Chapter 5901

“What?!”

The Vice Hall Master of the Soul Fiend Sect’s expression changed drastically.

He felt that his Soul Fiend Palm Force was rapidly decomposed, devoured, and annihilated after entering that domain!

That domain was like a bottomless pit, capable of devouring all energy!

“Break.”

Kai uttered a single word, his right hand clenching into a fist.

The movement remained casual, as if he were doing something insignificant.

“Bang…!”

The blood-red giant palm shattered violently, turning into a sky full of blood mist, which was completely devoured by the Chaos Fire Domain, without even causing a ripple.

The entire arena fell silent.

Everyone stared wide-eyed, unable to believe what they were seeing.

Huo Fentian’s mouth gaped open, speechless for a long time.

The disciples of the Earth Fire Pavilion were stunned, then erupted in deafening cheers!

“Young Master is mighty!”

“Young Master is too powerful!”

The cultivators of the Evil Path Hall looked at each other, their eyes filled with shock and confusion.

“How is this possible? The Vice Hall Master’s Soul-Slaying Palm… was broken?”

“What kind of domain is that? It can actually devour the power of the Soul-Slaying Palm?”

“This kid… is strange!”

The three Vice Hall Masters’ expressions all turned serious.

The Bone Demon Vice Hall Master narrowed his eyes: “No wonder the Hall Master wanted to capture him alive. This kid really has a big secret.”

The Soul Extinction Vice Hall Master stared intently at Kai’s Chaotic Fire Domain: “That domain… is not right. Chaos and flames are fused? This kind of power attribute is unheard of.”

The Soul-Slaying Vice Hall Master’s face was extremely ugly.

He originally thought that he could crush this little ant with a flick of his wrist, but it actually broke his Soul-Slaying Palm in public, which made him lose face.

“Kid… you have some skill.”

He gritted his teeth, “But I only used seventy percent of my strength just now. Next, you won’t be so lucky!”

He formed a hand seal, and the Soul-Slaying Qi around his body surged wildly, with dense blood-red runes appearing on the surface of his skin.

“Boundless Blood Sea!”

“Boom…!”

A monstrous blood sea appeared out of thin air, covering half of the sky!

Within the sea of blood, countless hideous ghostly faces emerged, emitting piercing shrieks, their power several times stronger than the previous Soul-Slaying Palm!

This was the signature move of the Soul-Slaying Deputy Hall Master, who had once used it to slaughter an entire city, turning millions of lives into nourishment for the sea of blood!

“Kai, be careful!”

Huo Fentian’s expression changed drastically. “This is his killing move!”

The hopes that had just risen among the members of the Earth Fire Pavilion were extinguished by this terrifying sea of blood.

Facing this world-destroying attack, Kai remained calm.

He even… yawned.

“That’s it?”

Two words, spoken lightly, were filled with disdain.

Before his words had even finished, he pointed his left hand like a sword, lightly touching the sweeping sea of blood.

The movement was casual, as if he were pointing at the world. “Earthfire True Flame – Burning Heaven!”

“Boom…!”

Within the chaotic fire domain, crimson-gold earthfire true flames soared into the sky, transforming into a hundred-zhang-long fire dragon!

The fire dragon's entire body was condensed from earthfire true flames, lifelike, with clearly visible scales and golden flames burning in its eyes.

It roared to the sky, its cry shaking the heavens, and then plunged into the blood-red ocean! The fire

dragon collided with the blood sea.

"Sizzle sizzle sizzle...!"

Like a red-hot iron rod piercing snow, wherever the earthfire true flames passed, the blood sea rapidly evaporated and vanished!

The myriad ghosts in the blood sea, upon touching the earthfire true flames, didn't even have time to scream before turning into wisps of smoke!

In just three breaths, the blood-red ocean that blotted out the sky was completely incinerated by the hundred-zhang-long fire dragon!

Not even a wisp of blood mist remained!

"This...this is impossible!" The Vice Hall Master of the Soul Fiend Palace was deathly pale, retreating repeatedly, his eyes filled with horror.

His strongest divine power had been so easily broken?

And by a mere junior at the peak of the second rank of the Heavenly Immortal Realm?

This completely overturned his understanding!

Kai retracted the fire dragon, stood with his hands behind his back, his white robes fluttering, spotless, as if he had just done something insignificant.

He looked at the three vice hall masters and said indifferently, “The three of you can come at me together, to save trouble.”

His tone was flat, as if he were saying, “The weather is nice today.”

“Arrogant!”

“Seeking death!”

“Boy, you’re too arrogant!”

The three vice hall masters were furious at the same time.

What were their identities?

Vice hall masters of the Evil Path Hall, peerless experts at the peak of the ninth rank of the Heavenly Immortal Realm!

They were usually figures who could walk sideways in the Twelfth Heaven, when had they ever been so looked down upon?

And by a junior at the peak of the second rank of the Heavenly Immortal Realm!

“Since you’re seeking death, then don’t blame us for ganging up on you!”

Vice Hall Master Bone Demon sneered, “Attack together, take him down!”

The three exchanged glances and attacked at the same time!

This time, they held nothing back, all using their full strength!

The Deputy Hall Master of the Soul Fiend unleashed the Boundless Blood Sea once more, but this time the blood sea was more solid, the ghostly face more ferocious, and its power was thirty percent stronger than before!

The blood sea almost covered the entire sky, completely blocking out the sunlight!

The Deputy Hall Master of the Bone Demon summoned a hundred-foot-long bone staff, the top of which was inlaid with a hideous skull, its eye sockets burning with eerie green ghostly flames.

He swung the staff, and thousands of bone spikes rained down on Kai! Each bone spike contained terrifying death energy, capable of corroding life force and dissolving the soul!

The Deputy Hall Master of the Soul Annihilation was the most bizarre; he transformed into a cloud of gray mist, from which countless pale hands emerged.

These hands formed complex hand seals, and invisible soul spikes materialized out of thin air, silently piercing towards Kai's sea of consciousness!

This was a vicious divine power specifically designed to attack the soul, impossible to defend against, and many ninth-grade Heavenly Immortal Realm experts had fallen victim to this move before!

The combined power of three peak ninth-grade Celestial Immortals was terrifying.

The entire sky was shrouded in blood-red, bone-white, and soul-gray hues. The terrifying pressure made it difficult for all the cultivators below to breathe, and those with weaker cultivation even vomited blood, collapsed, and fainted!

Chapter 5902

"Kai!" Huo Fentian was frantic, wanting to help, but he was entangled by the other experts of the Evil Path Hall and couldn't break free.

The members of the Earth Fire Pavilion were also sweating for Kai, their hearts in their throats.

Facing this world-destroying attack, Kai remained calm.

Even… a hint of excitement flashed in his eyes.

It was the excitement of seeing an opponent worthy of serious attention.

“Well done.”

He formed hand seals, his movements elegant and composed, as if playing a zither or painting.

“Chaotic Fire Domain – Heaven Opening!”

“Boom…!”

The Chaotic Fire Domain suddenly expanded, growing from a thousand feet in radius to three thousand feet!

Within the domain, chaotic energy and earth fire true flames intertwined wildly, evolving into earth, water, fire, and wind. The four basic elements collided and fused, as if to create heaven and earth, recreating chaos!

In an instant, the sun and moon shone brightly within the domain, stars twinkled, mountains rose and fell, rivers flowed—it was like a small world!

The sea of blood, bone thorns, and soul thorns that crashed into the domain were like mud oxen entering the sea, their power greatly reduced!

The sea of blood was decomposed by the chaotic energy and burned by the true flames of the earth;

bone spurs were eroded by the laws of water and scattered by the laws of wind;

soul spurs were assimilated by the chaotic energy and purified by the laws of fire!

The three great divine powers could not move an inch in the chaotic fire domain!

“Dragon Slayer – Army Breaker!”

Kai summoned the Dragon Slayer Sword and unleashed a single strike!

His movements remained casual, as if he were wielding a brush.

A hundred-foot sword aura tore through the heavens and earth, the golden-gray sword energy containing the power of chaos and the true flames of the earth, and a five-clawed golden dragon could be vaguely seen swimming on the sword, its roar shaking the heavens!

This sword strike, seemingly simple and unadorned, contained the power to create the world!

Wherever the sword aura passed, the sea of blood parted, bone spurs shattered, and soul spurs were annihilated!

One sword strike, breaking all laws!

“What?!”

The three vice hall masters’ expressions changed drastically, and they hurriedly dodged.

But the sword aura was too fast and too fierce, as if it had transcended the limitations of time and space!

“Pfft!”

The Soul Fiend Vice Hall Master couldn’t dodge in time and was grazed on the left arm by the sword energy, severing his entire arm at the root, blood gushing out like a fountain!

Even more terrifying, the residual chaotic energy and earth fire true flames at the wound were frantically corroding his body, making it impossible for him to stop the bleeding or for his limb to regenerate!

The Bone Demon Vice Hall Master's bone staff was struck by the sword energy, a deep crack appearing on the staff, almost breaking it!

He groaned, blood spilling from the corner of his mouth, his eyes filled with horror. This bone staff was his natal magic weapon, connected to his mind and soul; the damage to the staff caused him to suffer a backlash!

The Soul Extinction Vice Hall Master suffered the worst; his soul spike was annihilated by the sword energy, causing a backlash to his soul. He groaned, blood seeping from all seven orifices! The gray mist fluctuated violently, almost dissipating!

One sword, three wounded!

The entire arena fell silent again.

This time, not even a breath could be heard.

Everyone's mouths were agape, their eyes wide open, as if they had witnessed the most unbelievable thing in the world.

Huo Fentian stood there dumbfounded, his mind blank.

The disciples of the Earth Fire Pavilion were stunned at first, then burst into thunderous cheers, and many of them wept with joy! The cultivators of the Evil Path Hall were ashen-faced, their eyes filled with fear and bewilderment.

"How is this possible... to injure three vice-hall masters with a single sword strike?"

"What kind of monster is he?" "

Peak second-grade Celestial Immortal Realm... This is absolutely impossible!”

The three vice-hall masters were utterly horrified; they had never encountered such a bizarre situation.

A mere junior at the peak second-grade Celestial Immortal Realm had not only easily neutralized their full-force attacks but had also injured all three of them with a single sword strike?

This was completely beyond their comprehension!

“Boy... who exactly are you!”

Vice-hall Master Po Sha clutched his severed arm, his voice trembling.

Kai stood with his sword, a slight smile on his face, a gentle smile that sent chills down the spines of the three vice-hall masters.

“The one who killed you.”

His tone remained calm, yet it contained an undeniable authority.

Huo Fentian watched this scene, his drool practically dripping with envy.

Their Earth Fire Pavilion’s top-secret cultivation technique had actually been passed down to Kai by their ancestor.

He, the pavilion master, only knew a smattering of it, not the complete version.

Fortunately, Kai was their son-in-law; otherwise, the Earth Fire Pavilion might have had to change its name and identity.

“Go, son-in-law! Your father-in-law supports you!” Huo Fentian

roared excitedly.

“Go, son-in-law…”

“Go, son-in-law…”

“Go, son-in-law…”

The disciples of the Earth Fire Pavilion cheered loudly. At this moment, Kai was no longer just a son-in-law in their eyes; he was a savior!

The three deputy hall masters were now green-faced, utterly humiliated.

“Attack together! Don’t hold back!”

the Bone Demon deputy hall master roared, a resolute glint in his eyes. “Use that move!”

The three exchanged glances and nodded simultaneously.

They knew that in a one-on-one fight, none of them could defeat Kai. Only by joining forces and unleashing their strongest trump card could they have a chance of victory!

“With my essence blood, I offer sacrifice to the sea of blood!”

“With my bones, I forge hell!”

“With my soul, I guide the Yellow Springs!”

The three simultaneously burned their essence blood, sacrificed their bones, and stripped away their souls, unleashing their most powerful forbidden divine abilities!

“Soul Fiend – All Ghosts Pay Homage!”

The Soul Fiend Deputy Hall Master’s body exploded, transforming into a vast sea of blood.

Within the sea of blood, a hundred-foot-tall King of All Ghosts slowly rose! This Ghost King had three heads and six arms, a blue face and fangs, and six eyes burning with blood-red flames. His aura had reached the peak of the ninth rank of the Heavenly Immortal Realm, and even faintly touched the threshold of the Upper Immortal Realm!

“Bone Demon – White Bone Hell!”

The Bone Demon Deputy Hall Master’s body shattered inch by inch, each fragment of bone transforming into a towering bone pillar!

Chapter 5903

Hundreds of bone pillars plunged into the earth, forming a bone hell covering an area of ten miles!

Within this hell, deathly aura permeated the air, white bones stood starkly in the sky, and countless skeletons crawled out from the ground, making cracking sounds!

“Soul Annihilation – Guided by the Yellow Springs!”

The Vice Hall Master of Soul Annihilation transformed into a gray pillar of light, soaring straight into the sky and tearing open a spatial rift!

From within the rift, turbid and filthy waters of the Yellow Springs surged forth, corroding even space itself into black holes wherever they passed!

The waters of the Yellow Springs exuded a dense aura of death, as if they came from the deepest hell, capable of corroding all life and dissolving all souls!

With the three forbidden divine powers unleashed simultaneously, the heavens and earth changed color, and the sun and moon lost their light!

The entire area of the Earth Fire Pavilion, spanning a hundred miles, was shrouded in three colors: blood, bone white, and soul gray. The terrifying pressure caused the earth to crack, mountains to collapse, and rivers to flow backward!

Countless living beings trembled under this pressure, kneeling on the ground, unable to rise.

“Kai, be careful!” Huo

Fentian’s excitement vanished instantly upon seeing this, replaced by a hoarse shout, his eyes filled with despair.

Such an attack had already surpassed the realm of the Celestial Immortal, faintly touching the edge of the Upper Immortal realm!

Even a true First-Rank Upper Immortal would have to temporarily retreat, let alone Kai!

The members of the Earth Fire Pavilion were ashen-faced, their newly risen hope shattered once more.

The cultivators of the Evil Path Hall revealed cruel smiles, as if they could already see Kai being torn to shreds.

Facing this world-destroying attack, Kai took a deep breath, a hint of solemnity flashing in his eyes.

He knew he could no longer hold back.

“Since that’s the case… then I’ll let you witness my true strength.”

He raised the Dragon-Slaying Sword high, and the power of the Chaotic Immortal Power, the Golden Dragon Bloodline, and the Earth Fire True Scripture within him erupted simultaneously!

The three powers collided and fused wildly within him, ultimately transforming into a new power—chaotic and undefined, yet containing the power to create the world!

“Chaos, Golden Dragon, Earth Fire… the Three Absolutes Combined!”

“Slash!”

A hundred-foot-long sword aura reappeared, but this time, it was no longer golden-gray, but transformed into a hazy, chaotic gray!

Within the sword aura, a five-clawed golden dragon could be vaguely seen swimming, its roar shaking the heavens! The surface of the sword aura burned with crimson-gold earth fire true flames, incinerating everything!

This sword strike, fusing the power of chaos, the bloodline of the golden dragon, and the true flames of earth fire, was the strongest sword strike that Kai had comprehended after three hundred years of seclusion!

This sword strike contained the power to create the world!

With a single slash, the world lost its color!

Wherever the sword aura passed, space shattered, time stopped, and the laws retreated!

The King of Ten Thousand Ghosts let out a shrill scream, cleaved in two by the sword aura, turning into a rain of blood!

The White Bone Hell crumbled inch by inch, hundreds of bone pillars collapsed with a crash, and skeleton soldiers turned into bone dust!

The waters of the Yellow Springs evaporated completely, and the spatial rifts were forcibly closed, leaving not even a trace!

The three forbidden divine abilities shattered like bubbles!

“No...!”

The three vice-hall masters simultaneously let out desperate roars, their voices filled with resentment and fear.

The sword energy continued its relentless advance, slashing towards the three! “Pfft!” The sea of blood formed by the Soul Fiend Vice-Hall Master was evaporated by a single sword strike, leaving not a single drop of blood behind! ”

Pfft! ”

The bones of the Bone Demon Vice Hall Master were shredded to dust by the sword energy, scattering in the wind!

“Pfft!”

The soul of the Soul Annihilation Vice Hall Master was annihilated by the sword energy, leaving him no chance for reincarnation!

Three swords, three enemies slain!

The entire arena fell silent.

A pin drop could be heard.

Everyone stared blankly at the sky.

There, Kai stood, sword in hand, his white robes pristine and immaculate.

At his feet lay three clumps of ashes left by the three Vice Hall Masters after their dissipation.

Behind him lay the routed army of the Evil Path Hall.

Sunlight pierced the blood mist, illuminating him and casting a golden halo around him, making him appear like a god descending to earth.

After an unknown amount of time, a deafening cheer erupted from the Earth Fire Pavilion, the sound soaring to the heavens!

“Young Master is mighty!”

“Young Master is invincible!”

“Long live the Earth Fire Pavilion!”

The disciples wept with joy, embracing each other in celebration.

Tears streamed down Huo Fentian’s face as he bowed deeply to Kai: “Kai… no, son-in-law… the entire Earth Fire Pavilion owes you a life!”

Kai sheathed his Dragon-Slaying Sword, slowly descended to the ground, and helped Huo Fentian up: “Father-in-law, you flatter me. This is what I should do.”

He looked at the fleeing army of the Evil Path Hall and said calmly, “Wangcai, Senior Chiyun, clean up the battlefield.”

“Roar!”

Wangcai roared excitedly, transforming into a golden-red lightning bolt, chasing after the fleeing cultivators of the Evil Path Hall.

Demon Lord Chiyun also grinned maliciously, his three heads and six arms moving simultaneously as he charged into the enemy ranks, as if entering an empty field.

The disciples of the Earth Fire Pavilion were greatly encouraged and rushed out of the mountain gate to hunt down the remaining enemies.

Half an hour later, the battle ended.

The entire army of the Evil Path Hall was annihilated. Except for a few lucky ones who saw the opportunity quickly and escaped in advance, the rest were all killed.

Although the Earth Fire Pavilion suffered heavy losses, it ultimately preserved its heritage.

“Young Master, what’s next?”

Huo Fentian asked respectfully, his tone already treating Kai as the true backbone of the Earth Fire Pavilion.

Kai looked towards the forbidden area, a deep meaning flashing in his eyes.

“The Evil Path Hall won’t let this go easily. Next time, it might be Zhan E himself.”

“I must help the Ancestor rebuild his physical body as soon as possible. Only when the Ancestor recovers his full strength will we have the right to fight Zhan E.”

He paused, then looked at Huo Fentian: “Father-in-law, I’m entrusting the Earth Fire Pavilion to you. Strengthen the defenses, assess the losses, and treat the wounded. I need to go into seclusion for a while.”

“Yes!” Huo Fentian replied solemnly.

Kai turned and walked towards the forbidden area.

His blue robes fluttered, his back straight, like a spine supporting the heavens and earth.

Behind him was the Earth Fire Pavilion, surviving the calamity, and countless gazes filled with awe and gratitude.....

Chapter 5904

When Kai returned to the forbidden area, the lava pool was still churning and boiling, but its ancient and majestic aura was even more solid than before.

The Demon-Suppressing Tower floated in the air, its body emitting a soft gray light.

Huo Ling'er was guarding outside the tower, and upon seeing Kai return, she immediately went to greet him.

"Kai, are you alright?" Huo Ling'er looked Kai up and down, her eyes full of concern.

"It's nothing."

Kai smiled slightly and gently took her hand. "Just a few noisy flies."

Huo Ling'er breathed a sigh of relief, then her eyes flashed with admiration: "I've heard everything... You killed three peak ninth-grade Celestial Immortals with one sword! It's all over the place, people are saying you're a god descended to earth!"

Kai shook his head and chuckled: "It's not that exaggerated. By the way, how is Ancestor?"

Mentioning Ancestor Earthfire, Huo Ling'er's expression became solemn: "Ancestor's soul has been refined to its limit, and the reshaping of his physical body is at the most crucial moment. He said... it will take at most seven more days."

"Seven days..."

Kai nodded, "There's enough time."

He looked at the Demon Suppression Tower and called out, "Ancestor, I'm back."

The tower trembled slightly, and Ancestor Earthfire's voice came from within: "Come in, little one."

Kai stepped into the Demon Suppression Tower and entered the inner space.

Ancestor Earthfire's soul was now almost indistinguishable from a real person, with white hair and beard, and a kind face, only his body appeared slightly illusory.

He sat cross-legged in the center of a magic array made of various rare and precious materials. The array slowly rotated, extracting the essence of the materials and integrating it into his soul.

"Little fellow, I sensed the commotion outside."

The Earth Fire Ancestor opened his eyes, a hint of appreciation flashing in his golden flame-like pupils. "One sword slays three enemies, not bad, not bad."

Kai sat cross-legged opposite the Ancestor: "Those three deputy hall masters are nothing special. Even if the Hall Master of the Evil Path Hall came personally, I would still have a fighting chance."

His tone was calm, yet it contained absolute confidence.

The Earthfire Ancestor shook his head: "It's good for young people to be confident, but we must not underestimate the Evil Path Palace."

He paused, his expression becoming solemn: "Do you think killing three deputy palace masters has severely damaged the Evil Path Palace? You're too naive."

Kai frowned slightly: "What the Ancestor means is…" "

The true terror of the Evil Path Palace lies not in how many peak ninth-grade Heavenly Immortals they have,"

the Earthfire Ancestor said slowly, "but in… their control of a supreme treasure… the Gate of Reincarnation."

"The Gate of Reincarnation?" Kai heard this name for the first time.

“It’s a gateway to the Land of Reincarnation.” The Earthfire Ancestor spoke in a deep voice, “Legend has it that the Land of Reincarnation is the final resting place of all things after death, and the souls of all living beings will eventually return to reincarnation. And the Gate of Reincarnation… can forcibly open a passage to the Land of Reincarnation.”

Kai was startled: “It can open the Land of Reincarnation? Doesn’t that mean it can… resurrect the dead?”

“In a sense, yes.”

The Earthfire Ancestor nodded, “But it comes at a huge price. And the person resurrected may not be the same person as before.”

He looked at Kai, his eyes deep: “Do you know why the Evil Path Hall has been slaughtering living beings and collecting souls all these years?”

Some clues flashed through Kai’s mind, and his expression changed slightly: “They are using the souls of the dead… to nourish the Gate of Reincarnation?”

“That’s right.”

The Earthfire Ancestor sneered, “For every 100,000 souls, the Gate of Reincarnation can be opened once, summoning a dead person back from the Land of Reincarnation. And the person summoned back will become a puppet of the Gate of Reincarnation, controlled by it for eternity.”

“So…”

Kai said in a deep voice, “Those three deputy hall masters were very likely already dead? Resurrected by the Evil Path Hall through the Gate of Reincarnation?”

“Very likely.”

Ancestor Earthfire nodded. “That’s why the Evil Path Hall’s experts seem inexhaustible. You killed those three deputy hall masters today, and as long as Zhan E is willing to pay the price, he can quickly resurrect them through the Gate of Reincarnation.”

Kai gasped.

If that were true, then the Evil Path Hall would be virtually invincible!

An unkillable enemy is the most terrifying.

“Moreover…”

Ancestor Earthfire’s voice became even more solemn, “I suspect that the Evil Path Hall itself… is a puppet.”

“What?” Kai’s pupils shrank.

“The world that the Gate of Reincarnation leads to is said to be inhabited by some ancient and powerful beings,”

the Earth Fire Ancestor slowly said. “They may be dead, or they may exist in another form. But they are unwilling to remain forever in the Land of Reincarnation, so… they need puppets, they need someone to collect the souls of the dead for them, to nourish the Gate of Reincarnation, and to maintain their existence.”

“The Evil Path Hall is very likely a puppet of these beings. And Zhan E… is merely a slightly more advanced tool.”

Kai fell silent.

This news was far too shocking, far exceeding his expectations.

He had originally thought the Evil Path Hall was just a powerful evil organization.

He never imagined that such an astonishing secret was hidden behind it.

“Moreover, he possesses the Golden Dragon bloodline and the Earth Fire Ancestor’s ‘Earth Fire True Scripture,’ his combat power far surpasses his cultivation…”

“Enough!”

Zhan E interrupted them. “Failure is failure; there’s no need for excuses.”

He looked towards the Gate of Reincarnation, a hint of apprehension flashing in his eyes: “That Kai… must be captured alive. Perhaps by sacrificing Kai, we can break free from the Gate of Reincarnation’s shackles and attain eternal life.”

Chapter 5905

“How did you know all this, Ancestor?” Kai asked.

A flash of recollection crossed the Earthfire Ancestor’s eyes: “Many years ago, I explored the deepest part of the Earth’s Core Demon Abyss. There… I saw things I shouldn’t have seen.”

“It was an ancient ruin, the walls covered with inscriptions about the Gate of Reincarnation.”

The Earthfire Ancestor’s voice trembled slightly: “At that moment, I felt an unprecedented fear. It wasn’t fear of death, but fear of some existence beyond comprehension.”

“I forcibly erased the inscriptions, because these things would cause chaos in people’s hearts, but who knew that as soon as I erased them, I was attacked by the Earth’s Core Demon Flame.” ”

In that battle… my physical body collapsed, my soul was severely injured, and only a wisp of my soul escaped back.”

Kai listened, his heart pounding.

The Gate of Reincarnation?

The mastermind behind the Evil Path Hall?

This was completely beyond his comprehension.

“So…”

Kai took a deep breath, “our real enemy isn’t the Evil Path Hall, but… the being behind the Gate of Reincarnation?”

“You could say that,”

the Earthfire Ancestor nodded. “But to deal with those beings, we must first destroy the Evil Path Hall and the Gate of Reincarnation. Otherwise, they can endlessly resurrect powerful beings, and we’ll never be able to kill them all.”

A determined glint flashed in Kai’s eyes: “In that case, let’s destroy the Evil Path Hall first, then destroy the Gate of Reincarnation!”

“Ambition,”

the Earthfire Ancestor praised. “But with our current strength, we are far from sufficient. The being behind the Gate of Reincarnation may have already surpassed the Upper Immortal Realm, reaching the True Immortal level or even higher.”

“True Immortal…” Kai murmured.

That was a legendary realm; there might not even be one in the entire Twelve Heavens.

“Therefore, the most urgent task is to help me rebuild my physical body as soon as possible,”

said the Earthfire Ancestor. “In my prime, I touched the threshold of the third rank of the Upper Immortal Realm. If I can recover, it will at least buy you some time.”

“I understand

,” Kai said solemnly. “What does Ancestor need me to do?”

“Continue to use the Demon Suppression Tower to help me condense my soul body, and at the same time…”

A glint flashed in the Earthfire Ancestor’s eyes, “I will pass on to you the ninth level of the ‘Earthfire True Scripture’—’Earthfire Burning Heaven Technique’.”

“This technique was created by me when I touched the threshold of the Upper Immortal Realm. Its power is boundless. If you can master it, you will at least have a fighting chance against Zhan E.”

Kai’s eyes lit up: “Thank you, Ancestor!”

“No need to thank me

,” the Earthfire Ancestor waved his hand. “You and I are now in the same boat. The stronger you are, the greater our chance of survival.”

He paused, then suddenly sensed something, and his expression changed slightly: “Not good…”

“What is it?” Kai asked.

“The Gate of Reincarnation… has been opened,”

the Earth Fire Ancestor said in a deep voice. “And… it’s quite large. That Zhan E seems to be truly enraged.”

…

Meanwhile, in the Twelfth Heaven, at the headquarters of the Evil Path Palace.

The sea of blood churned, and vengeful spirits wailed.

Zhan E stood in the center of the sea of blood, staring blankly ahead.

Before him stood a pitch-black stone gate hundreds of feet high.

The gate was ancient in style, its doors tightly shut, its surface covered with twisted runes. Those runes writhed like living things, emanating a chilling aura.

This was the Gate of Reincarnation.

At this moment, kneeling before the Gate of Reincarnation were 100,000 controlled souls. They came from various sects, young and old, men and women, all with ashen faces and eyes filled with despair.

These were all recently collected by the Evil Path Hall, and now they were all brought here as sacrifices to open the Gate of Reincarnation.

Originally, as long as these cultivators' souls remained, they were not truly dead and still had a chance to reshape their physical bodies. Even if they couldn't reshape their bodies, they could still possess another's body!

But now, they had all been captured, and no one knew what they were to be done with!

"Begin," Zhan E said calmly.

"Yes!" A black-robed elder responded, waving his bone staff.

"Sacrifice...!"

The souls of 100,000 cultivators simultaneously let out a shrill scream. Their souls slowly disappeared at a visible speed, their soul power

forcibly extracted, turning into 100,000 streams of blood-red light, and poured into the Gate of Reincarnation!

“Boom…!”

The Gate of Reincarnation trembled violently, and the door slowly opened a crack.

Within the crack was endless darkness. In the darkness, countless twisted figures could be vaguely seen struggling and wailing.

Those were the souls of the dead from the Land of Reincarnation, never to be reborn.

“With the sacrifice of ten thousand souls, we respectfully welcome the three Vice Hall Masters…back!”

Zhan E formed hand seals and chanted ancient incantations.

The incantation, like a summons from the deepest hell, pierced through the gates of reincarnation and entered the endless darkness.

A moment later, three illusory figures floated out from the crack in the gate.

It was none other than the three Vice Hall Masters: Po Sha, Gu Mo, and Hun Mie!

However, their current state was extremely strange.

Their bodies were semi-transparent, like ghosts, their eyes empty and devoid of any spirit.

“Why haven’t you returned yet!”

Zhan E shouted fiercely, biting his tongue and spitting out three mouthfuls of blood essence.

