himself!”

Huo Ling’er was also stunned.

She had only been concerned with Kai and her father at the time and hadn’t noticed Yan Lie’s behavior.

Huo Fentian’s eyes were deep as he looked at Yan Lie, then at the unconscious Kai, and slowly said, “I will personally investigate this matter. Until the truth is revealed, no one is allowed to leave the Earth Fire Pavilion for questioning.”

“Yan Lie, go back and recover from your injuries. Ling’er, stay here and recount the details again.”

“The rest of you, go back and rest!”

“Yes.” Everyone responded.

Yan Lie glared fiercely at Chi Yun Demon Lord, turned and left, his eyes sinister.

Chi Yun Demon Lord, carrying Kai on his back, was led by his disciple to a quiet room to settle down.

After closing the door, the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord set up a soundproof barrier. Looking at the unconscious Kai, he sighed, “Kid, you’ve really messed up this time. You’re badly injured.”

The Crimson Cloud Demon Lord felt very sorry for him, after all, Kai had approached the Earth Fire Pavilion for his sake.

Crimson Cloud took out several precious healing pills, fed them to Kai, and then used his internal energy to heal him.

Kai’s injuries were extremely severe: his body was riddled with holes, and his meridians were severed in many places. If it weren’t for his profound foundation and the Golden Dragon bloodline sustaining his life, he would have died long ago.

Kai was unconscious for three days and three nights!

When he slowly opened his eyes, the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord was still by his side.

“Awake?” The Crimson Cloud Demon Lord breathed a sigh of relief when he saw Kai awake. “How are you feeling?”

Kai tried to speak, but felt excruciating pain all over his body, his throat was dry, and he couldn’t make a sound.

“Don’t move, you’re badly injured.” The

Crimson Cloud Demon Lord helped him sit up and fed him some water. “We’ve returned to the Earth Fire Pavilion, and we’re safe for now. But…” “Senior, how long have I been unconscious?” Kai asked after taking a couple of sips of water. ”Three days and three nights…” the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord said. ”That long?” Kai frowned. “No, we need to leave the Earth Fire Pavilion and find a secluded place to recuperate.” Kai planned to leave the Earth Fire Pavilion and find a place to recuperate

inside the Demon Suppression Tower. This would save time. Three days and three nights is equivalent to a year in the Demon Suppression Tower. His injuries had already healed. But in this real world, it would take Kai at least several months to recover! ”We can’t leave. The Pavilion Master of the Earth Fire Pavilion said that no one can leave until the traitor is found,” Crimson Cloud Demon Lord revealed Huo Fentian’s suspicion of a traitor. Kai frowned slightly and nodded. “It’s indeed strange. How did the Evil Path Hall know where we would retreat from after harvesting the Flame Spirit Grass?” ”If we leave now, it would make us seem guilty. Even if we weren’t traitors, we’d become traitors,” Crimson Cloud Demon Lord said helplessly. Kai was silent for a moment, then nodded. He felt his almost depleted immortal power and shattered meridians, and smiled bitterly. “If I stay in the Earth Fire Pavilion, my injuries… it will probably take several months to recover.” ”Several months?” Crimson Cloud Demon Lord frowned. “The Evil Path Hall won’t give us that much time. Although Elder Blood Soul is seriously injured, the Evil Path Hall is powerful, and stronger people will soon come to hunt us down.” ”I know,” Kai’s eyes deepened. “So we must find a way to recover as soon as possible.” Just as the two were talking, light footsteps came from outside the door.

Chapter 5891

“Who is it?” The Crimson Cloud Demon Lord stood up warily.

“It’s me, Huo Ling’er.”

A clear female voice sounded from outside the door, tinged with weariness and worry.

The Crimson Cloud Demon Lord opened the door, and Huo Ling’er stood outside holding a jade plate.

On the plate were several exquisite jade bottles and a few crimson spiritual fruits.

Seeing Kai sit up, her eyes lit up with surprise: “Kai, you’re awake!” She

quickly entered the room, placed the jade plate on the table, and carefully examined Kai: “How are you feeling? Still in pain? I brought the best healing pills from the Earth Fire Pavilion, the ‘Nine Revolutions Crimson Flame Pill,’ and the ‘Earth Fire Spirit Fruit,’ which are very helpful for restoring your qi and blood.”

Kai looked at Huo Ling’er’s swollen eyes and slightly haggard face, and felt a warmth in his heart: “Thank you, Princess. Although my injuries are severe, I can still bear it.”

“Don’t call me ‘Princess,’ just call me Ling’er.”

Huo Ling’er pursed her lips. “Kai, this time… thank you. If it weren’t for you, none of us would have come back.”

“Lin Feng, Shi Meng… they’re all dead. And so many of my fellow disciples from the Earth Fire Pavilion… it’s all my fault, I insisted on going…”

Hearing Huo Ling’er’s words, Kai’s expression became dazed for a moment. He suddenly thought of Gu Ling’er.

Then, the figures of women flashed rapidly through his mind.

But they only disappeared in an instant, because Kai knew that now was not the time to think about matters of the heart.

“Princess, there’s no need to blame yourself,”

Kai said with a slight smile. “The Evil Path Hall planned this all along. Even if you hadn’t gone, they would have found another opportunity to strike. The most urgent thing is to find the traitor and avenge the dead.”

Huo Ling’er nodded emphatically, wiping away her tears. “Father is investigating with all his might. But… Senior Brother Yan Lie…”

She hesitated, clearly having suspicions about Yan Lie as well, but unwilling to believe it.

Kai glanced at her and changed the subject. “Princess, I have a favor to ask.”

“Tell me! I’ll do whatever I can!” Huo Ling’er said immediately.

“I need a completely secluded place where I can recover without being disturbed,”

Kai said slowly. “Although this place is safe, there are many people coming and going, which is not conducive to recovery. Moreover… I have some secret techniques that I cannot use in front of outsiders.”

Huo Ling’er was stunned for a moment, then understood.

Kai possessed the bloodline of the Golden Dragon and had many secrets; he indeed needed a secluded place.

She bit her lip, pondering for a moment, then her eyes suddenly lit up: “There’s a place! It’s the forbidden area of the Earth Fire Pavilion. No one except Father and a few core elders can enter. I can take you there!”

“The forbidden area?”

Crimson Cloud Demon Lord frowned. “Is this… appropriate? If the Pavilion Master finds out, he might blame the princess.”

“We can’t worry about that now!”

Huo Ling’er said firmly. “Kai saved our lives, and Father won’t say anything even if he knows. Besides, the forbidden area is deserted year-round and very secluded, perfect for recuperating.”

Kai and Crimson Cloud Demon Lord exchanged a glance and nodded: “Then we’ll trouble the princess.”

“There’s no time to lose, let’s go now.”

Huo Ling'er looked out the window. "It's late at night, the guards are relatively lax. I'm familiar with the patrol routes of the forbidden area, I can avoid everyone."

She took out a black cloak and handed it to Kai: "Wear this, it will conceal your presence." The three quietly left the room and, led by Huo Ling'er, bypassed the layers of guards of the Earthfire Pavilion, heading deeper into the back mountain.

The back mountain of the Earthfire Pavilion was a crimson mountain range shrouded in restrictions.

The deeper they went, the higher the temperature became, and the air was filled with pure fire-attribute spiritual energy.

Occasionally, crimson crystals could be seen exposed on the mountainside, radiating a warm glow.

"The entrance to the forbidden area is just ahead,"

Huo Ling'er pointed to a seemingly ordinary mountain wall. "Multiple illusion arrays and defensive formations are set up here; only the core members of the Earthfire Pavilion know how to enter."

She formed hand seals and chanted incantations, and crimson runes flew from her fingertips, merging into the mountain wall.

The mountain wall rippled like water, revealing a deep cave entrance.

Inside the cave was a downward stone staircase, with glowing crimson crystals embedded in the stone walls on both sides, barely illuminating the path ahead.

"Follow me," Huo Ling'er said, stepping in first.

Kai and the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord followed closely behind.

Upon entering the cave, the mountain wall behind them closed again, isolating them from all outside sounds.

The cave was eerily quiet, with only the echoes of their footsteps.

The stone steps spiraled downwards, the temperature rising with each step. After about fifteen minutes, the view suddenly opened up.

It was a massive underground cave, about thirty zhang high and a hundred zhang in circumference.

In the center of the cave was a lava pool ten zhang in diameter, its crimson lava flowing slowly, radiating terrifying heat and pure fire elemental energy.

Around the lava pool grew rare fire-attribute spiritual herbs and medicines, some even reaching a thousand years old.

The cave walls were inlaid with densely packed crimson crystals, casting a fiery red glow throughout the entire cave.

“This is the forbidden area of the Earthfire Pavilion, the ‘Heart of Earthfire’,”

Huo Ling’er explained. “It is said that the ancestor of the Earthfire Pavilion comprehended the Great Dao of Fire here and founded the pavilion. The concentration of fire spiritual energy here is a hundred times that of the outside world, which is of great help to cultivating fire-attribute techniques.”

She paused, somewhat embarrassed, “However… the temperature here is too high, and ordinary cultivators cannot stay for long. Kai, your injuries have not yet healed, can you withstand it?”

