the mans Decree: Kai Ping / Chen Ping

Chapter 5941 - 5950

“Report!”

A third urgent message came from the Heavenly Sword Pavilion. A sword light pierced the air, transforming into Dugu Ao’s cold voice:

“Kai, the situation has changed. The ‘Old Demon of Withered Bones’ in the northwest of the Twelfth Heaven, the ‘Old Ancestor of the Blood Sea’ in the southeast, and three reclusive old monsters… have all emerged from seclusion. Their target is the Evil Path Hall.”

These three urgent messages, like three heavy hammer blows, slammed into everyone’s hearts.

The atmosphere in the Five Elements Hall, which had just been invigorated by the unification of the Five Elements, had vanished. In its place was an oppressive, heavy atmosphere.

The five elders exchanged glances, hesitation flashing in their eyes. They had just resolved to form an alliance, and now they faced such a desperate situation…

Jin Buhuan looked at Kai, awaiting his reaction.

Crimson Cloud Demon Lord gritted his teeth: “Eternal life? Resurrection? Bullshit! We know the truth about the Gate of Reincarnation best; it’s a trap that devours souls!”

“We know, but they don’t,”

Earthfire Ancestor said slowly, “or rather… they don’t want to know. For someone whose lifespan is about to end, even a one in ten thousand chance is worth gambling everything on.”

Xuanwei True Person sighed: “Such is human nature. The lure of immortality, the promise of resurrection… this has seized upon the most vulnerable weakness of all cultivators.”

Kai remained silent.

He walked to the window of the main hall and looked towards the Plain of Resentful Souls. Although it was tens of thousands of miles away, he could almost see the terrifying power gathering there. What

kind of insane fighting power would those old monsters whose lifespans were about to end unleash for that sliver of life?

What kind of heinous things would the Nine Nether Palace, a demonic giant that had been dormant for ten thousand years, do for the so-called “eternal life”?

And Zhan E… this move was truly ruthless to the extreme.

No need for a direct confrontation; just release the bait, and countless people would rush to his aid.

Before the alliance was even formally formed, it was already facing a situation of morale collapse and being surrounded by powerful enemies.

“Young friend Kai…” Jin Buhuan hesitated.

Kai turned around, but his face did not show the panic or despair that everyone had expected.

Instead… there was a calm that seemed to have seen through everything.

“Sect Master Jin, Elders of the Five Veins,”

he said clearly, “if you want to withdraw from the alliance now, I won’t blame you. After all, the situation has changed, and if we continue to fight head-on, the Five Elements Sect may very well… be doomed.”

The Elders of the Five Veins trembled.

The Elder of the Gold Vein opened his mouth, but finally gritted his teeth and said, “Elder Kai, what do you take my Five Elements Sect for? A fence-sitter?! Since we have already performed the Five Elements Unity Ceremony and recognized you as our Protector Elder, then we share the same fate, and we share the same fate!”

“That’s right!”

The Elder of the Fire Vein slammed his hand on the table and stood up, “The nonsense of the Evil Path Hall might fool those cowardly old monsters! The disciples of my Five Elements Sect cultivate righteousness, how can we be accomplices to evil!”

The Elders of the Wood, Water, and Earth Veins also nodded in unison.

Jin Buhuan smiled, a resolute smile in his eyes: “Young friend, since the Five Elements Sect has made its decision, there’s no turning back. At worst… we’ll all perish together.”

Kai gave everyone a deep look, then cupped his hands in thanks: “Thank you.” He walked back to the center of the main hall, his gaze sweeping over everyone: “Since that’s the case, let’s devise a plan to carve out a path to survival in this desperate situation.”

…

At the headquarters of the Evil Path Palace, before the Gate of Reincarnation.

Zhan E and Xue Youming stood facing each other, both wearing seemingly warm smiles, but their eyes concealed cold calculations.

Surrounding them were densely packed followers, gazing up at these two powerful figures standing atop the twelfth heaven, their eyes filled with awe and fervor.

“It is truly an honor for my Evil Path Palace that Fellow Daoist Xue Youming has personally led the Nine Nether Palace to join us,”

Zhan E said, his voice dry, but his smile widening. “With you joining us, those clowns of the Anti-Demon Alliance are nothing to worry about.”

Xue Youming’s dark pupils shifted slightly, glancing at the Gate of Reincarnation behind Zhan E before returning to Zhan E’s face: “Palace Master Zhan, you are too kind. The Gate of Reincarnation is infinitely mysterious; to receive the opportunity for eternal life from you is a blessing for my Nine Nether Palace.”

The two smiled at each other, raising their cups in a toast.

But the instant the wine glasses clinked

,

an unprecedentedly terrifying wave emanated from the depths of the Gate of Reincarnation!

It wasn’t the greedy suction of before, nor the deathly gray energy of reincarnation, but… a supreme aura seemingly from the very beginning of the universe, transcending all rules!

“Crack!”

The bone cup in Zhan E’s hand shattered, the wine evaporating into nothingness before it even hit the ground. He whirled around, his gray eyes fixed on the Gate of Reincarnation, a look of horror appearing on his face for the first time.

Xue Youming's pupils also contracted sharply, his Nine Nether Demonic Qi surging uncontrollably around him, instinctively contracting his defenses as if encountering a natural enemy.

All those who had pledged allegiance felt their souls swept over by an invisible gaze—a gaze cold, indifferent, like the heavens looking down upon ants, devoid of any emotion, yet causing everyone to tremble from the depths of their souls.

"What's going on?" someone asked, their voice trembling.

"The Gate of Reincarnation… is trembling!"

"A hundred times stronger than before!"

On the surface of the hundred-foot-tall, pitch-black bone gate, the greyish-white flames in the eye sockets of all the skulls simultaneously surged, erupting from their sockets and weaving into a gigantic and eerie pattern in the air: a humanoid silhouette with closed eyes, composed entirely of greyish-white flames, suspended high in the sky.

The next moment, the silhouette slowly opened its "eyes."

They were eyes entirely composed of swirling greyish-white vortexes, without pupils, without whites, only endless emptiness and depth.

When those eyes opened, the sky over the entire Plain of Wraiths dimmed, as if all light had been swallowed by those eyes.

"I am… the Lord of Reincarnation."

A voice resounded directly in the depths of everyone's souls, a voice beyond description.

It was like the whispers of billions of living beings, yet also like the very rules of heaven and earth proclaiming—ancient, majestic, and unquestionable. Zhan E knelt on one knee, cold sweat beading on his forehead. Although he had controlled the Gate of Reincarnation for

many years, he had never truly seen the so-called “Lord of Reincarnation.”

He had always thought it was just a concept, a personified symbol of the rules of reincarnation, but now…

Xue Youming was completely stiff. He had lived for nearly 60,000 years, witnessed countless powerful figures, and even fought against a fourth-grade Upper Immortal without defeat.

But at this moment, facing those eyes, he couldn’t muster the slightest thought of resistance!

It was absolute suppression on a life level!

“What do you all seek by gathering here?”

The Lord of Reincarnation’s voice rang out again, his greyish-white vortex-like eyes sweeping over the tens of thousands of cultivators below.

After a brief silence, someone shouted first:

“Eternal life! We want eternal life!”

“Resurrection! Resurrect my loved ones!”

“Breakthrough! I want to break through my bottleneck!”

Frenzied shouts rose and fell, all those who had pledged allegiance kneeling and frantically kowtowing towards the fiery outline in the sky.

The Lord of Reincarnation remained silent for a moment.

A hint of…amusement seemed to flash in those greyish-white, swirling eyes.

“The request is simple,”

His voice remained indifferent, “but there’s a price.”

Before the words were finished, He raised a hand, an arm entirely composed of greyish-white flames, and gently waved it downwards.

There was no earth-shattering display, no world-destroying power.

But with that single wave…

“Buzz…”

The entire order of the Resentful Soul Plains was forcibly rewritten!

Countless greyish-white streams of energy surged from the Gate of Reincarnation, like billions of tiny tentacles, precisely piercing the brows of every person who had submitted!

“Ahhh!”

Painful roars instantly echoed through the heavens!

Everyone felt their souls invaded by some icy force, that force raging within their bodies, tearing apart meridians, burning flesh and blood, reshaping their foundations… The excruciating pain was like a thousand ants gnawing at their hearts, causing some lower-level cultivators to faint on the spot.

But just as the pain reached its peak…

“Boom!”

“Boom!”

“Boom!”

One after another, breakthrough auras soared into the sky!

“I…I broke through! Eighth Rank of Celestial Immortal Realm! The bottleneck I’d been stuck on for three thousand years is finally broken!” A white-haired old man roared to the sky, tears streaming down his face.