The blood essence transformed into three beams of blood light, shooting into the bodies of the three Vice Hall Masters.

“Buzz…!”

The three bodies quickly solidified, and their eyes gradually regained their clarity.

A few breaths later, the three opened their eyes simultaneously.

“Hall Master…”

Vice Hall Master Po Sha spoke first, his voice hoarse, “We…have returned.”

Vice Hall Masters Gu Mo and Hun Mie also regained consciousness one after another. The three looked at each other, seeing the lingering fear and relief in each other’s eyes.

They were indeed dead; their souls had been completely annihilated by Kai’s sword.

However, because their soul imprints remained within the Gate of Reincarnation, they could be summoned back.

But… this resurrection came at a price.

The three were noticeably weaker than before, especially the Soul Extinction Deputy Hall Master, whose very presence was blurred, as if he might vanish at any moment.

“Useless,”

Zhan E coldly stared at the three. “Three peak ninth-grade Heavenly Immortals killed by a mere second-grade Heavenly Immortal junior, and you still have the nerve to come back?”

The three immediately knelt: “Hall Master, please forgive us! That Kai… is truly bizarre! His power attributes are unlike anything we’ve ever seen before; it seems to be able to counteract all evil techniques!”

“Moreover, he possesses the Golden Dragon bloodline and the Earth Fire Ancestor’s ‘Earth Fire True Scripture,’ his combat power far surpasses his cultivation…”

“Enough!”

Zhan E interrupted them. “Failure is failure; there’s no need for excuses.”

He looked towards the Gate of Reincarnation, a hint of apprehension flashing in his eyes: “That Kai… must be captured alive. Perhaps by sacrificing Kai, we can break free from the Gate of Reincarnation’s shackles and attain eternal life.”

Chapter 5906

The three deputy hall masters were all stunned: “What does the hall master mean…?”

“Don’t you find it strange?”

Zhan E said slowly, “The power of chaos, the bloodline of the golden dragon, the true scripture of earth fire… these three powers correspond to three different supreme laws, and Kai can fuse all of them.”

“If we sacrifice Kai, perhaps the one inside the gate of reincarnation will achieve immortality, and then we can achieve immortality together.”

“What?” The three were shocked.

Fanaticism flashed in their eyes at the same time.

Immortality!

This is the realm that all cultivators dream of!

“Pass down the order,”

Zhan E said in a deep voice, “Don’t go to the eleventh heaven for the time being. Kai will come to us on his own!”

“Immediately order everyone in the Evil Path Hall to speed up the collection of divine souls. I want to revive all the Heavenly Venerables and Ancestors of the Evil Path Hall!”

“Yes!” the three responded in unison.

Zhan E looked at the gate of reincarnation, a complicated look flashing in his eyes.

What exactly is the one behind the gate…?

Can he really grant immortality?

Or is this so-called immortality just another form of imprisonment?

He didn’t know.

But he had no way out.

From the moment he first opened the Gate of Reincarnation and made a deal with that person, he had embarked on a path of no return.

Either succeed and gain eternal life,

or fail and be annihilated.

There was no third way.

…

The forbidden area of the Earthfire Pavilion.

Kai suddenly opened his eyes, a flicker of fear crossing them.

“What’s wrong?” Huo Ling’er asked with concern.

“Nothing.”

Kai shook his head, suppressing his unease, “Just a bad feeling.”

He looked at the Demon Suppression Tower: “Ancestor, when the Gate of Reincarnation opens… will there be any signs?”

The voice of the Earthfire Ancestor came from the tower: “When the Gate of Reincarnation opens, all living beings within a radius of ten thousand miles will feel fear and unease, as if something terrible is about to happen.”

“Moreover… those who are resurrected will carry the aura of reincarnation. That aura has a natural suppressive effect on living beings.”

Kai’s heart stirred.

That momentary fear just now… could it be a sign that the Gate of Reincarnation had opened?

Those three vice hall masters… were they really “resurrected”?

“Ancestor, how much time do we have?” Kai asked in a deep voice.

“Three days at most,”

said the Earth Fire Ancestor. “After three days, my physical body will be complete. At that time, my strength will be restored to the first rank of the Upper Immortal Realm. Although it won’t be as strong as in my prime, it should be enough to hold off Zhan E.”

“Three days…” Kai took a deep breath. “Then three days it is.”

He looked at Huo Ling'er: "Ling'er, in these three days, I will do my best to help the Ancestor rebuild his physical body. The defense of the Earth Fire Pavilion is entrusted to you and your father-in-law." Huo Ling'er

nodded heavily: "Don't worry, we will guard it."

Kai then looked at the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord: "Senior, please protect me. In these three days, no one can disturb us."

"Don't worry, kid," the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord grinned. "With me here, not even a fly can get in."

Kai nodded, said no more, and stepped into the Demon Suppression Tower. Time flows a hundred times faster inside the tower; three days outside is equivalent to three hundred days inside. In

these three hundred days, he must master the ninth level of the *Earthfire True Scripture* and simultaneously help the Ancestor rebuild his physical body.

Time is of the essence, and there is no time to lose.

During these three days, Kai's strength broke through to the third rank of the Heavenly Immortal Realm, and the Earthfire Ancestor's physical body was fully restored.

Seeing Kai and the Earthfire Ancestor emerge from the Demon-Suppressing Tower, everyone was overjoyed!

Especially Huo Ling'er; now that the Earthfire Pavilion has the Ancestor in charge, they are virtually invincible in the eleventh heaven.

Kai put away the Demon-Suppressing Tower, and the group left the forbidden area for the Earthfire Pavilion!

Huo Fentian was also recuperating with everyone.

The battle with the Evil Path Hall had caused significant losses to the Earthfire Pavilion.

“Ancestor, you…you’ve really recovered?”

Seeing the Earthfire Ancestor, Huo Fentian excitedly rushed forward, about to hug him.

However, the Earthfire Ancestor blew on him, and Huo Fentian’s movements instantly stopped.

“We’re all men, if you’re excited, just be excited, no need for all this hugging and kissing,”

said the Earthfire Ancestor calmly.

Huo Fentian was somewhat embarrassed, but also shocked by the ancestor’s strength.

He himself was at the peak of the ninth rank of the Heavenly Immortal Realm, yet the ancestor had stopped him in his tracks with a single breath.

It seemed the gap between the Heavenly Immortal Realm and the Upper Immortal Realm, even by a single major realm, was still quite significant.

“Father-in-law, have you heard anything from the Evil Path Hall these past few days?”

Kai asked.

“The Evil Path Hall has summoned all its disciples from the Eleventh Heaven back to the Twelfth Heaven these past few days, ” Huo Fentian said.

“What’s the Evil Path Hall up to? ” Kai frowned. ”Perhaps they’re waiting for you to go to the Twelfth Heaven before dealing with you!” Huo Fentian analyzed. Kai nodded; that was quite possible! ”Boy, where are

you going next? Directly to the Twelfth Heaven? I can go with you!” said the Earthfire Ancestor. Kai shook his head: “Ancestor, I need to get the Earth Core Jade Marrow Milk first, and then I need to find someone.” ”Who?” the Earthfire Ancestor asked. “Soul Devourer, I chased this guy all the way from the Ninth Heaven to here,” Kai said. “Soul Devourer?” Earthfire Ancestor frowned slightly: “This demon actually came all the way to the Eleventh Heaven?” “It seems like we haven’t heard from him for ten thousand years. I didn’t expect him to still be alive.” Kai recounted to Earthfire Ancestor how Soul Devourer had been suppressed, leaving only a wisp of his soul, and had survived for ten thousand years. The Earthfire Ancestor nodded slightly: “This demon is truly lucky, but he’ll likely have nowhere to stay in the Eleventh Heaven. It shouldn’t be too difficult to find him.” ”However, don’t let him escape to the Twelfth Heaven. If he allies with the Evil Path Palace, it will be troublesome.” ”I understand. If I encounter him again, I will definitely kill him!” Kai nodded. “Please tell me the location of the Earth Core Jade Marrow Milk, Ancestor.” “I do know the location of the Earth Core Jade Marrow Milk,” the Earthfire Ancestor slowly said. “It’s in the Lava Heart at the deepest part of the Earth Core Demon Abyss. But it’s fraught with danger there; even in my prime, I wouldn’t dare venture deep in.” Kai’s expression was resolute: “No matter how dangerous, I will go. Senior Crimson Cloud’s woman needs this to save her life; this is a promise I made to him.” Upon hearing this, a trace of gratitude flashed in Crimson Cloud Demon Lord’s eyes.

Chapter 5907

“Good, loyal and righteous, truly worthy of being the son-in-law of my Earthfire Pavilion.”

The Earthfire Ancestor nodded approvingly. “Ling’er, you should go with Kai. After all these years of cultivation in the pavilion, it’s time to go out and gain some experience.”

“Yes, Ancestor!” Huo Ling’er’s eyes lit up, and she replied excitedly.

“Fen Tian,”

the Earthfire Ancestor then looked at Huo Fen Tian, ”send people to find the whereabouts of that Soul Devourer. Although he is a remnant soul, he is still a demon from ten thousand years ago and should not be underestimated.”

“Disciple understands,” Huo Fen Tian replied respectfully.

“Furthermore,” the Earthfire Ancestor pondered for a moment, “mobilize all of Earthfire Pavilion’s intelligence networks and closely monitor the movements of the Evil Path Hall. Their sudden withdrawal to the Twelfth Heaven must be for a purpose.”

“Yes!”

After making the arrangements, the Earthfire Ancestor took out a crimson jade slip and handed it to Kai: “This is a map of the Earth Core Demon Abyss, as well as the exact location of the Lava Heart. Some dangerous areas and precautions are marked on it; study it carefully.” Chen

Ping took the jade slip, probed it with his divine sense, and immediately a large amount of information flooded into his mind.

The Earth Core Demon Abyss is located in the far south of the Flame Domain, a bottomless, enormous fissure.

Beneath the fissure lies churning magma and terrifying Earth Core Demon Flames.

The deeper one goes, the higher the temperature and the greater the pressure, and various ferocious beasts adapted to this environment appear.

The Lava Heart, located at the very bottom of the Demon Abyss, is a lava lake with a diameter of a hundred feet.

In the center of the lake is a piece of ten-thousand-year-old cold jade, upon which the Earth Core Jade Marrow Milk is condensed.

“Earth Core Demon Flame…”

Kai frowned slightly. “That’s something even Upper Immortal Realm experts fear.”

“Indeed.”

Earth Fire Ancestor nodded. “Earth Core Demon Flame has an extremely high temperature and contains Earth Core Poison Fire, which can erode immortal power and corrode the soul. However… you have Chaos Immortal Power and Golden Dragon Bloodline, so you should be able to withstand it to some extent. In addition, with the control over flames from the ‘Earth Fire True Scripture,’ you might have a chance.”

“I understand.”

Kai put away the jade slip. “Let’s not delay, let’s set off now.”

“Wait.”

Earth Fire Ancestor called out to him, taking out a crimson-gold token. “This is the Earth Fire Token of the Earth Fire Pavilion. With this token, you can mobilize all the resources of the Earth Fire Pavilion in the Flame Domain. If you encounter danger, you can also use this token to ask nearby forces for help.”

Kai took the token and carefully put it away: “Thank you, Ancestor.”

“Go, and come back soon.” Earth Fire Ancestor waved his hand.

Kai, Huo Ling’er, and Crimson Cloud Demon Lord left the Earth Fire Pavilion and headed south.

…

Three days later, at the edge of the Earth Core Demon Abyss.

Standing at the edge of the Abyss and looking down, one could see a colossal fissure, a thousand feet wide and bottomless, stretching across the earth.

Within the fissure, crimson magma flowed slowly, emitting terrifying heat and a pungent sulfurous odor.

Deeper still, dark red demonic flames could be faintly seen churning, unlike ordinary flames, radiating a chillingly malevolent aura.

“Such terrifying temperature…”

Huo Ling’er wiped the sweat from her brow. “The temperature here is even higher than the Heart of the Earth’s Fire.”

The Crimson Cloud Demon Lord also frowned, saying, “The Earth’s Core Demonic Flame… truly an extremely evil substance. Even my demonic arts are becoming restless.”Kai unfolded the map given to him by the Earth Fire Ancestor and studied it carefully: “According to the map, the Demon Abyss is divided into three layers. The outer layer has a lower temperature and only some low-level fire beasts; the

middle layer has a higher temperature and fire beasts at the Celestial Immortal level appear;

the deep layer is the real danger zone, with not only the Earth Core Demon Flame but also various strange traps and formations.”

He pointed to a red dot on the map: “Our destination is here, the Heart of Lava. We need to pass through the outer and middle layers, enter the deep layer, and then find this hidden passage.”

“Then let’s set off,” said the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord.

The three of them leaped into the Demon Abyss.

As soon as they entered, the terrifying high temperature hit them.

Kai circulated his Chaos Immortal Power, forming a layer of grayish protective shield on his body to insulate against the high temperature.

Huo Ling'er also used the "Earth Fire True Scripture," and a crimson flame shield enveloped her.

The Crimson Cloud Demon Lord's demonic energy surged, forming a black shield.

The three of them slowly descended.

Although the temperature of the outer layer of the Demon Abyss was high, it was still bearable for the three of them.

Occasionally, some low-level fire beasts would attack, but they were easily dealt with.

Half a day later, the three arrived at the middle level.

The temperature here suddenly rose, and the color of the magma changed from crimson to dark red.

The air was filled with a dense fire poison; inhaling too much would damage one's meridians.

"Be careful, something's coming!" Kai suddenly exclaimed.

No sooner had he spoken than three enormous creatures suddenly leaped out of the magma ahead!

They were three lizard-like monsters with wings, their bodies covered in crimson scales, spewing dark red flames from their mouths.

Each one possessed the aura of a fifth-grade Celestial Immortal!

"Crimson Flame Flying Lizards!" Huo Ling'er exclaimed, "They are social beasts, usually appearing in groups of dozens or even hundreds!"

Sure enough, as these three Crimson Flame Flying Lizards appeared, dozens more emerged from the surrounding magma, completely surrounding the three.

“Roar—!”

The lead Crimson Flame Flying Lizard let out a piercing screech, and all the lizards simultaneously spewed flames!

Dozens of dark red flames intertwined to form a large net, enveloping the three!

“Ling’er, protect yourself. Senior Chiyun, let’s finish this quickly,” Kai said calmly.

Before his words even finished, the Dragon Slayer Sword was already drawn.

“Dragon Slayer – Breaking Army!”

A golden-gray sword aura swept across, tearing a gap in the fiery net. Kai moved with the sword, instantly appearing in front of a Crimson Flame Flying Lizard, and slashed down with his sword!

“Pfft!”

The flying lizard’s head rolled off, and its massive body plunged into the lava.

The Crimson Cloud Demon Lord was not to be outdone; with three heads and six arms moving simultaneously, six demonic weapons were unleashed at the same time, instantly smashing two flying lizards into a bloody pulp.

Chapter 5908

Huo Ling’er formed hand seals, unleashing the fire control technique from the *Earth Fire True Scripture*. Crimson-gold earth fire flames condensed in her palms, transforming into dozens of fire snakes that coiled around the surrounding flying lizards.

Earth fire flames were far superior to ordinary flames; the flames spewed by the flying lizards, upon touching them, retreated like subjects before a king. The fire snakes seized the opportunity to burrow into the flying lizards’ bodies, burning them from the inside.

In a short time, dozens of crimson flame flying lizards were wiped out.

“Not bad, Ling’er’s earth fire flames are becoming increasingly refined,” Kai praised.

Huo Ling’er’s pretty face flushed slightly: “I’m still far behind you, Kai.”

“Let’s continue,” said the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord.

The three continued their descent.

Deep within the middle layer of the Earth’s Core Demon Abyss, the temperature had risen to an alarming level.

The surrounding rock walls were no longer simply dark red, but exhibited a near-molten, translucent state, like the slow writhing of a giant beast’s internal organs.

The air was thick with the stench of sulfur, almost tangible, making each breath feel like swallowing flames.

A faint, lingering smell of decay further unsettled the senses, as if countless eyes were watching from the shadows.

Kai and his companions had just dealt with the seventh wave of fire-poison spiders.

Each spider was the size of a millstone, entirely crimson, its carapace covered in eerie black patterns.

The silk they spit was not only incredibly tough but also contained potent fire poison; once touched, one's immortal power would be rapidly eroded.

Even Kai had struggled to remove them all.

Now, the three rested briefly on a relatively flat, black platform formed from cooled lava.

Huo Ling'er sat cross-legged, took out a cool, blue pill, and swallowed it, her pale complexion improving slightly.

She wiped the beads of sweat constantly seeping from her forehead; the sweat almost evaporated in the intense heat.

"Kai, ever since just now, I've felt... like something is watching us."

"That feeling... is sticky and very uncomfortable,"

Huo Ling'er said.

The Crimson Cloud Demon Lord didn't sit down, but instead warily surveyed his surroundings, his three pairs of eyes scanning every corner that might harbor danger.

His heavy demonic body seemed somewhat sluggish under the intense heat. Hearing this, he nodded, his voice low and deep: "I feel the same way."

"And this aura... I feel like I've encountered it somewhere before, cold and greedy, like a venomous snake lurking in the shadows."

Kai remained silent.

He stood at the edge of the platform, looking down at the churning, dark red river of lava below, his brow furrowed.

After breaking through to the third rank of the Celestial Immortal Realm, his divine sense underwent a qualitative change. Not only could it cover a wider area, but his perception of energy and aura had also become more acute and refined.

At this moment, he quietly circulated his Chaotic Immortal Power, his divine sense spreading outwards in all directions like countless invisible tentacles,

penetrating every inch of the rock wall, every crack, sensing the subtle fluctuations obscured by the high temperature and chaotic energy.

The roar of flowing magma, the subtle cracking sounds of rocks expanding under intense heat, the occasional howls of unknown beasts emanating from the depths...

he filtered and analyzed countless sounds and energy fluctuations.

Suddenly, his divine sense detected something unusual.

About three hundred feet to his left, behind a seemingly ordinary rock wall, an extremely subtle yet immense and chilling energy was slowly awakening.

He was very familiar with the nature of that energy; it carried a hatred and greed that originated from the depths of his soul. “There really is something...” Kai suddenly opened his eyes.

A sharp, razor-sharp glint flashed in his deep eyes, as if it could pierce through thick layers of rock.

“And...it’s an old acquaintance of ours.”

As soon as he finished speaking, as if to confirm his words,

“Crack…crack crack…”

The rock wall he had locked onto with his divine sense suddenly emitted a strange sound.

The originally hard, dark red rock covered with melting marks now seemed to have come alive, unnaturally writhing and undulating!

The patterns on the rock surface twisted and rearranged, the color deepened, and the outline of facial features quickly appeared.

In a few breaths, a huge, twisted, and ferocious human face grew on the rock wall!

The face almost occupied half of the cliff, with two bottomless black holes in its eye sockets.

At this moment, two eerie green flames suddenly ignited, leaping and flickering like will-o’-the-wisps.

The corners of its mouth stretched into an exaggeratedly eerie arc, revealing jagged teeth, also made of rock.

It was the iconic face of the Soul Devourer!

“Hehehe…”

A piercing laugh, like the scraping of rusty iron or countless sandpaper scraping against one’s ears, emanated from the gigantic maw.

The laughter echoed in the narrow abyss, adding to its sinister and terrifying atmosphere.

“Kai… truly, life is full of unexpected encounters.”

“I didn’t expect to meet you again so soon.”

“It seems even the Heavenly Dao is favoring me, ready to deliver this great gift to my lips.”

Huo Ling’er and the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord instantly felt their hair stand on end, immediately shifting from a state of rest to high alert.

Huo Ling’er drew her crimson longsword, its blade igniting with scorching earth fire.

The Crimson Cloud Demon Lord roared, his demonic body expanding, his ferocious three-headed, six-armed form reappearing.

The demonic weapons in his six hands hummed, demonic energy surging.

Only Kai remained standing, not even drawing his sword.

He merely tilted his head slightly, calmly gazing at the enormous ghostly face on the rock wall with a scrutinizing, even slightly mocking, look.

His gaze didn’t seem to be looking at a demon lord who had struck fear into the hearts of ten thousand years ago, but rather at a mediocre actor’s performance.

“Soul Devourer,” Kai spoke, his voice low but clearly piercing through the grating laughter.

It carried an icy chill: “Your life is indeed a few degrees tougher than a cockroach’s.”

“You fled from the Ninth Heaven like a stray dog to the Tenth Heaven, and then fled here in a panic.”

“What, this hellish place of the Earth’s Core Demon Abyss, where the sun never shines, only lava and poisonous fire, is quite fitting for your status as a ten-thousand-year-old wandering ghost?”

“It seems your taste, like your appearance, is utterly unappealing.”

Chapter 5910

“You little beast…you’ve utterly enraged me!” The Soul Devourer’s eerie green eyes practically spit fire.

His reason was almost completely consumed by rage.

He had never seen such a reckless and provocative opponent!

Before his words even finished, his six wings flapped violently, and his figure vanished from his spot in an instant!

Not a high-speed movement, but near teleportation!

His initial mastery of spatial laws at the Immortal Realm allowed him to almost ignore the distance between them.

A flash of black and red light, and the Soul Devourer’s massive body, covered in ferocious scales, appeared less than three feet in front of Kai!

This distance, for cultivators of their level, was practically face-to-face!

“Soul Devouring Claw!”

A claw larger than Kai tore through the air, accompanied by a sharp, ghostly howl, aimed directly at Kai’s face! Even

before the claw arrived, the dense aura of death and the corrosive power of the soul already assaulted him.

It seemed intent on tearing apart his life force and soul!

The black and red demonic light swirling around the claw tip subtly distorted the surrounding space.

This was a full-force claw strike from a first-grade Upper Immortal

, unleashed in fury! Its power was enough to instantly kill any peak Heavenly Immortal cultivator, scattering their soul!

“Kai!” Huo Ling’er’s heart leaped into her throat, and she cried out in alarm.

However, Kai’s reaction once again exceeded everyone’s expectations.

He didn’t panic, didn’t dodge, and didn’t even make any defensive stance.

He simply stood there quietly, watching the demonic claw, powerful enough to split mountains and shatter rocks, rapidly enlarge in his pupils.

Then, just as the claw was about to touch his nose

, he slowly raised his right hand.

His five fingers spread, his palm facing the terrifying claw.

The movement was casual, as if he were shooing away an annoying fly.

“Chaos Fire Domain.”

These four simple words, like some ancient, forbidden proverb, were calmly uttered by him.

“Buzz—!”

Centered on Kai’s palm, an invisible yet vast wave instantly spread out!

Within a radius of a thousand feet, space suddenly and eerily distorted!

Light bent, sound became blurred, and even the churning magma below seemed to freeze for a moment.

A hazy, primordial chaos, like the very beginning of creation, mingled with the scorching, domineering, all-consuming crimson-gold true flames of the earth.

Two completely different, even conflicting, forces intertwined and merged perfectly,

forming a bizarre domain unique to Kai!

Within this domain, the original laws of heaven and earth were

disrupted and suppressed .

They were replaced by a new set of rules, chaotic and unclear yet encompassing all things. Here, the laws of fire roared and cheered, while the laws of space twisted and submitted.

The Soul Devourer's claw, poised for victory, crashed into this chaotic fire domain!

The next moment, something happened that made the Soul Devourer's pupils shrink drastically.

His demonic claw, capable of shattering even high-grade immortal artifacts, seemed to sink into an endless quagmire the instant it entered this gray domain, its speed decreasing by more than tenfold!

Not only its speed, but the terrifying demonic energy, the laws of death, and the power of soul corrosion condensed on its claw

, upon contact with the gray chaotic energy and crimson flames, actually emitted a hissing melting sound!

Like a red-hot iron inserted into snow, or like thick ink dripping into clear water.

The power he was so proud of, the power that corroded everything, was being rapidly decomposed, devoured, and annihilated!

He could even clearly feel the emptiness of his power draining away!

“What…what the hell is this?!” The Soul Devourer’s ferocious grin froze instantly.

It was replaced by extreme shock and a barely perceptible panic.

He had lived for ten thousand years, devoured countless cultivators, and witnessed all sorts of strange and wondrous techniques.

Yet, he had never seen such a bizarre power!

This power seemed to be the natural nemesis of his Soul-Devouring Demonic Art!

“Break.”

Kai remained expressionless, only gently clenching his outstretched fingers inward.

The movement was gentle, like plucking a flower.

“Bang—!!!”

A muffled sound, not earth-shattering, yet it sent a jolt through the Soul-Devouring Venerable’s heart!

His enormous demonic claw, starting from his fingertips, shattered and disintegrated like a rock weathered for billions of years!

Fragments of black and red scales, mixed with strange demonic blood, were rapidly vaporized and vanished in the Chaotic Fire Domain.

Not even a trace remained!

The Soul-Devouring Venerable groaned, his massive body staggering uncontrollably backward three steps.

Each step left deep cracks in the hard rocky ground.

He looked down at his bare wrist, dripping black blood.

His eerie green eyes were filled with horror and disbelief.

Kai slowly lowered his hands, placing them behind his back.

His blue robes fluttered gently in the breeze stirred by his domain, his posture exuding an indescribable ease and grace.

He looked at the Soul Devourer, his eyes calm and unwavering, as if he had merely dusted off some dust.

“You overestimate your meager skills,” Kai’s voice carried a condescending indifference.

“The power of chaos can create all things, and it can also encompass and decompose all things.”

“Your so-called Soul Devouring Demon Art is only good for devouring ordinary souls; before me, it’s nothing but a worthless chicken and a dog, utterly vulnerable.”

“Your so-called Immortal Realm cultivation is, in my eyes, only slightly more conspicuous than roadside weeds.”

Chapter 5911

“Utterly arrogant! Ignorant brat!” The Soul Devourer was utterly enraged.

His remaining rationality was burned away by Kai’s repeated contempt and humiliation.

In his millennia of dominance, when had he ever suffered such humiliation?

“I’ll see how many of my methods your strange domain can restrain!”

“Can it withstand my ‘Ten Thousand Souls Devouring Heaven,’ condensed from ten thousand years of arduous cultivation and the devouring of countless lives?!”

He suddenly spread his six wings, no longer holding back, unleashing the terrifying demonic energy accumulated within him for millennia!

He chanted ancient, difficult-to-pronounce demonic incantations filled with endless resentment and curses.

Each syllable stirred up gusts of yin wind and howls of ghosts in the surrounding space.

“Soul Devouring – Ten Thousand Souls Devouring Heaven!”

“Rumble—!!!”

It was as if the gates of the Nine Netherworlds had been opened.

Countless translucent, twisted, struggling, and terrifyingly ugly vengeful spirits and ghosts surged forth like a black torrent bursting its banks.

From every pore of the Soul Devourer’s body, from his gaping maw, surged forth madly!

These vengeful spirits, some clad in ancient robes, some with severed limbs, some reduced to mere heads howling.

Without exception, they all emanated a dense aura of resentment and soul power fluctuations at least at the Celestial Immortal level!

In the blink of an eye, a terrifying sea of souls, as black as ink and covering thousands of feet in radius, took shape!

The sea of souls churned, with billions of vengeful spirits rising and falling within it, howling.

They tore at each other, yet frantically tried to pounce on any living beings outside.

That pure, extreme resentment and deathly intent made this scorching abyss seem to have plunged into an icy hell!

This was one of the Soul Devourer's true trump cards, his natal sea of souls, forged over ten thousand years through the slaughter of cities and the destruction of kingdoms!

Wherever the sea of souls went, life vanished, and souls were annihilated!

The pitch-black sea of souls, with its terrifying, all-consuming power, swept towards Kai's small chaotic fire domain.

It seemed as if it would devour the gray, misty domain and Kai within it in the next instant!

Facing this overwhelming attack of the soul sea, powerful enough to make even a Celestial Realm expert tremble, Kai's expression remained unchanged.

He didn't even look at the surging soul sea. He

simply calmly raised his left hand, his index and middle fingers together, forming a sword-like gesture. At

the tip of his finger, a point of crimson-gold light shone, pure, blazing, and imbued with supreme majesty.

It seemed capable of burning away all the filth in the world.

"Earth Fire True Flame – Burning Heaven,"

he said softly, as if stating a simple fact.

"Roar—!!!"

That point of crimson-gold light suddenly erupted!

What shot into the sky was not ordinary flame, but a hundred-zhang-long fire dragon completely condensed from the purest Earth Fire True Flame!

The fire dragon was lifelike, every dragon scale clearly visible, reflecting crimson-gold divine light.

The dragon's head was majestic, and its eyes burned with an inextinguishable flame.

A dragon's roar shook the abyss, carrying supreme righteous energy to cleanse evil! The

supremely yang and powerful true flames of the earth, capable of burning away all evil, were the natural nemesis of the supremely yin and evil Soul-Devouring Demonic Art!

The fire dragon fearlessly plunged into the pitch-black sea of souls!

"Sizzle—!!!"

Like hot oil poured onto snow, or like light piercing the deepest darkness!

Wherever the crimson-gold flames passed, the thick, impenetrable sea of souls was instantly evaporated and purified!

Countless vengeful spirits didn't even have time to scream before turning into wisps of smoke in the supremely yang true flames.

They completely dissipated into the world, achieving eternal liberation. A crimson-gold fire dragon roamed freely within the pitch-black sea of souls, like a red-hot blade slicing through solidified butter, unstoppable!

In just two or three breaths, the seemingly boundless and terrifying Soul-Devouring Sea of Souls

was burned and purified by this hundred-foot-long fire dragon, creating a massive void.

And this void was expanding outwards at an astonishing speed!