Kai felt the rich fire spiritual energy in the air, and his chaotic immortal power circulated on its own, converting this spiritual energy into pure immortal power to nourish his damaged meridians.

“It’s alright, this place suits me very well.”

Kai nodded, “Thank you, Princess.”

“I told you to call me Ling’er.”

Huo Ling’er waved her hand, “Then you should stay here and recover from your injuries. I will send you pills and food regularly. As for Father… I will keep it from you for now, and we’ll talk about it after you recover.”

“I will remember the Princess’s great kindness.”

Kai solemnly clasped his hands in thanks.

Huo Ling’er blushed and whispered, “Then you should take good care of your injuries. I’ll go back now. I’ll come see you again tomorrow.”

After saying that, she turned and left, her figure disappearing at the end of the stone steps.

Chapter 5892

Looking in the direction Huo Ling’er had left, the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord clicked his tongue and said, “That little girl is really good to you. She even dared to secretly bring you to the forbidden area.”

Kai didn’t reply, but walked to the edge of the lava pool and sat down cross-legged.

He could feel that the fire elemental energy here was not only rich, but also contained an ancient and pure law aura, which was of great benefit to healing injuries and improving cultivation.

“Senior, I want to enter the Demon Suppression Tower to heal. One day outside is equivalent to a hundred days inside the tower. This way, my injuries will be healed in just a few days.”

Kai took out the Demon Suppression Tower and said to the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord, “Senior can protect me outside the tower, or we can enter the tower together to cultivate.”

The Crimson Cloud Demon Lord shook his head and said, “My body is fine. I will go outside to protect you and also study the fire law here.”

Kai nodded and threw the Demon Suppression Tower into the air.

The Demon Suppression Tower grew taller in the wind, transforming into a three-zhang-tall pagoda, hovering above the lava pool.

The pagoda exuded an ancient and vast aura, faintly resonating with the fire law in the cave.

Kai took a deep breath and stepped into the Demon Suppression Tower.

The tower’s interior was vast, and the flow of time was drastically different from the outside world.

Kai arrived at the cultivation room, sat cross-legged, and took out the Nine-Turn Crimson Flame Pill and the Earth Fire Spirit Fruit given to him by Huo Ling’er, beginning his full-fledged healing. His Chaotic Immortal Power slowly circulated,

like spring rain on a parched riverbed, beginning to repair his damaged meridians and body.

His Golden Dragon Bloodline activated automatically, strands of golden blood flowing through his body, mending his depleted life force. The Nine-Turn Crimson Flame Pill melted instantly upon entering his mouth, transforming into a scorching yet gentle medicinal power that surged throughout his limbs and bones. The Earth Fire Spirit Fruit provided pure fire-attribute energy, fusing with the Chaotic Immortal Power to accelerate the recovery process. Time flowed quietly within the tower. One day, two days, three days... three hundred days passed within the tower. Kai’s injuries healed at an astonishing speed. His broken meridians reconnected, his shattered bones healed completely, and most

of his depleted blood and energy was replenished. His aura was more solid and profound than before. ”Hoo…” Kai slowly opened his eyes, a flash of light passing through them. He felt the surging immortal power within him and his strong physique, a slight smile curving his lips. ”My injuries have healed, and my cultivation has even improved slightly. The environment of this Heart of Earth Fire is indeed extraordinary.” He rose and walked out of the cultivation room, preparing to leave the Demon Suppression Tower. However, just as he was about to step out of the tower’s gate , a sudden change occurred in the cave! The magma pool suddenly boiled violently, crimson magma shooting into the sky and condensing into a blurry humanoid figure! The figure was composed of pure flames and magma, its face indistinct, except for a pair of eyes burning with golden flames, like two small suns, radiating an ancient and majestic aura. Even more bizarrely, at the same time this fiery humanoid figure appeared, the fire laws of the entire cave seemed to come alive, like subjects bowing to a king! ”This is…” Kai’s pupils shrank drastically. The fiery humanoid slowly spoke, its voice ancient and distant, as if traversing countless ages: “The Demon-Suppressing Tower… I never imagined that in my lifetime I would see such a treasure…”

Its gaze fell upon Kai, its golden flame-like eyes seemingly able to see through everything: “Little fellow, you possess the bloodline of the Golden Dragon and wield the Demon-Suppressing Tower, yet you are so severely injured… It seems the outside world is still far from peaceful.”

Alarm bells rang in Kai’s mind, his Chaotic Immortal Power instantly reaching its peak, the Dragon-Slaying Sword already in hand: “Who are you?!”

The fiery humanoid let out a soft laugh, a laugh tinged with vicissitude and self-mockery: “Who am I? A lonely ghost who should have died long ago, yet has lingered on until now.”

“You can call me… Ancestor of Earth Fire.”

“Ancestor of Earth Fire?”

Kai frowned, “The founder of the Earth Fire Pavilion?”

“Not bad.” The fiery body of the Earthfire Ancestor rippled slightly, seemingly indicating some emotional fluctuation. “I founded the Earthfire Pavilion, but unfortunately, I was too arrogant back then, thinking I could suppress the Earth Core Demon Flame single-handedly. The result… hehe, my physical body collapsed, my soul was severely injured, leaving only this wisp of remnant soul, hiding in this Earthfire Heart, barely clinging to life.”

His gaze fell on the Demon Suppression Tower again, a glint of fervor flashing in his eyes: “However, heaven has not forsaken me. The Demon Suppression Tower… this legendary treasure has actually appeared here. Little fellow, how about lending it to me for a while?”

Kai’s eyes turned cold: “Senior wants to seize it by force?” ”

Seize it by force?”

The Earthfire Ancestor shook his head. “I am now just a wisp of remnant soul, my strength is less than one ten-thousandth of my prime, how can I seize it by force? However… how about making a deal?”

“What deal?” ”

I will use the exact location of the Earth Core Jade Marrow Milk to exchange for your opportunity to use the Demon Suppression Tower to help me condense my soul and reshape my physical body.”

The Earthfire Ancestor said slowly, “You should really need the Earth Core Jade Marrow Milk, right?”

Kai’s heart trembled.

Earth Core Jade Marrow Milk!

This was precisely his primary objective upon arriving in the Eleventh Heaven!

But how did the other party know?

He had never mentioned it here.

“Do you know where Earth Core Jade Marrow Milk is?” Kai asked in a deep voice.

“Of course,”

the Earth Fire Ancestor said proudly, “In this Eleventh Heaven, no one understands the Earth Core Demon Abyss better than me. Earth Core Jade Marrow Milk is produced from the Lava Heart at the deepest part of the Demon Abyss, but it is protected by the Earth Core Demon Flame, and ordinary cultivators simply cannot enter.” ”

However, if I were to guide you, coupled with your Golden Dragon Bloodline and the Demon Suppression Tower… it might not be impossible.”

Kai was silent for a moment before saying, “How can I trust you?”

“You may not believe me,”

the Earth Fire Ancestor said calmly, “but this is your only chance. Earth Core Jade Marrow Milk is obtained only once every ten thousand years. Although the Earth Fire Pavilion has some clues, they certainly do not know the exact location. Moreover… do you think that brat Huo Fentian would easily tell such a precious clue to an outsider like you?”

These words struck a nerve with Kai.

Indeed, the Earth Fire Pavilion might have clues, but they would never hand them over easily.

The Earth Core Jade Marrow Milk is related to the life and death of the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord’s women, and the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord cannot afford to wait.

Chapter 5893

“What do you need the Demon-Suppressing Tower for?” Kai asked.

“To condense my soul and reshape my physical body,”

said the Earthfire Ancestor. “My remnant soul is too weak to leave the Heart of Earthfire. But if I can cultivate within the Demon-Suppressing Tower, using the tower’s flow of time and special laws, I can solidify my soul in a short time and then find a suitable body to possess… or, use a secret technique to reshape my physical body.”

“Don’t worry, I won’t use your treasures for nothing. Besides the clues to the Earth Core Jade Marrow Milk, I can also pass on the complete version of the Earthfire True Scripture to you, and… help you find the traitor within the Earthfire Pavilion.”

“You know who the traitor is?” Kai’s eyes narrowed.

“Although I am but a remnant soul, the Heart of Earthfire is still connected to the protective array of the entire Earthfire Pavilion.”

“Everything that happens within the Earthfire Pavilion, as long as it involves fluctuations in fire-attribute spiritual energy, cannot escape my perception.”

The Earthfire Ancestor sneered. “That brat named Yan Lie secretly contacted the outside world three days ago using a communication talisman. The aura of the talisman… is exactly the same as the aura of the Evil Path Hall that you all possess.”

Yan Lie!

It really was him!

A cold light flashed in Kai’s eyes.

“So? Will you take this deal?” the Earthfire Ancestor asked.

Kai pondered for a long time before slowly nodding, “I can. But I have a few conditions.”

“Speak.”

“First, the clues about the Earth Core Jade Marrow Milk must be completely true, and you must help me obtain it.”

“Second, while I’m helping you condense your soul body, you must not do anything detrimental to me.”

“Third, the evidence to expose the traitor must be irrefutable.”

The Earth Fire Ancestor laughed heartily, “Little fellow, you’re quite cautious. Alright, I agree. However, I also have a condition.”

“What condition?”