“Me too! I broke through directly from the peak of the fifth Rank of Celestial Immortal Realm to the seventh Rank!”

“My hidden injuries…the Dao injuries I sustained three hundred years ago, are completely healed!”

“Lifespan! I feel my lifespan has increased by at least five hundred years!”

Exclamations of surprise, cries of joy, and sobs rose and fell.

Those old monsters who were originally nearing the end of their lifespan and decaying in their auras now had all their decay swept away, their withered skin regained its plumpness, their gray hair turned jet black, and they looked as if they had been rejuvenated!

Even more astonishing were those old monsters at the peak of the ninth Rank of Celestial Immortal Realm.

“Boom!!!”

An unprecedentedly terrifying aura erupted from Xue Youming’s body!

His bottleneck at the peak of the third Rank of Upper Immortal Realm, which had been stuck for nearly ten thousand years, shattered at this moment…! Fourth Rank of the Upper Immortal Realm!

And not just the initial entry, but a direct mid-stage of the fourth rank!

Xue Youming looked down at his hands, his dark pupils filled with disbelief.

He tried to circulate the Nine Nether Demon Art and discovered that not only had his realm broken through, but the speed of his technique’s

circulation, the purity of his demonic energy, and his understanding of the rules of heaven and earth… had all increased to a whole new level!

“This… how is this possible…”

he murmured to himself, his voice trembling.

As for the other old monsters at the peak of the ninth rank of the Heavenly Immortal Realm, although they hadn’t broken through to the Upper Immortal Realm, they had all reached the half-step Upper Immortal Realm, just one step away from the true Upper Immortal Realm!

With just a wave of his hand!

Tens of thousands of cultivators broke through collectively!

At this moment, all doubts, all hesitations, all calculations… vanished into thin air.

“Thump!”

Xue Youming was the first to kneel, his forehead slamming heavily against the cold ground. His voice was filled with unprecedented piety and fervor:

“Lord of Reincarnation above! Xue Youming of the Nine Nether Palace is willing to serve you forever, even unto death!”

“Thump! Thump! Thump!”

Like toppled dominoes, tens of thousands of followers knelt down in unison, the sound of their kowtows like a tsunami:

“We are willing to serve you forever, Lord of Reincarnation!”

“We are willing to go through fire and water, even unto death!”

“Long live the Lord of Reincarnation!”

The fervent shouts almost shook the sky.

Zhan E also knelt on the ground, but unlike the fervor of the others, his eyes flashed with deep apprehension and…fear.

This power…was beyond his comprehension.

With a wave of his hand, he rewrote the cultivation realm of tens of thousands of people. This was something even the legendary Golden Immortals might not be able to do!

Just how powerful was the Lord of Reincarnation?

What shocked Zhan E even more was that he sensed a familiar aura in the Lord of Reincarnation’s wave of his hand just now.

That was the aura of the three gray-white humanoid figures from the Land of Reincarnation, but countless times more powerful, profound, and terrifying!

Could there be an even more terrifying existence above those three “Guardians of the Pool”?

The Lord of Reincarnation’s gray-white vortex-like eyes slowly swept over the kneeling masses below, finally… landing on Zhan E.

Just one glance.

Zhan E felt his soul almost frozen; all his secrets, all his thoughts, all his memories… were laid bare before that one look.

“You… did well.”

The Lord of Reincarnation’s voice resounded deep within his soul, “Continue collecting souls. When the time is right… I will grant you true immortality.”

After saying this, the fiery outline in the sky slowly dissipated.

Those gray-white vortex-like eyes took one last look at this world before closing.

The tremors of the Gate of Reincarnation gradually subsided, and the flames in the skull's eye sockets returned to normal.

But the entire Evil Path Palace had completely changed.

Tens of thousands of cultivators knelt on the ground, unwilling to rise for a long time.

They felt the new power within their bodies, looked at their youthful skin, and were all moved to tears. "The Lord of Reincarnation... is real!"

"With a wave of his hand, he can change the world! This is a true god!"

"We've chosen the right person! We've chosen the right person!"

Xue Youming slowly rose, his dark pupils devoid of any doubt or mockery, only absolute piety remained.

He turned to Zhan E, solemnly clasping his hands in a fist salute:

"Palace Master Zhan, from this day forward, the entire Nine Nether Palace will obey only the Lord of Reincarnation's command. If there is any order, we will go through fire and water without hesitation!"

The other newly-broken old monsters also expressed their agreement, their attitudes as respectful as if facing their teachers.

Zhan E suppressed the shock and unease in his heart, a smile returning to his face: "Fellow Daoists, you flatter me. Now that we've entered Reincarnation, we're all family. Next... it's time to let those who don't know what's good for them witness the power of Reincarnation."

He gazed towards the Five Elements Mountains, a cold light flashing in his gray-white eyes.

“Order the army to march and crush the Anti-Demon Alliance!”

“Crush the Anti-Demon Alliance!”

“Crush the Anti-Demon Alliance!”

The shouts, like a mountain collapsing and a tsunami, echoed through the sky.

Meanwhile, deep within the Gate of Reincarnation,

in that desolate, gray-white expanse, three gray-white human figures knelt before a towering, impenetrable gray-white bone tower, their demeanor utterly respectful.

At the top of the tower, a blurry figure slowly withdrew its gaze from the gate, letting out a faint sigh:

“The aura of chaos… is growing stronger.”

“That variable… is growing faster than expected.”

“It seems the plan needs to be moved forward.”

The middle figure among the gray-white human figures mechanically responded: “Master, should we intervene?”

The blurry figure remained silent for a moment, then slowly shook its head:

“It’s not time yet.”

“Let the ants outside… tear each other apart first.”

“When chaos matures… it will be time to reap the rewards.”

Gray-white energy flowed slowly around the bone tower, like a venomous snake waiting for its prey.

Meanwhile, in the Five Elements Mountains, Kai suddenly opened his eyes.

Just a moment ago, the primordial star in his dantian trembled violently, its chaotic immortal power spontaneously circulating, as if sensing some extreme threat.

He looked towards the Plain of Wraiths, the five-colored patterns on the back of his hand slightly burning.

“That aura just now…” he murmured to himself, “Was that the true master of the Gate of Reincarnation?”

Behind him, Jin Buhuan and the others also felt that aura that changed the very fabric of the world, their faces turning pale.

“Kai… that was just now…” Li Baichuan’s voice was hoarse.

Kai took a deep breath, suppressing the tremor in his heart.

“Our time… is running out.”

He gripped the Dragon-Slaying Sword tightly, a resolute glint in his eyes.

“Order the entire alliance to prepare for battle immediately!” ”The army of the Evil Path Palace… is coming.”

“They should arrive within three days.”

The real decisive battle is imminent.

Three days is but a fleeting moment.

But for the Anti-Demon Alliance in the Five Elements Mountains, these three days feel like three centuries.

Li Baichuan brought all the demonic beasts he could muster from the Valley of Ten Thousand Beasts: three thousand Ironback Earth Dragons, five thousand Gale Wolves, eight hundred Thunderwing Golden Eagles, and hundreds of other rare demonic beasts, forming an army of nearly ten thousand.

These demonic beasts were divided into ten battle groups, led by the most elite beast tamers, and stationed in the valleys surrounding the Five Elements Mountains.

Dugu Ao personally led nine hundred sword cultivators from the Heavenly Sword Pavilion, setting up the “Nine Heavens Sword Formation” atop the five peaks of the Five Elements Mountains.

Nine hundred flying swords hovered in the air, their sword light intertwining into a net, enveloping the entire mountain range. The sword energy soared to the heavens, unstoppable.

Jin Buhuan mobilized all disciples of the Five Elements Sect, with the five elders at the core, to bury 3,600 “Five Elements Origin Stones” beneath the Five Elements Mountains.

These origin stones are connected to the earth’s veins; once activated, they can form a “Five Elements Heaven-Sealing Barrier” covering an area of 500 li. Within the barrier, the Five Elements Laws are amplified a hundredfold, exerting immense suppression on non-Five Elements cultivators.

Kai stood on the central peak, overlooking this mountain range that was about to become a battlefield of Asuras.

He had barely slept for the past three days.

The primordial star in his dantian rotated ceaselessly day and night, the chaotic immortal power and the power of the Five Elements merging and evolving, flowing in the five-colored pattern on the back of his hand.

He could feel his understanding of the Great Dao of Chaos deepening rapidly, especially after the Five Elements returned to oneness, his balanced control over the two extreme powers of “creation” and “return to nothingness” had reached an unprecedented level.