“No…impossible!!!”

The rage on the Soul-Devouring Venerable’s face was completely replaced by horror.

He even forgot to continue activating his soul sea, simply staring blankly as his millennia of accumulated energy was rapidly purified by the crimson-gold flames.

“Earth Fire True Flame…this is the Earth Fire Ancestor’s unique technique!”

“You…how could you possibly?!” ”

That old bastard Earth Fire Ancestor is still alive? He passed it on to you?!”

Kai didn’t answer, but the half-smile on his lips was incredibly glaring and mocking in the Soul-Devouring Venerable’s eyes.

The Soul-Devouring Venerable’s answer was a sword light that tore through the heavens and earth!

In the instant the fire dragon purified the soul sea, and the Soul Devourer’s mind faltered, Kai moved.

The Dragon-Slaying Sword, unsheathed at some point, was in his right hand.

Its blade was a hazy gray, seemingly ancient and unadorned.

But the moment Kai raised it, a sharp sword intent, severing cause and effect and annihilating all laws, soared into the sky!

“Dragon-Slaying – Breaking Army!”

There were no fancy moves, no lengthy prelude.

Only the simplest, most direct, and most domineering vertical slash!

A golden-gray sword aura, only ten zhang long, yet condensed to its extreme, containing chaotic gray light within and wrapped in crimson true flames without.

Like the first ray of light splitting the heavens and earth, it tore apart the remaining black mist in the soul sea.

Ignoring the distance of space, it slashed down towards the Soul Devourer!

Wherever the sword aura passed, even the exceptionally stable space of the Earth’s Core Demon Abyss, baked by the high temperature,

was left with a thin, long-lasting black mark!

Fast! Indescribably fast!

Ruthless! Ruthless enough to lock onto the soul!

The Soul Devourer was terrified; his battle instincts as a Celestial Realm expert made him feel a deadly threat!

He had no time to think; his six wings flapped wildly, black and red demonic light flashing.

At the last second, he forcefully shifted dozens of feet to the side!

“Swoosh!”

The sword energy grazed almost half his body, striking the rock wall behind him.

There was no loud noise, no explosion.

Only a bottomless, smooth, mirror-like, straight chasm about three feet wide

appeared silently on the rock wall, stretching to the horizon.

It seemed to have cleaved the entire cliff in two.

The rocks at the edge of the chasm exhibited a strange crystallization.

It was the result of being instantly melted by the extreme heat and sharp sword intent.

Although the Soul Devourer avoided a fatal blow, the edges of his three left wings were still struck by the aftershocks of the sword energy.

The incredibly tough wing membranes, capable of withstanding attacks from Celestial Realm experts, were sliced off like paper.

Blackish-red demonic blood sprayed out and landed in the magma below, making a sizzling corrosion sound.

Chapter 5912

“Ugh!” The Soul Devourer groaned in pain.

His eyes, besides shock and anger, held a deep sense of apprehension and solemnity.

He stared intently at Kai, especially at the seemingly ordinary ancient sword in Kai’s hand and the eerie gray aura surrounding him.

“Boy…you have indeed surprised me.” The Soul Devourer’s voice deepened.

Gone was his previous rage; instead, a chilling, venomous coldness emanated from him: “I admit, I underestimated you.”

“Your power is strange, capable of fusing chaos and earth fire, and that sword…it’s no ordinary weapon either.”

“However…”

His tone shifted, his eerie green eyes flashing with madness and determination: “If you think you can defeat me, now restored to the Upper Immortal realm, with just these, you are sorely mistaken!”

“My lurking in the Earth’s Core Demon Abyss wasn’t just for healing!”

Before his words were finished, the Soul Devourer’s hands abruptly formed an extremely complex, ominous ancient demonic seal!

Simultaneously, he opened his massive maw, unleashing a series of sharp, piercing demonic howls that penetrated the very depths of the soul!

“Earth Core Demon Flame… Heed my command! Come!!!”

“Rumble—!!!”

Below, the previously slowly flowing river of dark red magma suddenly

roared and churned like an enraged primordial beast!

Then, streams of viscous, blood-red flames, emanating an aura a hundred times more terrifying than ordinary magma, surged

from the depths of the magma river as if summoned by a supreme being!

These dark red flames were none other than the Earth Core Demon Flame, feared even by powerful immortals!

They contained extreme heat, toxic earth core fire, and a chaotic, destructive will. They

could erode immortal power, corrode magical treasures, and incinerate divine souls!

At this moment, this massive amount of Earth Core Demon Flame did not attack indiscriminately.

Instead, drawn by the Soul Devouring Demon Seal, it surged towards his mangled body like a hundred rivers flowing into the sea!

“Sizzle…”

A teeth-grinding sound rang out.

The moment the Soul Devourer’s black and red scales came into contact with the Earth Core Demon Flame, they seemed to be activated, glowing with eerie demonic patterns.

The dark red demonic flames didn’t burn him; instead, they seemed to have found their home.

They seeped into his scales, merging with his demonic energy, and

began a terrifying fusion with his own Soul Devouring Demonic Power!

“Ugh… Ahhh!!!”

the Soul Devourer roared in agony.

His body swelled and twisted uncontrollably, his scales becoming thicker and more ferocious.

Their color changed from black and red to dark red, covered with dense, eerie patterns like flowing magma.

The damaged parts of his wings were rapidly filled and repaired by the dark red demonic flames, becoming larger and more ferocious.

Substantial dark red flames burned at their edges.

His aura soared like a rocket!

From the first rank of the Upper Immortal Realm, he broke through the mid-to-late stages of the first rank, reaching the peak of the first rank!

He even faintly touched the threshold of the second rank of the Upper Immortal Realm! Even more terrifying was the new aura emanating from him, a mixture of the insidious poison of the Soul-Devouring Demonic Art and the raging chaos of the Earth Core Demonic Flame.

That aura was filled with destruction and ominousness.

Even Huo Ling'er and the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord, merely sensing it, felt a sharp pain in their souls, their demonic arts becoming stagnant.

"Hehehe... Can you feel it? Boy!" The Soul-Devouring Venerable's voice became hoarse and overlapping.

It was as if countless voices were speaking together, filled with manic triumph: "I, the Venerable, used the Soul-Devouring Demonic Art as a foundation, fusing it with the Earth Core Demonic Flame, nurtured for billions of years in this Earth Core Demonic Abyss." "

After expending great effort, I have finally created the supreme demonic path unique to me—'Soul-Devouring Demonic Flame'!"

He raised an arm that had completely turned dark red, burning with raging demonic flames, his five fingers clenched loosely.

The space in his palm was slightly distorted by the scorching demonic flames.

“This flame possesses both the Soul-Devouring Demonic Art’s ability to erode the soul and devour life force, and the Earth Core Demonic Flame’s power to incinerate all things and cause chaos and destruction!”

“It can corrode your immortal power, burn your magical treasures, and scorch your soul.”

“It will turn you into nourishment for me amidst endless pain and madness!”

“Kai, can your strange domain and Earth Fire True Flame withstand this?!”

Kai’s expression finally shifted from complete calm to a more serious one.

He could clearly sense the “Soul-Devouring Demonic Flame” emanating from the Soul-Devouring Venerable.

Its energy level and strangeness far surpassed the previous simple Soul-Devouring Demonic Power or Earth Core Demonic Flame.

This was a qualitative change, a product of the fusion of two top-tier evil powers, indeed troublesome.

But, it was only troublesome.

The flames in his eyes not only did not extinguish, but burned even more fiercely.

It wasn’t a flame of fear, but rather the excitement and fighting spirit emanating from the depths of his soul when encountering a truly worthy opponent!

“Soul-Devouring Demonic Flame?” Kai softly repeated the name.

Then, he slowly raised the Dragon-Slaying Sword in his hand, its tip pointing at the Soul-Devouring Lord, whose aura was overwhelming.

He licked his dry lips, a smile mixed with anticipation and coldness appearing on his face.

“Sounds pretty impressive.”

“I wonder if it’s as easy to puncture as you boasted before?”

Kai’s tone still carried that damned, maddening taunt: “Come on, old man, let me see how good your work, which you’ve been tinkering with while hiding in the magma, really is.”

“Don’t disappoint me, I hate nothing more than a bunch of weaklings who are all show and no substance.”

“You’re asking for death!!!” The Soul-Devouring Lord went completely mad, his last shred of reason crushed by Kai’s nonchalant humiliation!

His already somewhat violent mind, after fusing with the demonic flame, now had only one thought left: to tear this hateful brat in front of him to shreds!

“Soul-Devouring Demonic Flame – Ten Thousand Souls Burning the Heavens!”

He flapped his six wings wildly, transforming into a shooting star trailing a long, dark red tail of flame.

His speed was more than twice as fast as before!

Almost as soon as Kai finished speaking, he had already traversed hundreds of feet and appeared above and to Kai’s side!

This time, he didn’t engage in direct close combat.

Instead, he thrust both palms forward with a powerful push!

Chapter 5913

“Boom!”

Endless dark red demonic flames erupted from his palm!

These flames twisted and deformed rapidly in mid-air, transforming into thousands upon thousands of ferocious demons burning with dark red flames!

These fiery demons were more solid and terrifying than the previous vengeful spirits.

They howled, carrying the scorching heat of burning souls and the chilling coldness of eroding life.

From above, below, left, right, and all directions, they attacked Kai like a torrential rain!

Each demon locked onto Kai’s soul,

as if they would not rest until they dragged him into the hell of demonic flames!

Before the attack even arrived, the eerie feeling of extreme heat and soul freezing had already completely enveloped the space where Kai was!

Kai took a deep breath, his eyes instantly becoming as sharp as a hawk’s.

He no longer held back, and the chaotic immortal power within his body surged and roared at an unprecedented speed.

The golden dragon bloodline in his dantian emitted a passionate dragon roar.

The circulation of the Earth Fire True Scripture reached its peak, and it seemed as if a great red-gold sun was burning in his heart!

Three forces, forcibly unified by his will at this moment, were poured into the Dragon-Slaying Sword in his hand!

“Chaos as the foundation, golden dragon as the soul, earth fire as the blade…”

“Three Absolutes united!”

“Slash!!!”

The Dragon-Slaying Sword emitted a clear, resounding sword cry that shook the heavens!

A sword aura, only a few feet wide yet indescribably condensed, suddenly erupted!

This sword aura was no longer a single color.

Its core was a dark gray of primordial chaos, seemingly containing the primordial power of the beginning of creation.

Inside the sword aura, a lifelike phantom of a five-clawed golden dragon coiled and swirled, emitting a majestic and awe-inspiring dragon roar.

It provided indestructible sharpness and impenetrable protection.

On the surface of the sword aura, crimson-gold earth fire flames burned fiercely like the most loyal guardians,

radiating a heat that could incinerate the eight wastelands and a sacred power that could purify evil!

This sword strike was the culmination of Kai’s three hundred years of seclusion.

It was the strongest sword strike he could unleash with his current cultivation level!

It was a perfect unity of skill, power, will, and the Dao!

The sword flashed, and the world paled in comparison!

The raging energy currents in the abyss seemed to freeze before this sword!

The sword aura swept across, without any grand momentum, only an absolute, undeniable “annihilation”!

“Sizzle sizzle sizzle sizzle!”

Like a red-hot knife slicing through butter, or sunlight dispelling morning mist.

The thousands upon thousands of Soul-Devouring Flame demonic ghosts that charged forward, upon contact with this three-colored sword aura,

no matter how solid they were, no matter how bizarre their power, were

as if they had encountered their natural enemy. They couldn’t even struggle before collapsing, evaporating, and annihilating!

The sword aura continued its momentum, like a comet streaking across the night sky, directly striking the Soul-Devouring Lord’s true form!

The Soul-Devouring Lord finally showed a look of horror on his face!

He hadn’t expected that one of his strongest divine abilities after fusing with the demonic flames would be so easily broken by the opponent! The power contained within that sword aura posed a deadly threat to him!

“Soul-Devouring Demon Armor! Protect!”

he roared, his dark red scales gleaming brightly.

Instantly, a thick shield covered in jagged barbs and burning with raging demonic flames materialized before him!

Simultaneously, he retreated rapidly!

“Clang!!!”

The sword aura struck the demonic shield, producing a deafening clang like metal clashing.

But it sounded more like the final wails of countless wronged souls being purified in an instant!

The shield held for less than a tenth of a breath before shattering! The broken fragments of the shield scattered into a shower of sparks, which were then extinguished by the aftershocks of the sword aura.

Although the sword aura was weakened by the attack, its remaining power was still incredibly sharp, grazing past the rapidly retreating Soul Devourer!

“Pfft!”

Dark red demonic blood gushed from the Soul Devourer’s right shoulder like a fountain!

One of his arms, along with half of his shoulder, was severed cleanly at the root by the aftershocks of the sword aura, which contained the power of chaotic decomposition, the sharpness of the golden dragon, and the purification of earth fire. It exploded into a cloud of blood mist .

Then, it was completely shredded and evaporated by the subsequent sword intent, leaving not even a trace!

“Ah!!!”

The Soul Devourer let out an extremely miserable howl. His massive body flew backward like a kite with a broken string, crashing heavily into the rock wall hundreds of feet away, creating a deep human-shaped crater. Cracks spread across the rock wall like a spider web.

His aura instantly weakened significantly. Demonic flames flickered at the severed arm, attempting to regenerate, but they were tightly bound

by a hazy gray power, preventing the wound from healing. It was the residual chaotic sword intent that continued to destroy it.

Kai was not faring much better.

While unleashing that supreme sword strike, shattering the Ten Thousand Souls Burning Heaven and severely injuring the Soul Devourer, the Soul Devourer also launched a desperate counterattack at the last moment, striking out with a palm strike from afar!

“Soul-Devouring Demonic Flame Palm!”

A condensed, almost tangible, dark red palm print seemed to pierce through space, striking Kai’s left chest the instant his old strength dissipated and his new strength was generated!

“Pfft!”

Kai was struck as if by lightning; his body shuddered violently, and a mouthful of scalding blood gushed out, most of it instantly vaporizing in the scorching air.

He was blasted backward by the force of the palm, crashing heavily against the rock wall with a dull thud.

His clothes were torn on his left chest, revealing a horrifying, charred, and festering palm print that was deep enough to expose bone!

Around the palm print, dark red demonic flames gnawed at his flesh like maggots, frantically corroding his flesh, attempting to penetrate his body and burn his meridians and soul.

Furthermore, a sinister and icy soul-devouring power surged along the wound straight into his sea of consciousness!

“Cough cough… cough cough cough…”

Kai knelt on one knee, using the Dragon-Slaying Sword for support, barely managing to stay upright.

His face was as pale as paper, and each cough brought out a large amount of bloody froth. The excruciating pain in his left chest and the icy chill of his soul being eroded caused his vision to blur.

Yet, his sword-wielding hand remained steady,

and his eyes remained as sharp as ever. The chaotic immortal power within his body was circulating at an unprecedented speed, frantically attacking the wound in his left chest, engaging in a tug-of-war with the corrosive Soul-Devouring Demonic Flame; his

Golden Dragon bloodline released a vast amount of life essence, repairing his damaged organs and bones;

while the Earth Fire True Flame burned away the invading, poisonous soul power from within.

Kai hadn't expected that the Soul-Devouring Venerable, having just recovered to the peak of the first rank of the Upper Immortal Realm, could injure him. It seemed he had overestimated his strength.

Or perhaps the Soul-Devouring Venerable was a great demon who had lived for tens of thousands of years, and his peak first rank of the Upper Immortal Realm was stronger than other cultivators of the same realm.

That was the only possibility; Kai couldn't believe that he, a third-rank Heavenly Immortal Realm cultivator, could be injured by a peak first-rank Upper Immortal Realm cultivator.

Chapter 5914

"Boy…boy…"

Hundreds of feet away, the Soul Devourer struggled to emerge from the crater in the rock wall, hovering in mid-air on his remaining five fleshy wings. Black blood still dripped from his severed arm, and his aura was chaotic.

He stared intently at Kai, his eerie green eyes now filled with horror, resentment, and a hint of fear that even he himself refused to acknowledge.

“You…you actually…”

His voice was hoarse, weak from his severe injuries, and filled with disbelief.

He was a peak first-grade Upper Immortal!

Having fused with the Earth Core Demon Flame, his strength had skyrocketed!

And his opponent was merely a third-grade Heavenly Immortal!

By all accounts, this should have been a crushing defeat, an instant kill!

But what was the result?

He had paid the price of an arm and half a shoulder to receive a single blow to the opponent’s chest!

And judging from the opponent’s appearance, although severely injured, his eyes were clear, his fighting spirit undiminished, clearly indicating he still had the strength to fight again!

This completely overturned his understanding! It shattered the age-old common sense of the cultivation world!

“Cough cough…”

Kai coughed up another mouthful of blood, but slowly, inch by inch, he stood up from the ground.

He wiped the blood from the corner of his mouth. Although the wound on his left chest was still gruesome, and although his face was pale, his spine was straight, and the sharpness and mockery in his eyes were not diminished in the slightest.

“What?” Kai’s voice was somewhat hoarse, yet it still reached the Soul Devourer’s ears clearly. “Surprised? Find it unbelievable?”

A blood-red smile tugged at the corner of his mouth, his eyes looking down arrogantly. “You think you’re invincible in the Upper Immortal Realm? You think cultivation level represents everything?”

“Soul Devourer, you’ve lived for tens of thousands of years, have you wasted them all?”

“Don’t you even understand the principle that ‘the higher the Dao, the higher the Dharma’? Your Dao is devouring, plundering, and destroying. It seems fierce, but it’s all bark and no bite, with a weak foundation.”

“My Dao is chaos, protection, and creation. How can your solid foundation compare to that of a worthless Upper Immortal who rose by devouring wronged souls?”

With each sentence he spoke, the Soul Devourer’s face grew increasingly grim, and the resentment and shame in his eyes intensified.

“Today, the reason you can fight me to a standstill isn’t because you’re so powerful,”

Kai slightly raised his sword, pointing it at the Soul Devourer, his tone chilling, “but because I haven’t reached my peak yet. When I reach the Upper Immortal Realm, killing you will be as easy as slaughtering a dog!”

The Soul Devourer trembled with rage, demonic flames surging wildly across his body.

He desperately wanted to rush forward and devour Kai alive, but his remaining sanity and severely injured body were frantically warning him that he couldn't fight any longer! This kid's recovery ability is too abnormal, and that strange power is too much of a counter to me. If I continue fighting, I might really capsize in a ditch and lose my millennia of cultivation in a single day!

"Good…good! What a sharp-tongued little beast!"

The Soul Devourer almost ground his teeth to dust, squeezing out the words through gritted teeth, "I admit that I underestimated you today, and you took advantage of me by chance."

He slowly flapped his six wings and began to retreat deeper into the Demon Abyss, the resentment in his eyes almost materializing.

"However, Kai, you will remember this! I will repay today's humiliation and the hatred of losing an arm a hundredfold, a thousandfold!"

"Once I go to the Twelfth Heaven and recover my full strength, I will make sure that you, those around you, and everything you care about fall into the boundless Demon Prison and be forever damned!"

After uttering these harsh words, the Soul Devourer no longer hesitated. His six wings suddenly flapped, transforming into a much dimmer black and red stream of light.

Without looking back, he shot towards the bottomless depths of the Earth's Core Abyss, where the demonic flames were most concentrated, disappearing in the blink of an eye behind the churning lava and thick fog.

Kai did not pursue.

Not because he didn't want to, but because he couldn't.

His condition was equally bad; the Soul

-Devouring Demonic Flame Palm force in his left chest was still raging, requiring him to suppress and neutralize it with all his might. Moreover, he knew perfectly well that with the Soul-

Devouring Venerable's cultivation at the Upper Immortal Realm, if he was determined to escape, he couldn't possibly stay. He slowly exhaled a breath of foul air tinged with blood, his tense body slightly relaxing, but his eyes remained warily fixed on the direction where the Soul-Devouring Venerable had disappeared.

"Kai!"

Huo Ling'er rushed over, her voice trembling with tears, supporting his swaying body, tears streaming down her face like broken pearls. "How are you? Are you badly injured?"

She frantically took out the best healing pills from the Earth Fire Pavilion, wanting to feed them to Kai.

Crimson Cloud Demon Lord followed closely behind. Looking at Kai's horrific wound on his chest and his paper-white face, his eyes were filled with complex emotions—worry, shock, and an indescribable admiration.

"Boy…you really are…"

Crimson Cloud Demon Lord shook his head, unsure how to describe it. "A third-grade Celestial Immortal, you fought against a peak first-grade Upper Immortal, the Soul Devouring Venerable, and even drove him away…If this gets out, the entire Eleventh Heaven, no, I'm afraid the Twelfth Heaven will be in an uproar!"

Kai swallowed the pill, using its effects to slowly regulate his breathing. Hearing this, he gave a bitter smile, his voice weak yet carrying an undeniable firmness.

"Senior…please don't make fun of me. If it weren't for the innate restraint of Chaos Immortal Power against his Soul Devouring Demon Art, if it weren't for the strong regenerative power of the Golden Dragon

Bloodline, if it weren't for the Earth Fire True Flame's ability to purify the Demon Flame…I would have been defeated long ago."

"The Soul Devouring Venerable is, after all, a demon with a notorious reputation from ten thousand years ago, not to be underestimated."

He looked in the direction the Soul Devouring Venerable had fled, his eyes becoming deep: "He fled to the deepest part of the Demon Abyss…there should be a hidden spatial rift or an ancient teleportation array leading to the Twelfth Heaven there."

Chapter 5915

Huo Ling'er was startled, her tear-streaked face filled with worry: "Then isn't he going to join the Evil Path Palace? He just said he was going to the Twelfth Heaven!"

"Most likely."

Kai nodded, the pain in his chest causing him to frown slightly. "Old demons like the Soul Devourer Venerable are extremely shrewd and cunning."

"He knows that under the pressure from the Earth Fire Pavilion and me, there's no place for him in the Eleventh Heaven. Joining the Evil Path Palace, which belongs to the same demonic path, is powerful, and is currently gathering strong individuals, is his best option right now."

The Crimson Cloud Demon Lord's expression was solemn: "A Soul Devourer Venerable who has recovered to the Upper Immortal Realm, plus the unfathomable Lord of the Evil Path Palace, if they were to completely collude, the consequences would be unimaginable!"

Kai took a deep breath, suppressing the churning blood and the icy pain from the demonic flames, a resolute glint in his eyes.

“We’ll meet force with force, and water with earth. Thinking about these things now is useless. Our top priority is to obtain the Earth Core Jade Marrow Milk to heal your Daoist partner, Senior. Then, we must head to the Twelfth Heaven as quickly as possible!”

Kai’s gaze fell on the ancient map given to him by the Earth Fire Ancestor, his finger slowly tracing a hidden path.

“We must find and eliminate the Soul Devouring Venerable and the Evil Dao Palace before they form a stable alliance!”

Kai’s voice was soft, yet it contained boundless fighting spirit. “Otherwise, once they are fully prepared and launch a counterattack with the power of the Gate of Reincarnation and the two Supreme Immortals, we, and indeed the entire Eleventh Heaven, will face annihilation.”

He put away the map and looked ahead at the entrance to the deep, narrow passage leading to an unknown destination—the only safe path marked on the map to the Heart of Lava.

“Let’s go.”

Kai steadied himself with Huo Ling’er’s support. Although his steps were somewhat unsteady, his eyes had regained their sharpness. “Our target is just ahead.”

The Crimson Cloud Demon Lord nodded emphatically, saying nothing more, and led the way.

Huo Ling’er held Kai tightly, her beautiful eyes filled with heartache and determination.

The three ignored the lingering demonic energy of the Soul Devourer behind them, adjusted their stance, and headed towards the hidden passage leading to their final destination.

The Crimson Cloud Demon Lord led the way, his body enveloped in crimson demonic energy, forming a solid protective shield.

Each step he took was extremely heavy, clearly indicating that he was on high alert.

The depths of the Earth's Core Demon Abyss were fraught with danger. Although the Soul Devourer had retreated, the inherent dangers of such a perilous place were sometimes more deadly than the demon himself.

The narrow passage wound downwards, the temperature increasing with depth.

The rock walls gradually changed from dark red to a dazzling bright red, even beginning to resemble semi-molten glass.

The air was filled with a mixture of sulfur and some ancient mineral odor; inhaling it made even the flow of immortal energy sluggish.

"There are fluctuations in the formation ahead," the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord suddenly stopped and gestured.

Supported by Huo Ling'er, Kai focused intently on sensing the formation. At the wound on his left chest, the Soul-Devouring Demonic Flame was still entangled with the Chaotic Immortal Power, each breath bringing excruciating pain. He endured the discomfort, a wisp of chaotic energy quietly emanating from between his brows.

"It's an ancient restriction, connected to the earth's veins," Kai's voice was hoarse. "It shouldn't have been set up by the Soul-Devouring Venerable; it's more like it formed naturally here, or is a remnant from ancient times."

The passage ahead suddenly widened, forming a natural cave about a hundred feet in diameter.

In the center of the cave, blazing white magma surged like a spring, but it wasn't chaotic. Seven streams of magma flowed slowly along some mysterious trajectory, outlining a vast and complex array on the cave floor. At the edge of the array, nine dark red crystal pillars burst forth

from the ground, their shafts covered in ancient, twisted runes, now radiating a scorching light.

The intense spiritual energy of the entire cave was drawn and bound by this array, forming a visible, pale red barrier that sealed off the path ahead.

“Earth Fire Binding Spirit Array,”

the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord recognized it, his brow furrowed. “And it’s the complete ancient version. This array draws upon the power of the earth’s core fire veins, endlessly regenerating. A direct attack will only trigger a magma eruption, completely submerging this entire area.”

Huo Ling’er’s face paled: “Then what do we do?”

Kai slowly pushed away her support, standing firmly on his own.

He took out the Dragon Slayer Sword, its tip lightly touching the ground. A wisp of chaotic immortal power seeped into the rock strata along the sword, spreading out like a spider web.

“Cough cough…”

He coughed up several mouthfuls of blood mixed with black qi, his face turning even paler, but his eyes shone with an astonishing brightness. “Every formation has a core. This formation is based on the earth’s veins, so the core must be at the nexus where the fire veins flow.”

He closed his eyes and concentrated, letting his chaotic immortal power flow through the earth’s veins to sense it.

The golden dragon bloodline hummed within him, providing the last vestiges of clarity;

although the circulation of the Earth Fire True Scripture was slowed by his injuries, it subtly resonated with the surrounding earth fire spiritual power.

An incense stick's time passed.

Fine beads of sweat appeared on Kai's forehead, and the demonic flames at the wound on his left chest seemed to be retaliating against his full-force exertion, the dark red patterns spreading outwards by an inch.

Huo Ling'er watched anxiously, but dared not utter a sound to disturb him.

"Found it."

Kai suddenly opened his eyes, pointing his Dragon-Slaying Sword at a seemingly ordinary crystal pillar in the northeast corner of the formation. "The slight obstruction in the flow of the earth veins beneath that pillar is a man-made blind spot, and also the only viable opening in the entire formation."

The Crimson Cloud Demon Lord followed the direction, focused his senses for a moment, and a look of surprise flashed in his eyes: "Indeed... boy, your understanding of the Dao of Formations is truly terrifying."

"Senior is too kind."

Kai panted, taking out three light blue ice-attribute formation flags from his storage ring. He had specially selected them from the Earth Fire Pavilion's treasury as a precaution. "I still need Senior's cooperation. This formation borrows the power of fire, and I must temporarily suppress the flow of the fire veins with extreme cold power for a moment before I can break through the formation's core."

The Crimson Cloud Demon Lord nodded, and the crimson demonic energy around him suddenly transformed into a deep dark red. That was a trace of "Nine Netherworld Cold Fiend" contained in his original demonic art, which, although not his main cultivation, was perfect for this moment.

"Three breaths." The Crimson Cloud Demon Lord said in a deep voice.

“Enough.”

Kai took a deep breath, forcefully drawing upon his Chaos Immortal Power. The wound on his left chest immediately burst open, and blood soaked through his clothes.

He gritted his teeth and endured the pain. Three array flags flew out of his hand, tracing three azure trajectories in the air, and precisely planted themselves around the crystal pillar, forming an equilateral triangle.

Chapter 5916

“Now!”

The Crimson Cloud Demon Lord formed hand seals, unleashing a torrent of dark red demonic energy that transformed into three ferocious, icy serpents, lunging straight at the center of the triangular array flags!

“Boom—!”

Extreme cold clashed with extreme heat, erupting in a piercing roar.

The magma throughout the cave instantly surged, but in that instant, the icy serpents burrowed into the earth’s veins, freezing the surging fire vein power for a fleeting moment!

Kai moved.

He didn’t even use the Dragon-Slaying Sword, but instead formed a sword with his fingers together, a wisp of hazy, yet perfectly refined, chaotic sword energy condensing at his fingertips.

His steps faltered, yet his figure moved with ghostly speed, flashing past the center of the three array flags.

His fingertip touched the base of the crystal pillar.

“Break.”

A single, light word. A

series of cracking sounds came from inside the crystal pillar, and the light of the runes on its body dimmed rapidly.

Then, like a chain reaction, the other eight crystal pillars trembled simultaneously, and the magma flow on the array diagram began to become turbulent and reverse.

“Retreat!”

Kai shouted, turning and retreating hastily.

The three had barely exited the cave entrance when a deafening explosion erupted behind them.

Nine crystal pillars shattered, lava shooting skyward and engulfing the entire cave. However, the shockwave was contained by the narrow passage and didn’t spread far outwards.

When the lava receded and the dust settled, the original formation was gone, leaving only a bottomless pit with lava slowly flowing back.