“After you obtain the Earth Core Jade Marrow Milk, you must help me reshape my physical body. At that time, I will need a drop of your Golden Dragon Essence Blood as a catalyst.”

The Earth Fire Ancestor said, “Of course, I will give you sufficient compensation.”

Kai frowned.

Golden Dragon Essence Blood was extremely precious, each drop containing his life essence.

But if he could obtain the Earth Core Jade Marrow Milk and revive the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord’s woman, the price… would be worth it.

After all, the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord had saved him countless times along the way.

“Okay.”

Kai finally nodded, “but only one drop.”

“Deal.”

The Earthfire Ancestor’s fiery body rippled, appearing quite excited. “Then, shall we begin now? I can’t wait to experience the feeling of a complete soul body again.”

Kai shook his head: “No rush. I need to recover from all my injuries first before making preparations. Besides… there are people waiting for me outside.”

He was referring to the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord.

The Earthfire Ancestor understood: “Alright, I’ll give you three days. We’ll officially begin in three days.”

“On Yan Lie’s body…”

After saying that, his fiery body slowly dissipated, merging back into the lava pool.

The cave returned to calm, as if nothing had ever happened. But Kai knew his plan needed to be readjusted.

He had found a clue about the Earth Core Jade Marrow Milk, the traitor’s identity was confirmed, and there was now the mysterious Earth Fire Ancestor…

The road ahead seemed clearer, but also more complicated.

He put away the Demon-Suppressing Tower, left the cave, and returned to the stone steps.

Just as he stepped onto the steps, he heard Huo Ling’er’s anxious voice from above: “Kai! Kai, are you there? Something’s happened!”

Kai’s heart skipped a beat, and he quickly walked up.

At the entrance to the forbidden area, Huo Ling'er's face was pale, her eyes filled with panic.

"What happened?" Kai asked.

"Senior Brother Yan Lie... he informed Father that you secretly infiltrated the forbidden area with ill intentions!" Huo Ling'er said urgently, "Father is bringing several elders this way! You must leave quickly!"

Kai's expression remained unusually calm after hearing Huo Ling'er's words.

He turned to look into the depths of the cave; the lava pool remained as calm as ever, as if everything that had just happened was merely an illusion.

"Princess, there's no need to panic,"

Kai said calmly. "Since the Pavilion Master wants to come, let him come. Some things need to be laid out clearly."

"But Kai, the forbidden area is the most crucial secret of the Earth Fire Pavilion. Unauthorized entry is a capital offense according to the Pavilion's rules!"

Huo Ling'er stamped her foot anxiously. "Senior Brother Yan Lie is determined to kill you this time! You should leave first and wait until Father's anger subsides!"

"Leave? Where to leave?"

Crimson Cloud Demon Lord frowned. "There's a protective array around the Earthfire Pavilion, and it's definitely fully activated now. If we go out, we'll be treated as fugitives and killed without mercy."

He looked at Kai: "Kai, what are your plans?"

A cold glint flashed in Kai's eyes: "Since Yan Lie wants to play, then I'll play along to the end. But..."

He looked at Huo Ling'er, somewhat apologetic: "But it will implicate the princess."

Huo Ling'er gritted her teeth: "I'm not afraid! I'm the one who brought you in, punish me if you must! And... and I believe Father will be able to distinguish right from wrong!" As

soon as she finished speaking, hurried footsteps and commotion came from outside the cave.

"They're here!" Huo Ling'er's face paled.

Kai, however, straightened his robes and stood calmly at the entrance to the forbidden area.

Crimson Cloud Demon Lord also returned to his normal appearance, standing beside Kai.

"Boom!"

The illusion array at the entrance to the forbidden area was forcibly broken, the mountain walls shook, and rubble fell down.

A group of people stormed in aggressively.

Leading them was none other than Huo Fentian, the Pavilion Master of the Earth Fire Pavilion!

He wore a crimson-gold robe, his face imposing, and the oppressive aura of a peak ninth-grade Celestial Immortal was undisguised, raising the temperature of the entire cave several degrees.

Behind him followed five elders of the Earth Fire Pavilion, each possessing a profound aura, all above the seventh grade of the Celestial Immortal realm.

Yan Lie stood behind the elders, a smug sneer playing on his lips.

When Huo Fentian saw Kai, the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord, and his daughter Huo Ling'er standing at the entrance to the forbidden area, his eyes blazed with fury.

Chapter 5894

"Ling'er! You really are here!"

Huo Fentian roared angrily, "And you two outsiders, how dare you! How dare you trespass into the forbidden area of the Earth Fire Pavilion!"

Yan Lie immediately stepped forward, pointing at Kai and sternly said, "Pavilion Master, this disciple saw it with his own eyes! Kai and this demonic cultivator sneaked into the back mountain under the cover of night, using a secret technique to break the forbidden area's formation, intending to steal the Earth Fire Pavilion's core secrets!"

"Fortunately, this disciple discovered and reported it in time, otherwise the consequences would have been unimaginable!"

He paused, then added, "Moreover... this disciple suspects that they are traitors from the Evil Path Hall! They infiltrated the Earth Fire Pavilion to gather intelligence and coordinate with the Evil Path Hall's ambush!"

"You're talking nonsense!"

Huo Ling'er trembled with anger, "I clearly brought them in! Kai was seriously injured and needed a quiet place to heal, so I..."

"Junior Sister Ling'er, don't try to excuse them anymore!"

Yan Lie interrupted her, looking heartbroken, "I know you are kind-hearted and have been deceived by this Kai."

“But think about it, he’s an outsider. Why would you risk violating the rules of the Pavilion by bringing him into the forbidden area? He must have used some evil magic to bewitch you!”

“I…”

Huo Ling’er was speechless.

She couldn’t very well say that she brought him in because she was in love with Kai, could she?

Huo Fentian’s face was ashen, and he looked at Kai as if he were a dead man: “Kai, what else do you have to say?” Kai

remained calm and clasped his hands in a fist salute: “Pavilion Master, I did indeed trespass into the forbidden area. This was all thanks to the Princess’s kindness, and I am deeply grateful. But if you say that I am a traitor within the Evil Path Hall…”

He looked at Yan Lie, a cold smile playing on his lips: “Why doesn’t the Pavilion Master first ask Steward Yan Lie who he contacted in his room late at night three days ago using a communication talisman? Why is the aura on that communication talisman exactly the same as that of the cultivators from the Evil Path Hall?”

Upon hearing this, everyone was stunned.

Yan Lie’s face turned deathly pale instantly, but he roared, “You’re spouting nonsense! When did I ever use a communication talisman? Pavilion Master, this person is sowing discord and cannot be trusted!”

“Is that so?”

Kai said calmly, “Then may I ask, Steward Yan Lie, why is there a trace of the unique ghostly aura of the Yin Soul Communication Talisman remaining on the third button inside your left sleeve? This kind of communication talisman is one of the signature talismans of the Evil Path Hall.”

Yan Lie subconsciously looked at his left sleeve, a look of panic flashing in his eyes.

But he quickly forced himself to calm down: “Nonsense! I just changed these clothes today, where would I find any Netherworld Aura? If the Pavilion Master doesn’t believe me, you can have the elders check!”

An elder stepped forward, his divine sense scanning Yan Lie’s sleeve, and frowned, “Pavilion Master, indeed, no Netherworld Aura was found.”

Yan Lie breathed a sigh of relief and looked at Kai triumphantly: “Kai, what else do you have to say?”

Kai, however, remained calm: “Oh? Perhaps I’m mistaken. But… Pavilion Master, could you check what’s hidden under the third floor tile under the bed in Steward Yan Lie’s room?”

Yan Lie’s expression froze completely.

Under that floor tile was another communication talisman he used to contact the Evil Path Hall, and… a bottle of “Blood Fiend Pills” as payment from Elder Blood Soul!

“You… how do you know?”

Yan Lie blurted out, only realizing his mistake after speaking, and hurriedly corrected himself, “What I meant was, there’s nothing under my bed! You’re framing me!”

But it was too late.

Huo Fentian, a man of great stature, saw through Yan Lie’s abnormality at a glance.

He snorted coldly: “Go investigate!” The two elders obeyed and left.

Yan Lie tried to stop them, but Huo Fentian’s glare froze him in place, cold sweat pouring down his back.

The atmosphere became terrifyingly tense.

Huo Ling'er looked at Kai in surprise, then at the ashen-faced Yan Lie, and seemed to understand something.

Less than a quarter of an hour later, the two elders returned, carrying a jet-black communication talisman and a blood-red jade bottle.

"Sect Master, we found these two items under Yan Lie's bed,"

one elder said in a deep voice. "Upon examination, the communication talisman does indeed contain the unique Netherworld Aura of the Evil Path Hall, and this bottle of pills... is the Blood Fiend Pill refined by the Evil Path Hall, made with the essence of living beings, extremely malevolent."

"Boom...!"

Terrifying flames erupted from Huo Fentian's body, and the entire cave trembled.

He stared intently at Yan Lie, enunciating each word clearly: "Yan... Lie! What else do you have to say?!"

Yan Lie's legs went weak, and he knelt on the ground, his face ashen: "Sect Master... I... I was forced! The Evil Path Hall captured my parents and forced me to work for them! I didn't want to! Please, Sect Master, spare my life!"