But it was still not enough.

The terrifying power of the Lord of Reincarnation’s wave of his hand, capable of changing the world, loomed over his heart like a shadow.

“Report…”

Master Xuanwei arrived on his sword, landing beside Kai with a solemn expression. “The scouts report that the Evil Path Palace’s army is approaching. The vanguard consists of three thousand Soul Hunters, personally commanded by the Soul Devouring Puppet. The central army is three thousand disciples of the Nine Nether Palace, with Xue Youming in command. The rear guard is a coalition of forces from various allied factions, numbering… over twenty thousand. Zhan E is bringing up the rear.” ”

Twenty thousand…” Kai closed his eyes for a moment. “And what about our side?” ”

Nine thousand demonic beasts from the Valley of Ten Thousand Beasts, nine hundred sword cultivators from the Heavenly Sword Pavilion, three thousand disciples from the Five Elements Sect, plus the scattered cultivators coming to their aid… totaling fifteen thousand.”

Master Xuanwei’s voice was low. “Although the numbers are not much different, the enemy has six Upper Immortals, while we only have three. The gap in high-end combat power… is enormous.”

Kai opened his eyes and looked towards the eastern horizon.

There, the sky had already darkened.

Not that it was dark, but… a dark mass of people, obscuring the light.

“What is destined to come will come.” He turned around, his voice echoing throughout the five peaks. “Everyone, do you still remember why we are fighting?”

After a brief silence.

“For the truth!” the disciples of the Five Elements Sect shouted in unison.

“For justice!” the swordsmen of the Heavenly Sword Pavilion pointed their swords to the heavens

. “For life and death!” the demonic beasts of the Ten Thousand Beast Valley roared to the sky.

Kai nodded, drew his Dragon-Slaying Sword, its blade reflecting the rising sun, shimmering with a golden-red light.

“Then… let’s fight!” At noon, the army of the Evil Path Palace arrived at the outer edge of the Five Elements Mountain Range.

The massive, dark mass of people swept through like locusts, withering vegetation and extinguishing all life in their wake. A

cacophony of resentment, death, and demonic energy stained the sky a murky gray-black.

At the forefront of the army, the Soul-Devouring Puppet hovered in the air, his gray-white eyes coldly surveying the Five Elements Mountain Range ahead.

Behind him, three thousand Soul Hunters formed the “Soul-Capturing Array,” their gray-white energy surging like a tide.

To the left, Blood Netherworld sat atop a black chariot pulled by a nine-headed demonic dragon, flanked by three Ghost Kings and nine Netherworld Envoys. Three thousand disciples of the Nine Nether Palace

formed the “Nine Netherworld Yellow Springs Array,” accompanied by howling winds and wailing ghosts.

To the right was an allied force composed of various allied powers, a mixed bag, but also including many experts. Five reclusive old monsters, such as the Bone Demon and the Blood Sea Ancestor, were among them, each exuding a terrifying aura, clearly having benefited greatly from the Lord of Reincarnation’s attack.

In the center of the army, Zhan E sat high atop a bone chariot, surrounded by nine elders with eerie auras.

He toyed with a grayish-white bone bead in his hand, his eyes flashing with a cold light.

“Kai, you brat, come out and answer me!” Zhan

E’s voice, like rolling thunder, echoed throughout the entire Five Elements Mountain Range.

At the summit of Golden Peak, Kai rose into the air, followed by the Earth Fire Ancestor, Crimson Cloud Demon Lord, Li Baichuan, Dugu Ao, Jin Buhuan, and other high-ranking members of the alliance.

The two armies clashed, their killing intent soaring to the heavens.

“Zhan E, you have bewitched people with lies, devoured lives with the Gate of Reincarnation, your crimes are countless and unforgivable.”

Kai’s voice was calm, yet clearly reached everyone’s ears. “Today is the day you are executed.”

“Hahaha…”

Zhan E laughed loudly, his laughter full of disdain. “You little brat, how dare you speak of the principles of Heaven? Do you know that the Lord of Reincarnation has bestowed a miracle, and tens of thousands of my fellow Daoists have all broken through to new heights. This is the will of

Heaven! You are going against Heaven, and that is your own destruction!”

He surveyed the Five Elements Mountains, his voice suddenly turning fierce: “Five Elements Sect, Heavenly Sword Pavilion, Ten Thousand Beast Valley, I will give you one last chance! Surrender now, hand over Kai, and the Lord of Reincarnation will forgive your past transgressions and even grant you the chance for eternal life! If you remain obstinate…”

He paused, his eyes flashing with cold light: “After today, the three major sects will be wiped out!”

A brief silence followed.

Then, Jin Buhuan was the first to laugh out loud.

The laughter started low, then grew louder and louder, finally bursting into a hearty roar: “Hahaha, Blood Netherworld! Did you hear that? Your master is trying to recruit us! How about trying to persuade me to become a dog too?”

A flash of killing intent crossed Blood Netherworld’s dark pupils, but it quickly turned into indifference: “Jin Buhuan, you’re about to die and you’re still spouting nonsense. How could you possibly fathom the divine might of the Lord of Reincarnation?”

“Divine might?”

Li Baichuan sneered, “He’s just a coward hiding behind the door! If he’s got the guts, let him come out and fight me for real!”

Dugu Ao didn’t speak, but slowly drew his iron sword from his waist.

The sword was drawn three inches, and the sword energy soared into the sky!

“It seems… you’re determined to die.”

Zhan E slowly stood up, his gray eyes revealing a murderous intent, “In that case… then kill!”

“Kill!!!”

A battle cry like a mountain collapsing and a tsunami tearing through the sky!

The great battle erupted!

The first to move was the Valley of Ten Thousand Beasts. Li Baichuan roared to the sky, his voice like a lion’s roar: “Disciples of the Valley of Ten Thousand Beasts, heed my command! Beast tide, charge! Break through their vanguard!”

“Roar!!!”

A deafening roar erupted from the valleys surrounding the Five Elements Mountains!

Nine thousand demonic beasts surged forth from all directions like a burst dam, sweeping towards the vanguard of the Evil Path Hall, the three thousand Soul Hunters!

The Iron-Backed Earth Dragons charged at the forefront, their massive bodies like small mountains, covered in thick rocky armor. Their charge shook the earth, shattering the Soul Hunters’ formation.

The Gale Wolves transformed into azure whirlwinds, weaving across the battlefield, their claws tearing through soul armor, their fangs snapping throats.

The Thunderwing Golden Eagles swooped down from the sky, golden lightning raining down like a storm, each bolt capable of piercing the defenses of several Soul Hunters.

The demonic beast army’s charge instantly tore several gaps in the battlefield!

But the Soul Hunters, being elites of the Evil Path Hall, quickly regained their footing after the initial chaos.

Three thousand Soul Hunters simultaneously waved their Soul-Capturing Banners, unleashing a deafening sonic boom that swept towards the beast tide like invisible blades!

“Roar!”

Many demonic beasts, affected by the sonic booms, had bloodshot eyes and began tearing at each other!

Seeing this, Li Baichuan roared, “Lion King!”

The three-headed Flame Lion King beside him roared to the sky, its three heads simultaneously spewing forth flames, ice, and lightning. The three powers merged in the air, transforming into a three-colored pillar of light that slammed into the Soul Hunter formation!

“Boom!!!”

Wherever the pillar of light passed, the Soul-Capturing Banners shattered, and dozens of Soul Hunters were instantly vaporized!

But the Soul-Devouring Puppet moved.

Its greyish-white eyes locked onto the three-headed Flame Lion King, and with a flick of its greyish-white spear, it transformed into a blur, stabbing straight at the Lion King’s brow!

“Your opponent is me!”

Li Baichuan leaped into the air, a massive beast bone battle axe appearing in his hand, and cleaved the spear in two!

“Clang!!!”

The battle axe clashed with the spear, unleashing a deafening roar.

Li Baichuan's tiger's mouth split open, blood gushing out, and he was sent flying backward, crashing into half a mountainside.

But he immediately rolled to his feet, wiping the blood from his mouth, his eyes blazing with even greater fighting spirit: "Peak First Grade Immortal Realm... truly formidable!"

He charged forward again, engaging the Soul-Devouring Puppet in

fierce combat. The battle between the beast tide and the Soul Hunters reached its climax.

At the same time, the Heavenly Sword Pavilion moved.

Dugu Ao rose into the air, his iron sword fully drawn.

"Heavenly Sword Pavilion disciples, heed my command! Nine Heavens Sword Formation, Slay the Demon!"

"Yes, sir!"