At the bottom of the pit, a natural stone staircase leading downwards was faintly visible, leading into deeper darkness.

“Go.” Kai wiped the fresh blood from the corner of his mouth and stepped onto the staircase first.

The Crimson Cloud Demon Lord watched his swaying yet upright back, a complex expression flashing in his eyes, but ultimately said nothing, following closely behind.

The stone staircase spiraled downwards, the temperature rising higher and higher.

The surrounding rock walls had completely vitrified, transparent as a mirror, reflecting the distorted figures of the three.

Occasionally, the fossilized outlines of ancient creatures flashed in the mirror—all previously unseen subterranean alien species.

After walking for about half an hour, another obstacle appeared ahead.

This time it wasn't an array, but a naturally formed "lava waterfall."

Dark golden lava cascaded down from the dome above, forming a scorching curtain tens of feet wide, completely blocking the way. Behind the waterfall, a faint jade-colored light flowed, the unique aura of the Earth's Core Jade Marrow Milk.

But the lava waterfall wasn't inanimate; countless lava beasts formed from pure fire spirits swam around it.

They resembled lizards, but had three heads and six legs, their bodies burning with incandescent flames, each possessing an aura no weaker than that of an early-stage Celestial Immortal.

Even more troublesome was the "earth's gravity" contained within the waterfall itself; the closer one got, the heavier one became.

In Kai's current state, he would probably collapse before reaching the halfway point.

"I'll clear the way." The Crimson Cloud Demon Lord took a deep breath, his demonic energy surging, condensing into a ferocious crimson demonic armor on his body. "Boy, conserve your strength. We'll need your Chaotic Immortal Power to isolate the earth's veins and extract the Jade Marrow Milk in the end."

Kai didn't try to be brave, nodding and saying, "These lava beasts are formed from the essence of earth fire, their core in their central heads. They possess immense strength and can regenerate infinitely, thanks to

the force of the waterfall, unless the fire cores in all three heads are destroyed simultaneously."

"Understood." The Crimson Cloud Demon Lord roared, ancient demonic runes appearing on his armor, temporarily resisting the gravity of the earth's veins.

He transformed into a crimson meteor, crashing headlong into the lava waterfall!

"Roar—!"

The lava beast horde erupted, dozens charging forward simultaneously.

The Crimson Cloud Demon Lord's hands surged with demonic energy, condensing into two enormous crimson blades, which he swept horizontally.

Where the blades passed, the lava beasts were decapitated, but as Kai had said, magma surged at the severed ends, ready to regenerate in an instant.

"Demonic Flame – Core Incineration!"

A fierce glint flashed in the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord's eyes. His sharp blade suddenly exploded, transforming into hundreds of thin, hair-like crimson fire threads, precisely piercing the brows of each lava beast's three heads!

"Puff puff puff..."

With a series of muffled sounds, the lava beasts froze, their bodies rapidly dimming and disintegrating, turning into ordinary lava and merging into the waterfall.

This move required extremely high precision in controlling the fire; the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord had clearly used his true skill.

However, there were simply too many lava beasts to kill them all.

Moreover, the deeper they went, the stronger the gravity became, and cracks began to appear on the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord's demonic armor.

Seeing this, Kai said to Huo Ling'er, "Protect me for a moment."

He sat cross-legged, placing the Dragon-Slaying Sword horizontally in front of his knees, and formed an ancient hand seal with his hands.

A point of chaotic light shone from between his brows, gradually spreading throughout his body. The Soul-Devouring Demonic Flame at the wound on his left chest seemed to be stimulated, retaliating wildly, with dark red patterns spreading towards his heart.

"Suppress!"

Kai roared, his golden dragon bloodline surging, the dragon's roar echoing through his meridians, forcefully pushing back the demonic flames by half.

Taking advantage of this moment, he fully circulated his Chaos Immortal Power, adjusting its nature to "assimilation."

This was not an attack, but infiltration.

The Chaos Immortal Power flowed like mercury, silently merging into the surrounding earth veins, simulating the same aura as the lava waterfall.

This process was extremely dangerous; the slightest carelessness would result in a backlash from the earth fire spiritual power, compounding his injuries.

Ten breaths later, Kai suddenly opened his eyes, blood trickling from the corner of his mouth, but he shouted, "Senior, seven zhang to the left,

three feet behind the waterfall, there's a gravity node there that can shatter it!"

The Crimson Cloud Demon Lord, besieged by five exceptionally large lava beasts, didn't hesitate upon hearing this. He withstood two heavy lava blows, his demonic armor shattering slightly, but he used the momentum to lunge to the left, gathering all his demonic power, and punched the spot Kai pointed to!

"Crack—crack—"

A crisp sound like shattered glass.

The entire lava waterfall trembled violently, and the gravitational field suddenly weakened by 30%.

The swimming lava beasts froze, and their solidity dropped drastically.

Chapter 5917

"Now!" Kai mustered his last strength to stand up. "Follow me!"

He charged into the waterfall first, his Dragon-Slaying Sword creating a chaotic vortex in front of him, temporarily deflecting the surging lava and lava beasts.

Huo Ling'er followed closely behind, her Earth Fire True Flame forming a protective shield. Behind the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord, demonic energy surged, desperately holding back the opening that was trying to close.

The three of them pierced through the waterfall like arrows, and a breathtaking view opened up before them.

It was a small cave, no more than ten zhang square, yet breathtakingly beautiful.

Countless stalactite-like jade-colored crystal pillars hung from the cave ceiling, each flowing with a warm, jade-like light.

In the center of the cave, a pool of milky-white water, no bigger than a washbasin, lay quietly, its surface shimmering with seven-colored light, an intense, almost palpable vitality and Daoist aura permeating it.

Earth Core Jade Marrow Milk!

Around the pool, nine slender jade-colored stalagmites were arranged in a ring, each topped with a drop of solidified, undispersing jade marrow milk, like stars surrounding the moon.

An invisible force field intertwined between the stalagmites, forming the final natural barrier.

“The Nine Star Spirit-Nourishing Array, naturally formed by heaven and earth,”

Kai gasped, his eyes burning brightly. “This array is unsolvable; only by using pure life force to resonate with the jade marrow milk can its approval be gained.”

He looked at Huo Ling’er: “Miss Ling’er, may I lend you a drop of your primordial essence blood?”

Huo Ling’er didn’t hesitate, forcing out a drop of blood, crimson gold tinged with pale blue, a symbol of the Earth Fire Pavilion’s direct lineage and the Earth Fire True Scripture reaching a high level of cultivation.

Kai took the drop, then pricked his palm with his finger, forcing out a drop of golden-red blood containing chaotic energy and the Golden Dragon bloodline.

The two drops of blood merged in his palm, transforming into a seven-colored, glass-like blood bead.

He gently flicked the bead towards the jade marrow milk pool.

As the blood droplet passed through the invisible force field, ripples appeared, but it did not impede the flow.

The instant the blood droplet fell into the milky white pool,

“Buzz…”

The jade-colored crystal pillars throughout the cave resonated simultaneously, playing a heavenly melody.

The pool water rippled, and a fist-sized, condensed jade essence, as smooth as cream, slowly rose from the center. Its seven-colored radiance subsided, transforming into a pure, warm white jade luster.

Kai reached out and guided the jade essence, which obediently flew over and fell into the cold jade bottle he had prepared beforehand.

Just as the jade essence left the pool, jade droplets from the tips of the nine surrounding stalagmites simultaneously dripped down, merging into the pool. The pool water visibly replenished itself, though the radiance dimmed slightly. The spiritual treasures of heaven and earth, when obtained through proper means, have an inexhaustible source.

“It’s done.”

Kai let out a long sigh, unable to support himself any longer, and staggered backward, supported by Huo Ling’er.

The Crimson Cloud Demon Lord looked at the cold jade bottle, and his eyes, which had been calm for ten thousand years, finally showed a surge of excitement.

He opened his mouth, but only managed to utter, “Boy, this favor…”

“Senior, saving your Daoist companion is the priority.”

Kai smiled weakly and handed over the jade bottle. “We need to leave the Earth Core Demon Abyss immediately. Although the Soul Devourer has

been defeated and fled, this place is not safe to stay for long." The Crimson Cloud Demon Lord nodded emphatically, carefully putting away the jade bottle.

The three returned by the same route, their journey much smoother now that the formation was broken.

Two hours later, they finally saw the entrance to the Demon Abyss, guarded by the Earth Fire Pavilion.

The moment Kai stepped out of the Demon Abyss, he looked back at the bottomless darkness, his eyes deep and profound.

The Soul Devourer had fled to the Twelfth Heaven, the shadow of the Gate of Reincarnation, the threat of the Evil Path Palace... all of this would face its final showdown in that vaster and more perilous realm.

He gripped the Dragon-Slaying Sword tightly; though the wound in his left chest still throbbed with pain, the Chaos Immortal Power was gradually gaining the upper hand.

The road ahead was fraught with peril, but the sword was in his hand.

He would carve a path through it.

...

In the Twelfth Heaven, the main altar of the Evil Path Palace stood majestically deep in the void.

The entire palace complex was constructed from countless black bones, with eternal lamps centered on the fire of souls hanging from the eaves, their eerie green light flickering in the void, like the silent wails of billions of dead souls.

Nine streaks of grayish-white cyclical energy, like colossal pythons reaching the heavens, coiled around the palace. Each breath caused the

surrounding spatial rules to distort and tremble, emitting a groan of unbearable strain.

Deep within the main hall, a hundred-foot-high dome hung with densely packed bone chains, each chain ending in a still-pulsating core of a divine soul.

These were the last fragments of consciousness of powerful beings captured by the Evil Path Palace, providing the energy to sustain the palace's operation amidst eternal torment.

At this moment, in the center of the hall,

the Soul Devourer knelt on the cold, bone-like surface. His six tattered wings drooped limply, their edges charred and curled, dark red demonic blood dripping from the broken ends.

His left arm was severed at the shoulder, the wound wreathed in wisps of grayish-white sword energy—the chaotic sword intent left by Kai, clinging like maggots to his demonic body, relentlessly eroding his demonic body and preventing the wound from healing.

His aura was utterly depleted; the once surging, sea-like Soul-Devouring Demonic Flame was now reduced to a faint, flickering dark red flame on his skin, even the pained faces formed from the countless souls he had devoured on his scales were blurred. He was a completely different person from

the arrogant and domineering figure he had been in the Abyss of the Earth's Core just days before.

On his throne, Zhan E slowly opened his greyish-white pupils.

His face was withered like an ancient corpse, his skin clinging tightly to his bones, displaying an unnatural bluish-gray hue.

His long, dark robe was embroidered with intricate runes of reincarnation, flickering with his breath. When he gazed at the Soul-

Devouring Lord, a barely perceptible hint of amusement flashed in his pupil-less, greyish-white eyes.

“Soul-Devouring Lord…”

Zhan E began, his voice dry and hoarse, like two pieces of withered bone rubbing against each other, each syllable carrying a tremor that made one’s soul uneasy.

“Ten thousand years have passed. The Soul-Devouring Demon Lord, who once devoured millions of souls and whose ferocity shook the nine heavens, is now like a stray dog, groveling before my throne, begging for mercy.”

He slowly rose, his robes billowing without wind, the aura of reincarnation around him flowing like a living thing, stirring up silent vortices in the hall.

“Having his arm severed by a mere Celestial Immortal junior, his demonic flames dissipating, he fled in a sorry state to this place…”

Zhan E strode down the steps of the throne, his bone-soled shoes striking the ground with a crisp “click.” “Tsk tsk, if those old guys who died from the Soul-Devouring Demon Art ten thousand years ago saw him like this, even the Pool of Reincarnation would laugh ripples.”

Chapter 5918 - 5919

“Soul Devourer, do you really think I don’t know what you’re thinking?”

Zhan E took a few steps back, coldly watching the Soul Devourer struggling frantically in his chains, his gray-white eyes utterly calm.

“Feigning allegiance, you’re actually using the Evil Path Palace to recuperate. Once you return to your peak, the first one to turn against you will probably be me, won’t you?”

His tone was flat, as if stating a perfectly ordinary fact. “After all, if the Soul Devouring Demon Art is to advance further, it needs to devour even more powerful divine souls… and my divine soul, cultivated through ten thousand years of reincarnation, is a tempting tonic for you, isn’t it?”

The Soul Devourer’s struggling movements faltered.

Because Zhan E was right.

That was indeed his plan: first, to use the Evil Path Palace for protection to recuperate; once he regained his strength, he would seize the opportunity to devour Zhan E’s divine soul, seize control of the Evil Path Palace, and then who in the Twelve Heavens would be his match?

“What a pity, what a pity.”

Zhan E shook his head, raising his withered hand to form a complex and eerie hand seal in the air. “I have lived for ten thousand years, and have seen more conspiracies and schemes than the souls you have devoured. From the moment you stepped into the Hall of Evil, I saw through your intentions clearly.” ”

Rather than raising a tiger to cause trouble, it’s better to…”

He pressed his hand seal downwards! ”

Refine it into a puppet!”

“Boom!!!”

The floor of the hall cracked open!

Countless bone bricks shattered and flew, revealing a bottomless, enormous crater in the center of the hall.

At the bottom of the crater, a pitch-black bone door, hundreds of feet tall, slowly rose. It was a door forged from the fused skulls of countless

living beings, each skull's eye sockets flickering with grayish-white flames.

The surface of the door was engraved with twisted and writhing reincarnation runes, which crawled and rearranged on the bone surface like living creatures, emitting a terrifying suction force that distorted the entire space of the hall—

the Gate of Reincarnation!

"No!!! Zhan E! I'll haunt you even in death!!!"

The Soul Devourer roared in utter despair, struggling frantically, his fleshy wings flapping desperately, even forcibly growing new flesh from his severed arm in an attempt to tear the chains… but all in vain.

The nine chains of reincarnation tightened abruptly, dragging his demonic body up and hurling it like a piece of cargo towards the wide-open Gate of Reincarnation!

"Boom!!!"

In the center of the gate, a gray-white vortex tens of feet in diameter suddenly appeared.

The vortex was so deep it seemed to lead to another universe, and what flowed within it was not matter or energy, but… rules.

The most fundamental rules about life, death, and reincarnation.

The moment the Soul Devourer's broken demonic body touched the vortex, it was torn apart and swallowed by an irresistible force.

His screams abruptly ceased, like a wild beast whose throat had been choked.

The Gate of Reincarnation slowly closed.

The runes on the bone gate returned to calm, only the gray-white flames in the eye sockets of the skulls on the surface of the gate seemed to brighten slightly.

Silence returned to the main hall.

Zhan E walked to the Gate of Reincarnation, his withered hand gently pressing against the cold bone surface, his eyes closed as he sensed it.

After a moment, a cold yet satisfied smile curved his lips.

“The Land of Reincarnation… truly profound.” …

Within the Gate of Reincarnation.

The Soul Devourer’s consciousness gradually cleared amidst the endless fall.

His soul, pierced and torn apart by the chains of reincarnation, should have succumbed to chaos in extreme pain.

But some external force of rules forcibly maintained his clarity of consciousness, allowing him to fully experience every trace of pain, every moment of despair.

He opened his eyes and saw this world.

It was a space entirely composed of gray and white tones.

The sky was gray and white, devoid of sun, moon, and stars, only a thick layer of gray and white clouds that seemed to press down.

The earth was gray and white—cracked soil, exposed rocks, withered vegetation…everything was stripped of color, leaving only a deathly gray and white.

The spiritual energy flowing in the air was also gray and white, an energy form he had never encountered before.

Cold, deathly, and possessing an absolute sense of order, it was the complete opposite of the chaotic, greedy, and devouring characteristics of the Soul Devouring Demon Art he cultivated. What

chilled him most was the omnipresent suppression of rules in this world.

Here, the Soul-Devouring Demon Art, which he had painstakingly cultivated for millennia, operated at a speed more than ten times slower. Each time he mobilized the demonic flames, it felt like struggling in a viscous swamp.

His divine sense was compressed to within a hundred feet of his body; beyond that, even things visible to the naked eye were perceived as nothingness.

Even his sense of time was distorted.

He felt as if he had been falling for a very long time, long enough for mortals to experience dozens of cycles of birth, aging, sickness, and death, yet when he looked up, the gray sky was still far above, the distance undiminished.

“I must… leave…”

The Soul-Devouring Venerable gritted his teeth, his remaining will driving his shattered divine soul in an attempt to regain control of his body.

He could feel that the wisp of chaotic sword energy at the severed arm was being suppressed in this world, its erosion slowing considerably.

But in contrast, the excruciating pain of his divine soul being torn apart became increasingly clear.

Although the nine chains of reincarnation had disappeared, the wounds they left behind remained. His divine soul was like a leaky bucket, constantly losing the very foundation that constituted his self.

Finally, after a fall that felt both eternal and fleeting, he touched the ground.

There was no impact, no tremor, like a feather falling on water, eerily gentle.

The Soul Devourer struggled to his feet and looked around.

He stood on a desolate plain stretching to the horizon.

The greyish-white soil extended to the very edge of his vision, blurring into the greyish-white sky at the horizon.

Scattered across the plain were twisted, withered trees, their trunks barkless, only smooth, bone-white surfaces, their branches reaching towards the sky like ghostly claws.

Deathly silence.

Absolute deathly silence.

No wind, no insects chirping, no flowing water, even his own heartbeat was so faint as to be almost inaudible.

Chapter 5920 - 5930

“Leave?”

A voice suddenly rang out.

It didn’t come from any particular direction, but rather poured directly into the Soul Devourer’s consciousness from all directions, dry, mechanical, and cold, like the resonance of some kind of law in operation.

The Soul Devourer whirled around.

Three gray-white figures appeared around him without warning, forming a perfect triangle that trapped him in the center.

They were three humanoid beings, but the Soul Devourer couldn't be sure if they were truly human.

They wore ancient-style gray-white robes, the sleeves wide and reaching their feet.

Their faces were indistinct, as if shrouded in a flowing mist, only the outlines of their features vaguely visible.

Most bizarrely, their eyes, or rather, their eye sockets,

were devoid of eyeballs, only two black hole-like depressions, within which two gray-white flames flickered, each flicker accompanied by a subtle tremor of the surrounding spatial rules.

Their bodies seemed to be formed from pure reincarnation energy, standing there, perfectly integrated with this gray-white world.

If not for the naked eye, the Soul Devourer's soul perception would be completely unaware of their existence, just as a person cannot "perceive" the existence of air.

"Outsiders,"

the gray-white humanoid in the middle spoke, its voice still possessing that mechanical resonance that directly penetrates consciousness, "The Land of Reincarnation, forbidden to living beings."

The humanoid on the left continued, its tone utterly flat: "Hand over your soul, enter the Pool of Reincarnation, and you may gain…rebirth."

The humanoid on the right added, each word as cold as iron: "Those who refuse, will be refined."

Alarm bells rang loudly in the Soul Devourer's mind, his soul frantically issuing warnings.

The oppressive feeling these three beings gave him even surpassed that of Zhan E in his prime!

It wasn't a difference in power, but...a difference in the level of life.

Like an ant facing a dragon, even if the dragon merely gazes down silently, the ant will instinctively tremble. He suppressed the fear in his heart, striving to keep his voice calm: "I am the Soul Devourer Demon Lord, I have mistakenly entered this place, with no intention of offending. I humbly request that the three of you...show me a way out." A brief silence

followed . Three greyish-white humanoid figures stared at him simultaneously, the greyish-white flames in their black eye sockets flickering slightly faster. "Refuse," the middle figure spoke again, its voice now carrying an undeniable air of authority. "Rule of Reincarnation, Article 1372: Anyone who enters without the permission of the Lord of Reincarnation is considered an intruder, and must have their soul refined, their consciousness stripped away, to complete their reincarnation." The instant the words fell, the three greyish-white humanoid figures simultaneously raised their right hands. The movements were slow and stiff, like marionettes, yet possessed a suffocating rhythm. Just three simple greyish-white palms, fingers spread, pressing down. There was no overwhelming aura, no earth-shattering energy fluctuations, not even a wisp of wind. Yet, the Soul Devourer felt the entire world pressing down upon him!

It wasn't a crushing force, but a crushing force of rules.

Like a tiny figure drawn on a piece of paper, gently pressed down from three-dimensional space by an invisible hand.

For the figure on the paper, it was an incomprehensible, irresistible, and even imperceptible dimensional reduction attack.

“Roar!!!”

The Soul Devourer roared in despair, his remaining Soul Devouring Demonic Flame burning recklessly, his six tattered wings vibrating wildly, trying to break free from this invisible constraint.

But all was in vain.

His demonic flame extinguished automatically upon contact with the invisible suppression of rules; his struggles were like insects trapped in amber, each movement ridiculously slow, ultimately freezing completely.

Three gray-white palms seemed to descend slowly, yet they appeared to transcend the barriers of time and space, inescapable and irresistible.

“Pfft!”

The first palm pressed against his Baihui acupoint on the top of his head.

The Soul Devourer trembled violently, dark red demonic blood spurting from all seven orifices simultaneously!

He felt his core soul being directly “grabbed” by that palm, and then… extracted.

Like drawing water from a well, bucket after bucket, without mercy.

The divine soul power accumulated over millennia of cultivation, the soul source condensed from devouring millions of souls, all memories, emotions, and insights… were being ruthlessly stripped away and extracted.

“Ughhhhh!!!”

A shrill, inhuman scream echoed across the gray plains.

But the scream lasted only a breath before abruptly ceasing, as a second hand pressed against his chest, specifically the Tanzhong acupoint.

“Crack!”

The sound of his ribs shattering was clearly audible.

A cold, deathly gray-white current surged into his heart through the palm, and the demonic heart that had beat for thirteen thousand years froze instantly upon contact with the gray-white current.

Life force drained from his body like a receding tide; his once surging life force withered to the brink of exhaustion within a few breaths.

Then, a third hand pressed against his dantian, his sea of qi.

“Boom!!!”

That was the sound of his foundation crumbling.

The Soul-Devouring Demonic Art, painstakingly cultivated for millennia and forged from countless rare and precious treasures, crumbled like a sandcastle under this single palm strike.

The source of the Soul-Devouring Demonic Flame, the core of the Earth Core Demonic Flame, the linchpin of all cultivation techniques… all shattered, disintegrated, and annihilated.

The three palms withdrew simultaneously.

The Soul-Devouring Venerable’s tattered demonic body collapsed to the ground, like a skinned husk stripped of its bones. The light in his eyes completely faded, his eerie green pupils turned dull and lifeless, leaving only a last wisp of consciousness struggling and sinking in boundless pain and despair.

He saw the three gray-white human figures stand around him, their hands simultaneously forming an extremely complex and bizarre hand seal.

The instant the seal was completed, the cyclical energy of the entire gray-white plain erupted violently!

Endless gray-white energy surged from the sky, the earth, and the air, converging on him like billions of venomous snakes, enveloping him layer by layer, forming a gigantic gray cocoon with a diameter exceeding ten zhang.

Within the cocoon, the Soul Devourer's last consciousness clearly felt his own demise.

His physical body was dissolving, broken down into the most basic energy particles by the gray-white energy, then recombine and reshape itself.

His demonic soul was disintegrating, his memories were extracted and sealed into some unknowable depth, his emotions were stripped away and crushed, and his self-awareness peeled away and dissipated little by little like a weathered statue...

But at the same time, something was preserved.

Combat instinct—a primal reaction honed through millennia of battle and countless life-or-death struggles—was refined, solidified, and imprinted upon the new body.

Cultivation foundation—though the demonic arts were destroyed, the insights gained from the first rank of the Upper Immortal realm, the understanding of the rules of heaven and earth, and the experience in energy circulation were preserved in their purest form after the "Soul Devouring" attribute was stripped away.

Cultivation technique insights—the operating principles of the Soul Devouring Demonic Arts, the fusion techniques of the Earth Core Demon Flame, the core essence of all combat supernatural abilities... were analyzed and reorganized into a set of "programs" that could be driven.

This was not complete destruction.

This was… reshaping.

The existence of the “Soul Devouring Venerable” was erased, leaving only the most valuable “materials,” and then, according to a predetermined template, a perfect tool was reforged.

In the instant before the last wisp of consciousness completely dissipated, the Soul Devouring Venerable finally understood.

This was not a place of reincarnation at all.

This was… a “factory” for the rules of reincarnation.

All unauthorized intruders are ruthlessly refined by the beings here, their consciousness stripped away, their value preserved, and then crafted into puppets, weapons, materials, or even containers for certain rules.

And the three guards here—each one’s strength… likely reaches the legendary True Immortal realm, or even higher!

They are not living beings; they are the embodiment of the rules of reincarnation, a part of this world.

“Kai… Zhan E…” The last trace of resentment dissipated into the gray-white airflow as consciousness completely vanished.

The gray cocoon slowly contracted, gradually compressing from ten zhang in size to the size of an ordinary person, finally transforming into a blurry humanoid outline, silently suspended in mid-air.

The three gray-white humanoid figures stood still for a moment.

The one in the middle raised his hand and beckoned, the humanoid outline slowly flying into his palm.

He stretched out his other hand, his fingertips gently tracing the surface of the humanoid outline, the gray-white airflow seeping in like threads, probing every detail within.

“The foundation of a peak first-grade Immortal Realm cultivator is fully preserved.”

He spoke, his voice still mechanical. “The origin of the Soul-Devouring Demon Flame has been stripped of its ‘Soul-Devouring’ attribute, transforming into a pure devouring rule module. The core of the Earth Core Demon Flame is intact and compatible with the Qi of Reincarnation.” ”

Combat instinct integrity: 97%.” The person on the left added, “The missing part is the explosive combat mode driven by extreme emotions, which is harmless.”

The flames in the black hole eye sockets of the person on the right flickered: “Memories have been sealed in storage unit number 372 of the Reincarnation Pool, and the emotional module has been completely erased. Self-awareness remains… zero.”

The person in the middle withdrew his finger, and the humanoid silhouette slowly rotated in his palm.

“Meets the criteria for a Reincarnation Puppet General.”

He gave his final assessment. “Nourish it in the Reincarnation Pool for three months. Once the body and the rule module are fully integrated, it can be used.”

The man on the left looked towards the Gate of Reincarnation, a subtle fluctuation appearing in his voice for the first time: “An ant outside the gate, quite lucky. A Reincarnation Puppet General of the Upper Immortal Realm is rare even in higher worlds.”

The man on the right was silent for a moment, then said, “Authorization holder Zhan E. Your contribution has reached the standard for receiving a Puppet General. According to the rules, you can receive one.”

“Begin execution.”

The three fell silent, carrying the humanoid silhouette, their figures slowly fading away, like ink dissolving in water, finally disappearing completely into the gray-white world.

Only the endless silence still shrouded this Reincarnation Land.

This so-called Reincarnation Land within the Gate of Reincarnation was not about resurrecting anyone, but about using puppetry to create an identical puppet.

This wasn't resurrection at all; it was clearly a scam! The main hall of the Evil Path Palace.

Three months is enough for mortals to experience a full season, but for cultivators with lifespans measured in tens of thousands of years, it's merely the time for a short seclusion.

Zhan E sat cross-legged before the Gate of Reincarnation, his gray-white aura surging like a tide.

For the past three months, he had remained here almost constantly, cultivating the Path of Reincarnation while sensing the subtle fluctuations emanating from behind the gate.

Each fluctuation represented a step forward in the refinement of the Soul Devourer's soul, indicating a further progress in the creation of the Reincarnation Puppet General.

He could feel his understanding of the rules of reincarnation deepening at an astonishing rate.

The fragments of primordial rules belonging to the Land of Reincarnation seeping from the cracks in the gate were like the most precious nourishment, nurturing his millennia-long arduous cultivation of the Reincarnation technique.

His cultivation had steadily improved from the initial entry into the third rank of the Upper Immortal Realm to the mid-third rank, and even faintly touched the threshold of the late third rank.

More importantly, his control over the Gate of Reincarnation was increasing.

Three months ago, he could barely open the Gate of Reincarnation, using the leaked power behind it to craft low-level reincarnation puppets or to feed captured souls in exchange for meager feedback from the rules.

But now...

Zhan E opened his gray-white pupils, a burning glint in his eyes.

He felt his connection to the gate had deepened.

Like a thin, fragile thread, it had grown thicker and stronger through countless energy exchanges, even beginning to carry more information.

“Soon...”

he murmured, his withered fingers tapping lightly on the bone-like surface. “As long as I can obtain that reincarnation puppet, using it as a medium, I can connect more deeply to the Land of Reincarnation, and perhaps... even glimpse a glimpse of the true face of the Lord of Reincarnation.”

At that time, he might truly understand the origin of this gate and the true purpose of the three terrifying beings behind it.

Suddenly...

“Buzz!!!”

The Gate of Reincarnation trembled violently!

Simultaneously, the greyish-white flames within the eye sockets of the skulls on the entire bone door flared up, shooting skyward and illuminating the entire hall as if it were daytime.

The runes on the door writhed and rearranged wildly, emitting piercing shrieks—the mournful cries of rules being forcibly twisted and torn apart.

Zhan E abruptly stood up, his greyish-white eyes fixed on the center of the door.

There, in the center of the once perfectly sealed bone door, a tiny crack slowly appeared.

The crack was initially only the thickness of a hair, but it rapidly expanded, growing to a foot wide, then a foot wide… eventually forming a gap large enough for an ordinary person to pass through.

Inside the gap was not the palace scene behind the door, but a deep greyish-white vortex.

The vortex slowly rotated, each rotation distorting the surrounding space and emitting a terrifying suction force that sent shivers down one's spine.

Then, a figure stepped out of the vortex.