"Parents?"

Huo Fentian's eyes grew even colder. "Your parents died twenty years ago due to cultivation going awry. Where did you get parents?"

Yan Lie trembled, realizing he had let something slip. Despair flashed in his eyes, then turned to madness: "Yes! I am a member of the Evil Path Hall! So what? What is the Earth Fire Pavilion?"

“The Evil Path Hall is the true ruler of the Eleventh Heaven! Huo Fentian, do you think you can kill me?”

He suddenly pulled out a blood-red jade slip from his robes and crushed it!

“Boom!”

Blood-red mist erupted from the jade slip, transforming into a blood-red pillar of light that shot into the sky, piercing through the rock strata above the cave and soaring into the clouds!

“Not good! He’s summoning reinforcements from the Evil Path Hall!”

an elder exclaimed.

Enraged, Huo Fentian slammed his palm down at Yan Lie: “You beast! Die!”

The furious strike of a peak ninth-grade Celestial Immortal was terrifying!

A gigantic, crimson fiery palm blotted out the sky, crashing down with the power to incinerate everything!

A mad glint flashed in Yan Lie’s eyes as he summoned a blood-red shield to block, roaring, “Palace Master Zhan! Save me!”

“Hehehe… Huo Fentian, did you even ask me before attacking someone from my Evil Path Palace?”

A sinister voice echoed from the blood-red pillar of light.

Within the pillar, a blood-red figure slowly materialized—it was Zhan E!

Although merely a projection, his aura was still terrifying!

The blood-red hand emerged from the pillar of light, colliding with Huo Fentian's fiery palm!

Chapter 5895

"Boom...!"

The entire cave shook violently, countless rocks fell, and the lava pool surged with enormous waves.

The terrifying shockwave forced everyone except Huo Fentian and Kai to retreat.

"Zhan E! How dare you project your image into the forbidden area of my Earth Fire Pavilion!" Huo Fentian's

hair stood on end, his rage uncontrollable.

"What's there to be afraid of?"

Zhan E's projection sneered, "Huo Fentian, if you know what's good for you, hand over Kai and obediently submit to my Evil Path Hall, otherwise... the Earth Fire Pavilion will be expelled from the Eleventh Heaven today!"

"Arrogant!"

Huo Fentian roared, "Just one projection clone of yours?"

"One isn't enough, how about a few more?"

Three more blood-red pillars of light descended from the sky, landing in the cave.

The pillars of light dissipated, revealing three blood-red figures—the projections of the three elders of the Evil Path Hall!

Terrifying bloodthirsty aura permeated the entire cave, rivaling Huo Fentian's crimson flame power!

"Huo Fentian, what's the situation now?"

Zhan E sneered. "Although the four of us are just projections, together we can hold you off for a while. And our Evil Path Palace army is already assembled outside the Earth Fire Pavilion, ready to break through the protective formation at any moment!" Huo

Fentian's face was extremely ugly.

He hadn't expected the Evil Path Palace to go to such lengths, with Zhan E personally coming and a large army pressing in from outside!

Although the Earth Fire Pavilion was not weak, its chances of winning against the well-prepared Evil Path Palace were slim.

"Father..."

Huo Ling'er's face was pale as she tightly gripped Huo Fentian's sleeve.

Several elders of the Earth Fire Pavilion also looked solemn, summoning their magical treasures and preparing for battle.

Seeing this, Yan Lie became arrogant again: "Huo Fentian, it's not too late to surrender! As long as you hand over Kai and offer up all the treasures of the Earth Fire Pavilion, the Evil Path Palace might spare your life!"

"You're courting death!"

Huo Fentian's eyes were filled with killing intent, and he was about to attack again.

"Enough."

A calm but authoritative voice rang out.

Everyone was stunned, because the voice… didn't come from anyone present!

The voice came from the lava pool.

To everyone's astonishment, the lava pool boiled again, crimson magma shooting into the sky and condensing into a fiery humanoid figure.

It was none other than the Earth Fire Ancestor!

"Ancestor?!"

Huo Fentian and the elders were dumbfounded, then overjoyed, "Ancestor, you're still alive?!"

The Earth Fire Pavilion had a portrait inheritance; all the past pavilion masters and elders recognized the Earth Fire Ancestor's appearance.

Although it was currently only a humanoid figure formed from flames, the aura, the pressure, the unique fluctuations of the fire law… there was absolutely no mistake!

"Just a wisp of a remnant soul,"

the Earth Fire Ancestor said calmly, his golden, flame-like eyes sweeping across the entire area, finally landing on the projections of the four evil path hall elders. "A few junior projections dare to run wild in my Earth Fire Pavilion?"

Before he finished speaking, the Earth Fire Ancestor simply waved his hand.

"Boom…!"

The fire law throughout the cave seemed to come alive, transforming into four crimson-golden chains of flame, instantly binding the four projections!

“What is this?!”

“Chains of Law?! How is this possible?!”

Zhan E and the others were horrified, struggling desperately, but to no avail.

Their projections, bound by the chains of flame, rapidly became illusory and dim.

“Destroy.”

The Earth Fire Ancestor uttered a single word.

The four chains of flame tightened abruptly!

“No...!”

The four projections simultaneously let out a shrill scream, then shattered like bubbles, dissipating into the air.

Along with the four pillars of blood-red light, they also crumbled inch by inch.

Everything happened in the blink of an eye.

The four projections that had just been so aggressive, threatening to annihilate the Earth Fire Pavilion, were just... gone?

Yan Lie stood there dumbfounded, his face ashen.

Huo Fentian and the elders were also too shocked to speak.

They knew the Ancestor was powerful, but they never expected that a mere wisp of a remnant soul could so easily annihilate the projections of four powerful figures!

This was simply... a miracle!

“Ancestor’s divine might!”

Huo Fentian was the first to react, his voice trembling with excitement. “Disciple Huo Fentian pays respects to Ancestor!”

“Pay respects to Ancestor!” The elders all knelt down in unison.

Huo Ling’er also quickly knelt down, secretly glancing at Kai, her eyes full of doubt—how did Kai know the Ancestor was here? What connection did they have?

The fiery body of the Earth Fire Ancestor rippled slightly: “Get up, all of you. I am but a remnant soul, unworthy of such a grand gesture.”

He looked at Yan Lie, his eyes icy: “As for this traitor…”

Yan Lie was terrified, kowtowing repeatedly: “Ancestor, spare my life! Ancestor, spare my life! This disciple knows his mistake! It was all the Evil Path Hall’s fault that I was forced into this! I beg the Ancestor to give me a chance to repent!”

“Repent?” The Earth Fire Ancestor sneered, “You colluded with the Evil Path Hall, causing the deaths of dozens of Earth Fire Pavilion disciples, and even plotted to murder the Pavilion Master and overthrow the Earth Fire Pavilion. Such crimes deserve more than ten deaths.” He looked at Huo Fentian: “Fentian, according to the rules of the Pavilion, what is the punishment for a traitor?”

Huo Fentian’s eyes flashed with murderous intent: “Reporting to the Ancestor, those who betray the Pavilion shall have their souls extracted and their spirits refined, never to be reincarnated!”

“Then proceed according to the rules of the Pavilion,” said the Earth Fire Ancestor indifferently.

“No!!!” Yan Lie roared in despair, turning to try to escape.

But how could Huo Fentian give him the chance?

A crimson flame instantly enveloped him, and before Yan Lie could even scream, he was burned to ashes.

Huo Fentian grabbed with one hand, and a phantom soul flew out from the ashes—it was Yan Lie's remnant soul, sealed in a crimson jade bottle.

"Extracting the soul and refining the spirit, as a warning to others," Huo Fentian said coldly.

After dealing with the traitor, the Earth Fire Ancestor turned his gaze to Kai.

Huo Fentian's heart tightened, and he hurriedly said, "Ancestor, although this young friend Kai trespassed into the forbidden area, he was there to heal his injuries, and... he exposed the traitor Yan Lie, which can be considered a merit. Please, Ancestor, be lenient with him."

He wanted to protect Kai.

After all, Kai had saved Huo Ling'er and Elder Yan Xin, and now he had exposed Yan Lie; his merits outweighed his faults.

The Earth Fire Ancestor looked at Kai, a smile flashing in his eyes: "Little fellow, what do you say?"

Kai smiled slightly: "Whatever you say, do as you please."

"Do as you please?"

The Earth Fire Ancestor teased, "Then I will severely punish you for trespassing into the forbidden area, how about that?"

Huo Ling'er became anxious: "Ancestor! I brought Kai in! Punish me if you must!"

"Ling'er!" Huo Fentian shouted.

“Father, I brought Kai in without permission, so punish me if you must!” Huo Ling’er shouted!

“Do you know that outsiders are not allowed to enter the forbidden area?”

the Earth Fire Ancestor said.

“I know, but…but…”

Huo Ling’er looked at Kai, then took a deep breath and said, “Ancestor, what if I said…Kai isn’t an outsider?”

“Not an outsider?” Huo Fentian frowned. “What do you mean?”

Kai was also stunned.

Huo Ling’er took a deep breath, looked at Kai, and a hint of tenderness and apology flashed in her eyes.