Nine hundred sword cultivators responded in unison, their flying swords pointing simultaneously to the sky! "Buzz!!!"

The Nine Heavens Sword Formation was fully activated!

Nine hundred flying swords intertwined in the air, forming a sword net covering a hundred miles. Within the net, countless sword energies transformed into a tangible rain of swords, pouring down upon the Nine Nether Palace camp!

"A mere trick."

Xue Youming sneered, raising his hand and waving, "Nine Nether Yellow Springs Formation, activate!"

Three thousand Nine Nether Palace disciples simultaneously formed hand seals, and eerie ghostly energy soared into the sky, condensing into a massive black palace phantom.

The palace gates swung open, and endless vengeful spirits and ghosts surged out, colliding with the sword rain!

“Sizzle sizzle sizzle…”

The sword rain and vengeful spirits clashed fiercely, and continuous explosions erupted in the sky.

A flash of sword light appeared in Dugu Ao’s eyes, and his figure suddenly disappeared.

When he reappeared, he was already ten feet in front of Xue Youming’s chariot!

“Xue Youming, take my sword!”

The iron sword slashed horizontally, without any frills, only pure and ultimate sword intent—the pinnacle of “man and sword as one”!

A trace of solemnity flashed in Xue Youming’s dark pupils, and he finally stood up.

He extended his withered, bony finger and lightly tapped the air.

“Nine Netherworlds – Yellow Springs Finger.”

One finger against one sword.

Space seemed to freeze at that moment.

The instant the iron sword tip clashed with the fingertip, there was no sound, no impact, only a thin, hair-like black line silently appearing at the point of impact—the mark of space being completely torn apart!

Three breaths later.

“Boom!!!”

A terrifying shockwave erupted from the two of them!

Dugu Ao was sent flying a hundred feet backward, his iron sword trembling, a tiny crack appearing on its blade. Blood

trickled from the corner of his mouth, but his eyes burned with fighting spirit: “Fourth-grade Upper Immortal Realm… is this all!”

Xue Youming coldly stared at Dugu Ao, his eyes filled with shock. He hadn’t expected Dugu Ao to be able to withstand his attack.

After receiving guidance from Kai, Dugu Ao’s sword intent had also risen sharply. Although not as strong as Xue Youming’s, he could still withstand a blow!

“Sword cultivators… are indeed troublesome,” Xue Youming said.

But before he finished speaking, Dugu Ao had already attacked again!

The two fought fiercely high in the sky, their sword light and demonic energy clashing violently, each impact shattering a piece of the heavens.

Gu Du Ao unleashed his full power from the very first strike, burning his life essence.

He knew that without fighting desperately, he wouldn’t be able to withstand even a few moves from Xue

Youming. On the ground, the battle within the Five Elements Sect was equally intense.

Jin Buhuan sat in the center of the Five Elements Mountain Range, the five elders guarding the five peaks, and three thousand disciples each holding their positions.

“Five Elements Sealing Heaven Barrier, activate!”

Jin Buhuan shouted in a deep voice, his hands forming a seal.

“Activate!” the five elders responded simultaneously.

The three thousand six hundred Five Elements Origin Stones buried underground lit up at the same time!

Five-colored pillars of light—metal, wood, water, fire, and earth—soared from the peaks of the five mountains, weaving together in the air to form a massive five-colored light shield, enveloping the entire Five Elements Mountain Range.

Within the barrier, the Five Elements Laws were amplified to their extreme.

Within the Evil Path Palace’s allied forces, those cultivators not belonging to the Five Elements system immediately felt unwell. Their demonic energy flowed sluggishly, their soul power was suppressed, and even flying became difficult.

Meanwhile, the disciples of the Five Elements Sect thrived, their Five Elements spells becoming twice as powerful!

“Metal lineage disciples, form the ‘Geng Metal Sword Formation’!” the Metal lineage elder shouted sternly. Three hundred disciples of the Gold Clan simultaneously unleashed their natal flying swords, which converged in the air to transform into a gigantic Gengjin sword a hundred feet long, slashing towards the allied forces!

“Wood Clan disciples, ‘Azure Wood Prison’!” The Wood Clan elder formed a hand seal.

Countless thick azure vines sprouted from the ground, binding the allied cultivators like living creatures. Once entangled, the vines would frantically drain their life force.

The Water, Fire, and Earth Clans also unleashed their ultimate techniques.

In an instant, the outer perimeter of the Five Elements Mountains transformed into a Five Elements Purgatory, causing heavy casualties among the allied forces.

“Hmph, a mere Five Elements Barrier, yet you dare to act so arrogantly?”

Zhan E finally made his move.

He stepped out of his bone chariot, his hands forming a strange hand seal in front of his chest.

“Reincarnation – Law Breaker!”

Grayish-white reincarnation energy surged from his body, condensing in the air into a gigantic grayish-white palm, slamming down fiercely towards the Five Elements Barrier!

Wherever the palm passed, the Five Elements Laws were forcibly distorted and disintegrated!

“Not good!” Jin Buhuan’s expression changed, and he activated the barrier with all his might.

The five-colored light shield trembled violently, and spiderweb-like cracks appeared on its surface.

“Sect Master Jin, I’m here to help you!”

The Earth Fire Ancestor rose into the air, his hands outstretched, and a crimson-gold fire lotus bloomed in his palms.

“Earth Fire True Flame – Burning Heaven!”

Endless Earth Fire True Flame erupted from the fire lotus, transforming into nine crimson-gold fire dragons, meeting the gray-white palm!

The flames and the Qi of Reincarnation clashed wildly, the sky half crimson-gold and half gray-white, a bizarre and magnificent sight.

“Earth Fire Ancestor… you’re old.”

Zhan E sneered, his other hand also forming a seal and striking out, “Reincarnation – Soul Devouring!”

A second gray-white palm formed, rushing straight at the Earth Fire Ancestor!

The Earth Fire Ancestor grunted, his body swaying slightly, but he gritted his teeth and persevered, the fire lotus shining even brighter.

The two were locked in a stalemate in the air, the Qi of Reincarnation and the Earth Fire True Flame colliding wildly, each collision shattering the mountains below.

And at this moment, what was Kai doing?

He didn’t immediately join the battle, but instead closed his eyes and concentrated, standing atop the golden peak, as if waiting for something.

The five-colored patterns on the back of his hand were slightly warm, and the primordial star in his dantian was spinning faster and faster.

He was sensing, sensing the energy flow of the entire battlefield, sensing the changes in the aura of every powerful figure, sensing… the turning point of the battle.

“Now.”

Kai suddenly opened his eyes, the five colors swirling within them before finally settling into a chaotic gray.

He saw it.

Although the Soul-Devouring Puppet suppressed Li Baichuan, the rigidity of his fighting instincts made his moves inflexible, with extremely subtle energy precursors before each attack.

Xue Youming and Dugu Ao were locked in fierce combat, but the Nine Nether Demon Art was insidious and unpredictable. Although Dugu Ao's Pure Yang Sword Intent could restrain it, it was difficult to sustain for long, at most lasting ten more moves.

The Earth Fire Ancestor and Zhan E were locked in a battle of attrition. Although the Earth Fire True Flame was strong, Zhan E's Cycle Qi was inexhaustible, and a prolonged battle would inevitably lead to defeat.

Although the Five Elements Barrier had temporarily held off the allied forces, it was already teetering on the brink of collapse under the combined attacks of old monsters like the Bone Demon and the Blood Sea Ancestor.

The entire battle, seemingly deadlocked, was actually fraught with peril for the allied side.

A breakthrough was imperative.

And the key to breaking the deadlock... lay with the Soul-Devouring Puppet.

Kai moved.

He took a step forward, his figure transforming into a hazy gray streak of light, rushing straight towards the battle between the Soul-Devouring Puppet and Li Baichuan! "Young friend Kai, be careful!"

Li Baichuan exclaimed.

The Soul-Devouring Puppet's gray-white eyes suddenly turned to Kai, its spear trembling as it abandoned Li Baichuan and thrust straight at Kai's brow!

This thrust was fast, accurate, and ruthless, devoid of any fancy moves—pure killing technique.

But this was the very spear Kai was waiting for.

“Chaos Evolution – Five Elements Return to Nothingness,”

he murmured, his Dragon-Slaying Sword remaining sheathed. Instead, his hands formed an extremely complex hand seal in front of his chest.

Five colors of light—metal, wood, water, fire, and earth—surged from his body, converging and merging within the hand seal, ultimately transforming into a hazy gray bead.

It was the Five Elements Return to Nothingness Bead!

The instant the bead appeared, the Soul-Devouring Puppet’s thrusting spear abruptly halted!