He was a man eight feet tall, with a slender and upright figure, clad in dark red, close-fitting scale armor, the surface of which swirled with eerie gray and white patterns.

Six large, intact fleshy wings adorned his back, each edge burning with tangible dark red flames, the depths of which faintly revealed shimmering gray-white runes.

His face bore a seven-tenths resemblance to the Soul Devourer, but was colder, more perfect, like a meticulously sculpted statue. His

once eerie green eyes were now pure gray-white, devoid of pupils or whites, only two slowly rotating gray-white vortexes, so deep they seemed capable of swallowing all light.Most striking was his left arm, the part severed by Kai, which had now regrown.

The new arm was indistinguishable from the original, even with finer scales and sharper fingertips, except for a grayish-white line running from his shoulder to his wrist, like some kind of seal, or a conduit for power.

He stepped out of the vortex, his foot landing on the bone-like surface with a muffled thud.

The Gate of Reincarnation slowly closed, the tremors subsided, the flames receded, and everything returned to normal.

The figure stood still, his grayish-white eyes slowly turning before finally settling on Zhan E.

Then, he knelt on one knee, head bowed, his voice mechanical and monotonous, devoid of emotion: “Master.”

A flicker of barely suppressed ecstasy flashed in Zhan E’s grayish-white pupils.

He slowly stepped forward, walking to the kneeling figure, his withered fingers rising to gently touch the other’s forehead, cheek, and shoulder… as if inspecting a newly completed work of art.

“Perfect… too perfect…”

Zhan E murmured, his voice trembling slightly.

He could sense the power contained within this body—the power that retained the entire foundation of the Soul Devouring Venerable’s peak first-grade Immortal Realm cultivation.

Even more so, due to the refining and reshaping process in the Land of Reincarnation, its physical strength and energy purity were superior to its original state.

More importantly, he could feel the close, absolutely obedient "connection" between himself and this body.

Like the connection between an arm and the brain, a single thought would be executed unconditionally by this body, without the slightest hesitation, resistance, or even a question of why.

A perfect killing tool, virtually invincible below the True Immortal Realm.

"Get up,"

Zhan E said calmly, suppressing his excitement.

The figure rose, standing silently to the side, lifeless like a statue.

His posture was straight and stiff, every joint in a perfect battle-ready state, his gray-white eyes staring straight ahead, awaiting the next command.

"From this day forward, your name is 'Soul-Devouring Puppet',"

Zhan E said slowly, walking up to the Soul-Devouring Puppet. His gray-white eyes stared directly into the empty gray-white vortex within. "I command you to lead all the Soul Hunters of the Evil Path Hall and patrol the Twelve Heavens."

His tone gradually turned cold, carrying an unquestionable majesty: "Within the Twelve Heavens, all cultivators of the eighth rank or above in the Heavenly Immortal Realm, regardless of whether they are disciples of immortal sects, powerful rogue cultivators, or reclusive old monsters... as long as their soul strength meets the standard, capture them all, strip them of their souls, and send them to the Gate of Reincarnation." "

If there is any resistance…”

Zhan E paused, a cruel smile curving his lips, “Kill them without mercy. Refine their physical bodies into low-level reincarnation puppets, and extract their souls at double the rate.”

The vortex in the Soul-Devouring Puppet’s gray-white eyes spun slightly faster, mechanically replying, “Yes, sir.”

“Furthermore,”

Zhan E’s voice lowered, carrying a chilling undertone, “if we encounter someone possessing Chaotic Immortal Power, Golden Dragon Bloodline, or Earth Fire True Flame… capture them alive at all costs.”

He added, “Remember, capture them alive. Even if their physical body is destroyed, their complete soul must be preserved. This person… will be of great use to me.”

“Yes, sir,”

the Soul-Devouring Puppet replied again, its voice still completely unwavering. Zhan E nodded in satisfaction, raised his hand, and a palm-sized gray-white token flew from his sleeve, landing in the Soul-Devouring Puppet’s hand.

The token was made of special bones from the Land of Reincarnation, with a twisted character for “puppet” engraved on the front and densely packed authority runes on the back.

“This is the ‘Puppet General’s Token’,”

Zhan E said. “With this token, everyone in the Evil Path Hall except myself can see me as if I were present. All resources, all puppets, and all Soul Hunters within the hall can be commanded by you.”

The Soul-Devouring Puppet grasped the token, runes flashing in its gray-white eyes, and the token merged into its palm, leaving only a faint gray-white mark on its skin.

“Go,”

Zhan E waved his sleeve, “Let the Twelfth Heaven… feel the majesty of Reincarnation.”

The Soul-Devouring Puppet bowed, turned, and stepped out of the hall.

His steps were steady and precise, each step measured with the perfect distance, as if measured with a ruler.

The six fleshy wings on its back folded slightly, the dark red flames at the edges receding, yet the aura emanating from it caused all the disciples, guards, and puppets of the Evil Path Hall along the way to instinctively kneel on the ground, trembling.

It was the pressure of a peak Immortal Realm cultivator, mixed with the deathly aura unique to the Land of Reincarnation, like tangible ice, freezing the souls of every living being.

Outside the hall, nine streams of Reincarnation Qi surrounding the palace sensed the appearance of the Soul-Devouring Puppet and emitted excited buzzing sounds.

Like nine loyal dogs seeing their master, they circled and danced around the Soul-Devouring Puppet, eventually condensing behind it into a gray-white cloak hundreds of feet high, its edges flowing with countless tiny runes, each rune representing a rule of reincarnation.

The Soul-Devouring Puppet stepped into the void, its gray-white eyes overlooking the Evil Path Hall complex stretching for thousands of miles below.

It raised its right hand, palm upward.

“Soul Hunters, assemble.”

The mechanical voice, though not loud, was like a commandment, instantly resounding throughout every corner of the Evil Path Hall.

“Whoosh—whoosh—whoosh—”

Countless black shadows soared into the sky from the depths of the palace, from the training grounds, and from the secluded cultivation areas!

These were the Soul Hunters, a force cultivated by the Evil Path Hall for thousands of years, numbering over thirty thousand. Their minimum cultivation level was at least fifth-grade Celestial Immortal, with over a thousand commanders at eighth-grade Celestial Immortal.

They were uniformly clad in jet-black soul armor, wielding specially crafted soul-locking chains, soul-capturing banners, and soul-refining furnaces. Each was an expert in the Dao of the Soul, adept at capturing and refining divine souls .

At this moment, these thirty thousand Soul Hunters, like a black tide, rapidly gathered and arrayed themselves in the void, ultimately forming a massive square formation beneath the Soul-Devouring Puppet.

Everyone lowered their heads, not daring to look directly at the figure clad in a greyish-white cloak—a fear originating from the depths of their souls, an instinctive awe of a higher-level being.

The Soul-Devouring Puppet’s greyish-white eyes swept across the formation below, and its mechanical voice rang out again:

“Target: The entire Twelfth Heaven.”

“Mission: Hunt divine souls of Celestial Immortals of Grade Eight or higher.”

“Action, commence.”

There was no pre-battle mobilization, no rousing oaths, only the most concise command.

Yet, the thirty thousand Soul Hunters simultaneously knelt on one knee, responding in unison like a tsunami:

“As you command, Puppet General!”

The next moment, the greyish-white cloak behind the Soul-Devouring Puppet suddenly unfurled, transforming into a greyish-white light curtain that stretched across the sky.

Wherever the light curtain covered, the rules of space were forcibly distorted, and a teleportation channel leading to various parts of the Twelfth Heaven rapidly formed.

The Soul-Devouring Puppet was the first to step into the channel.

The thirty thousand Soul Hunters followed closely behind like a black torrent. As the last figure disappeared into the passage, the gray-white light curtain slowly receded, transforming back into a cloak and returning to the Soul-Devouring Puppet’s back.

The passage closed, and the void returned to calm, as if nothing had happened.

But the fate of the Twelve Heavens had been completely altered from this moment on.

The main hall of the Evil Path Palace.

Zhan E stood before the palace gate, his gray-white eyes gazing in the direction the Soul-Devouring Puppet had departed, a cold smile lingering on his lips.

He could feel that with the Soul-Devouring Puppet’s movement, the entire Twelve Heavens’ teleportation array was being activated.

These were the hidden teleportation array nodes he had spent countless millennia laying down throughout the Twelve Heavens.

Each node was an eye, and also a passage.

Through this network of reincarnation that spanned the entire realm, the Soul-Devouring Puppet could appear anywhere in the Twelve Heavens at any time, and could instantly teleport captured souls back to the Evil Path Palace, casting them into the Gate of Reincarnation.

More importantly, Zhan E could sense the energy fluctuations, powerful auras, and power distribution of every corner of the Twelve Heavens through this network… like a spider web covering the entire area, no movement could escape his perception.

“Finally… it’s begun.”

Zhan E murmured to himself, his withered finger lightly tapping the air.

A circle of grayish-white ripples spread out, and a three-dimensional star map appeared at its center—a panoramic view of the Twelve Heavens, marking the locations of major immortal sects, aristocratic families, gathering places of rogue cultivators, and dangerous secret realms.

At this moment, over three hundred points of light on the star map were flashing and moving simultaneously.

Each point of light represented a Soul Hunter team.

And the brightest and fastest-moving point of light was the location of the Soul Devouring Puppet.

He had already arrived in the eastern part of the Twelve Heavens, that prosperous area jointly controlled by the three major immortal sects.

“Let’s start by devouring the fattest parts.” A cruel glint flashed in Zhan E’s eyes. “The three great immortal sects… Hmph, they’ve occupied the

richest regions of the Twelve Heavens for ten thousand years; it's time they paid their price."

He turned and walked back to the main hall, sitting cross-legged again before the Gate of Reincarnation.

His grey-white eyes closed, and his mind sank into the reincarnation network that spanned the entire realm, beginning to watch this hunting feast he had personally directed, sweeping across the Twelve Heavens.

Meanwhile, in the far more distant void, beyond Zhan E's perception,

inside a white jade palace suspended in chaotic currents,

an old man in a blue robe, his face blurred, suddenly opened his eyes, a hint of surprise flashing within them.

"The fluctuations of the power of reincarnation… have suddenly intensified by more than a hundredfold…"

He calculated with his fingers, his brows furrowing deeper and deeper. "Moreover… there's a familiar, repulsive aura of devouring… is it that demon who should have died ten thousand years ago?"

"No… it's colder, more deathly still, like… a puppet?"

The old man abruptly stood up, stepped out of the palace, and arrived at the edge of the void, gazing in the direction of the Twelfth Heaven.

After a long while, he slowly exhaled a breath of turbid air, a trace of solemnity flashing in his eyes.

"It seems that the Twelfth Heaven, which has been peaceful for too long… is about to change."

"I just don't know how many lives this storm will ultimately devour, or how many forces will be drawn into it…"

He shook his head, turned and returned to the palace, beginning to contact several other reclusive old monsters.

The storm had begun; no one could remain uninvolved. Earthfire Pavilion, Heavenfire Secret Realm.

Crimson-gold Earthfire True Flames flowed gently around Kai like warm silk.

He sat cross-legged on a lotus platform of flames in the center of the secret realm, his eyes closed, his breathing long and even.

The once ferocious and terrifying Soul-Devouring Demon Flame palm print on his left chest was now just a pale red scar, its surface faintly revealing the intertwining and flowing of chaotic energy and the phantom of a golden dragon.

Three months.

Three months had passed since his return from the Earth Core Demon Abyss

. In these three months, Kai had hardly stepped out of the Heavenfire Secret Realm.

The Earthfire Pavilion had spared no effort, sending forth a continuous stream of various healing elixirs, body-tempering elixirs, and mind-calming teas;

the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord, after taking the Earth Core Jade Marrow Milk, did not leave immediately but instead stayed in the Earthfire Pavilion, imparting to him all the demonic body-tempering secrets he had accumulated over millennia;

and Huo Ling’er had been guarding the secret realm day and night, using her own Earthfire True Scripture cultivation to guide the Earthfire spiritual energy within, helping Kai accelerate his recovery.

At this moment, Kai slowly opened his eyes.

Deep within his eyes, a primordial grayness, a soaring golden dragon's majesty, and the blazing heat of burning earth fire alternated and flowed, finally settling into a profound calm.

He gently exhaled a breath of turbid air.

The turbid air, leaving his body, transformed into a small three-colored dragon, circling three times in the air before dissipating into pure spiritual energy.

"Finally... completely recovered."

Kai clenched his fist, feeling the ceaseless flow of power within his body.

His Chaotic Immortal Power was even more condensed and pure than before his injury; his Golden Dragon bloodline showed faint signs of breaking through to the next stage; and the Earth Fire True Scripture, taking advantage of this opportunity to recover from his severe injuries, had broken through to the seventh level.

Although he was still at the third rank of the Heavenly Immortal Realm, his true combat strength...

a sharp glint flashed in Kai's eyes.

If he were to fight the Soul Devourer again, he was confident he could utterly kill him within fifty moves!

"Husband!"

Huo Ling'er's joyful call came from the entrance of the secret realm, and then a crimson figure darted in like a swallow.

Huo Ling'er was dressed in a fiery red outfit today, her long hair tied in a high ponytail, making her look spirited.

She looked Kai up and down, her beautiful eyes full of concern: “How are you feeling? Are your injuries fully healed?”

Kai stood up and smiled: “I’m fine now, in fact… I’ve benefited from this misfortune, my cultivation has improved slightly, and we can cultivate together tonight.”

Huo Ling’er breathed a sigh of relief upon hearing this. If Kai was seriously injured and couldn’t cultivate together, wouldn’t she be very upset?

After all, once you’ve tasted the sweetness, you can’t resist.

“Father sent me to invite you, saying he has important matters to discuss. There are quite a few strangers coming from the main hall, and their auras are all very strong.”

“Strangers?” Kai raised an eyebrow.

As one of the top powers in the eleventh heaven, the Earth Fire Pavilion naturally receives many visitors on ordinary days, but for Huo Fentian to specially send someone to invite them, and for Huo Ling’er to take it so seriously…

“Let’s go, let’s go take a look.” …

The atmosphere in the main hall of the Earthfire Pavilion was heavy.

The usually spacious hall now seemed somewhat crowded.

Dozens of figures sat or stood on either side of the hall.

Their attire varied; some were luxurious and elegant, some were simple and plain, and some were even ragged and bloodstained, but without exception, they all exuded powerful auras.

The lowest level was at least the seventh rank of the Heavenly Immortal Realm!

The moment Kai stepped into the hall, he felt dozens of gazes fall on him simultaneously.

Among those gazes were scrutiny, curiosity, suspicion, and even a few that contained undisguised hostility.

“Young Master, this way.”

Huo Fentian, seated at the head of the table, rose to greet him.

Today, he was unusually dressed in the formal robes of the Earthfire Pavilion Master, a crimson robe embroidered with nine golden lotuses of Earthfire, and a crimson-gold crown on his head, his expression solemn.

Kai walked to Huo Fentian’s side and stopped, his gaze sweeping across the hall.

He saw several familiar faces.

The Crimson Cloud Demon Lord sat at the head of the left, eyes closed in meditation, but a faint demonic aura emanated from his body, indicating he was not letting his guard down.

The Earth Fire Ancestor sat on the other side of Fire Burning Heaven. This usually elusive ancestor had surprisingly appeared today, stroking his long beard and scrutinizing the people in the hall with a deep gaze.

And many more were strangers.

An old man in a tattered blue robe, his left arm severed at the shoulder, had a strange, grayish-white aura swirling around the wound, which seemed to be constantly eroding his life force, turning his face ashen.

A middle-aged woman clutched a broken jade zither, all the strings snapped. Blood seeped from her fingertips, but she seemed oblivious, staring blankly at the sky outside the hall.

Three men in identical golden armor stood side by side, their armor covered in cuts and slashes. One of them had his chest armor torn open by some kind of claw, revealing a deep, bone-revealing wound.

Seven or eight young cultivators were gathered together. Their clothes were relatively intact, but they all looked terrified, like frightened birds, tense at the slightest sound.

Most striking were the three standing in the center of the hall.

The leader was an old Taoist priest with white hair and beard, his face ancient and weathered. He held a whisk, most of the whisk's threads broken.

His aura was deeply restrained, and Kai couldn't immediately discern its depth, but he was at least at the peak of the ninth rank of the Heavenly Immortal Realm! Behind the old Taoist priest, a man and a woman stood on either side. The man was about thirty years old, with sword-like eyebrows and bright eyes. He carried a long sword wrapped in coarse cloth on his back; though it was not drawn, a sharp sword intent faintly emanated from it. The woman

was in her early twenties, with a beautiful face, wearing a light blue dress, and a string of silver bells hung from her waist. The bells rang softly, carrying a rhythmic quality that soothed the soul. "Young Master..." Huo Fentian's deep voice broke the silence in the hall, "Let me introduce you. This is the Grand Elder of the Qingming Sword Sect of the Twelfth Heaven, True Person Xuanwei." The white-haired old Taoist nodded slightly, his gaze lingering on Kai for a moment, his long gray eyebrows trembling imperceptibly.

Huo Fentian continued, "These two behind True Master Xuanwei are his personal disciples, Lin Xiao and Su Qianyue. As for the other fellow Daoists in the hall..."

He paused, his voice growing deeper, "they have all recently fled from the Twelfth Heaven..." Flee

?

Kai’s pupils constricted slightly.

Cultivators strive against fate, always aiming for higher levels of existence.

Eleventh Heaven cultivators dream of ascending to the Twelfth Heaven, and Twelfth Heaven cultivators yearn for the legendary Thirteenth Heaven or even higher.

This is an unchanging ironclad rule.

Yet now, these Twelfth Heaven experts have actually fled to the Eleventh Heaven?

“Father-in-law…”

Kai suppressed his doubts and cupped his hands, saying, “May I ask what brings you all here?”

Upon hearing this, several suppressed cold snorts echoed in the hall.

The old man in the green robe with the missing arm suddenly looked up, his eyes bloodshot, and hissed, “What is it? Boy, do you really not know, or are you just pretending to be confused?!”

“Qingyangzi, watch your words!” Xuanwei

Zhenren said in a deep voice, then looked at Kai, his tone softening a bit, “This young friend must have been in seclusion recently and is unaware of the changes in the outside world. I will make the long story short.”

He took a deep breath and said, word by word, “The Twelfth Heaven has fallen into a calamity.”

“Three months ago, the Evil Path Hall suddenly mobilized all its forces. The Hall Master Zhan E has acquired a terrifying puppet called ‘Soul

Devouring Puppet'. This puppet's strength is comparable to the peak of the first rank of the Upper Immortal Realm, and it is fearless of death and pain."

"The Soul Devouring Puppet led 30,000 Soul Hunters, starting from the eastern part of the Twelfth Heaven, and began a… hunt that swept across the entire region."

"A hunt?" Kai frowned.

"Hunting living beings, extracting their souls."

Master Xuanwei's voice was bitter. "Cultivators of the eighth rank or above in the Celestial Immortal Realm are all their targets. In just three months, the three major immortal sects in the east have been completely wiped out. Whether the disciples surrendered or not, their souls were extracted and refined, and their bodies were turned into low-level puppets to supplement the Soul Hunters' forces."

He pointed to the people in the hall: "Fellow Daoist Qingyangzi comes from 'Xuan Shuang Valley'. Two of the valley's three patriarchs died in battle, and the rest scattered and fled. Lady Qinxin comes from 'Tianyin Pavilion'. The pavilion master sacrificed his natal immortal artifact to protect his disciples' retreat, perishing together with the three Soul Hunter commanders. Those three golden-armored warriors were the last elite of 'Zhenyue Sect'. When the mountain gate was breached, they protected three hundred children and fought their way out of the encirclement. Now… only the three of them remain."

The hall was deathly silent.

Only the suppressed sobs of the young cultivators and the dripping sound of blood from Lady Qinxin's fingertips could be heard.

Kai's heart sank slowly.

He recalled the Soul Devourer's last words in the Abyss of the Earth's Core:

“Once I reach the Twelfth Heaven and recover my full strength…” He remembered the inexplicable sense of crisis he felt when leaving the Abyss.

It turned out, it wasn’t just a feeling. “The Evil Path Hall… Soul-Devouring Puppet…”

Kai murmured repeatedly, then suddenly looked at True Person Xuanwei, “Does True Person know the origin of that Soul-Devouring Puppet?”

True Person Xuanwei shook his head: “I only know that this puppet’s face is extremely similar to the infamous Soul-Devouring Demon Lord from ten thousand years ago, but its cultivation methods have been completely changed, mixed with a dense aura of reincarnation and death. Some fellow Daoists speculate that the Soul-Devouring Demon Lord may have been poisoned by Zhan E and refined into this puppet.”

Kai and the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord exchanged a glance, both seeing the solemnity in each other’s eyes.

The thing they feared most had still happened.

“Why not unite to resist?”

Kai pressed. “The Twelfth Heaven is teeming with powerful figures, and there must be many experts at the Upper Immortal Realm. Are we just going to let the Evil Path Hall run rampant?”

“Resist?”

Qing Yangzi gave a bitter laugh, raising his only remaining right hand to point to his empty left shoulder. “Boy, do you know what kind of injury this is? It was left by a casual wisp of Reincarnation Qi from the Soul-Devouring Puppet! I am a peak eighth-grade Heavenly Immortal, and I couldn’t even last three moves against that puppet!”

His voice was hoarse, filled with endless despair and fear: “As for the seniors at the Upper Immortal Realm… In the past three months, seven Upper Immortals have joined forces to besiege the Soul-Devouring Puppet. And the result? Three died on the spot, two were captured and had their souls extracted and refined, one was seriously injured and escaped without a trace, and only Senior ‘Lingxiao Sword Immortal’ managed to escape by chance, but his Dao foundation was damaged, and he will never be able to advance any further in this life.”

A collective gasp filled the hall.

Even the Earth Fire Ancestor opened his eyes, a look of horror flashing in his turbid eyes.

Seven Upper Immortals besieged him, and they still suffered such a crushing defeat?

Just how terrifying was the Soul-Devouring Puppet’s power?!

“So you all ran away?” A cold voice suddenly rang out.

Everyone turned to see that the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord had opened his eyes at some point, his scarlet demonic pupils sweeping over everyone in the hall, a sneer on his lips: “You couldn’t win, so you ran away, fleeing to a lower realm to eke out a living. Is this all the backbone left for cultivators of the Twelfth Heaven?”

“You…” Qingyangzi was furious, but the words turned into a long, dejected sigh.

What could he say?

The Crimson Cloud Demon Lord’s words, though harsh, were the truth.

Master Xuanwei remained silent for a moment, then slowly said, “Fellow Daoist, your words are true. When I led the disciples of the Azure Sword Sect to retreat, I also asked myself, after cultivating for ten thousand years, how laughable it is that we end up like stray dogs.”

He raised his head, looking at Huo Fentian, then at Kai, a resolute glint in his eyes: “But I did not come here merely to eke out a living. The Twelfth Heaven has become a living hell, and the Evil Path Hall’s ambitions are far greater than that.”

“Zhan E has refined countless souls through the Gate of Reincarnation; he must have something in mind. Once he is fully prepared, his next step… could very well be the Eleventh Heaven, or even other worlds.”

“I have shamelessly come here today in the hope that my fellow Daoists in the Eleventh Heaven can prepare early. If we can unite the power of all realms, perhaps… there is still a glimmer of hope.”

The hall fell silent once more.Huo Fentian frowned deeply, and even the old ancestor of the Earth Fire Pavilion stopped stroking his beard. The other elders of the Earth Fire Pavilion in the hall all wore solemn expressions; they all knew the weight of Xuanwei Zhenren’s words.

If what he said was true, then the Eleventh Heaven… would inevitably face this calamity sooner or later.

“Young friend Kai,” Huo Fentian suddenly spoke, his voice heavy, “you have grudges against the Evil Path Hall and the predecessor of that Soul-Devouring Puppet. What do you think of this matter?”

All eyes turned to Kai once more.

Kai slowly exhaled.

He walked to the center of the hall, his gaze sweeping over the faces—some filled with despair, some with fear, some with anticipation—before finally settling on Xuanwei Zhenren.

“Does the True Immortal know why the Evil Path Palace extracts souls on such a large scale?”

True Immortal Xuanwei paused, then shook his head. “I only know it’s related to the Gate of Reincarnation. Zhan E seems to need a large

number of souls as sacrifices to gain some kind of power or achieve some purpose.”

“That Gate of Reincarnation…”

Ancestor Earthfire paused, a hint of hesitation flashing in his eyes, before continuing, “It’s not some divine artifact for reincarnation at all.”

His voice was clear, each word echoing throughout the hall: “It’s a… passage to a certain purgatory of rules. All the souls thrown into it are refined, decomposed, and recombined, made into various puppet tools. The so-called ‘reincarnation,’ the so-called ‘immortality,’ are nothing but fabricated lies.”

“The Soul Devourer is not the first, and will certainly not be the last.”

A clamor erupted in the hall!

The cultivators who escaped from the twelfth heaven all paled, Qingyangzi trembling violently: “You… what did you say?! The Gate of Reincarnation is fake?! What about our master, our fellow disciples…?”

“Their souls are annihilated, their true spirits are gone.”

The Earth Fire Ancestor’s voice was icy, yet carried an undeniable certainty, “They will become nourishment to maintain the operation of that rule-based purgatory, or… be made into new puppets.”

“Boom!!!”

The broken zither in Lady Qinxin’s arms shattered, fragments scattering everywhere. She stood up, tears streaming down her face: “Zhan E… Evil Path Hall… I will make you pay with your lives!!!”

Several young cultivators collapsed to the ground, sobbing uncontrollably.

The reason they were able to grit their teeth and escape was because they still held onto a sliver of hope—the hope that their captured fellow disciples were merely imprisoned, the hope that one day they could be rescued.

But now, even that last glimmer of hope had been extinguished.

Kai looked at the Earth Fire Ancestor with astonishment; when this ancestor told him about the Gate of Reincarnation, he didn't seem to have mentioned any of this.

What is this old fellow still hiding from me?

"Ancestor, is what you're saying true? How come you've never told me any of this before?"

Kai asked!

"I don't want to talk about it!" The Earth Fire Ancestor's indifferent words left Kai speechless.

True Man Xuanwei closed his eyes, and after a long while, slowly opened them.

This old Daoist, who had cultivated for tens of thousands of years, now had tears welling in his eyes: "So that's how it is... No wonder, no wonder those fellow Daoists who were captured didn't even leave a trace of their true spirit..." He took a deep breath, suppressing the grief in his heart, and looked at the Earthfire Ancestor with a more solemn expression: "Fellow Daoist seems to know a lot of inside information."

"To be honest, I have been to the Samsara Land,"

the Earthfire Ancestor said calmly, "and I have personally witnessed the strangeness of the Gate of Samsara. More importantly..."

The Earthfire Ancestor looked at Kai, "Young man Kai, what do you intend to do?"

Kai turned around, facing Huo Fentian and the Earthfire Ancestor, and bowed solemnly.

“This junior humbly requests permission from the Pavilion Master and the Ancestor to go to the Twelfth Heaven.”

“What?!”

Huo Fentian suddenly stood up, “Young master, do you know what the situation is like in the Twelfth Heaven now? The Soul-Devouring Puppet’s strength is comparable to the peak of the first rank of the Upper Immortal Realm, and it has tens of thousands of Soul Hunters under its command. If you go now, it is no different from a lamb entering a tiger’s den!”

“You must know that the puppet’s realm cannot be compared with that of a living person. They do not know pain, they do not know fear, and they do not know life and death, so their true strength is only higher, not lower.”

“It is precisely because the situation is critical that someone must go.”

Kai straightened up, his eyes flashing with a sharp, sword-like light. “If we wait for the Evil Path Palace to be fully prepared and launch an attack on the Eleventh Heaven, we will only be able to passively take the hits. Only by taking the initiative and disrupting their plans before they have completely taken control of the Twelfth Heaven can we have a chance of victory.”

He paused, then added, “Moreover, Zhan E must already know that I possess Chaos Immortal Power. Given his nature, he will never allow me to grow unchecked. Rather than waiting for him to come knocking, I should take the initiative to go to him.”

Huo Fentian was about to persuade him further, but the Earth Fire Ancestor raised his hand.

This ancestor, who had lived for countless years, slowly stood up, walked to Kai, and carefully examined him with his cloudy eyes, as if trying to see through him from the inside out.

After a long while, the ancestor slowly said, “Are you confident?”

“No.”

Kai shook his head honestly, “But some things cannot be done only when you are confident.”

The Earth Fire Ancestor stared at him for a long time, then suddenly smiled.

The smile was faint, yet it carried an indescribable sense of relief and resolve.

“Alright. I’ll accompany you.”

“Ancestor?!” Huo Fentian was shocked.

The Earth Fire Ancestor waved his hand: “Fentian, the Earth Fire Pavilion is yours to manage. Guard the family business. My physical body has recovered; it’s time to stretch my muscles. Besides…”

He looked at Kai, a deep meaning flashing in his eyes: “The inheritor of the Chaos Immortal Power… This once-in-a-millennium opportunity, I also want to see with my own eyes how far he can go.”

The Crimson Cloud Demon Lord also stood up, his scarlet demonic eyes blazing with battle intent: “I’ll go too. Besides helping you, I also need to find the Nine Aperture Divine Soul Grass in the Twelfth Heaven to save her.” ”

Senior Crimson Cloud…” Kai looked at him.

The Crimson Cloud Demon Lord grinned, revealing his gleaming white teeth: “Stop being so indecisive. You’ve done me a great favor; my life is

temporarily in your hands.” Suddenly, Huo Ling’er, who had been silent all along, stepped forward and tightly grasped Kai’s sleeve: “I want to go too!”