She knew that the next sentence might change many things.

“Kai and I…have already consummated our marriage.” Huo Ling’er said slowly, “He is my man.”

“Boom…!”

These words were like a bolt from the blue, exploding in everyone’s ears!

Huo Fentian was dumbfounded.

The elders were speechless.

Kai’s mind went completely blank. When did he and Huo Ling’er consummate their marriage?

How come he didn’t know?

Wasn't this just accusing him for no reason?

But Kai quickly realized that Huo Ling'er was saving him!

Moreover…Huo Ling'er saying this was tantamount to announcing their relationship in public.

Huo Fentian's expression changed uncertainly.

He looked at his daughter's shy appearance, then at Kai's calm eyes, and believed it seven or eight parts of the time.

To be fair, although Kai's origins are mysterious, he is exceptionally talented, possesses the bloodline of a golden dragon, is powerful, and values loyalty and righteousness.

If he were to become his son-in-law, it would definitely be a good thing for the Earth Fire Pavilion.

But… this kid is too direct!

They've only known each other for a short time, and he's already taken advantage of my daughter?

"Ahem…"

Huo Fentian coughed twice, "Kai, when did you and Ling'er… happen?"

Kai hesitated for a moment, then began to fabricate a story.

"In the Crimson Flame Canyon, Ling'er was in danger, and I was healing her…"

This was half true, half false.

In the Crimson Flame Canyon, he did indeed heal Huo Ling'er, but at that time he only transferred immortal energy, and there was no physical intimacy.

But to outsiders, this was already ambiguous enough.

Huo Fentian's face flushed red, and he glared at Huo Ling'er—this girl, how could she be so unreserved!

Huo Ling'er lowered her head even further, wishing she could find a crack in the ground to crawl into.

The Earth Fire Ancestor suddenly burst into laughter: "Good! Good! Good! Burning Heaven, your son-in-law is quite good! Golden Dragon bloodline, possessing great treasures, and limitless potential.

He is worthy of my Earth Fire Pavilion's princess!" With this, he essentially sealed the deal.

What could Fire Burning Heaven say?

The Ancestor had approved; how could he object?

Moreover... thinking about it carefully, Kai was indeed a rare talent.

With his assistance, the Earth Fire Pavilion's future was promising.

"Since the Ancestor has said so..."

Fire Burning Heaven sighed, looking at Kai with a complex expression, "Kai, your matter with Ling'er will be discussed later. But your unauthorized entry into the forbidden area is ultimately against the rules. Considering your merit in exposing the traitor, you can be spared the death penalty, but you will not escape punishment."

"I accept the punishment," Kai said.

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"Alright, since you accept the punishment, then I will..."

“Wait, I’ll decide Kai’s punishment!” said the Earthfire Ancestor!

Huo Fentian was stunned, not expecting the Ancestor to speak personally.

He bowed respectfully: “Ancestor, please tell me, how should Kai be punished?”

The Earthfire Ancestor’s fiery body rippled slightly, his golden flame-like eyes scanning back and forth between Kai and Huo Ling’er, finally revealing a meaningful smile:

“Since Ling’er says Kai is her man, then let the two of them marry immediately and become Daoist partners. In this way, Kai will no longer be an outsider, but the son-in-law of my Earthfire Pavilion. The crime of trespassing into the forbidden area will naturally be waived.”

“What?!”

“Marry?!”

“Immediately?!”

A series of exclamations rang out in the cave.

Huo Fentian was dumbfounded.

The elders looked at each other in disbelief.

Huo Ling’er’s pretty face instantly turned red, like a ripe apple, so embarrassed that she almost fainted.

Kai was also stunned; he never expected the Earthfire Ancestor’s punishment to be like this.

“Ancestor…this…”

Huo Fentian opened his mouth, wanting to say something.

“What? My words no longer carry weight?”

The Earth Fire Ancestor’s voice deepened, and the temperature of the entire cave suddenly rose, the lava pool even boiling.

Huo Fentian hurriedly bowed: “This disciple dares not! But…how can a marriage be so hasty? Moreover, Ling’er is the princess of the Earth Fire Pavilion, the wedding should be grand, inviting guests from all sides…”

“Why bother with formalities?”

The Earth Fire Ancestor interrupted him, “With the Evil Path Palace army pressing in, where is there time for a grand wedding? Marry immediately and settle this matter. We can hold a celebration later after defeating the Evil Path Palace.”

He looked at Kai: “Little fellow, are you willing?”

Kai’s mind raced.

The Earth Fire Ancestor’s move, seemingly absurd, was actually brilliant.

First, it resolved Kai’s crime of trespassing into the forbidden area, making him a son-in-law, naturally not an outsider.

Second, it completely bound Kai to the Earth Fire Pavilion’s war chariot. With this relationship, Kai had to do everything in his power to help the Earthfire Pavilion fight against the Evil Path Hall.

Thirdly, Kai possessed the bloodline of the Golden Dragon and was exceptionally talented. If he could become the son-in-law of the Earthfire Pavilion, it would greatly benefit the pavilion’s future development and even help him reshape his physical body.

As for himself…

Kai looked at Huo Ling’er.

Huo Ling’er was looking down, her fingers nervously twisting the hem of her clothes, her pretty face flushed crimson.

Although she was shy, there was no resistance in her eyes; instead, there was a hint of expectation.

To be fair, Huo Ling’er was stunningly beautiful, of noble birth, kind and brave, and deeply devoted to him.

To become her Daoist partner would be a great blessing.

However… Kai had other women in his heart, and too many unfinished business.

But then he thought, he and Huo Ling’er already had mutual feelings, and Huo Ling’er had just publicly declared him her man, binding her reputation to his own.

If he refused now, it would not only hurt Huo Ling’er’s feelings but also cause her to lose face in the Earthfire Pavilion.

More importantly, he still needed the power of the Earth Fire Pavilion to fight against the Evil Path Hall, and he needed the Earth Fire Ancestor to point out the location of the Earth Core Jade Marrow Milk… “I do,” Kai said slowly, taking a deep breath.

His voice wasn’t loud, but it reached everyone’s ears clearly.

Huo Ling’er trembled, abruptly raising her head, her eyes flashing with surprise and disbelief.

“However,”

Kai continued, “although Ling’er and I are deeply in love, this marriage must be with Ling’er’s consent. If she is unwilling, I will not force her.”

All eyes turned to Huo Ling’er.

Huo Ling’er bit her lip, looking at Kai, her eyes shimmering with tears.

She took a deep breath, mustering her courage: “I…I do.”

Her voice was as soft as a mosquito’s buzz, but in the silent cave, it was as clear as thunder.

The Earth Fire Ancestor laughed heartily: “Good! Since that’s the case, then let’s get married immediately! Fen Tian, you will preside!”

Huo Fen Tian smiled bitterly, but dared not disobey the Ancestor’s command.

He glanced at his daughter, then at Kai, and finally sighed, “Very well, since the Ancestor has given the order, and you two are mutually in love, then… let’s get married.”

He turned to an elder and said, “Pass down the order, everyone in the Earthfire Pavilion, prepare for the princess and Kai’s wedding immediately. It doesn’t need to be too grand, but the proper rites must be observed.”

“Yes!” The elder accepted the order and left.

The Earthfire Ancestor nodded in satisfaction, “Very good. After the wedding, Kai will go into seclusion in the forbidden area to help me restore my physical body. Once I have reconstructed my physical body, I will personally hold a celebration for you.”

He looked at Kai, a deep meaning flashing in his eyes, “Little fellow, treat Ling’er well. She is someone I watched grow up; if I dare to betray her… hmph.”

Kai solemnly clasped his hands, “Ancestor, rest assured, Kai will not betray Ling’er.”

“Good! Everyone disperse, prepare for the wedding.”

The Earthfire Ancestor's fiery body slowly dissipated, merging back into the lava pool.

Everyone left the forbidden area.

Huo Fentian looked at Kai and Huo Ling'er standing side by side, his feelings complicated.

He patted Kai on the shoulder: "Kid, treat my daughter well. If you dare bully her, I won't forgive you."

"Don't worry, Father-in-law," Kai quickly changed his tune.

Huo Fentian's lips twitched, but he finally sighed and turned to leave.

Soon, only Kai, Huo Ling'er, and the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord remained in the cave.

The atmosphere became somewhat awkward.

The Crimson Cloud Demon Lord tactfully stepped aside, saying, "I'll go for a walk outside. You two chat."

After he left, Huo Ling'er blushed and looked at Kai, whispering, "Kai... I'm sorry... I didn't mean to say that. I just wanted to save you..."

"I know,"

Kai said gently. "I should thank you. If it weren't for you, I probably wouldn't have survived this ordeal."

"But... but..."

Huo Ling'er bit her lip, "Now that the Ancestor wants us to marry, are you... are you really willing? If you're not willing, I can talk to the Ancestor..."

"I am willing,"

Kai interrupted her, taking her hand. “Ling’er, you’re a good girl. It’s my blessing to become your Daoist partner.”

He paused, then said sincerely, “It’s just… I carry too many burdens, and there are other women on my shoulders. There may be many dangers in the future. Following me, you might suffer.”

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Tears welled in Huo Ling’er’s eyes, but she shook her head firmly: “I’m not afraid. As long as I can be with you, I’m not afraid of any hardship.”