The spear tip was only three inches from Kai’s brow, yet it could advance no further, for the cyclical energy flowing within the spear was being frantically devoured and assimilated by the Five Elements Return to Nothingness Bead!

“Your power… originates from reincarnation.”

Kai calmly looked into the Soul-Devouring Puppet’s empty, grayish-white eyes. “But reincarnation… also originates from chaos.”

He raised his hand, his five fingers forming a fist.

The Five Elements Unity Pearl exploded, transforming into five-colored streams of energy that bound the Soul-Devouring Puppet’s limbs, neck, and abdomen like chains!

“Chaos… peel away.”

As the four words were uttered, the reincarnation patterns on the Soul-Devouring Puppet's grayish-white scales began to flicker violently, as if struggling and wailing.

Then, a scene that left everyone dumbfounded appeared.

A phantom light screen slowly unfolded between the Soul-Devouring Puppet's brows.

Within the light screen, the entire process of the Soul-Devouring Venerable being thrown into the Gate of Reincarnation and being refined into a puppet by three grayish-white human figures was displayed!

The cruel scenes of soul refining, consciousness stripping, and body reconstruction were clearly shown before everyone!

"No... don't look!"

Zhan E's expression changed drastically, trying to stop it, but he was held back tightly by the Earth Fire Ancestor.

The light screen continued to play.

After refining, the Soul-Devouring Puppet was thrown into the Reincarnation Pool for "nourishment," where countless similar puppets floated and sank.

Finally, it was handed over to Zhan E, becoming a killing tool devoid of consciousness, driven only by combat instinct.

The entire process contained no "immortality," no "resurrection," only the most cruel stripping and transformation.

As the scene finished playing, the gray-white vortex in the Soul-Devouring Puppet's eyes spun violently, revealing a faint...pain?

It was a fragment of memory sealed deep within its soul, briefly awakened by the stimulation of chaotic power.

But it was only for a moment before being suppressed again by the rules of reincarnation.

But that moment was enough.

On the battlefield, all the cultivators who had pledged allegiance to the Evil Path Hall witnessed this scene.

After a brief silence,

“That…that’s the Soul-Devouring Venerable?!”

“He’s been refined into a puppet?!”

“So-called immortality…is turning us into this kind of thing?!”

Panic began to spread.

Those who had been fanatical allies now had doubt, fear, and even…anger in their eyes.

“He’s lying to us!” someone screamed. “The Gate of Reincarnation can’t grant eternal life! It’s a trap!”

“We’ve been deceived!” The unrest spread rapidly through the allied forces like a plague.

“Hold on! Hold on!” the withered old demon shouted, but it was too late.

Many cultivators began to flee, some even turning their spears to attack the Soul Hunters beside them.

The allied forces were thrown into chaos!

“Now!” Kai shouted, “Counterattack!”

“Counterattack!!!”

The morale of the allied forces soared!

Li Baichuan seized the opportunity; the three-headed Flaming Lion King spewed out a three-colored beam of light, temporarily repelling the Soul Devouring Puppet. He then turned and charged into the Soul Hunter ranks, his beast-bone battle axe

scattering blood and flesh wherever it passed. Dugu Ao's sword intent surged again, his iron sword transforming into thousands of sword shadows, forcing Xue Youming to retreat repeatedly.

Jin Buhuan fully activated the Five Elements Barrier, the five-colored light shield shining brightly, enveloping all the fleeing allied cultivators, and five-element spells poured down like a torrential rain.

Even at the cost of injury, the Earth Fire Ancestor unleashed a deafening fire lotus, blasting Zhan E back a hundred feet. Then, the nine fire dragons merged into a thousand-foot-long fire dragon, wreaking havoc among the allied forces.

As for Kai...

he didn't pursue the Soul-Devouring Puppet, but turned to look at another battlefield high in the sky.

There, the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord was locked in fierce combat with the "Chi Ghost King," one of the three Ghost Kings of the Nine Nether Palace.

Although the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord was brave, fighting against a Celestial Realm expert was already showing signs of fatigue.

He was wounded in several places, his demonic flames dimming, clearly unable to hold on much longer.

"Senior Crimson Cloud, step back." Kai's voice reached the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord's ears.

The Crimson Cloud Demon Lord was startled, then gritted his teeth: “Boy, these three old ghosts are not easy to deal with…”

“Leave them to me.”

Kai took a step forward, already in the center of the battlefield.

He looked at the Chi Ghost King, a two-foot-tall ghost with a blue face and fangs, wielding a giant white bone hammer, exuding a ferocious aura.

“Another one sent to die.” The Demon King sneered, and his giant hammer crashed down.

Kai didn’t draw his sword.

He simply raised his right hand, the five-colored patterns on the back of his hand lighting up, and the Five Elements Unity Pearl condensed again in his palm.

But this time, a trace of hazy, chaotic energy appeared inside the pearl.

“Five Elements Return to Nothingness… Second Level.”

He spoke softly, gently flicking the pearl.

The pearl traced a five-colored trajectory in the air, crashing into the bone hammer.

There was no explosion, no impact.

The moment the bone hammer touched the pearl, it began to… melt away.

Like ice and snow meeting fire, the hammer, starting from the head, rapidly turned to ashes. The speed of melting was astonishing, spreading to the Demon King’s arm in the blink of an eye.

“No!!!” The Demon King screamed in terror, trying to let go, but it was too late.

The Five Elements Unity Pearl, like a malignant tumor, spread up his arm, and wherever it passed, the ghostly body disintegrated inch by inch.

Three breaths later, the mighty Demon King, a first-rank Immortal… vanished into thin air.

Not even a soul remained.

Silence.

A brief silence fell over the battlefield.

Everyone looked at Kai, at the Five Elements Unity Pearl slowly rotating in his hand. ”What…what kind of divine power is this?!” For the first time, horror appeared in Xue Youming’s dark pupils.

Zhan E’s face was even more ashen: “Chaotic Immortal Power…it can actually suppress the Qi of Reincarnation to this extent?”

Kai put away the bead and looked at the remaining two Ghost Kings.

The two Ghost Kings trembled and, in unison…retreated.

“Useless!” Xue Youming roared, about to make a move himself.

“Xue Youming, your opponent is me.” Dugu Ao’s sword blocked his way again.

Kai had already turned around and looked at the other side of the battlefield.

There, the Old Demon of Withered Bones and the Ancestor of the Blood Sea were attacking the Five Elements Barrier together, and the barrier was already on the verge of collapse.

“It’s time to end this.”

Kai took a deep breath, and the primordial star in his body spun to its limit.

Chaotic Immortal Power, Five Elements Power, Golden Dragon Bloodline, Earth Fire True Flame, all the power completely merged at this moment.

He slowly raised his hands and formed an unprecedentedly complex hand seal in front of his chest.

Within that hand seal, a scene of creation seemed to emerge, a cycle of birth and death of all things.

“Chaos… Creation.”

With these four words uttered, the rules of heaven and earth across the entire battlefield were forcibly altered.

Not the kind of rewriting granted by the Lord of Reincarnation, but… a more fundamental “reshaping” of the rules.

Centered on Kai, within a hundred miles, all forces not belonging to the chaotic system—the Qi of Reincarnation, the Nine Netherworld Demonic Qi, Soul Power, Death Qi…—began to disintegrate, collapse, and return to nothingness.

Meanwhile, the forces of the Five Elements, Sword Intent, Beast Soul Power, and other orthodox forces received unprecedented strengthening.

“This is impossible!”

Zhan E exclaimed in shock. “You’re only at the Celestial Immortal Realm, how could you possibly achieve this?!”

“The Celestial Immortal Realm… is merely an appearance.” Kai’s voice was calm, tinged with weariness. “True power originates from the understanding of the ‘Dao.'”

He looked at Zhan E, his eyes swirling with five colors: “And you, Xue Youming, and these pitiful worms who have submitted to the Gate of Reincarnation… your Dao is false.”

“It is a castle in the air built upon lies and plunder.”

“Today, I will show you…”

“What is the true—Dao!”

As the last word fell, Kai’s hands slammed together in a hand seal!

“Boom—!!!”

The heavens and earth changed color!

The instant Kai’s hands closed in a hand seal, a deafening roar resounded throughout the world!

It was not an explosion, but… like the sound of creation at the beginning of the world, the differentiation of chaos, coming from the deepest part of the universe, carrying the ancient will of creation, shaking the souls of all living beings within a thousand miles.