“Nonsense!”

Huo Fentian shouted sharply, “Ling’er, your cultivation is still too shallow. Going to the twelfth heaven is too dangerous!”

“Father, I’m already a sixth-grade Celestial Immortal!”

Huo Ling’er stubbornly raised her face, “Besides, the Earth Fire True Scripture I cultivate has a restraining effect on demonic arts. It will definitely be of help!”

Kai gently patted the back of her hand and said softly, “You shouldn’t go. This journey is extremely dangerous. It’s equally important for you to stay in the eleventh heaven and help the Fire Pavilion Master stabilize the situation.”

Huo Ling’er bit her lip, tears glistening in her beautiful eyes, but in the end, she didn’t insist anymore.

She knew that Kai was right.

With her current strength, going might only become a burden.

Master Xuanwei stood up and bowed respectfully to Kai: “Young friend, your righteousness is admirable. Although the Azure Sword Sect has been destroyed, this old man still has some use.”

“The terrain, power distribution, and locations of hidden teleportation arrays of the Twelfth Heaven… I know them all by heart. If you don’t mind, I’m willing to be your guide.”

Lin Xiao and Su Qianyue behind him also bowed: “We are willing to accompany Master!”

Kai looked at Ancestor Earthfire, who nodded slightly.

“Then… I’ll trouble you, Master.”

Kai returned the bow, then his gaze swept over the cultivators who had escaped from the Twelfth Heaven in the hall.

“Fellow Daoists, you may stay in the Earthfire Pavilion to recuperate and cultivate. Once we establish ourselves in the Twelfth Heaven, perhaps… we will need your strength.”

Qingyangzi and the others exchanged glances, finally bowing in unison: “We are willing to obey your orders!”

Although fear still lingered in their hearts, Kai’s words rekindled a spark of hope within them.

It wasn’t about escaping. ”

It’s about accumulating strength, waiting for the right moment, and then going back to fight!

”

Kai turned to look at the sky outside the hall, a resolute glint in his eyes.

“We’ll depart in three days.”

For these three days, Kai didn’t rest. He cultivated with Huo Ling’er every day until she was too weak to get up.

He knew that this journey to the Twelve Heavens would take countless years before he could see Huo Ling’er again and play with her.

He might as well have his fill of fun now.

Three days later, in front of the Earth Fire Pavilion’s gate.

Huo Fentian led the elders to see them off. Huo Ling'er, her eyes red, placed a crimson-gold jade pendant in Kai's hand: "This is the Earth Fire Pavilion's protective talisman. If you crush it in a critical moment, it will release a shield of Earth Fire True Flame... You must return safely."

Kai accepted the pendant and nodded earnestly: "I will."

The Earth Fire Ancestor had changed into a simple gray robe, standing with his hands behind his back, his aura completely concealed, like an ordinary old man.

The Crimson Cloud Demon Lord, however, remained as unrestrained as ever.

At Kai's feet followed the little fire unicorn, Wangcai.

Master Xuanwei stood on the other side with Lin Xiao and Su Qianyue.

The old Taoist had changed into a clean Taoist robe, and his broken whisk had been repaired. His expression had returned to its usual calm, but deep in his eyes, an unyielding sorrow and resolve remained. "The teleportation array is ready,"

Huo Fentian said in a deep voice. "This array leads to a hidden valley on the outskirts of the Twelve Heavens Ancient Battlefield Ruins. It was once an ancient battlefield, where space is chaotic and difficult to detect. But be careful, as many ancient restrictions and vengeful spirits remain in the ancient battlefield."

Kai nodded, "Understood."

He took one last look at the mountains of the Earth Fire Pavilion, then at Huo Fentian, Huo Ling'er, and the elders and disciples who had come to see him off.

Then, he turned and stepped into the teleportation array.

The Earth Fire Ancestor, the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord, the Little Fire Qilin, and the Xuanwei True Person and his disciple followed closely behind.

The teleportation array shone brightly, and space distorted violently.

The next moment, seven figures disappeared into the pillar of light that shot into the sky.

Huo Ling'er looked at the empty teleportation array and finally couldn't hold back her tears.

Huo Fentian gently patted his daughter's shoulder, his gaze fixed on the direction of the Twelve Heavens, his expression extremely solemn.

"Young Master... you must come back alive."

"The future of the Eleventh Heaven... may rest on your shoulders."

...

Ancient battlefield ruins, a valley on the edge.

Space distorted, and seven figures staggered to the ground.

Kai regained his footing and immediately released his divine sense to survey his surroundings.

This was a desolate valley, the sky a suffocating dark red, the air thick with a faint smell of blood and decay.

The surrounding mountain walls were an unnatural charred black, as if they had been scorched by some terrifying heat.

Countless white bones were scattered on the ground, some humanoid, some beast-like, and some fragments of bones from creatures whose origins were completely unrecognizable.

Further away, the ruins of ancient buildings were faintly visible, as well as… grayish-white vengeful spirits floating in mid-air, appearing and disappearing.

“This is… the ancient battlefield?” Kai frowned.

The lingering killing intent, resentment, and death aura in the air, even after countless millennia, remained intensely palpable.

Xuanwei Zhenren swept his whisk, and a beam of clear light enveloped everyone, isolating them from the decaying aura of the outside world.

“Indeed. This place is the remnant of a great battle in ancient times. It is said that beings at the peak of the Upper Immortal Realm or even higher perished here. The spatial structure is extremely fragile and contains various strange fragments of rules, so few cultivators dare to venture deep into it.”

He pointed east: “Three thousand miles to the east is Tian Shu City, the most prosperous city in the eastern part of the Twelfth Heaven. But now… it is probably a ruin.”

Kai looked in that direction and saw a faint gray-white pillar of light shooting into the sky on the eastern horizon. Even thousands of miles away, he could still feel the cold, deathly aura of reincarnation contained within it.

That was… the mark of the Evil Path Palace.

“Leave here first.”

The Earth Fire Ancestor suddenly spoke, his turbid eyes sweeping across the surrounding void. “Something has been disturbed.”

Before he finished speaking, the gray-white vengeful spirits floating in the distance suddenly turned their heads in unison, their dark eye sockets staring at the seven people in the valley.

The next moment, a shrill scream resounded throughout the heavens and earth!

Countless vengeful spirits, like sharks smelling blood, swarmed in from all directions! A piercing shriek, like the wailing of ten thousand ghosts, instantly ignited the gray-white vengeful spirits of the ancient battlefield, causing it to boil over like a lake tossed with pebbles!

Thousands of vengeful spirits emerged from the depths of the ruins, from piles of bones, and even from rifts in the void. Their forms were twisted and blurred; some retained human shapes, while others were nothing more than swirling wisps of gray mist, with eerie green flames flickering in their eye sockets.

Most strangely, these vengeful spirits did not fly, but rather moved as if swimming in water, creating ripples of gray-white light in the air.

“Form the array!”

Master Xuanwei was the first to react, flicking his whisk sharply. Thousands of silver threads surged forth, transforming into a massive silver net that enveloped the seven of them.

Azure runes flowed across the net, emanating a pure and peaceful aura—the Taoist “Heart-Cleansing and Soul-Suppressing Array,” specifically designed to subdue evil spirits.

The first wave of vengeful spirits crashed into the net, producing a sizzling, corrosive sound as their gray-white bodies melted away rapidly, like ice and snow meeting fire.

But there were simply too many vengeful spirits, one after another, causing the light net to tremble violently. Xuanwei Zhenren’s face paled, clearly under immense pressure.

“Master!” Lin Xiao and Su Qianyue acted simultaneously.

The coarse cloth longsword behind Lin Xiao was drawn with a clang, its light like a rainbow, transforming into thirty-six sword shadows that formed a sword array around the light net.

Each sword shadow was incredibly sharp; wherever it passed, vengeful spirits were cleaved in two, the severed ends wreathed in azure sword energy, preventing them from reassembling.

Su Qianyue sat cross-legged, took the silver bell from her waist, and gently shook it.

The crisp sound of the bell transformed into visible ripples of sound waves that spread outwards. Wherever the sound waves reached, the movements of the vengeful spirits noticeably slowed, their ghostly flames flickering, as if their minds were being disturbed by some force.

But this only delayed them for a moment.

More vengeful spirits surged in from all directions, among them several beings with exceptionally powerful auras—the Vengeful Spirit Kings!

A colossal vengeful spirit, over three zhang tall and composed of countless bones, roared to the sky, its empty eye sockets burning with dark red flames.

With each step it took, the ground cracked like a spiderweb, and a tidal wave of decaying death energy surged forth.

On the other side, a female vengeful spirit, dressed in tattered palace attire, with a beautiful but bloodless face, hovered in mid-air. She clutched a broken jade hairpin in her arms, softly humming an ancient and mournful tune.

The melody, upon entering the ears, stirred the soul, filled the heart with sorrow, and greatly diminished the will to fight.

“Hmph, a mere remnant soul, how dare you be so presumptuous!”

The Crimson Cloud Demon Lord's eyes blazed with scarlet light, and his demonic energy erupted!

He stepped out of the net of light, and with a grab of his right hand, a long sword entirely formed from dark red demonic flames appeared out of thin air.

"Demonic Flame – Soul Slayer!"

The long sword swept across, the dark red blade light tearing through the air. Wherever it passed, dozens of vengeful spirits didn't even have time to scream before turning into ashes.

The giant skeletal vengeful spirit roared and swung its claws at the demon lord, but the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord neither dodged nor evaded, and instead swung his sword upwards with a backhand strike!
"Clang!!!"

A deafening sound, like metal clashing, echoed through the valley!

The giant claw of the skeletal vengeful spirit was severed by a single strike, and demonic flames raged at the break, rapidly spreading to its body.

The vengeful spirit let out a painful roar, frantically flailing its other claw in an attempt to extinguish the demonic flames, but how could the demonic flames of the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord be ordinary fire?

They were the true flames of its natal essence, fused with the demonic energy of the Nine Netherworlds, specifically designed to burn souls!

Three breaths later, the massive body of the skeletal vengeful spirit collapsed with a crash, turning into a pile of charred bone dust.

"Nothing special."

The Crimson Cloud Demon Lord sheathed his sword and stood there, his scarlet demonic eyes sweeping across the surroundings, his arrogance evident.

Kai, seeing the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord's demeanor, couldn't help but praise, "Senior Crimson Cloud, your strength must have already reached the eighth rank of the Heavenly Immortal Realm, right? Your improvement is quite rapid!"

Hearing Kai's praise, the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord blushed, "Compared to you, I'm still far behind..."

Just then, the mournful melody of the palace-dressed woman's vengeful spirit suddenly turned urgent!

Countless translucent sonic blades appeared in the air, raining down on the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord.

Even more strangely, these sonic blades didn't attack in straight lines, but rather zigzagged and twisted through the air like living things, sealing off all escape routes.

The Crimson Cloud Demon Lord frowned, about to take the hit head-on, when a crimson-gold light barrier suddenly unfolded before him.

"Boom! Boom! Boom!"

The sonic blades struck the light barrier, unleashing a dense explosion. The light barrier trembled violently, yet remained unbroken.

The Crimson Cloud Demon Lord turned his head and saw that the Earth Fire Ancestor had appeared beside him at some point, his withered right hand pressed forward, a slowly rotating crimson-gold fire lotus floating in his palm.

The light barrier was the protective true flame released by the fire lotus.

"Don't be careless,

” the Earthfire Ancestor said calmly, his turbid eyes fixed on the vengeful spirit of the woman in palace attire. “These ancient vengeful spirits were at least at the eighth rank of the Celestial Immortal Realm in their previous lives, and some may even have reached the Upper Immortal Realm. Although the passage of time has eroded their strength to a fraction of its former glory, they still retain their fighting instincts and special supernatural abilities.”

Before he finished speaking, the vengeful spirit of the woman in palace attire suddenly stopped humming, raised her head, and stared at the Earthfire Ancestor with her empty eyes.

The next moment, she lightly tapped the broken jade hairpin in her hand.

In the void, a black line as thin as a hair silently appeared, piercing straight for the Earthfire Ancestor’s brow with a speed beyond divine sense!The black lines weren’t physical entities, but rather… spatial rifts!

This vengeful spirit, in its lifetime, was actually proficient in the Dao of Space!

The Earth Fire Ancestor’s pupils contracted slightly, but he didn’t panic.

He formed a hand seal with his left hand and uttered an ancient syllable:

“Suppress.”

A crimson-gold fire lotus burst forth!

Endless true earth fire flames erupted, condensing into a three-foot-thick crystal wall of flames before him.

Countless ancient flame runes flowed across the surface of the crystal wall, radiating a scorching heat that distorted space itself.

The black lines pierced the crystal wall, emitting a teeth-grinding “sizzling” sound.

The spatial rift and the true earth fire flames clashed fiercely, the crystal wall thinning at a visible speed, but the black lines also rapidly dimmed.

Finally, when only a thin layer remained of the crystal wall, the black lines completely dissipated.

The Earth Fire Ancestor remained motionless.

The palace-dressed woman's vengeful spirit was also suffering; its form became mostly illusory, and the broken jade hairpin in its arms shattered completely with a "crack."

"Ancestor, don't even think about it, I'll handle this!"

Kai moved.

He stepped out of the protective range of the Soul-Suppressing Array, and the Dragon-Slaying Sword was drawn with a clang!

There were no fancy moves, no grand display, just a straight thrust.

On the sword, the three forces—chaotic immortal power, golden dragon bloodline, and earth fire true flames—perfectly merged, transforming into a hazy gray sword aura interspersed with golden-red light.

That sword aura was condensed to its extreme, only three feet long, yet it exuded a terrifying pressure that could change the very fabric of the world.

The vengeful spirit of the woman in palace attire seemed to sense a fatal threat, letting out a sharp shriek, retreating rapidly while frantically forming hand seals, creating layers upon layers of gray-white barriers in front of her.

But it was useless.

Wherever the chaotic sword aura passed, the gray-white barriers shattered like paper. The sword aura pierced straight into the vengeful spirit's brow, exiting from the back of her head!

The vengeful spirit of the woman in palace attire froze, the ghostly fire in her eyes rapidly dimming.

She glanced down at the sword wound on her chest, then looked up at Kai, a hint of…relief appearing on her blurred face.

Then, she vanished into thin air.

Kai sheathed his sword and stood there, his brows slightly furrowed.

He had clearly felt that with that last strike, the chaotic immortal power had created a peculiar "resonance" when it touched the core of the vengeful spirit. It wasn't simple restraint; it was more like… analyzing, devouring, absorbing and assimilating some kind of "fragment of rules" remaining within the vengeful spirits.

"Chaotic Immortal Power can evolve into all laws, and can also return to the void of all laws…"

Kai suddenly understood.

The reason these ancient vengeful spirits could exist for countless years was because their lingering obsessions combined with the special rules of the ancient battlefield, forming a distorted "pseudo-rule."

And Chaotic Immortal Power, as the source of all rules, could precisely break and absorb this pseudo-rule.

In other words—in this ancient battlefield, his Chaotic Immortal Power might be even stronger than outside!

"Be careful! They're coming again!"

Su Qianyue's exclamation interrupted Kai's thoughts.

From all directions, more vengeful spirits were surging in madly.

Among them were even three vengeful spirit kings whose aura was no weaker than that of a woman in palace attire, a general vengeful spirit wielding a broken battle axe, a monk vengeful spirit wearing a cassock with a hideous knife scar on his neck, and a monster vengeful spirit completely pieced together from countless weapon fragments.

Even more troublesome was that these vengeful spirits seemed to have been thoroughly enraged by the previous battle. They no longer charged blindly but began to coordinate in an organized manner.

The warrior vengeful spirits led hundreds of weapon-wielding spirits in battle formation, advancing step by step;

the monk vengeful spirits sat cross-legged in the void, chanting some strange scripture, a layer of gray-black Buddhist light enveloping their army, greatly increasing their defense;

the weapon monster vengeful spirits were like war fortresses, their bodies shooting out countless rusty sword fragments, sweeping in like a metal storm!

“Form the ‘Seven Star Demon-Subduing Formation’!” Xuanwei Zhenren gritted his teeth and shouted.

Lin Xiao and Su Qianyue quickly returned to their positions, forming a triangle with Xuanwei Zhenren. The three connected their auras, their azure Dao light blazing brightly, condensing into seven dazzling star-like phantoms in the void.

The stars rotated, sprinkling beams of clear light, temporarily blocking the surging vengeful spirits.

However, this formation consumed a great deal of energy; blood was already trickling from Xuanwei Zhenren’s lips, clearly indicating he couldn’t hold out much longer.

Crimson Cloud Demon Lord and Earth Fire Ancestor were also entangled by the other two Wraith Kings and couldn't break free for the time being.

Kai took a deep breath, a resolute glint in his eyes.

He sheathed his sword and formed a strange hand seal in front of his chest—a divine power he had comprehended from the inheritance of Chaos Immortal Power but had never truly used.

"Chaos… Return to Nothingness." As he

uttered these four words lightly, the aura around Kai suddenly changed.

It was no longer sharp as a sword, no longer blazing as fire, but a kind of… nothingness that seemed to devour and annihilate everything.

Centered on him, the space within a hundred feet began to distort and blur, its color rapidly fading, transforming into a hazy, chaotic region.Within the region, the movements of all the vengeful spirits became extremely slow, as if they were trapped in a quagmire where time had stopped.

The three-headed vengeful spirit king was the first to sense something was wrong, struggling frantically to escape, but the chaotic region seemed to possess its own will, an invisible suction force holding them back.

Kai's face turned pale at a visible speed, veins bulged on his forehead, and blood spilled from the corner of his mouth—forcing himself to use "Chaos Return to Nothingness" with his current cultivation level was too much of a burden.

But he gritted his teeth and persevered, his hand seals suddenly changing!

"Return!"

The chaotic region suddenly contracted!

Like a burst bubble, the chaos within a hundred-zhang radius instantly collapsed into Kai's palm, transforming into a fist-sized, hazy chaotic energy ball.

Inside the energy ball, countless tiny phantoms of vengeful spirits could be vaguely seen struggling and wailing frantically.

And outside, the originally dense army of vengeful spirits… disappeared.

Not killed, but completely "swallowed" into the chaotic energy ball.

The entire valley fell into a deathly silence.

Xuanwei Zhenren, Lin Xiao, and Su Qianyue stared dumbfounded at the slowly rotating chaotic energy ball in Kai's palm, then at the empty valley, speechless for a moment.

Chiyun Demon Lord and Earthfire Ancestor had also finished off their respective opponents and returned to Kai's side, their eyes filled with shock and solemnity.

"Boy… your move…" Chiyun Demon Lord hesitated.

Kai gave a bitter smile and dispersed the chaotic energy ball—the energy ball collapsed, and the fragments of resentful souls compressed to their extreme within transformed into pure soul power, dissipating into the world.

He staggered a step and was supported by Earthfire Ancestor.

"You've overdrawn your strength,"

Earthfire Ancestor said in a deep voice, placing a palm on Kai's back, channeling pure Earthfire True Essence into his body. "This divine power, though powerful, consumes far more than your current limit. In the future, unless absolutely necessary, do not use it lightly."

Kai nodded and sat down cross-legged to regulate his breathing.

In that instant, he felt his soul, immortal power, and even life force being frantically drained.

If it weren't for the profound nature of the Chaos Immortal Power itself, coupled with the powerful regenerative abilities provided by the Golden Dragon bloodline, he would have been drained before he could even finish using his divine power.

But the effect was astonishing.

One strike cleared away the vengeful spirits within a radius of several miles, including the three-headed vengeful spirit king.

This ancient battlefield was temporarily safe.

Half an hour later, Kai slowly opened his eyes. Although his aura was still somewhat weak, he was no longer seriously injured.

Xuanwei Zhenren stepped forward, looking at him with a complex expression: "Young friend Kai... I finally understand why you dared to come to the Twelfth Heaven alone."

Such strength and such methods had completely exceeded the scope of the third rank of the Heavenly Immortal Realm.

Kai shook his head: "You flatter me, Zhenren. Just now I only took advantage of the special environment of this place and the harmony with the Chaos Immortal Power. If I were outside, I might not have achieved the same effect." He paused, looking at the gray-white pillar of light in the east: "The most urgent task is to contact the surviving sects of the Twelve Heavens as soon as possible. The Master just said that although the Azure Sword Sect was destroyed, a few sects are still resisting?"

Master Xuanwei nodded, his expression turning serious again: "That's right. Although the Evil Path Palace is powerful, the Twelve Heavens are vast and boundless; they cannot possibly wipe out all forces in a short

time. As far as I know, there are at least three forces still putting up a stubborn resistance."

"Seventy thousand miles to the southwest, there is the 'Valley of Ten Thousand Beasts.' This sect inherits the ancient art of beast taming; its disciples all form symbiotic contracts with demonic beasts, allowing them to command them in battle."

"The valley is home to tens of thousands of various demonic beasts, from low-level Gale Wolves to high-level Thunderwing Golden Eagles; there are even rumors that several ancient beasts slumber deep within the valley."

"Valley Master 'Beast Tamer Celestial Venerable' Li Baichuan is a second-grade Upper Immortal Realm expert, and has tamed a three-headed Flaming Lion King comparable to an Upper Immortal Realm expert. The Evil Path Hall attacked Ten Thousand Beast Valley twice, but was repelled by the beast tides both times."

"However, although the demonic beasts are strong, they are at risk of being possessed by vengeful spirits and turning against their masters when facing Soul Hunters who specialize in attacking the soul."

"Nine thousand miles to the east lies 'Heavenly Sword Pavilion'. The number one sword cultivator sect in the Twelfth Heaven, all disciples in the pavilion cultivate the 'Nine Heavens Sword Scripture,' which emphasizes breaking all laws with a single sword." "

Pavilion Master 'Sword Maniac' Dugu Ao, although only at the peak of the ninth grade of the Heavenly Immortal Realm, has already touched the supreme level of 'man and sword as one,' and has a record of severely injuring a first-grade Upper Immortal Realm expert despite being of a higher level."

"The Heavenly Sword Pavilion's protective formation, the 'Ten Thousand Swords Returning to the Sect Formation,' can draw upon the metal energy within a thousand miles to transform into swords for killing enemies, its power is unparalleled. However... most sword cultivators are

arrogant and aloof, not good at socializing, so persuading them to join forces will probably be difficult."

"To the northeast, 120,000 miles away, lies the 'Five Elements Sect.' This sect cultivates the Five Elements Dao, with its disciples belonging to the five veins of metal, wood, water, fire, and earth, specializing in Five Elements magic and combined attack formations."

"The sect's headquarters is located at the confluence of the 'Five Elements Spiritual Veins,' allowing them to draw upon the power of the Five Elements of heaven and earth. The sect leader, 'Five Elements Venerable' Jin Buhuan, is a peak first-grade Upper Immortal, proficient in Five Elements escape techniques and transformations."

"The Five Elements Sect excels in defense; its 'Five Elements Reincarnation Array' is inexhaustible, and the Evil Path Hall has been unable to break through it even after a month-long siege. However, the Five Elements Sect has a fatal weakness:

numerous factions exist within the sect, and internal strife frequently occurs between the five branches. If it weren't for the pressure from external enemies, it would likely have already split apart." After Xuanwei Zhenren finished speaking, he looked at Kai: "These three sects are currently the backbone of the Twelve Heavens' resistance against the Evil Path Hall. The Beast Valley's beast tide can directly confront the Soul Hunter's army; the Heavenly Sword Pavilion's sword cultivators have the strongest offensive power and can kill enemy leaders; the Five Elements Sect's defense is unparalleled, making it a steadfast fortress. If the three can truly unite and support each other, a battle is indeed possible." "The power of..."

Kai's eyes flashed with a sharp light: "The Valley of Ten Thousand Beasts is recently, and the Evil Path Hall has failed to attack it twice, indicating that they are quite wary of the Valley of Ten Thousand Beasts,

and may even be... planning a third attack. Let's go to the Valley of Ten Thousand Beasts first!" The Crimson Cloud Demon Lord grinned: "A Beast Taming Sect? Interesting. I'd like to see whether their demonic beasts are more powerful, or my Devouring Beast is more powerful."

The Earth Fire Ancestor nodded slightly: “I had a brief encounter with Li Baichuan of the Valley of Ten Thousand Beasts many years ago. Although he has a fiery temper, he is trustworthy and keeps his promises. If we can gain his trust, the alliance will be half successful.”

“Then let’s set off immediately.”

Kai looked at Xuanwei Zhenren, “Zhenren, is there a shortcut?”

Xuanwei Zhenren took out the bronze compass again, and after injecting magic power, the compass projected a phantom map, in which a winding red line stretched from the ancient battlefield to the southwest.

“Three thousand miles southwest of here lies an abandoned ancient teleportation array.”

“That array was originally built by the ancient sect ‘Yu Ling Sect,’ providing direct access to the ‘Hundred Beast Mountains’ surrounding the Valley of Ten Thousand Beasts. However, due to its age, the array is largely damaged and requires a master of arrays to repair it before it can be used.”

The little fire unicorn beneath Kai suddenly roared, its tiny paws pointing at him, its crimson-gold eyes filled with pride.

The Earth Fire Ancestor chuckled, “This little fellow is naturally sensitive to energy flow; repairing the ancient array might truly be of help.”

“No time to lose, let’s go!”

Seven figures transformed into streaks of light, speeding off towards the southwest.

Chapter 5931 - 5940

About an incense stick’s time after they left,

the void above the valley distorted, and three figures clad in jet-black soul armor silently appeared.

The leader was a middle-aged man with a sinister face. He looked down at the empty valley below, sensing the lingering battle fluctuations in the air, his brow furrowed.

“Such strong vengeful spirit fluctuations… and a strange, chilling aura of power.”

He raised his hand, and a wisp of grayish energy was detached from the air, hovering in his palm. The energy seemed ordinary, yet it subtly possessed the power to devour and annihilate everything.

The sinister man tried to probe it with his soul power, but the wisp of energy suddenly surged violently, devouring nearly half of his soul power!

“Pfft!” He groaned, his face turning pale, and hurriedly shook off the wisp of energy.

“My lord!” Two Soul Hunters behind him rushed forward.

The sinister-looking man waved his hand, a flicker of surprise and uncertainty in his eyes: “This power… seems to have a natural restraint on soul power. Report this to Lord Puppet General immediately! Also, send men to search the surrounding thousand miles for any suspicious individuals!”

“Yes!”

The three figures vanished swiftly.

Three hours later, Kai and his companions arrived before a ruin covered in vines and ancient trees.

Kai parted the tall weeds, revealing a dilapidated array platform beneath.

The platform was constructed of a bluish-gray spirit stone, its surface covered with ancient beast-shaped runes, most of which were now blurred and indistinct.

The core of the spirit stone in the center of the platform was riddled with cracks, with only a faint spiritual light occasionally flashing.

“It is indeed an ancient teleportation array.”

Master Xuanwei crouched down to examine it carefully. “The rune system is quite different from today’s, but the core principle is the same. As long as the missing runes are completed, the core cracks are repaired, and enough energy is injected, it should be able to activate.”

Kai nodded and looked at the little fire qilin: “Little guy, it’s up to you.”

The little fire qilin jumped off Kai’s shoulder, trotted around the array platform, and brought its nose close to the incomplete runes, occasionally letting out a low “woo-woo” sound.

After a moment, it raised one of its front paws, and a crimson gold light appeared on the tip of its paw. It carefully touched a certain spot on the array platform.

“Buzz…”

The array platform trembled slightly, and a missing rune line was actually completed by the crimson gold light, illuminating a faint light.

“It really works!” Su Qianyue said in surprise.

Kai also crouched down, his palm circulating chaotic immortal power, carefully sensing the energy channels inside the array platform.

Chaotic immortal power can generate all kinds of laws, and its perception of the energy structure of arrays far exceeds that of ordinary spiritual power.

He quickly discovered that three key energy nodes had dried up and five rune connections had broken.

“Brother Lin, Miss Su, please help me stabilize the outer structure of the array platform.” Kai said in a deep voice, “Senior Chi Yun, when I repair the core, I need you to use your demonic flames to scorch the cracks and remelt the spirit stones.”

Everyone took on their respective roles.

Lin Xiao and Su Qianyue stood on either side of the array platform, their sword light and sound waves intertwining to form a net, enveloping the platform and preventing energy leakage that could cause it to collapse during the repair process.

Kai placed his hands on the center of the array platform, his chaotic immortal power seeping into the core of the spirit stone like threads.

The core seemed about to shatter, but its internal structure was exceptionally resilient. Kai’s immortal power acted like the finest scalpel, meticulously removing impurities from the cracks and guiding the spirit stone’s own spirituality to heal the wounds.

At the same time, Chi Yun Demon Lord’s demonic flames descended at just the right moment.

The dark red flames were extremely hot, yet precisely controlled below the melting point of the spirit stone, remelting the cracked spirit stone as if forging a divine weapon.

Earth Fire Ancestor and Xuanwei True Person stood guard on the perimeter, vigilant against any potential dangers.

An hour later.

“Buzz!!!”

The entire array platform erupted with a dazzling azure light!

The incomplete runes were pieced together, and the ancient beast-shaped patterns seemed to come alive in the light, with faint echoes of a hundred beasts roaring.

In the center of the array, space began to distort, and a blue vortex about ten feet in diameter slowly took shape.

“It’s done!”

Kai stopped, his face slightly pale.

Repairing the ancient array had taken a heavy toll on his mental energy, but his eyes were filled with excitement.