“I don’t care how many women you have, I just need to be one of them.”

She nestled into Kai’s arms, her voice soft yet firm: “Kai, I know you may have many things to do. But I will wait for you, I will face them with you. No matter what the future holds, I will not regret my choice today.”

A warm current surged in Kai’s heart, and he hugged Huo Ling’er tightly.

At this moment, he truly accepted this brave and sincere girl.

The two embraced for a moment before Huo Ling’er blushed and pushed him away: “I… I have to go prepare for the wedding. Although it’s rushed, it’s still a major life event…”

“I’ll go with you,” Kai smiled.

“Okay!”

…

The entire Di Huo Pavilion was bustling with activity because of the sudden wedding.

Although time was short, it was, after all, a princess’s wedding, and all the necessary rituals could not be omitted.

Red silk hung throughout the halls, and the character for “double happiness” was pasted on doors and windows.

Although the disciples of Di Huo Pavilion were surprised, they offered their blessings even more.

After all, Kai had saved the princess, exposed the traitor, and was incredibly powerful; he was worthy of her.

The wedding was held at noon.

The main hall of the Earth Fire Pavilion was brightly decorated. Although no foreign guests were invited, all the elders, deacons, and core disciples of the Earth Fire Pavilion were present.

Kai, dressed in a crimson wedding robe, was dignified and imposing. Huo

Ling’er, in her phoenix coronet and wedding gown, was breathtakingly beautiful.

Under the guidance of Huo Fentian, the two bowed to heaven and earth, to their parents, and to each other as husband and wife.

The ceremony was complete.

Simple yet solemn.

“To the bridal chamber!” the master of ceremonies shouted.

Amidst the blessings of the disciples, Kai and Huo Ling’er were led to the newly decorated bridal chamber.

Inside, red candles flickered, filling the room with joy.

Huo Ling’er sat on the edge of the bed, her palms sweating with nervousness.

Kai walked to her side and gently lifted the red veil.

In the candlelight, Huo Ling'er's face was exquisitely beautiful, breathtakingly so.

"Ling'er..." Kai called softly.

"Hmm..." Huo Ling'er's voice was barely audible.

Kai sat down beside her and took her hand: "Ling'er, there's something I need to tell you."

Huo Ling'er's heart tightened: "What?"

"Before our marriage, I did have someone else in my heart,"

Kai said honestly. "She's someone I... knew, someone who saved my life. I promised to save her; it was my promise to her."

Huo Ling'er's eyes dimmed, but she quickly regained her composure: "I know. How could someone as outstanding as you not have a past? I don't care about your past; I only care about our future."

She looked at Kai, her eyes filled with deep affection: "Kai, I will save her with you. After we save her, let's live a good life together, okay?"

Kai was moved and embraced her: "Okay."

That night, in their wedding night, the spring night was too short. Huo Ling'er was enduring the ordeal every woman must face.

Pain and pleasure intertwined.

...

Meanwhile, in the Twelfth Heaven, at the headquarters of the Evil Path Palace.

This was a black palace suspended above an endless sea of blood, surrounded by countless vengeful spirits and ghosts, emitting mournful howls.

Deep within the palace, on a throne built of bones, sat a man in black robes.

The man's face was sinister, his eyes deep-set, his pupils a strange blood red.

He was enveloped in a dense aura of bloodlust, like a demon god emerging from a mountain of corpses and a sea of blood.

It was none other than Zhan E, the Palace Master of the Evil Path Palace!

"Bang!"

Zhan E slammed his palm on the armrest of the throne, instantly reducing it to dust.

"Useless! A bunch of useless trash!"

he roared, his voice like a chilling wind from the depths of hell, causing the temperature in the entire hall to plummet. "My projection was actually annihilated by a wisp of remnant soul! My Evil Path Palace has utterly disgraced itself!"

Below, a dozen elders of the Evil Path Palace knelt, each one trembling with fear, not daring to raise their heads.

Elder Blood Soul was among them, his injuries still raw and his face pale, but he could only kneel there, barely managing to stay upright.

"Palace Master, please calm your anger,"

a white-haired elder said, forcing a smile. "According to intelligence, that remnant soul is the Earth Fire Ancestor, the founder of the Earth Fire Pavilion. His cultivation is unfathomable; at his peak, he likely touched

the threshold of the third rank of Upper Immortal. Even a mere remnant soul is not something an ordinary projection can contend with."

"Besides, that place is his territory; we are already at a disadvantage, and being projections, we are naturally no match."

"If the Palace Master were to personally come, he could surely annihilate the Earth Fire Pavilion."

"Earth Fire Ancestor?" A cold glint flashed in Zhan E's eyes. "I will definitely kill that old bastard."

He pondered for a moment, then said coldly, "Send down the order: gather the elite forces, led personally by the three Vice Palace Masters, to the Eleventh Heaven, raze the Earth Fire Pavilion to the ground, and capture Kai alive!"

"Yes!" The elders obeyed.

"Furthermore," Zhan E added, "tell the three vice hall masters that I want the remnant soul of the Earth Fire Ancestor alive. If I can devour his remnant soul, I might be able to break through the final bottleneck and enter the third rank of the Upper Immortal Realm!"

"Yes, sir!"

"As for Kai..."

A greedy glint flashed in Zhan E's eyes, "Golden Dragon bloodline, possessing great treasures... This boy carries a great secret. He must be captured alive; I will interrogate him personally!"

"Yes!"

"Go and prepare. The army must depart within three days!"

The elders hurriedly left.

In the hall, only Zhan E remained.

He slowly rose, walked outside the hall, and looked down at the churning sea of blood below.

“Earth Fire Ancestor… Kai…” he murmured to himself, his eyes flashing with bloodlust, “Interesting. The Eleventh Heaven seems to be getting lively.” ”

However, no matter how lively it gets, it will ultimately become a stepping stone for my Evil Path Hall. When I break through to the third rank of the Upper Immortal Realm, that will be the time when the Evil Path Hall unifies the Twelfth Heaven!”

“Hehehe…”

A sinister laugh echoed above the sea of blood, and countless vengeful spirits shrieked, as if the end of the world had arrived.

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Eleventh Heaven, Earthfire Pavilion.

After the wedding, Kai returned to the forbidden area with Huo Ling’er.

The fiery body of the Earthfire Ancestor reappeared.

“Ancestor,” Kai bowed.

“Hmm,” the Earthfire Ancestor nodded, his gaze sweeping over the two of them, and said with satisfaction, “Not bad, your auras are intertwined, yin and yang are in harmony. It seems you have truly become Daoist partners.”

Huo Ling’er blushed and lowered her head.

Kai, however, was frank: “Thank you for your kindness, Ancestor.”

“Now, can you fulfill your promise?” the Earthfire Ancestor said!

Huo Ling’er looked bewildered and asked Kai, “What promise?”

“I will help the Ancestor restore his physical body, and Ling’er, you and Senior Crimson Cloud Demon Lord will help me,”

Kai said!

Huo Ling’er nodded upon hearing this: “Okay!”

Kai took out the Demon-Suppressing Tower!

The Demon-Suppressing Tower floated in the air, exuding an ancient and vast aura.

The Earthfire Ancestor’s fiery body rippled slowly beside him, his golden flame-like eyes filled with anticipation.

“Ancestor, we can begin,” Kai said.

The Earthfire Ancestor nodded: “You will help me refine my soul and reshape my physical body within the Demon Suppression Tower. In return, I will transmit to you the complete version of the *Earthfire True Scripture* and point you to the location of the Earth Core Jade Marrow Milk.”

“This junior understands,” Kai replied solemnly.

“Very well, then enter the tower!”

The Earthfire Ancestor’s fiery body transformed into a stream of light and plunged into the Demon Suppression Tower.

Kai followed closely behind, stepping into the tower.

The flow of time inside the tower was a hundred times faster than outside.

The Earthfire Ancestor's fiery body gradually solidified within the tower, transforming into the phantom of a white-haired, white-bearded, kind-faced old man.

Although still in soul form, it was much more solid than before.

"Excellent! Excellent! Excellent!"

The Earth Fire Ancestor, sensing the flow of time and the unique laws within the tower, repeatedly praised it with excitement, "The Demon Suppression Tower truly lives up to its name! With this treasure's assistance, I have hope of reshaping my physical body!"

He looked at Kai: "Little fellow, let's not delay, let's begin now. You should first familiarize yourself with the basics of the *Earth Fire True Scripture*. Once my soul has been refined to a certain degree, I will pass on the complete version to you."

"Yes!"

Kai sat cross-legged and began to comprehend the *Earth Fire True Scripture*.

This cultivation method truly lived up to its reputation as the Earth Fire Pavilion's treasure, incredibly

profound. It was divided into nine levels, and with each level cultivated, one's understanding of the laws of fire deepened.

Upon reaching the ninth level, one could control all the fires of heaven and earth, burning mountains and boiling seas with boundless power.

Kai already possessed the power of chaotic immortality, encompassing all things, making the cultivation of any technique twice as effective.

Coupled with the personal guidance of the founder, the Earth Fire Ancestor, his progress was rapid.

Time passed day by day within the tower.

One day outside was equivalent to a hundred days inside the tower.