Centered on him, the space within a hundred miles began to violently distort and reconstruct. The void, like dough being kneaded by an invisible hand, developed countless shocking cracks. From these cracks surged a

hazy, chaotic current—the most primordial, fundamental energy of heaven and earth, containing the ultimate mysteries of the birth and death of all things. This chaotic current was drastically different from the grayish-white energy of reincarnation; it was as thick as lead and

mercury, as viscous as slurry, and its flow produced a thunderous roar like a surging river.

Wherever this current passed, time seemed to slow down, light was distorted and swallowed, and the entire battlefield was shrouded in an apocalyptic, chaotic mist.

All the evil cultivators of the Evil Path Hall touched by this chaotic current felt a fear originating from their very life force. Their power rapidly dissipated and collapsed.

The energy of reincarnation melted like snow meeting the blazing sun, the demonic energy of the Nine Netherworlds evaporated like boiling water poured on snow, and all kinds of soul power, death energy, evil arts... all non-righteous energy systems were as fragile as castles on a sandy beach before this chaotic current.

“Not good! Retreat!”

The Bone Demon let out a scream that sounded inhuman. His withered body exploded, turning into countless tiny white bone fragments, each carrying a wisp of remnant soul, scattering in all directions.

This was his forbidden life-saving technique, “Thousand Incarnations of White Bones,” which cost him a hundred years of cultivation for each lost clone, but he couldn’t care less at this moment.

The Blood Sea Ancestor was even more decisive, directly exploding half of his body, transforming into a crimson blood mist a hundred feet in diameter.

The blood mist churned, emanating the wails of countless vengeful souls. He had actually used his own blood essence and the vengeful souls he had collected over the years to unleash the forbidden blood escape technique, “Blood Sea Raging Escape,” instantly disappearing from his spot, leaving only a foul-smelling blood trail in the void.

But those cultivators with lower cultivation levels and slower reactions were not so lucky.

Thousands of Soul Hunters were the first to be hit. The soul armor formed from the energy of reincarnation on their bodies began to peel away and dissolve the moment it came into contact with the chaotic energy.

The flesh beneath the armor withered and weathered at a visible speed, eventually turning into handfuls of grayish-white dust that drifted away in the wind. Many didn't even have time to scream before being completely erased from the world.

The disciples of the Nine Nether Palace suffered the same fate. The Nine Nether Demonic Energy they cultivated was inherently yin and evil, naturally incompatible with the chaotic energy.

Many disciples, the moment their demonic energy was stripped away, experienced an imbalance of yin and yang within their bodies, their meridians ruptured inch by inch, and they died spitting blood from their seven orifices.

Even worse, due to the backlash of

their cultivation techniques, their entire bodies were engulfed in eerie black flames from the inside out, burning to a crisp within a few breaths. The rogue cultivators and small sect cultivators in the allied forces suffered even heavier casualties. Lacking systematic inheritance, their cultivation techniques were chaotic and disordered, and under the impact of the chaotic energy, they couldn't even maintain their basic protective true essence.

In an instant, the battlefield was filled with screams of agony, blood and flesh flew everywhere, and severed limbs rained down.

With just one strike, the Evil Path Palace allied forces lost nearly 30%!

A full five or six thousand cultivators perished on the spot, and the rest were all wounded, their morale completely shattered.

“This… what kind of power is this?!”

For the first time, undisguised horror appeared in Xue Youming’s dark pupils.

The Nine Nether Demonic Qi around him surged violently under the impact of the chaotic current, and spiderweb-like cracks appeared on the surface of the originally solid demonic Qi shield.

He could clearly feel that the foundation of his Nine Nether Demonic Art, which he had painstakingly cultivated for tens of thousands of years, was beginning to shake under the impact of this power!

This was simply unbelievable!

He, Xue Youming, had traversed the Twelve Heavens for tens of thousands of years, what storms hadn’t he weathered?

Even when he fought to the death with a fourth-grade Upper Immortal, he had never felt such a foundation being shaken.

This chaotic current… it seemed to be able to fundamentally dismantle his Dao foundation! Zhan E’s face was ashen, like that of a dead man.

His withered hands gripped the armrests of the bone carriage tightly, his knuckles turning white from the force.

As the controller of the Gate of Reincarnation, he knew better than anyone the terror of this power—a fundamental suppression of the rules of reincarnation!

Just as water can overcome fire, and yang can overcome yin, the power of chaos seemed to be inherently opposed to the power of reincarnation, and at a higher level!

“Chaotic immortal power… truly the natural enemy of the power of reincarnation!”

He gritted his teeth, his voice trembling with extreme rage. “Xue Youming, stop holding back! If we don’t join forces to kill him today, and let him truly grow stronger, then you and I… no, the entire Twelve Heavens will never have peace!”

A struggle flashed in Xue Youming’s eyes, but it was ultimately replaced by resolve.

He had lived for nearly 60,000 years, his lifespan nearing its end, and he had placed all his hopes on the Gate of Reincarnation.

If Kai were to leave alive today, then his so-called hope of “eternal life” would become nothing but a mirage.

“Good!”

He nodded emphatically, his dark pupils blazing with killing intent. “Then… annihilate this brat completely!”

For the first time, two peak Immortal Realm experts truly joined forces against a common foe.

Xue Youming struck first.

He formed an extremely complex ancient hand seal in front of his chest, uttering a cryptic syllable with each seal.

The syllable seemed to emanate from the depths of the Nine Netherworlds, carrying endless resentment and deathly silence, sending chills down one’s spine.

“Nine Netherworlds… Yellow Springs… Open!”

As the last syllable fell, the void behind Xue Youming exploded with a deafening roar, revealing a bottomless, pitch-black rift.

From within the rift came the wails of countless vengeful souls, and dense Nine Netherworld demonic energy surged forth like a volcanic eruption, rapidly condensing and shaping in the air.

One, two, three… a full nine ferocious demonic dragons manifested!

Each demonic dragon was hundreds of feet long, its entire body as black as ink, its scales gleaming with a metallic sheen.

The dragons were ferocious, their fangs bared, and their eye sockets burned with eerie green flames.

Most terrifyingly, these demonic dragons were not inanimate objects, but possessed independent consciousness. They were the natal demonic dragons forged by Xue Youming from the fragmentation of his own demonic soul, fused with the deathly energy of the Nine Netherworlds. Each one possessed combat power comparable to a ninth-grade Celestial Immortal, and they were in perfect harmony with him.

“Nine Netherworld Demonic Dragons – Devouring Heaven!” Xue Youming roared fiercely.

The nine demonic dragons roared in unison, their sound waves materializing into tangible sonic waves that caused the mountains below to collapse.

They pounced on Kai from nine different directions, their dragon claws tearing through the void, their dragon breath spewing poisonous flames, sealing off all escape routes, and even faintly forming a profound “Nine Netherworld Locking Heaven Array,” intending to trap and kill Kai completely.

At the same time, Zhan E also unleashed his trump card.

He didn’t form hand seals, but instead bit his tongue, spitting out a mouthful of his natal blood essence.

The blood essence was dark red, almost black, and exuded an intense, almost impenetrable aura of death, clearly caused by years of contact with the Gate of Reincarnation, which had eroded it.

Previous ChapterReturn to Table of Contents The essence of blood twisted and deformed rapidly in the air, transforming into a palm-sized, crimson rune covered in eerie patterns.

The moment the rune took shape, the cyclical energy of the entire battlefield boiled, converging on it as if paying homage to a king.

“With my blood, I summon the Gate of Reincarnation… to suppress souls and annihilate spirits!” Zhan E’s voice was hoarse as he slammed the crimson rune into the void.

“Boom!!!”

A gigantic bone gate, three hundred feet tall, slowly materialized above the battlefield!

The phantom was more solid and terrifying than the real Gate of Reincarnation.

The gate was entirely pieced together from the skulls of countless living beings, each skull’s eye socket burning with greyish-white soul fire.

Thick chains wrapped around the door frame, binding countless twisted and struggling soul shadows at their ends—the powerful cultivators’ souls, devoured by the Gate of Reincarnation but not yet fully refined!

The bone gate slowly opened a crack.

Behind the door, instead of the previously displayed “fairyland” illusion, lay… a pure, profound darkness that seemed capable of swallowing everything.

From within this darkness, countless pale arms stretched out like a tide.

These arms varied in size, some as thick as pillars, others as slender as branches, but all exuded a nauseating aura of death.

The arms clawed and scratched wildly, producing a piercing sound as nails scraped against bone, spreading towards Kai's location—the final obsessions and resentment of the countless souls forcibly controlled by Zhan E!

Two deadly attacks, one utterly yin and evil, the other utterly deathly still, descended simultaneously.

Kai stood in the void, his face as calm as a still well.