Xuanwei Zhenren carefully inspected the teleportation array and nodded, saying, “The stability is acceptable, but this array is too old. It can only teleport a maximum of five people at a time, and the destination may be slightly off.”

“Five people are enough.”

Kai looked at everyone. “Ancestor Earthfire, Senior Crimson Cloud, Xuanwei Zhenren, Brother Lin, and I will go first. Miss Su and Little Fire Qilin will stay here to guard the array. If we don’t return within three days, or if the array shows any unusual activity, immediately destroy the array and evacuate.”

Although Su Qianyue was reluctant, she knew the importance of the task and nodded in agreement.

Little Fire Qilin rubbed against Kai with a “woof,” seemingly reassuring him.

The five stepped into the blue vortex.

The world spun around them; the spatial pulling force far exceeded that of ordinary teleportation arrays.

Kai used all his chaotic immortal power to protect his body, yet he still felt his internal organs shifting.

He didn't know how much time had passed—perhaps a moment, perhaps a very long time. "Boom!!!"

The five stumbled and fell from mid-air, below them a continuous, verdant mountain range.

"Is this the Hundred Beasts Mountain Range?"

The Crimson Cloud Demon Lord steadied himself, his scarlet demonic eyes scanning the surroundings.

From within the mountains, the roars of various beasts and the cries of birds could be faintly heard. In the distance, a massive bird shadow swept across the sky, its wingspan exceeding ten zhang; deep within the valleys, the muffled sound of running echoed, shaking the ground slightly.

But even more striking was the black and red resentment rising into the sky from the northwest, about a thousand miles away, and... the earth-shattering sounds of battle!

"Not good!"

Xuanwei Zhenren's expression changed. "That's the direction of the Valley of Ten Thousand Beasts! The Evil Path Hall is indeed attacking!"

A cold glint flashed in Kai's eyes: "Go!"

The five transformed into five streaks of light, rushing towards the direction of the most intense battle.

...

The Valley of Ten Thousand Beasts, outside the protective array.

A massive army of Soul Hunters, like a dark cloud, numbered over five thousand!

They formed a bizarre “Soul-Capturing Array,” the grayish-white energy of reincarnation weaving into a giant net covering dozens of miles in the air. The net continuously contracted, eroding the protective shield of the Valley of Ten Thousand Beasts.

Within the shield, thousands of demonic beasts, under the command of their beast tamers, launched a frenzied counterattack.

Flaming lions breathed fireballs, thunderwing golden eagles summoned lightning, armored rhinoceroses formed a charging formation, and swift wolf packs transformed into azure whirlwinds… The beast tide was like a sea, yet it could not break through the eerie grayish-white giant net.

Even more terrifying were the three figures with terrifying auras ahead of the Soul Hunters’ team.

On the left was a giant puppet, two zhang tall, its body wrapped in soul-locking chains. Every step it took shook the earth; it was the “Soul-Suppressing Puppet General” of the Evil Path Hall.

On the right was a withered old man holding a white bone banner, its surface painted with countless painful and distorted faces. With a gentle shake, a shrill soul-wrenching sonic wave impacted the protective shield, causing ripples to constantly spread across its surface.

In the center stood none other than Kai’s old acquaintance, the Soul Devourer!

He was still clad in dark red scale armor, his six wings spread, his greyish-white eyes coldly fixed on the struggling Beast Valley below.

Though expressionless, the greyish-white spear in his hand, formed from the energy of reincarnation, tore a crack in the protective barrier of the valley with each thrust.

Inside the Beast Valley, on a high platform built of beast bones

, a burly old man with a full head of red hair, dressed in a beast-skin cloak and bristling like a lion, was directing the battle with bloodshot eyes.

Crouching beside him was a five-zhang-tall, three-headed, ferocious flaming lion, none other than Valley Master Li Baichuan and his natal battle beast, the Three-Headed Flaming Lion King.

“Valley Master! The protective barrier in the southeast corner is about to collapse!”

A beast tamer covered in blood staggered in.

Li Baichuan roared, “Send the ‘Iron-Backed Earth Dragon’ to the front! Move all earth-type demonic beasts to the southeast corner to reinforce the defenses!”

“Valley Master, our demonic beasts are being affected by the soul howl of that white bone banner; they’ve begun to show signs of agitation and backlash!”

another elder cried urgently.

Li Baichuan gritted his teeth, looking at the white bone banner in the sky, a resolute glint in his eyes: “Lion King, follow me and charge out! Destroy that banner!”

The three Flaming Lion Kings roared in unison, their voices shaking the heavens. But just then,

“Valley Master Li, wait!”

Five streaks of light descended from the sky, landing on the high platform. It was Kai and his four companions!

Li Baichuan turned around abruptly, his sharp, beast-like gaze sweeping over the five. When he saw the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord, his expression clearly hardened: “Demonic cultivators? Who are you?!”

Xuanwei Zhenren stepped forward, flicking his whisk: “Xuanwei of the Azure Nether Sword Sect, bringing friends to assist us!”

“Azure Nether Sword Sect?”

Li Baichuan was taken aback, then a look of sorrow appeared on his face. “Old Daoist Xuanwei… your sword sect, too…”

“Valley Master, now is not the time for reminiscing.”

Kai stepped forward, his gaze fixed on the three figures in the air, lingering for a moment on the Soul-Devouring Puppet. “The most urgent task is to defeat the enemy.”

Li Baichuan sized up Kai, seeing that he was only a third-grade Celestial Immortal, and frowned: “Junior, this place is dangerous, not something you can…”

Before he could finish speaking, Kai had already leaped off the high platform, the Dragon-Slaying Sword clattering as it was drawn!

“Chaos – Creation!”

A hazy gray sword aura shot into the sky, not attacking the Soul-Devouring Puppet, but directly slashing at the massive gray-white net that covered the heavens and earth!

Wherever the sword aura passed, the massive gray-white net seemed to have met its nemesis, emitting a “hissing” sound as it melted away, and was forcibly torn open with a gap a hundred feet long!

“What?!”

The withered old man holding the white bone banner was shocked.

The Soul-Devouring Puppet's gray-white eyes suddenly turned to Kai, and for the first time, a fluctuation appeared in its empty pupils—the instinctive reaction of the rules of the Reincarnation Land to the power of chaos!

"It's you."

The Soul-Devouring Puppet's mechanical voice rang out, "The person the master wanted."

It twirled its gray-white spear, abandoning its attack on the protective barrier, and transformed it into a gray-white lightning bolt that shot straight at Kai!

"Well done!" Kai's eyes burned with fighting spirit, and he met the attack with his Dragon-Slaying Sword!

"Clang!!!"

The spear and sword clashed, erupting with a thunderous sound like metal striking metal!

Kai's body was forced back ten feet, his tiger's mouth split open, and blood stained the hilt of his sword. The power of a peak Immortal Realm cultivator was indeed terrifying.

However, the Soul-Devouring Puppet was also forced back three steps, and a fine crack appeared on the gray-white spear in its hand. The restraint of the Chaos Immortal Power on the Qi of Reincarnation was far beyond imagination!

"Attack together!"

The Crimson Cloud Demon Lord roared, and the Demon Flame Blade reappeared, rushing straight at the Soul-Suppressing Puppet General.

The Earth Fire Ancestor raised his hand and pressed down, and a crimson-gold fire lotus bloomed. The boundless Earth Fire True Flame

transformed into nine fire dragons, coiling around the withered old man holding the White Bone Banner.

Xuanwei True Person and Lin Xiao charged into the Soul Hunter Army. Wherever their sword light passed, soul armor shattered, tearing open a counterattack path for the demon beasts of the Valley of Ten Thousand Beasts. Seeing this, Li Baichuan didn't hesitate any longer, roaring to the sky: "Disciples of the Valley of Ten Thousand Beasts, heed my command! Counterattack!"

"Roar!!!"

The three-headed Flaming Lion King was the first to break through the protective barrier, its three heads spewing flames, ice, and lightning respectively, instantly clearing out a group of Soul Hunters.

The Iron-Backed Earth Dragon emerged from the ground, its massive body like a moving hill, smashing the Soul Hunters' formation into pieces.

A flock of Thunderwing Golden Eagles swooped down from the sky, golden lightning raining down.

The Valley of Ten Thousand Beasts' counterattack had begun!

In the center of the battlefield, the battle between Kai and the Soul-Devouring Puppet was the most intense.

Every collision between the gray-white spear and the Dragon-Slaying Sword unleashed an impact at the level of rules.

The Soul-Devouring Puppet's moves were devoid of any fancy flourishes; every strike went straight for the vital points, and its power, speed, and angle were terrifyingly precise—it was the ultimate killing technique stripped of emotion, retaining only the instinct for battle.

But Kai's Chaotic Immortal Power subtly suppressed the opponent's Cycle Qi.

More importantly, as the battle progressed, Kai discovered that while the Soul-Devouring Puppet's moves were fierce, they lacked variation—like a fixed program, perfect yet predictable.

"Chaos Evolution – Earth Fire True Flame!"

Crimson-gold Earth Fire True Flame suddenly erupted from the Dragon-Slaying Sword, mixed with a hazy, chaotic aura.

The sword thrust forward, and the Soul-Devouring Puppet instinctively parried with its spear, but the Earth Fire True Flame spread along the spear, scorching the reincarnation patterns on its body.

The Soul-Devouring Puppet's movements faltered slightly, for only a moment, but Kai seized the opening.

"Dragon-Slaying – Breaking Army!"

The sword light, like a dragon, pierced straight into the gap in the Soul-Devouring Puppet's chest scales!

"Pfft!"

The gray-white scales were pierced, the sword tip penetrating three inches into the flesh!

Dark red blood, mixed with gray-white aura, spurted out.

The Soul-Devouring Puppet looked down at the sword wound on its chest, the vortex in its gray-white eyes spinning rapidly, yet remaining devoid of emotion.

He didn't even retreat; instead, his left hand shot out, his five fingers like hooks, grabbing straight for Kai's face!

A trade of injury for life!

Kai's pupils contracted, and he drew his sword and retreated hastily, but his chest was still struck by the claw's wind, his clothes torn, leaving five bloody marks.

"As expected, a puppet..." Kai spat out a mouthful of blood, his eyes growing colder. "No pain, no fear, only absolute mission execution."

Such enemies are the most troublesome.

On the other side, the battle between the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord and the Soul-Suppressing Puppet General was nearing its end.

Although the Soul-Suppressing Puppet General possessed immense strength, his moves were clumsy. The Crimson Cloud Demon Lord used demonic flames to transform into countless fine threads, binding his joints, and finally beheaded him with a single strike, his massive body collapsing with a crash.

The Earth Fire Ancestor was even more swift and decisive; nine fire dragons trapped the withered old man, and a crimson-gold fire lotus suppressed him from above, directly reducing the white bone banner and the old man to ashes.

With the two puppet generals and the elder fallen, the Soul Hunter army was thrown into chaos. Xuanwei Zhenren and Lin Xiao seized the opportunity to charge, and the demon beast army of Ten Thousand Beasts Valley, like a burst dam, completely shattered the Soul Hunters' formation.

The Soul Devouring Puppet glanced around, its gray-white eyes flashing with data-like light for a moment, then turned without hesitation, its six wings flapping, transforming into a gray-white streak of light and fleeing towards the sky!

"Trying to escape?"

Kai gritted his teeth, wanting to give chase, but was stopped by the Earth Fire Ancestor.

“Don’t pursue a desperate enemy. If he’s determined to escape, you won’t be able to catch him. Besides…”

The Earth Fire Ancestor looked at the wound on Kai’s chest, “Your injury is quite serious, healing is the priority.”

Kai looked in the direction where the Soul Devouring Puppet had disappeared and gripped his sword hilt tightly.

This time was just a test, next time… it would definitely be a fight to the death.

Half an hour later, the battlefield was cleared.

Of the five thousand Soul Hunters, more than three thousand were killed, and the rest fled. Ten Thousand Beasts Valley also suffered heavy losses, with hundreds of beast tamers killed in battle, thousands of demon beasts perished, and many parts of the valley’s protective formation damaged.

But no matter what, this battle was won.

On the high platform of beast bones, Li Baichuan strode up to Kai, his imposing figure like a small mountain. He carefully examined Kai, then suddenly clasped his hands and bowed deeply.

“Young friend, I will never forget your life-saving grace! Please forgive my previous neglect!”

Kai quickly returned the bow: “Valley Master, you flatter me. The Evil Path Hall is the common enemy of the world; it is only right that we unite against it.”

Li Baichuan straightened up, his red hair flying, his voice booming: “Speak! You came here not just to lend a hand, were you? What do you need the Valley of Ten Thousand Beasts to do? As long as it doesn’t violate our principles, I, Li, will not refuse!”

Kai and Xuanwei Zhenren exchanged a glance, took a deep breath, and slowly said:

“We would like to ask the Valley Master… to join forces with the Heavenly Sword Pavilion and the Five Elements Sect to form an ‘Anti-Demon Alliance’ to jointly destroy the Evil Path Hall!”

Li Baichuan’s pupils shrank, and he remained silent for a long time.

Finally, he nodded heavily.

“Good! The Evil Path Hall slaughtered thousands of my fellow disciples, this hatred is irreconcilable! As for the alliance, the Valley of Ten Thousand Beasts… joins!”

“However…”

He changed his tone, looking at Kai, his eyes flashing with the sharpness of a beast king, “That stubborn old man Dugu Ao of the Heavenly Sword Pavilion, and that slippery Jin Buhuan of the Five Elements Sect, they won’t be easy to persuade. Young friend, if you really want to forge an alliance, the road ahead… won’t be easy.”

Kai gripped his sword hilt, his gaze resolute: “No matter how difficult, I will walk it.” ”

Since you are so determined, young friend, rest in the Valley of Ten Thousand Beasts for a few days, so I can thank you for saving my life!” Li Baichuan said.

“Alright!” Kai nodded!

Valley of Ten Thousand Beasts, Beast Bone Hall.

Li Baichuan set up a simple but sincere banquet to entertain Kai and his party.

Despite the war, the valley still brought out its treasured “Hundred Beast Blood Brew” and “Spirit Fruit Candied Fruit”. The bonfire in the center of the hall crackled, illuminating the solemn faces of everyone. “That old scoundrel Dugu Ao, three hundred years ago, we debated Dao at Tianjian Cliff and almost came to blows over a piece of Star Iron.”

Li Baichuan took a big gulp of blood wine and wiped his red beard. “With his bad temper, once he’s made up his mind, not even nine oxen can pull him back. You want him to bow his head and form an alliance with outsiders… it’s difficult.”

During the meal, Li Baichuan spoke again to Kai.

Master Xuanwei stroked his beard and said, “Although Pavilion Master Dugu is arrogant, he is not unreasonable. The Evil Path Hall is powerful, and the Heavenly Sword Pavilion cannot support it alone. He should understand this.”

“Reason?”

Li Baichuan scoffed, “Trying to reason with a sword fanatic? His mind is filled with nothing but swords! Unless you can surpass him in swordsmanship, no matter how much you talk, he will only reply with ‘noisy.’”

Kai pondered, “Surpass him in swordsmanship…?”

Li Baichuan glanced at Kai and said, “Young friend, although Dugu Ao is only at the peak of the ninth rank of the Heavenly Immortal Realm, his swordsmanship is said to have reached the threshold of ‘man and sword as one.’ Although you are strong, you are not a specialist in swordsmanship…”

“We don’t necessarily need to completely surpass him in swordsmanship.”

A glint flashed in Kai's eyes. "As long as he sees that there is a higher level of Dao beyond swordsmanship, it will be enough to make him take us seriously."

He turned to Li Baichuan: "Valley Master, what about the Five Elements Sect?"

Li Baichuan's expression became even more strange: "That old fox Jin Buhuan… Let's put it this way, the Five Elements Sect has been fighting among its five branches for hundreds of years. Jin Buhuan was able to hold onto his position as sect leader not because he had the highest cultivation, but because he was the best at weighing things and knew how to maintain balance."

"If you want to persuade him, you need to figure out how to resolve the internal strife within the Five Elements Sect. Otherwise, the moment you leave, the five branches will be arguing about whether or not they should form an alliance."

The Earth Fire Ancestor slowly said: "The root of the Five Elements Sect's problem lies in the imbalance of the five elements. The five branches of metal, wood, water, fire, and earth are vying for sect resources, each wanting their own branch to become dominant. If we can help them find the way to balance the five elements, the internal strife will resolve itself."

"The balance of the five elements…" Kai pondered for a moment, then suddenly looked at the little fire unicorn on his shoulder. "Little guy, you are naturally close to the rules of heaven and earth. Can you sense the flow of the five elements?"

The little fire unicorn nodded with a "roar," its little claws tracing patterns in the void, outlining five-colored light spots that chased and flowed together, forming a miniature cycle of the five elements.

"Wonderful!"

Xuanwei Zhenren's eyes lit up. "Although the Five Elements Sect cultivates the Great Dao of the Five Elements, each disciple cultivates a different lineage, thus losing the true meaning of the mutual generation and balance of the five elements. If we can use the Chaos Immortal Power as a guide, supplemented by this little guy's perception of the rules of heaven and earth, perhaps we can truly help them reconstruct the balance!"

Kai stood up: "Then let's go to the Heavenly Sword Pavilion first. Valley Master, can we borrow a few flying demonic beasts for transportation?"

Li Baichuan waved his hand: "Don't say borrow! Thunderwing!"

A loud eagle cry came from outside the hall, and a giant eagle with a wingspan of more than fifteen zhang and its body wrapped in golden lightning landed. It was the Thunderwing Golden Eagle King, one of the guardian beasts of the Valley of Ten Thousand Beasts.

"Let it carry you there. This eagle is extremely fast; traveling 100,000 miles a day is no problem. Also..."

Li Baichuan took out a beast tooth token, "With this token, all the demonic beasts within the jurisdiction of the Valley of Ten Thousand Beasts will not attack you. If you encounter danger, crush the token, and I will immediately lead a beast tide to your aid!"

Kai solemnly accepted it: "Thank you, Valley Master."

...

Three days later, Heavenly Sword Mountain Range. The mountains, like swords, pierced the clouds. The entire mountain range was permeated with a sharp sword aura; ordinary cultivators would feel a stinging pain on their skin if they approached within a hundred miles. At the center of the mountain range, a majestic palace, entirely cast from black iron, stood atop the highest peak—the Heavenly Sword Pavilion. Even

the Thunderwing Golden Eagle King dared not venture further than a hundred miles away—the sword aura here naturally suppressed demonic beasts.

Kai and his group of five flew through the air, and as soon as they entered the mountain range, several sword lights pierced the sky.

“Halt!”

Seven white-robed sword cultivators blocked their path. The leader was a handsome young man with two swords on his back, his aura sharp and powerful; he was already a seventh-grade Heavenly Immortal.

His gaze swept over the group, lingering for a moment on the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord, his brow furrowing slightly.

“The Heavenly Sword Pavilion’s forbidden area, all irrelevant personnel must leave immediately!”

True Person Xuanwei stepped forward: “Xuanwei of the Azure Nether Sword Sect, accompanied by a friend, requests an audience with Pavilion Master Dugu.”

“Azure Nether Sword Sect?”

The young sword cultivator was taken aback, then his expression softened slightly. “So it’s Senior Xuanwei. We have already heard about your sect’s affairs… please accept our condolences. However, the Pavilion Master is currently in seclusion, comprehending the sword path, and will not receive outsiders.”

“In seclusion?”

Kai spoke up, “Then please inform him… that someone wishes to duel with him.”

The young sword cultivator looked at Kai, seeing that he was only at the third rank of the Heavenly Immortal Realm, and shook his head, saying,

“I appreciate your kindness. However, the Pavilion Master only allows duels with swordsmanship experts. You should…”

Before he could finish speaking, Kai pointed his fingers like a sword and lightly made a stroke.

He did not use Chaos Immortal Power, nor did he activate the Golden Dragon Bloodline, only the purest sword intent.

“Chih…”

In the void, a crack as thin as a hair quietly appeared.

Around the crack, sword energy flowed spontaneously, evolving into illusory images of the sun, moon, stars, mountains, rivers, and vegetation, as if a small world was contained within a single sword strike.

The young sword cultivator’s pupils constricted sharply, and the six sword cultivators behind him simultaneously took a step back, their longswords trembling uncontrollably!

“This is… Sword Intent Transformation?!”

The young sword cultivator’s voice trembled, “The legendary realm beyond ‘Man and Sword as One’?!”

Kai withdrew his finger, and the crack dissipated. He said calmly, “Now, may I report?”

The young sword cultivator took a deep breath, solemnly clasped his sword, and bowed, “This junior’s eyesight is poor; please wait a moment, senior, I will report immediately!”

He transformed into a beam of sword light and rushed straight to the Heavenly Sword Pavilion, returning in less than the time it takes for an incense stick to burn, his attitude even more respectful: “The Pavilion Master requests your presence; please follow me.” The Heavenly Sword Pavilion, the Sword Debate Platform.

This is a circular platform suspended above a sea of clouds, entirely constructed of a black, strange stone called the “Sword Testing Stone.” The surface of the stone is covered with sword marks of varying depths, each retaining a sharp sword intent.

In the center of the platform, an old man dressed in hemp clothing, with disheveled gray hair, stands with his back to the crowd, gazing up at the sky.

A seemingly ordinary iron sword hangs at his waist, its scabbard weathered, but Kai can sense the terrifying sharpness contained within.

“Pavilion Master Dugu,” Xuanwei Zhenren bows.

Dugu Ao slowly turns around.

His face is ordinary, even somewhat disheveled, but his eyes are like two unsheathed divine swords, sharp enough to pierce the heart.

He doesn’t look at Xuanwei Zhenren, nor at anyone else; his gaze falls directly on Kai.

“Your sword intent is very interesting,”

Dugu Ao said, his voice hoarse. “It’s not pure swordsmanship, yet it’s broader than pure swordsmanship….”

Kai clasped his hands in greeting: “Junior Kai greets Senior.”

“Kai…”

Dugu Ao repeated the name, a glint of sword light flashing in his eyes, “Three months ago, in the Eleventh Heaven’s Heart Demon Abyss, it was you who severely injured the Soul Devouring Venerable?”

“Yes.” Kai nodded!

Although he didn't know how Dugu Ao knew about this, knowing it allowed him to better understand his own strength.

"Very good."

Dugu Ao nodded, "Being able to severely injure that old demon, you are qualified to stand here. Speak, what do you want with me? If it's just a sword duel, we can begin now."

Kai went straight to the point: "I would like to invite the Heavenly Sword Pavilion to join the alliance to jointly destroy the Evil Path Hall."

Dugu Ao remained silent.

After a long pause, he slowly said, "The swords of the Heavenly Sword Pavilion are wielded only for themselves. If the Evil Path Hall doesn't offend me, why should I offend them?"

"If the lips are gone, the teeth will be cold,"

Kai said in a deep voice. "The Evil Path Hall wants the souls of all cultivators, and the Heavenly Sword Pavilion will be no exception. After they finish dealing with the other forces, this place will be next."

"Then let them come."

A glint of fanaticism flashed in Dugu Ao's eyes. "Perfect, my sword hasn't drunk the blood of an Immortal in a long time."

Kai shook his head and said, "Senior may not be afraid, but what about the disciples of the Heavenly Sword Pavilion? The Myriad Swords Returning to the Origin Formation is strong, but can it withstand the Soul-Devouring Puppet, the Soul-Suppressing Puppet General, plus Zhan E himself?"

Dugu Ao's eyes turned slightly cold: "Are you questioning the strength of the Heavenly Sword Pavilion?"

“No.”

Kai looked directly into his eyes, “I am stating the facts. The Evil Path Hall has the Gate of Reincarnation, which can continuously refine puppets. If the Heavenly Sword Pavilion loses a disciple, it will lose one more. The balance is shifting, and the outcome is already decided.”

“So you’ve come to persuade them to surrender?” Dugu Ao’s hand rested on the hilt of his sword.

The atmosphere on the dueling platform instantly froze.

Master Xuanwei and the others broke out in a cold sweat. Demon Lord Chiyun was even secretly gathering his strength, ready to fight to the death to protect Kai if Dugu Ao really made a move.

But Kai just smiled. ”No. I’m here to give you, senior, a chance—a chance for the Heavenly Sword Pavilion’s sword to pierce the darkness that shrouds the Twelve Heavens, a chance for the true meaning of the sword to spread throughout the heavens.”

He stepped forward, his voice resounding: “If you close yourself off and guard your own gates, no matter how sharp your sword, it can only illuminate a corner. Only by joining forces with all heroes to annihilate the demonic path can the Heavenly Sword Pavilion’s sword truly ‘cut’ out a bright and clear world. At that time, who in the world won’t know the Heavenly Sword Pavilion? Who won’t respect Dugu Ao?”

Dugu Ao released his grip on his sword.

He stared at Kai, his eyes flashing with sword light, as if scrutinizing the truth of his words.

After a long while, he suddenly asked, “What was the name of that sword strike you just used?”

Kai was taken aback, then realized he was referring to the “Sword Intent Transformation” he had previously displayed.

“It hasn’t been named yet.”

“Then let’s call it ‘Chaos Creation Sword’.” Dugu Ao turned around and looked up at the sky again. “At the beginning of chaos, a single sword cut through the clear and turbid, giving rise to all things… It’s worthy of your sword intent.”

He paused, his back to the crowd, and slowly said, “The alliance can be discussed. But there’s a condition—” “Have

a duel with me. Regardless of victory or defeat, as long as your sword can show me a higher path, the Heavenly Sword Pavilion… will join.”

Kai took a deep breath: “When?”

“Now.”

Dugu Ao turned around, and his iron sword was drawn.

There was no earth-shattering aura, but the moment the mottled iron sword was drawn, all the sword marks on the entire dueling platform lit up simultaneously, and endless sword energy gathered, condensing behind him into a phantom giant sword hundreds of feet tall.

The sword hadn’t moved, but the intent had already arrived.

Kai felt as if his soul was being pierced by billions of fine needles, the pressure of pure sword intent.

But instead, a fierce fighting spirit ignited in his eyes.

The Dragon-Slaying Sword was drawn with a clang, the three forces of Chaos Immortal Power, Golden Dragon Bloodline, and Earth Fire True Flame—united, yet not exploding, but rather contained within the sword, transforming into a layer of hazy gray sword energy that seemed capable of devouring all light.

“Please.”

With a single word, Kai drew his sword first.

Not a thrust, not a slash, but… a drawing.

The Dragon-Slaying Sword traced a circle in the void, within which Yin and Yang flowed, the Five Elements evolved, and a faint image of the creation of heaven and earth, the birth and death of all things, appeared.

“What a magnificent ‘Creation of Chaos’!” A terrifying light erupted in Dugu Ao’s eyes, and with a flick of his iron sword, the hundred-foot-long giant sword crashed down!

Sword light met the sword circle.

There was no explosion, no impact.

The giant sword pierced the sword circle, like a mud ox entering the sea, gradually being decomposed, devoured, and assimilated by the chaotic flowing sword intent. Meanwhile, the sword circle grew increasingly solid, showing a faint tendency to expand.

Dugu Ao was not alarmed but delighted, and let out a long roar: “Again!”

His figure transformed into a sword light, man and sword becoming one,

and he thrust straight at the core of the sword circle! This was a desperate strike, and also his most powerful sword strike—a sword heart that was clear and bright, man and sword becoming one! Kai’s pupils contracted slightly, knowing that this sword strike could no longer be “transformed.”

He gripped the sword with both hands, frantically pouring all the power within his body into it. The Dragon-Slaying Sword emitted a resounding dragon roar, and the chaotic energy on its blade transformed into a gray dragon phantom, roaring as it charged forward!

“Clang!!!”

This time, it was a true clash of metal!

The dueling platform trembled violently, and countless cracks appeared on the testing stone.

The Xuanwei True Person and others watching the battle were forced back by the shockwave, and Lin Xiao, whose cultivation was slightly weaker, even had blood trickling from the corner of his mouth.

At the center of the collision between the sword light and the gray dragon, space shattered inch by inch, revealing a pitch-black void.

Three breaths later, the light dissipated.

Kai stood calmly in place, his face expressionless.

Dugu Ao stood ten feet away, his hempen clothes torn, his gray hair disheveled, and a deep wound on his left shoulder that exposed bone—an injury inflicted by the chaotic sword energy.

But he was laughing, laughing heartily.

“Excellent… truly magnificent Chaos Opening Heaven Sword!”

He laughed heartily, “This sword strike has shown me the beauty beyond ‘man and sword as one’! It was worth it!”

He sheathed his sword, strode to Kai, and extended a hand.

Kai grasped it, using the leverage to stand up.

“The Heavenly Sword Pavilion has joined the alliance,”

Dugu Ao said decisively. “However, let me make this clear: within the alliance, the Heavenly Sword Pavilion will only obey your orders. Don’t come to me with any of that messy wrangling.”

Kai nodded: “Understood.”

“Also, be prepared, that old fox Jin Buhuan… is far more difficult to deal with than I am,” Dugu Ao said.

“I know what I’m doing!”

Kai said confidently.

…

Seven days later, Five Elements Mountain Range.

In stark contrast to the sharpness of the Heavenly Sword Mountain Range, the Five Elements Mountain Range has five peaks standing side by side, each displaying the colors of gold, wood, water, fire, and earth. The five colors of spiritual energy converge and flow, forming a magnificent and fantastical landscape.

However, upon closer inspection, one could sense that the flow of the five-colored spiritual energy was not smooth, with occasional clashes and repulsions—a clear indication of the internal strife

within the Five Elements Sect. Kai’s injuries had already healed by 70% thanks to the Sword Essence Pill and his own regenerative abilities. The group had barely entered the Five Elements Sect’s territory when they were simultaneously surrounded by five groups.