Kai was immersed in cultivation, oblivious to the passage of time.

Meanwhile, the Earthfire Ancestor, utilizing the Demon Suppression Tower's time acceleration and special laws, frantically refined his soul.

His soul, initially illusory, gradually solidified, beginning to possess the sensation of a physical body.

At the same time, the Earthfire Ancestor was also preparing to reshape his physical body.

Reshaping the body required a massive amount of rare and precious materials, but fortunately, Huo Fentian was well-prepared, continuously sending the Earthfire Pavilion's millennia-old treasures into the forbidden area.

"Ten-thousand-year-old fire crystal jade, earth core flaming iron, crimson sun refined gold, molten lava blood essence..."

While refining his soul, the Earthfire Ancestor directed Huo Ling'er and the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord to process these materials.

Although newly married, Huo Ling'er knew the matter was of utmost importance, suppressing her longing and focusing intently on assisting the Ancestor. The Crimson Cloud Demon Lord was responsible for guarding the area, ensuring no one disturbed them.

Time flowed silently within the tower.

One day, two days, three days...

a year passed in the blink of an eye. During this year, Kai underwent earth-shattering changes.

He cultivated the “Earth Fire True Scripture” to the sixth level, reaching an unprecedented level of understanding of the Law of Fire.

The Chaos Immortal Power fused with the Law of Fire, causing its power to surge.

His cultivation level broke through from the peak of the first rank of the Heavenly Immortal Realm to the peak of the second rank, only one step away from the third rank!

More importantly, his combat power far exceeded his cultivation level.

With the Chaos Immortal Power, the Golden Dragon Bloodline, the “Earth Fire True Scripture,” and treasures such as the Dragon Slayer Sword and the Dragon Pattern Bell, Kai was confident that he could even fight against cultivators in the Upper Immortal Realm!

The Earth Fire Ancestor underwent even greater changes.

After a year of refinement, his soul body had solidified to the extreme, almost indistinguishable from a real person.

All the materials for reshaping the physical body were ready. Only the final step remained: using Kai’s drop of golden dragon blood as a catalyst to fuse the soul with the materials and reshape the physical body!

“Little fellow, it’s ready.”

The Earthfire Ancestor opened his eyes, golden flames flickering within them. “My soul has been refined to its peak, and the materials for reshaping the physical body are prepared. Now, all that’s needed is a drop of your golden dragon blood as a catalyst.”

Kai nodded without hesitation, biting his tongue and forcing out a drop of golden blood. The moment

the blood appeared, a sacred and majestic dragon’s might permeated the entire tower.

A tiny five-clawed golden dragon could be vaguely seen swimming within the blood, radiating boundless vitality.

Excitement flashed in the Earthfire Ancestor's eyes as he carefully collected the drop of golden dragon blood into his palm.

"Good! With this drop of golden dragon essence as a guide, my success rate in reshaping my physical body will increase by at least 30%!"

He looked at Kai, "Little fellow, thank you. I will definitely fulfill my promise to you."

"You're too kind, Ancestor."

Kai said, "Shall we begin reshaping our physical body now?"

"No rush."

Ancestor Earthfire shook his head, "Reshaping the physical body requires forty-nine days and cannot be disturbed. Moreover… I sense that there seems to be some movement outside."

He calculated with his fingers, his brows furrowing slightly: "The people from the Evil Path Hall… have arrived."

Before he finished speaking, a voice came.

"Kai! Kai! Something's happened!" It was Huo Ling'er's anxious voice.

Kai's heart tightened, and he exchanged a glance with Ancestor Earthfire, then simultaneously withdrew from the Demon Suppression Tower.

Outside the tower, Huo Ling'er's face was pale, her eyes filled with panic: "The Evil Path Hall's army has attacked the mountain! Three vice hall masters have personally arrived, all at the peak of the ninth rank of the Heavenly Immortal Realm! The mountain-protecting formation is about to collapse!"

“What?”

Kai’s expression changed.

The Earth Fire Ancestor frowned deeply: “Three peak ninth-grade Heavenly Immortals… The Evil Path Palace has really gone all out this time.”

“Little fellow, my physical body reconstruction is at a critical moment and cannot be interrupted. Otherwise, not only will all my previous efforts be in vain, but my soul will also be severely damaged. Outside… I can only rely on you.”

Kai took a deep breath, his eyes flashing with cold light: “Don’t worry, Ancestor, leave it to me.”

He turned to Huo Ling’er: “Ling’er, you stay here to assist the Ancestor. Senior Chi Yun, come with me to meet the enemy!”

“Alright!” Chi Yun Demon Lord was already rubbing his hands together, “I’ve been holding back for a while, it’s a good time to stretch my muscles!”

Kai then looked at the little fire unicorn Wangcai sleeping by the lava pool .

After a year of growth, Wangcai had reached ten zhang in size, its golden-red scales shining brightly, its four hooves treading on golden flames, majestic and awe-inspiring.

Its aura had reached the peak of the seventh-grade Heavenly Immortal!

The fire spiritual energy here was the most suitable cultivation resource for the little fire unicorn.

“Wangcai, let’s go!” Kai patted its head.

“Roar!” Wangcai roared, stood up, and its eyes gleamed with excitement.

The man, the beast, and the demon rushed out of the forbidden area, heading straight for the gates of the Earth Fire Pavilion!

Chapter 5899

Outside the Earthfire Pavilion, dark clouds loomed, threatening to crush the city.

Thousands of cultivators from the Evil Path Hall swarmed in like locusts, completely surrounding the pavilion.

They were all dressed in long, black robes, their faces adorned with demonic masks, and their evil weapons reeked of a nauseating, bloody aura.

The entire sky was stained a dark red by the dense, malevolent energy, blocking out even sunlight.

The protective array's protective barrier trembled violently under the relentless attacks, like a candle flickering in the wind.

The surface of the barrier was covered with spiderweb-like cracks, each attack widening them and producing a sickening cracking sound.

"One more strike! The array is about to break!"

a deacon from the Evil Path Hall roared, wielding a blood-red longsword and slashing at the barrier.

"Boom!"

The barrier trembled violently, and a fist-sized hole appeared in its center!

Although the hole quickly repaired itself, this plunged the members of the Earthfire Pavilion into despair.

The protective array wouldn't last much longer.

Before the mountain gate, three black-robed elders stood suspended in mid-air, like three insurmountable mountains.

They were none other than the three vice hall masters of the Evil Path Hall... Soul Fiend, Bone Demon, and Soul Annihilation!

Vice Hall Master Soul Fiend had a withered face, sunken eyes, and eerie blood-red pupils.

He was shrouded in a thick, viscous blood mist, within which countless struggling human faces could be vaguely seen, emitting silent wails.

Vice Hall Master Bone Demon was emaciated, resembling a skeleton draped in human skin.

His fingers were long and pale, their tips gleaming with a chilling white bone light; a single stroke could tear through space.

Vice Hall Master Soul Annihilation was the most bizarre; he had no physical form, his entire being resembling a constantly shifting gray mist.

Within the mist, countless eyes appeared and disappeared, each radiating a chilling aura that sent shivers down one's spine.

The three men's auras merged, forming an invisible cage that enveloped the entire Earth Fire Pavilion.

That was the oppressive aura of a peak ninth-grade Celestial Immortal, as vast and overwhelming as a mountain, making all the disciples of the Earth Fire Pavilion suffocate.

"Huo Fentian, this is the last chance."

The voice of the Deputy Hall Master of the Soul Fiend Sect was cold and hoarse, like sandpaper being rubbed. "Hand over the remnant soul of the

Earth Fire Ancestor and Kai, and the Earth Fire Pavilion's lineage can be preserved. Otherwise… not a single one will be spared."

Inside the protective array, Huo Fentian stood at the forefront, his crimson-gold robe stained with blood, some his own, some of his enemies'.

Behind him, more than a dozen Earth Fire Pavilion elders were all wounded, their auras weakened.

Further away in the plaza, fewer than a hundred disciples remained capable of fighting, most of them heavily injured.

The three-day siege had cost the Earth Fire Pavilion dearly.

Of its nearly a thousand disciples, less than one-tenth remained.

If it weren't for the protective array relying on the Heart of Earth Fire, possessing almost inexhaustible energy, it would have been breached long ago.

"Dream on!"

Huo Fentian's eyes were bloodshot, his voice hoarse yet resolute. "Our Earthly Fire Pavilion has stood for three thousand years, and has never had a traitor! Even if we fight to the last man, we will never bow down to you demons and heretics!"

"Stubborn to the end."

The Bone Demon Vice Hall Master shook his head, his tone tinged with regret, but his eyes were as cold as knives. "Since you insist on seeking death, then so be it."

He slowly raised his right hand, his five fingers spread, and gently clenched his fist towards the mountain-protecting formation.

"Bone Prison – Myriad Manifestations."

“Crack crack…”

The ground trembled violently, and countless white bone spikes burst forth from the earth, each as thick as a bucket and tens of feet long!

The bone spikes twisted and grew like living things, instantly covering every inch of land outside the mountain-protecting formation, forming a terrifying forest of bones!

Even more terrifying, these bone spikes began to frantically attack the mountain-protecting formation. They collided, pierced, and entangled, each attack causing the light shield to tremble violently, cracks spreading at a visible speed!