The Earth Fire Ancestor and the others exchanged glances and attacked simultaneously, several streams of energy striking Kai.

The righteous energy within Kai began to rise rapidly, even his physical body visibly expanding.

It was utterly impossible for Kai alone to fight against Xue Youming and Zhan E.

Therefore, the Earth Fire Ancestor and the others had to do everything in their power to support Kai, relying on his chaotic immortal energy to suppress these evil paths.

Kai slowly raised his right hand, and the five-colored pattern on the back of his hand suddenly shone with a dazzling light.

The five elements—metal, wood, water, fire, and earth—flowed wildly within the pattern, finally converging in his palm and transforming into a bead the size of a pigeon's egg.

But this bead was different from before.

It was no longer clearly five-colored, but had completely transformed into a chaotic gray.

Fine patterns flowed on the surface of the bead, and upon closer inspection, those patterns were actually evolving scenes of the creation of heaven and earth, the birth and death of stars, and the cycle of all things.

An ancient aura originating from the beginning of the universe emanated from the bead. ”Chaos… Return to the Void, Second Level: All Things Return to Their Origin.”

Kai spoke softly, gently pushing the bead out.

The bead left his hand, tracing a hazy gray path in the air. Its speed seemed slow, yet it appeared to transcend the limitations of time and space, instantly meeting the nine attacking demonic dragons and the countless pale arms.

What happened next was unforgettable for all the spectators.

The instant the bead touched the nine demonic dragons, time seemed to freeze.

The dragons’ ferocious attack abruptly stopped in mid-air, like a painting paused on a pause button.

Then, starting from their tails, the dragons’ bodies began to disintegrate and dissolve inch by inch, transforming into the most basic demonic energy particles.

The disintegration process was silent, yet carried a chilling inevitability, as if this wasn’t a battle, but… some higher-level “rule” forcibly forcing these things that shouldn’t exist to “return to their rightful place.”

“Roar!!!”

The demonic dragons roared in pain, the ghostly fire in their dragon eyes flickering wildly, trying to struggle.

But all was in vain. Their struggles only accelerated their disintegration. In just three breaths, the nine hundred-zhang-long demonic dragons

were completely reduced to countless black specks of light, ultimately dissipating into the chaotic currents.

At the same time, the pale arms extending from the phantom of the Gate of Reincarnation met the same fate.

The moment the arms touched the chaotic currents, they melted and evaporated rapidly, like snow under the sun.

Even more bizarrely, what remained after the arms melted was not water vapor, but wisps of grayish-white mist—the forcibly stripped “marks of reincarnation,” the last trace of true spirit left after the souls were refined.

These wisps of mist drifted in the air for a moment, then converged towards the Chaos Returning Void Pearl in Kai’s palm, being absorbed and assimilated by the pearl.

With each wisp of mist absorbed, the pearl’s light brightened, while the phantom of the Gate of Reincarnation dimmed.

“No!!!”

Blood Netherworld’s eyes widened in horror, letting out an extremely shrill roar.

Those nine demonic dragons were not only his killing move, but also his natal demonic creatures, crafted from fragments of his own demonic soul over tens of thousands of years.

With each dragon destroyed, his soul suffered a severe blow. The simultaneous destruction of all nine was practically equivalent to stabbing nine bloody holes into his soul!

The pain was excruciating! Indescribable pain!

Xue Youming felt his consciousness being torn apart; black blood gushed from all seven orifices, his demonic energy violently turbulent, and his aura instantly weakened by more than thirty percent.

Zhan E was in no better shape.

The phantom of the Gate of Reincarnation was closely connected to his soul, and now, as the phantom was eroded by the power of chaos, the feedback to him was the excruciating pain of his soul being torn apart.

What terrified him even more was that after the stripped “Reincarnation Marks” were absorbed by the Chaos Returning Void Pearl, he felt his control over the Gate of Reincarnation… being weakened!

“This is impossible… Only the Lord of Reincarnation can strip the Reincarnation Marks… How could he…” A storm raged within Zhan E.

However, Kai’s current condition was equally worrying.

Using the second level of Chaos Return to Nothingness had taken a toll on him far beyond his expectations.

He could clearly feel the primordial star in his dantian, which had only recently been lit, dimming at an alarming rate.

Fine cracks had even appeared on the star’s surface—signs of overexertion and damage to its origin.

Even more terrifying was the backlash. In the process of forcibly stripping away and absorbing the marks of reincarnation, the Chaos Returning Void Pearl also absorbed the last resentments, death energy, and obsessions of those departed souls.

Although these negative energies were suppressed and transformed by the power of chaos, the transformation process consumed a great deal of Kai’s mental energy and immortal power.

At this moment, his face was as pale as paper, the veins on his forehead bulged like earthworms, and blood was constantly oozing from the corners of his mouth, eyes, and ears.

His internal organs felt as if they were being roasted on a raging fire, and every breath was accompanied by tearing pain.

His right hand, which was holding the Dragon-Slaying Sword, trembled slightly, and the tiger's mouth had already split open, with blood dripping down the hilt of the sword.

Although he had the support of the power of the Earth Fire Ancestor and others, and had withstood the attack from Xue Youming and Zhan E, his physical body and source power were suffering from the backlash.

Even though his physical body was already strong enough, it was still close to the brink of collapse.

But he gritted his teeth and persevered.

Because he knew that this attack… he had to hold on.

This was the only chance to break the stalemate and reverse the situation!

"Now…counterattack!!!"

Kai roared with his last ounce of strength, his voice distorted by extreme pain, yet still clearly echoing across the entire battlefield.

While the alliance was also affected by the chaotic energy flow, Kai had intentionally controlled it, focusing the main impact on the Evil Path Hall's forces.

Hearing Kai's command, everyone's morale soared, and their long-suppressed anger and grief erupted!

“Disciples of the Valley of Ten Thousand Beasts, heed my command! Surround them with the beast tide and annihilate the remaining enemies! Avenge our fallen comrades!!!”

Li Baichuan was covered in blood, his left arm severed at the shoulder, the white bone exposed at the wound.

But he seemed oblivious to the pain, his eyes bloodshot, his right hand wielding a massive, door-sized beast-bone battle axe, roaring like a wild beast.

Beside him, the three-headed Flame Lion King was also badly wounded; two of the three lion heads had half their cheeks sliced off, revealing their stark white skulls.

But this ferocious beast was instead unleashed its most primal wildness, roaring deafeningly to the sky. The sound waves materialized into tangible sonic waves, causing dozens of Soul Hunters in front of it to bleed from their seven orifices.

“Roar!!!”

Led by the Lion King, the remaining five thousand-plus demonic beasts roared furiously, transforming once again into a surging torrent, sweeping towards the scattered Evil Path Palace allied forces.

This charge was even more ferocious and reckless than before.

The Ironback Earth Dragons disregarded their own defenses, directly ramming their massive bodies into the “Soul-Sealing Array” formed by the Soul Hunters.

Each impact shook the earth. Although the earth dragons were shattered and mangled by the backlash of the array, they used their lives to create an opening for the subsequent beast tide.

The Gale Wolf Pack transformed into streaks of azure lightning, frantically weaving through the enemy ranks.

They no longer sought to kill with a single blow, but instead used their sharp claws to tear through the enemy's protective true energy, and their fangs to sever the tendons and veins of their limbs, creating chaos and casualties in the most primitive and cruel way.

The flock of Thunderwing Golden Eagles swooped down from the sky; this time, they did not unleash lightning, but instead used their sharp talons to grab their enemies, fly them high into the air, and then slam them down.

In an instant, a "rain of people" fell from the sky, and screams of agony filled the air. "Disciples of the Heavenly Sword Pavilion, heed my command! Nine Heavens Sword Formation, slay demons and destroy evil! As long as the sword lives, so shall we live; if the sword dies, so shall we live!!!"

Dugu Ao's voice was as cold as ice, yet contained a volcanic killing intent.

This usually aloof sword

fanatic was now bloodthirsty. The mottled iron sword in his hand was already stained dark red with the blood of his enemies.

The blade was covered with fine cracks, scars left from his fierce battle with Xue Youming, but the sword remained sharp and deadly.

"As long as the sword lives, so shall we live; if the sword dies, so shall we live!!!" Nine hundred sword cultivators responded in unison, their voices shaking the heavens.

They no longer maintained a complete sword formation, but instead broke into smaller groups of three or five, forming small "Demon-Slaying Sword Formations," precisely cutting into the weak points of the enemy formation like surgical scalpels.

Sword light flashed, blood blossomed.