Golden robes, green shirts, blue robes, red armor, and yellow skirts—these were the disciples of the Five Elements Sect’s five lineages of metal, wood, water, fire, and earth, clearly distinct from one another, even subtly wary of one another.

“Who goes there?”

the leaders of the five lineages asked simultaneously, their tones varying.

Xuanwei Zhenren was about to speak when Kai raised his hand to stop him.

He stepped forward, his gaze sweeping over the five lineage disciples, when suddenly his hands formed a seal, and a point of chaotic light shone from between his brows.

Chaotic immortal power transformed into five-colored streams of light, shooting towards the disciples of each lineage.

The disciples of the Five Lineages instinctively went on the defensive, but the five-colored light did not attack. Instead, it transformed into five small cycles of the Five Elements in front of them—metal generates water, water generates wood, wood generates fire, fire generates earth, and earth generates metal, perfectly generating each other without any hindrance.

Even more miraculously, these five small cycles were interconnected, forming a larger, ever-renewing cycle of the Five Elements. ”This is…” The disciples of the Five Lineages were dumbfounded.

They had cultivated the Five Elements Dao for hundreds of years, and had never seen such a perfect and harmonious operation of the Five Elements.

Each of the five lineages within the sect cultivated one of the five elements. Although they knew the principle of mutual generation of the Five Elements, they had never truly practiced it due to sectarian differences.

“Take me to see Sect Master Jin.”

Kai withdrew his Chaos Immortal Power. “Tell him… someone can solve the Five Elements Sect’s thousand-year predicament.”

The disciples of the Five Lineages looked at each other, and finally the leader of the Jin lineage gritted his teeth and said, “Please come with me.”

Five Elements Sect, Five Elements Hall.

The hall was pentagonal, with the elders of the five lineages seated in five distinct directions.

At the head of the hall, a round-faced old man wearing a five-colored Daoist robe sat upright. He was none other than Sect Master Jin Buhuan.

“Young friend Kai, you’ve come from afar, I’m so sorry for not welcoming you properly.”

Jin Buhuan smiled warmly. “I heard that you debated swordsmanship with Old Man Dugu at the Heavenly Sword Pavilion, and even managed to make him bow down and join the alliance. I admire you greatly.”

Kai cupped his hands in greeting: “Sect Master Jin, you flatter me. I’ve come to invite the Five Elements Sect to join the Anti-Demon Alliance.” As soon as he

finished speaking, the elders of the five sects immediately began to discuss among themselves.

“An alliance? Our Five Elements Sect is protected by the Five Elements Reincarnation Array. The Evil Path Hall cannot break through it, why take the risk?”

“That’s right! Rather than going out to fight, it’s better to defend our sect and wait for them to weaken each other!”

“Nonsense! Don’t you understand the principle of ‘if the lips are gone, the teeth will be cold’? Once the Evil Path Hall destroys the other forces, we’ll be next!”

“If you want to fight, go fight us, Fire Sect! We Water Sect disciples are not good at fighting!”

The five sects each held their own opinion, and it looked like they were about to start arguing.

Jin Buhuan remained smiling, not stopping them, but just looking at Kai, as if waiting for his reaction.

Kai understood—Jin Buhuan was testing him. If even the internal strife among the five sects cannot be resolved, how can we talk about an alliance?

He suddenly spoke, his voice not loud, but it drowned out all the arguments: “The predicament of the Five Elements Sect is not due to external enemies, but to internal strife.”

The hall fell silent.

Kai continued, “The Five Elements Dao should be mutually reinforcing and endlessly circulating. However, the five lineages of the Five Elements Sect each cultivate one element, competing with each other and refusing to yield, leading to an imbalance of the Five Elements and a deficiency in the Dao.”

“Therefore, although the Five Elements Reincarnation Array is powerful, it can never reach the perfect state of ‘endless generation’—because the disciples of the five lineages who set up the array are not of one mind.”

The elder of the Gold Lineage sneered, “Boy, you make it sound so easy! The mutual generation of the Five Elements is good, but resources are limited. How can they be allocated?”

“Why should they be allocated?”

Kai countered, “The Five Elements generate each other. Metal generates Water, so the metal energy dissipated during the cultivation of the Gold Lineage can help the Water Lineage cultivate;”

“Water generates Wood, so the water spirit during the cultivation of the Water Lineage disciples can nourish the Wood Lineage… In this cycle, with all five lineages cultivating together, resources will not only not be insufficient, but will actually increase due to the recycling.”

The little fire unicorn on his shoulder jumped out at the right moment, its little claws tracing in the air, once again outlining the perfect illusory image of the Five Elements cycle.

This time, Kai injected a wisp of chaotic immortal power into it.

The five-colored light shone brightly, the circulation speed increased dramatically, and it even began to actively absorb the spiritual energy of heaven and earth from the void, transforming it into pure five-element power! ”This…this is…”

Elder Huo Mai suddenly stood up, his eyes filled with horror. “The Five Elements cycle automatically absorbs spiritual energy? How is this possible?!” ”

Chaos gives birth to all things, and can also give rise to the Five Elements,”

Kai said calmly. “Using the Chaos Immortal Power as a guide, the balance of the Five Elements can be reconstructed, supplemented by a special joint cultivation formation, and it can be done.”

He looked at Jin Buhuan: “Sect Master Jin, I can teach this method to the Five Elements Sect. There is only one condition: the Five Elements Sect joins the alliance, the five lineages abandon their past grievances, and fight against the demons together.”

The usual smile on Jin Buhuan’s face finally disappeared.

He slowly got up, stepped down from the main seat, and came to the illusory image of the Five Elements cycle. His withered fingers probed into the five-colored light, carefully feeling the perfectly flowing power of the Five Elements.

After a moment, a trace of shock flashed in his eyes, but it quickly turned into deep thought.

“The five elements generate each other, endlessly…theoretically, it is indeed feasible.”

Jin Buhuan withdrew his hand and looked at Kai. “But young friend, do you know why the Five Elements Sect has been unable to achieve this ideal state for thousands of years?”

Kai did not answer immediately, but instead looked around at the five elders.

He could sense five completely different auras permeating the hall:

the sharpness of metal, the vitality of wood, the resilience of water, the ferocity of fire, and the weight of earth.

These five auras should have complemented each other, but at this moment they repelled and clashed with each other, like five ferocious beasts locked in a small cage, tearing at each other.

“Because each of the five lineages holds its own path, and each believes that its lineage is the most supreme among the five elements,”

Kai said, enunciating each word clearly. “The Metal lineage believes that ‘metal governs killing and is invincible’; the Wood lineage insists that ‘wood governs growth and is everlasting’; the Water lineage proclaims that ‘water benefits all things and nourishes the world’; the Fire lineage advocates that ‘fire burns away all evil and is righteous and upright’; and the Earth lineage firmly believes that ‘earth carries all things and is virtuous and capable of bearing all things.’”

With each sentence he spoke, the elder of the corresponding lineage straightened his back and showed a look of agreement on his face.

“The Five Lineages have been arguing for a thousand years, each claiming their own Dao is the foundation of the Five Elements. But…”

Kai’s tone shifted, his voice suddenly becoming deep and solemn, “The Five Elements generate and restrain each other; they are inherently one.

Forcibly dividing them is like cutting a person into five pieces, each claiming to be a person, yet the meaning of wholeness has long been lost."

The Metal Lineage elder retorted sharply, "You ignorant brat, what do you know! Metal is the head of the Five Elements; warfare and killing are the foundation of the Great Dao!"

"Nonsense!"

The Fire Lineage elder slammed his hand on the table and stood up, "Metal melts when it meets fire! Raging fire burns the heavens, purifying everything; this is the ultimate truth!"

"Water and fire in harmony constitute the Dao!"

The Water Lineage elder sneered. "Wood can solidify earth, and earth can generate metal; what do you know?" The Earth Lineage elder retorted defiantly.

The Wood Lineage elder remained silent, but a blue light flashed in his eyes, clearly indicating his disagreement with the other lineages.

Seeing the argument reignite, Kai suddenly stepped forward.

With this step, the air in the entire Five Elements Hall seemed to freeze.

He closed his eyes, slowly raising his hands, palms facing upward.

A point of chaotic light shone from between his brows. This was not the small-scale demonstration shown earlier, but the true release of his origin! A

deep hum emanated from Kai's body, as if some ancient being was awakening.

A ball of blazing white golden light appeared in his left palm, and a ball of verdant wooden light appeared in his right palm;

blue water surged beneath his left foot, and crimson flames rose beneath his right foot;

and in the center of his chest, a thick, earthy-yellow light slowly rotated.

The power of the five elements manifested simultaneously!

“This… how is this possible?” The five elders stood up in unison, their eyes filled with disbelief.

The Way of the Five Elements—it was already rare for an ordinary person to master one of them, to master two was to be a genius, and to master all three was one in ten thousand.

Yet Kai was now simultaneously controlling the complete power of the five elements, and there was no conflict between them, but rather a harmonious fusion!

But this was only the beginning.

Kai took a deep breath, and the chaotic immortal power within his body surged into operation!

That chaotic immortal power, like the most skillful harmonizer, poured into the power of the five elements.

The five colors of light, which were originally independent, began to permeate and merge with each other.

Golden light merged with the water, transforming into flowing golden water; the water nourished the wood’s light, which grew flame patterns; the flames burned and turned to ash, which settled into thick soil; from within the thick soil, new golden light was born…

The five elements generated each other, cycling endlessly, forming a perfect circular halo of light three zhang in diameter around Kai!

Even more astonishingly, this halo was not static, but constantly rotating and evolving.

At times, the golden energy surged, transforming into countless sword energies; at other times, the fire spread like wildfire, scorching the sky and boiling the sea; at still other times, the water surged, encompassing all things... The five elements changed at will.

Inside the hall, all the disciples of the Five Elements Sect felt the five elements' spiritual power resonating and trembling within their bodies, as if they had encountered a supreme being like a king.

Jin Buhuan's eyes shone brightly as he stared intently at the five elements halo, his breathing becoming rapid.

Kai opened his eyes, his eyes swirling with five colors before finally settling into a chaotic gray.

"The debate over the Five Elements is laughable."

His voice was calm, yet it resonated like thunder in everyone's hearts. "Why can't metal be soft? Why can't water be hard? Why can't fire generate? Why can't earth be sharp? Why can't wood be strong?"

With each question, the Five Elements Light Wheel manifested a scene that defied common sense.

Golden light transformed into soft silk threads, winding and flowing; water ripples condensed into sharp ice crystals, their edge fully revealed; red lotuses bloomed from the flames, full of vitality; the thick earth rose into the phantom of mountains, piercing the clouds; the surface of ancient wood shimmered with a metallic luster, indestructible.

"The Five Elements are inherently neither superior

nor inferior; their application lies in the mind." Kai withdrew his hands, and the Five Elements Light Wheel slowly converged, finally transforming into five light beads the size of pigeon eggs, hovering above

his palms, spinning rapidly. “To be fixated on one element or one path is merely to draw a circle around oneself. The true Great Way of the Five Elements is…” He clenched his fist!

The five luminous beads collided and merged with a deafening roar!

Five distinct forces—metal, wood, water, fire, and earth—were perfectly integrated under the harmonizing power of the Chaos Immortal Force, transforming into a strange, hazy bead containing flowing five-colored light.

The bead appeared ordinary, but the primordial power of the five elements contained within it caused a profound tremor in the souls of all the Five Elements Sect cultivators.

“The Five Elements unite.”

As he uttered these four words, the bead in Kai’s palm suddenly erupted with dazzling light, shooting skyward!

The light pierced the dome of the Five Elements Hall, shooting directly into the heavens. The five-colored spiritual energy throughout the entire Five Elements Mountain Range surged simultaneously, rushing towards the light as if paying homage to a king.

On the five peaks, the ancestral statues of the five lineages of metal, wood, water, fire, and earth lit up simultaneously, projecting five thick pillars of light that converged with the light released by Kai.

The Great Dao resounded throughout the heavens and earth!

Kai felt a long-dormant barrier within his body suddenly burst open.

Deep within his dantian, in that primordial chaos, a previously dim star suddenly ignited!

This was no ordinary star, but a primordial star—one that contained the flow of the five elements and emanated the aura of chaos!

“Buzz…”

The instant the primordial star lit up, Kai’s aura surged dramatically!

The bottleneck of the third rank of the Heavenly Immortal Realm shattered instantly, his cultivation directly breaking through to the fourth rank, and continuing to climb, eventually stabilizing at the peak of the fourth rank!

More importantly, his understanding of the Five Elements Dao reached an unprecedented height.

Looking at the five elders of the Five Elements Sect now, the operation, defects, and potential complementarities of the five elements’ spiritual power within their bodies… everything was under his control.

“This…this is…”

Jin Buhuan’s voice trembled, “The resonance of the Five Elements Origin! You actually activated the ancestral power of the Five Elements Mountain Range!”

The five elders had already knelt on the ground, not out of fear, but out of instinctive awe at the manifestation of the Great Dao.

Kai slowly suppressed his aura, and the Five Elements Unity Pearl fell into his palm, transforming into a five-colored pattern that imprinted itself on the back of his right hand.

He looked at Jin Buhuan, then at the five elders, his voice calm yet firm:

“The conflict of the Five Elements can now cease. Today, I will use the power of Chaos Immortals as a guide to harmonize the origins of the Five Elements. Are you willing to observe and comprehend it?”

The Gold Elder was the first to kowtow: “The Gold Elder… is willing to learn!”

“The Wood Elder is willing to learn!””The Water Vein is willing to learn!”

“The Fire Vein is willing to learn!”

“The Earth Vein is willing to learn!”

The five elders ceased their disputes, their eyes filled only with a yearning for the higher Dao.

Kai nodded and pointed his hand into the void.

A five-colored light screen unfolded, within which the subtle principles of the five elements—how they generate and restrain each other, how they transform and merge, how they borrow strength to fight back—were presented in the most direct way.

This was not a simple transmission of techniques, but a direct demonstration of the Great Dao!

The five elders observed, memorized, and comprehended with insatiable hunger. They could feel the bottlenecks that had plagued them for hundreds of years loosening, and their understanding of the Dao of the Five Elements deepening at an astonishing speed.

Jin Buhuan stood beside Kai, watching this scene, a complex expression flashing in his eyes.

“Young friend, do you know that what you have done today is tantamount to rebuilding the Five Elements Sect?”

he said in a low voice. “A thousand years of internal strife has been resolved in a single day. The Five Elements Sect will never forget this kindness.”

Kai shook his head: “Sect Master Jin, you flatter me. The Five Elements Dao is originally one. I have merely cleared away the fog and revealed the truth.”

He paused and looked at the five-colored patterns on the back of his hand: “Moreover, I have also benefited greatly from it. I have illuminated the Origin Star and gained a deeper understanding of the Five Elements Dao. That is enough.”

Jin Buhuan was silent for a moment, then suddenly clasped his hands solemnly, performing the sect’s highest-level “Five Elements Unity Ceremony.”

“Young friend Kai, from this day forward, you are the ‘Guardian Elder’ of my Five Elements Sect, your status equal to mine. All members of the Five Elements Sect will obey your commands.”

He turned to face the Five Lineage Elders, who were still observing and comprehending, his voice echoing throughout the hall:

“Issue the order: the Five Elements Sect shall immediately join the Anti-Demon Alliance! All disciples of the Five Lineages shall cease all infighting and, within three days, must have a basic grasp of the Five Elements Combined Cultivation Method taught by Elder Kai! Seven days later, join the Alliance in the expedition to jointly destroy the Evil Path Hall!”

The Five Lineage Elders responded in unison, their voices resounding through the dome.

This time, there were no dissenting voices, only a shared determination to fight against the common enemy.

Kai felt the newly lit Origin Star within his body, then looked at the five-colored patterns on the back of his hand, a sharp glint flashing in his eyes.

The Five Elements had united, the Origin Star was beginning to manifest.

Next… it was time to go find the Evil Path Hall and settle the score.

The Five Elements Unification phenomenon in the Five Elements Mountains had not yet completely dissipated, but the winds and clouds in the Twelfth Heaven had already changed drastically. The headquarters of the Evil Path Palace.

Zhan E stood with his hands behind his back before the Gate of Reincarnation, his greyish-white eyes fixed on the slowly writhing runes on the door.

Behind him, a black-robed elder knelt on the ground.

“Pass down the word: as long as all the experts of the Twelve Heavens submit to my Evil Path Palace, we can spare them and even grant them eternal life through the Gate of Reincarnation.”

Zhan E’s hoarse, icy voice rang out!

Since Kai had already united with the three major sects to deal with the Evil Path Palace, Zhan E could not be careless.

After all, these three major sects were all quite powerful, not to mention that Kai had the Earth Fire Ancestor by his side.

“Yes, sir…” The black-robed elder left!

The news spread like wildfire throughout the Twelve Heavens!

Soon, a large number of cultivators poured into the headquarters of the Evil Path Palace.

The black-robed elder arrived to report, his voice brimming with barely suppressed excitement:

“Palace Master, three days after the news was released, over thirty-seven sects and nearly a hundred rogue cultivators have explicitly expressed their allegiance. Among them are eleven old monsters at the ninth rank of the Celestial Immortal Realm.”

A cold smile curled at the corner of Zhan E's lips.

"Eternal life…resurrection…what a beautiful promise."

Zhan E slowly turned around, his withered fingers gently stroking the bone surface of the Gate of Reincarnation. "What are those old fellows who have lived for tens of thousands of years most afraid of? Death. What do they want most? More time, to undo past regrets."

"We gave them hope,"

the black-robed elder flattered. "Even if that hope is false, they are willing to gamble everything."

"Such is human nature."

Zhan E looked outside the palace, where hundreds of figures of varying strengths had gathered, all those who had come from all over to pledge allegiance. "Go, bring in the first batch of believers. Let them…witness the miracle with their own eyes."

"Yes!"

…

Outside the main altar of the Evil Path Palace, the once desolate and lifeless area was now bustling with activity.

Cultivators from all corners of the Twelfth Heaven gathered here. Among them were elderly men with white hair and beards, decaying auras, middle-aged men with haggard faces and sickly longing in their eyes, and a woman clutching a tattered spirit tablet, her

expression crazed. All of them looked up at the gray-white pillar of light shooting into the sky from the depths of the plain, their eyes gleaming with fanaticism.

"The Gate of Reincarnation… can it really resurrect my son?"

A woman clutched the spirit tablet tightly in her arms; the inscription on the tablet was blurred by wear and tear.

“Fellow Daoist Li, you’ve lived for forty-eight thousand years, your lifespan is nearing its end. Why not take a gamble?”

A gaunt old man pulled another equally aged old man aside, urging him, “The Evil Path Hall has promised that as long as you perform meritorious deeds, you can enter the Gate of Reincarnation and gain eternal life!”

“I have cultivated for fifty thousand years, stuck at the peak of the ninth rank of the Heavenly Immortal Realm for a full twenty thousand years… There is no hope of breaking through, and my lifespan is less than a hundred years left.”

The old man called Fellow Daoist Li’s eyes flashed with struggle, which finally turned into determination, “So be it… so be it! Rather than sit and die in oblivion, I’d rather gamble this time!”

Similar conversations continued to play out among the crowd.

Suddenly, a long bell rang from the direction of the Evil Path Hall.

“The time has come—welcome believers into the hall to witness the miracle of reincarnation.”

Hundreds of black-robed Soul Hunters emerged from the gray-white pillar of light, lining up on both sides to form a passage leading into the depths.

All those who sought refuge entered in order of their cultivation level. Before the Gate of Reincarnation, Zhan E sat high on a bone throne, the Soul-Devouring Puppet standing silently beside him, expressionless.

The first group brought in were three ancient monsters at the peak of the ninth rank of the Celestial Immortal Realm, nearing the end of their lifespans.

“Greetings, Palace Master!”

The three bowed in unison, their eyes filled with both awe and an barely suppressed longing.

Zhan E slightly raised his hand: “No need for formalities. Since you three have come with such sincerity, I will let you witness firsthand… the power of the Gate of Reincarnation.”

He turned, his hands forming a seal, and a stream of grayish-white energy entered the Gate of Reincarnation.

The gate slowly opened a crack, revealing the grayish-white, lifeless world within.

But Zhan E had clearly tampered with it; the instant the crack opened, a phantom yet breathtakingly beautiful scene was projected behind the gate: magnificent palaces, celestial cranes and auspicious clouds, countless figures strolling leisurely within, and the faces of those figures… were none other than those of cultivators who had long since perished!

“That’s…that’s Senior Brother Qingyun!”

One of the three old monsters, an elder in a green robe, exclaimed in shock, “Didn’t he die under the Heavenly Tribulation five hundred years ago?!”

“And Fairy Zixia…didn’t she perish in the secret realm a thousand years ago?”

“My Daoist partner…she also…”

Tears welled up in the eyes of the three, and they trembled all over.

Zhan E spoke at the right moment, his voice carrying a bewitching magic: “The Gate of Reincarnation connects life and death, and spans the

past and present. All who enter this gate can reunite their true spirit, reshape their physical body, and enjoy eternal life."

"And those who have passed away…as long as you sincerely make offerings and perform meritorious deeds, the Lord of Reincarnation will grant them mercy and allow them to be resurrected."

"Thump!"

The three old monsters knelt down at the same time, their foreheads touching the ground: "Great kindness from the Palace Master! We are willing to die for the Evil Path Palace!"

"Very good."

Zhan E nodded in satisfaction, "From today onwards, you are the first batch of elders of the Reincarnation Envoy. Go, tell those people outside what you saw."

The three excitedly got up, turned around, and rushed out of the hall.

Soon, their trembling voices of excitement echoed from outside:

"It's true! It's true! I saw Senior Brother Qingyun!"

"The Gate of Reincarnation can resurrect the dead! It can grant eternal life!"

"Join the Evil Path Hall! This is our last chance!"

The seekers outside instantly erupted in jubilation!

If there were any doubts before, seeing the three highly respected elders so excited now, all their concerns vanished.

"I want to join! I'm willing to offer all my treasures!"

"I'll do anything to resurrect my daughter!"

“Give me eternal life! Give me a chance to break through!”

The fervent atmosphere spread like a plague.

In just half a day, the number of seekers doubled, with two previously hesitant medium-sized sects even joining with their entire sects.

The news spread like wildfire throughout the Twelve Heavens. But what truly shook the entire Twelve Heavens was yet to come. On the fourth day, at noon.

Three hundred thousand miles east of the headquarters of the Evil Path Palace, a “deadly swamp” shrouded in mist year-round suddenly trembled violently!

“Rumble…”

Mud from the depths of the swamp shot skyward, revealing a colossal, unimaginably vast black palace complex below.

The palaces were ancient and eerie in style, countless pale skulls hanging from their eaves, and twisted runes carved into the walls, emanating a chilling aura that sent shivers down one’s spine.

Most terrifyingly, at the center of the palace complex, nine jet-black demonic energies soared into the sky, condensing in mid-air into nine ferocious demonic phantoms, roaring silently towards the heavens.

All the powerful figures of the Twelfth Heaven simultaneously sensed this terrifying aura.

“That’s… the Nine Netherworld Demonic Qi?!”

In the Valley of Ten Thousand Beasts, Li Baichuan suddenly stood up from the Beast Bone Throne, and the three-headed Flaming Lion Kings simultaneously roared, “Could it be…”

On the Sword Debate Platform of the Heavenly Sword Pavilion, Dugu Ao's iron sword trembled and hummed. He looked eastward, his eyes flashing with sword light: "Nine Netherworld Palace... they're still alive?!" In the main

hall of the Five Elements Sect, Jin Buhuan's face instantly turned pale: "Nine Netherworld Palace... the number one demonic sect that suddenly disappeared ten thousand years ago... they've emerged from seclusion?"

All the older generation of powerhouses who knew the name Nine Netherworld Palace felt a surge of overwhelming emotions.

Nine Netherworld Palace was the undisputed leader of the demonic path in the Twelfth Heaven ten thousand years ago.

The Palace Master, "Nine Netherworld Demon Lord" Xue Youming, was at the peak of the third rank of the Upper Immortal Realm. His three Ghost Kings were all at the first rank of the Upper Immortal Realm, and his nine Netherworld Envoys were all at the peak of the ninth rank of the Heavenly Immortal Realm.

The entire palace had three thousand disciples, the weakest of whom was at the fifth rank of the Heavenly Immortal Realm.

Ten thousand years ago, this sect suddenly closed its gates and vanished without a trace. Everyone assumed they had either been destroyed in internal strife or had found a way to a higher world and left.

But now... they have reappeared in this world at this time and place!

Even more unbelievable is that...

the massive black palace complex of the Nine Nether Palace is slowly rising into the air, moving towards the headquarters of the Evil Path Hall...!

"They want to... pledge allegiance to the Evil Path Hall?!" someone exclaimed in shock.

“That old demon Blood Netherworld is said to have less than a hundred years left to live…”

another murmured, “The promise of the Evil Path Hall… is a lifeline for him.”

“Even the Nine Nether Palace has pledged allegiance… who in the Twelve Heavens can stop the Evil Path Hall?”

Panic spread like wildfire.

Those forces that were still observing could no longer sit still.

“Quick! Prepare generous gifts and head to the Evil Path Hall!”

“The Nine Nether Palace has already pledged allegiance, what are we waiting for? To die?!”

“If we’re late, the credit will be stolen by others!”

In an instant, countless streams of light from all over the Twelve Heavens converged on the Plain of Resentful Souls.

Among them were many ancient monsters who had lived in seclusion for thousands, even tens of thousands of years, all breaking free of their

shackles, clinging to that sliver of hope for eternal life. On the outskirts of the Plains of Wraiths, the cultivators who had already pledged allegiance to the Evil Path Palace trembled with excitement.

“The Nine Nether Palace… even the Nine Nether Palace has come!”

“We joined early, we’ll be elders now!”

“Palace Master is mighty! Long live the Gate of Reincarnation!”

Meanwhile, within the black palace at the very center of the Nine Nether Palace,

an old man clad in a dark black demonic robe, his face withered like a dried corpse, sat upon a throne of white bones.

His eyes were sunken, his pupils pure black, without any whites, like two openings leading to the abyss of the Nine Nether. Surrounded by tangible Netherworld demonic energy, each breath slightly distorted the surrounding space. It was none

other than the Netherworld Demon Lord, Xue Youming.

“Ancestor, the Hall of Evil Paths is just ahead,”

a pale-faced youth in black robes bowed and reported. He was the Great Envoy of the Netherworld Palace. “The Hall Master of the Hall of Evil Paths, Zhan E, is waiting outside.” Xue

Youming slowly opened his eyes, a hint of mockery flashing in his dark pupils.

“Eternal life? Resurrection? Ha… just empty words to fool those fools.”

His voice was dry and hoarse, like two pieces of withered bone rubbing together. “But the Gate of Reincarnation… does indeed contain a trace of the rules of reincarnation. If I can obtain it, perhaps it can truly help me break through my shackles and extend my life by a thousand years.”

He stood up, his demonic robes fluttering without wind.

“Let’s go, let’s go see this Hall Master. Hopefully, he… knows what’s good for him.”

The Netherworld Palace descended upon the Plain of Resentful Souls.

Zhan E personally led his followers to greet them. Under countless gazes, the two smiled at each other.

One’s smile was cold and calculating; the other’s was fanatical and greedy.

At this moment, all the allies had only one thought in their minds:

“Even the Nine Nether Palace has come…we’ve made the right bet!”

“The Evil Path Hall will surely unify the Twelve Heavens!”

“Eternal life…is within reach!”

The frenzied cheers resounded through the sky.

Meanwhile, at the Five Elements Mountain Range,

Kai stood on the roof of the Five Elements Hall, gazing at the Nine Nether Demonic Qi soaring into the east, his Dragon-Slaying Sword trembling slightly.

Behind him, Jin Buhuan, Li Baichuan, Dugu Ao, Crimson Cloud Demon Lord, Earth Fire Ancestor, Xuanwei True Person…all the high-ranking members of the alliance were gathered, each with a solemn expression.

“The Nine Nether Palace…Blood Netherworld…”

Li Baichuan gritted his teeth, “That old demon could fight against a fourth-grade Upper Immortal ten thousand years ago. Although his lifespan is nearing its end, his strength is probably even more unfathomable.”

“The entire Nine Nether Palace has surrendered, and the Evil Path Hall now has at least six Upper Immortal level warriors.” Jin Buhuan’s voice was dry, “while we…only have three.”

Kai remained silent.

He closed his eyes, feeling the warmth of the five-colored patterns on the back of his hand, and the rotation of the primordial star in his dantian.

After a long while, he opened his eyes, his gaze devoid of fear, only a bottomless calm.

The hall was deathly silent.

Originally, the alliance of the three major sects, facing the Evil Path Hall, already had two peak Upper Immortals, Zhan E and the Soul-Devouring Puppet, plus puppets like the Soul-Suppressing Puppet General, making the outcome uncertain.

Now, suddenly, four Upper Immortals from the Nine Nether Palace appeared, including an old demon like Xue Youming...

The balance of power instantly reversed!

“Report!”

Another scout rushed into the hall, this time a beast tamer from the Valley of Ten Thousand Beasts, riding a wounded Thunderwing Golden Eagle.

“Urgent message from Valley Master Li!”

The beast tamer rolled to the ground, taking out a beast tooth communication talisman, “The Valley Master said that seventeen small and medium-sized sects have already sided with the Evil Path Hall, six of which have patriarchs who are nearing the end of their lifespans, all at the peak of the ninth rank of the Heavenly Immortal Realm! They... they all believed the lies of the Gate of Reincarnation!”