“Hold on! We must hold on!”

an elder roared, burning his life essence to inject immortal power into the core of the formation.

The other elders followed suit, and more than a dozen crimson rays shot into the sky, merging into the protective formation.

The light shield stabilized somewhat temporarily, but everyone knew that this was merely a temporary fix.

Burning their life essence was overdrawing their lives.

At this rate, all the elders would be exhausted within half an hour.

“It’s useless.”

The voice of the Soul Extinction Deputy Hall Master resounded directly in everyone’s minds, cold and eerie, “A trapped beast’s struggle will only increase its suffering. It’s better to give up resistance, and I can let you die a quicker death.”

Before he finished speaking, gray mist suddenly spread, transforming into countless fine threads that seeped in through the cracks in the protective formation!

“Ah…!”

Several disciples of the Earth Fire Pavilion were entangled by the gray threads, letting out a shrill scream.

Their bodies withered visibly, their life force rapidly drained, until they collapsed as dried corpses.

Their souls were dragged out by the gray threads and absorbed into the Soul Annihilation Deputy Hall Master, becoming part of his power.

“You beast!”

Huo Fentian’s eyes widened in fury as he slammed his palm down on the gray threads.

Crimson flames erupted, burning the gray threads into wisps of smoke.

But even more gray threads surged in from the cracks, impossible to defend against.

Despair, like a chilling tide, engulfed everyone’s hearts.

“It’s over…” A young disciple knelt on the ground, sobbing uncontrollably, “We’re all going to die here…”

“The protective formation can’t hold…”

Another elder wept bitterly, “Sect Master, please take the princess and escape! We’ll fight to the death to buy you time!”

Huo Fentian smiled bitterly: “Escape? Where to escape to? Since the Evil Path Hall has come out in full force, they won’t leave us any way out.”

He looked into the depths of the Earth Fire Pavilion, a complex look flashing in his eyes: “I only hope… Kai and Ling’er can escape this calamity.”

As soon as he finished speaking, a crisp cracking sound suddenly came from the center of the protective formation.

“Crack…!”

A huge crack spread from the top to the bottom, like shattered glass.

Then, a second, a third… cracks spread like a spider web!

The protective formation had broken!

“Kill!”

The eyes of the Po Sha Deputy Hall Master blazed with bloodlust, “Leave no one alive!”

“Kill!” Thousands of Evil Path Hall cultivators surged towards the Earth Fire Pavilion’s gate like a tidal wave.

Huo Fentian took a deep breath, his body engulfed in raging flames: “Disciples of the Earth Fire Pavilion, heed my command! Fight to the death!”

“Fight to the death!” The surviving disciples roared with tragic resolve, preparing for a final, desperate struggle.

Just then!

“Roar!!!”

A deafening dragon’s roar echoed from the depths of the Earth Fire Pavilion!

The roar was high-pitched, majestic, and sacred, containing an undeniable imperial pressure!

Chapter 5900

Wherever the sound passed, space trembled, and time seemed to stand still!

All the cultivators of the Evil Path Hall froze, as if they had been frozen in place.

Those cultivators rushing towards the mountain gate were struck as if by lightning, letting out a muffled groan as they were sent flying backward, blood flowing from their seven orifices.

The three vice hall masters' expressions changed simultaneously.

"What is that sound?" Vice Hall Master Bone Demon frowned.

"A dragon's roar... and an extremely pure dragon's roar!"

Vice Hall Master Soul Annihilation's voice was solemn, "How could there be a dragon in the Earth Fire Pavilion?"

Vice Hall Master Soul Fiend narrowed his eyes, looking in the direction from which the sound came: "No matter what it is, they must die today!"

Before he finished speaking, a golden stream of light shot out from the depths of the Earth Fire Pavilion!

The stream of light was extremely fast, instantly traversing dozens of miles and arriving in front of the mountain gate.

The golden light dissipated, revealing three figures.

The one in the lead wore a green robe, his black hair fluttering, his face handsome, and his eyes calm as still water.

He stood with his feet firmly planted in the void, hands clasped behind his back. Despite only possessing the cultivation of a peak second-grade Celestial Immortal, he exuded an aura of unfathomable depth.

To his left stood a three-headed, six-armed demonic cultivator, his demonic energy surging, each arm wielding a demonic weapon. His aura reached the peak of the seventh-grade Celestial Immortal—it was none other than the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord!

To his right stood a ten-zhang-tall, golden-red Qilin, its head held high, its four hooves treading on golden flames, its dragon-scale armor gleaming in the sunlight.

It roared to the sky, its dragon might awe-inspiring, its aura also clearly at the peak of the seventh-grade Celestial Immortal!

“Kai?!”

Huo Fentian was first stunned, then his expression changed drastically. “Why are you out here? Go back! This is not a place for you!”

He was frantic with worry.

Although Kai was exceptionally talented, he was still only at the peak of the second-grade Celestial Immortal.

Facing three vice-palace masters at the peak of the ninth-grade Celestial Immortal was like throwing an egg against a rock!

“The son-in-law has arrived!” The disciples of the Earth Fire Pavilion were initially delighted, but then fell into worry.

“Young master, run! Don’t worry about us!”

“Yes, young master, you and the princess should escape!”

Kai seemed not to hear, his gaze calmly sweeping over the army of the Evil Path Hall, finally settling on the three deputy hall masters.

“The three of you, did you ask me before coming to my Earth Fire Pavilion to cause trouble?”

He spoke calmly, his voice not loud, but clearly reaching everyone’s ears.

The entire place fell silent.

Everyone was stunned.

A moment later…

“Hahaha!”

The Bone Demon Vice Hall Master laughed loudly, his laughter full of mockery and disdain. “Boy, who are you? Peak second-grade Celestial Immortal? You dare to speak to us?”

He pointed at Kai as if watching a joke: “You think bringing a Qilin and a demonic cultivator can change anything? In my eyes, you’re nothing more than a slightly stronger ant.”

The Soul Fiend Vice Hall Master also sneered: “Huo Fentian, is this your Earth Fire Pavilion’s hope? A junior at the second-grade Celestial Immortal? How laughable.”

The Soul Extinction Vice Hall Master stared at Wangcai, his gray mist fluctuating violently: “A pure-blooded Qilin descendant… What a treasure! Boy, offer up this Qilin, and I can give you a quick death.” The army of the Evil Path Hall erupted in laughter.

“Second-grade Celestial Immortal? Is he here to die?”

“The Earth Fire Pavilion is truly desperate, sending out a mere second-grade junior to fill the ranks.”

“What a pity for that Qilin, it followed the wrong master.”

Facing the barrage of mockery, Kai remained unmoved, even a faint smile playing on his lips.

“Peak second-grade Celestial Immortal…”

he repeated softly, then raised his eyes, a golden glint flashing within them, “Enough to kill you all.”

“Arrogant!” the Vice Hall Master of the Soul Fiend Hall roared in fury, “Boy, since you’re courting death, I’ll grant your wish!”

He waved his hand: “Everyone, listen to my command, continue attacking the Earth Fire Pavilion! Leave this brat to me!”

Before his words even finished, the Vice Hall Master of the Soul Fiend Hall had already transformed into a blood-red afterimage, instantly traversing a thousand feet and appearing before Kai!

His speed was like teleportation!

“Soul Fiend Palm!”

A gigantic blood-red palm, obscuring the sky, materialized out of thin air, its palm lines clearly visible, each line formed from countless vengeful spirits!

A gigantic palm, carrying overwhelming spiritual energy, slammed down on Kai!

The Vice Hall Master of the Spiritual Fiend Sect used seventy percent of his strength in this strike.

In his view, seventy percent was more than enough to deal with a junior at the peak of the second rank of the Heavenly Immortal Realm.

The power of this palm strike was enough to instantly kill any cultivator below the eighth rank of the Heavenly Immortal Realm!

“Kai, be careful!” Huo

Fentian cried out in alarm, wanting to help, but he was locked in place by the Vice Hall Master of the Bone Demon Sect’s aura and couldn’t move.

The hearts of everyone in the Earth Fire Pavilion were in their throats; some female disciples even closed their eyes, unable to bear the sight of Kai being smashed into a bloody pulp.

The cultivators of the Evil Path Hall revealed cruel smiles, as if they could already see Kai’s gruesome death.

However, facing this world-destroying palm strike, Kai remained calm, not even… lifting an eyelid.

He slowly raised his right hand, his five fingers spread, and gently clenched his fist against the sky-covering, blood-red gigantic palm.

The movement was casual, as if he were catching a fly.

“Chaos Fire Domain,”

he uttered softly.

“Boom—!”

Centered on Kai, the space within a thousand feet suddenly distorted!

The hazy chaotic energy and the crimson-gold true flames of the earth intertwined and merged, transforming into a unique domain.

Within the domain, the laws of fire boiled, and chaotic energy permeated the air, as if it were a world of its own!

The blood-red giant palm slammed into the domain, its speed and power drastically reduced, like a giant beast stuck in mud, unable to move an inch!

Even more bizarrely, the vengeful spirits within the palm, upon contact with the chaotic energy and true flames of the earth, emitted shrill screams, melting away rapidly like ice and snow meeting the scorching sun!