The sword cultivators of the Heavenly Sword Pavilion were already known for their offensive power, and now, with a death wish, the combat power they unleashed was even more terrifying.

Often, a single thrust of the sword would either pierce the enemy's brow or sever their neck, swift and decisive, showing no mercy.

"Disciples of the Five Elements Sect, heed my command! The Five Elements Seal the Heavens, suppress all laws! Today... it's a fight to the death!!!"

Jin Buhuan's voice was hoarse from excessive shouting. This usually tactful Five Elements Sect Master now only had resolute determination in his eyes.

He bit his tongue, spitting three mouthfuls of his life essence blood onto the core of the Five Elements Barrier.

The essence blood merged, and the Five Elements Barrier erupted with dazzling five-colored light!

The barrier, which had already begun to crumble, instantly stabilized, and its range expanded again, enveloping even more cultivators from the Evil Path Hall.

Within the barrier, the Five Elements Laws were amplified to their extreme.

The disciples of the Metal Clan manipulated countless metal-attribute magical artifacts, transforming them into a metallic storm that swept across the enemy ranks;

the disciples of the Wood Clan cultivated vines that not only entangled the enemy but also released paralyzing toxins; the disciples of the Water Clan

condensed a raging flood, with countless ice spikes hidden within the water;

the disciples of the Fire Clan summoned blazing flames, the flames interspersed with explosive runes;

and the disciples of the Earth Clan manipulated the earth, causing the ground to continuously collapse and rise, creating death traps.

The combined forces of the three major sects, coupled with the shock and chaos caused by Kai's creation of chaos, instantly reversed the battlefield situation!

The Evil Path Palace's allied forces, already demoralized by the impact of the chaotic energy, were now completely thrown into disarray by such a fierce counterattack.

Those old monsters who had surrendered, seeing the dire situation, no longer cared about any promises of "eternal life" and scrambled to escape.

The Bone Demon, the most cunning of all, had already secretly laid dozens of "bone escape tunnels" underground.

Seeing that the situation was hopeless, it exploded its remaining half of its body, turning into countless bone fragments that burrowed into the ground and vanished without a trace.

The Blood Sea Ancestor was even more ruthless; he grabbed two disciples of the Nine Nether Palace beside him, using a secret technique to drain their life essence to replenish his own depleted resources. Then, he once again used the Blood Escape Technique, transforming into a streak of blood and fleeing thousands of miles away.

The other reclusive old monsters also displayed their unique abilities: some vanished into the breeze, some exploded their magical treasures to create chaos, and some even burned their lifespans to use forbidden techniques to escape.

When the tree falls, the monkeys scatter!

In just half an incense stick's time, the Evil Path Palace's forces had suffered more than half their losses!

The allied army, originally numbering over 20,000, now numbered less than 10,000, all wounded and devoid of fighting spirit.

But just then…"Boom!!!"

A deafening roar echoed from the center of the battlefield.

It was the Chaos Returning to Nothingness Pearl… finally unable to withstand the pressure.

Kai groaned, his body flying hundreds of feet backward as if struck by an invisible giant hammer, blood gushing from his mouth.

The Chaos Returning to Nothingness Pearl in his hand, after forcibly absorbing too many reincarnation imprints and negative energy, had finally reached its limit.

Spiderweb-like cracks covered the pearl's surface, from which blinding gray light shot forth, and then… it exploded!

The instant the pearl shattered, terrifying chaotic turbulence swept across the area like a burst dam.

It wasn't a conscious attack, but a pure, uncontrolled rampage of chaotic energy.

Wherever the turbulence passed, all matter, energy, and even space itself were pulverized into the most basic particles.

Within a ten-mile radius, it seemed as if an invisible hand had completely wiped it out.

The hundreds of Alliance cultivators and Evil Path Hall cultivators who were originally fighting in this area didn't even have time to react before they were reduced to nothingness in the chaotic turbulence. It wasn't

death, but complete non-existence, leaving not even a speck of dust behind.

The earth was flattened by ten zhang, revealing the scorched rock layers below.

The air was completely sucked out, forming a brief vacuum.

Light twisted and fractured in the turbulence, and the entire area presented a bizarre and surreal scene.

“Pfft…”

Kai crashed heavily into the rock wall of a mountain peak, smashing a three-zhang-deep human-shaped crater into the hard rock.

He struggled to climb out of the crater, and with each movement, his bones creaked under the strain.

The wound on his chest, caused by the backlash from the chaotic turbulence, had now expanded to the size of a palm, deep enough to expose the bone.

The flesh around the wound was a strange grayish-white, a trace of the residual power of chaos, constantly eroding his life force.

Blood flowed like a stream, staining half of his body red.

Even more serious were the internal injuries.

All his internal organs had shifted, multiple meridians were severed, and the primordial starlight in his dantian had dimmed to an extreme degree, its surface riddled with cracks, as if it would shatter completely at any moment.

His chaotic immortal power was almost completely depleted, making even basic flight impossible.

“Young friend Kai!” the Earth Fire Ancestor exclaimed, wanting to break free from the battle to rescue him.

But he was held back by Zhan E.

Although Zhan E was also seriously injured, he was in much better condition than Kai.

He seized the opportunity when Kai was exhausted, his eyes blazing with killing intent: “Blood Netherworld, don’t give him a chance to breathe! If this boy isn’t eliminated today, he will surely become a major threat in the future!”

Blood Netherworld wiped the black blood from the corner of his mouth, his dark pupils also boiling with killing intent. With his

nine natal demonic dragons destroyed, his divine soul severely damaged, his cultivation dropping by at least 30%.

This blood feud could only be repaid with Kai’s life!

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“Then… attack together! Annihilate this fiend completely!” Xue Youming hissed.

The two no longer cared about their status or held back their strength, joining forces to attack the critically injured Kai!

This was a truly deadly situation.

“Protect Kai!!!”

Jin Buhuan roared fiercely, his voice distorted with anxiety.

The five elders of the Five Elements Sect rushed out almost simultaneously, disregarding their own safety, standing between Kai and the two powerful figures.

“Golden lineage disciples, heed my command! Gengjin Sword Formation – Ten Thousand Swords Return to the Origin!”

The Golden Lineage elder’s hair and beard bristled as he summoned his natal magic weapon, the “Gengjin Sword.”

The golden flying sword split in two in mid-air, then into four, then into eight… In the blink of an eye, it transformed into thousands of sword shadows, forming an impenetrable sword formation that swept towards Xue Youming.

Within the sword formation, each sword shadow contained extreme sharpness, enough to cut through the void.

This was the Golden Vein’s trump card, a move that would cost at least a century of cultivation if unleashed, but the Golden Vein elder couldn’t afford to worry about that now.

“Wood Vein disciple, Azure Wood Cage – Endless Life!” The Wood Vein elder’s hands moved with lightning speed, his body radiating a surge of azure light.

Countless ancient green vines, as thick as buckets, burst forth from the earth, their tendrils covered in barbs that gleamed with a ghostly green poisonous light, coiling towards Zhan E like living creatures.

These vines were not only incredibly resilient but also possessed immense vitality, capable of rapidly regenerating even when severed. The Wood Vein elder was using his own life force to nurture the vines, each vine consuming a wisp of his life essence.

The Water, Fire, and Earth Vein elders also unleashed their ultimate techniques.

The Water Vein elder summoned nine water dragons, each lifelike, their roars shaking the heavens;

the Fire Vein elder transformed into a humanoid ball of flame, igniting the air wherever he passed;

the Earth Vein elder merged directly with the earth, manipulating the rocks and soil to condense into a hundred-foot-tall rock giant.

Five elders at the peak of the ninth rank of the Celestial Immortal Realm, joining forces to unleash their life's most powerful techniques, created a formidable force that would make ordinary Upper Immortal Realm experts retreat in fear.

But… they faced Xue Youming and Zhan E.

The two most powerful demons of the Twelfth Heaven!

"Get out of the way!"

Xue Youming didn't even glance at the myriad sword shadows, simply waving his hand.

The pitch-black Nine Nether Demonic Qi transformed into a hundred-zhang-wide tidal wave, sweeping out like a tsunami.

Wherever the demonic qi passed, the Golden Vein Elder's myriad sword shadows shattered like paper, his natal Gengjin Sword further corrupted by the demonic qi, its blade rapidly dimming before finally snapping in two with a "crack!"

"Pfft!"

The Golden Vein Elder was struck as if by a heavy blow; the backlash from the destruction of his natal magic weapon caused him to cough up blood, flying backward and crashing heavily into the mountainside, his fate unknown.

Zhan E's side was even more straightforward and brutal.

Faced with the entangling green vines, he didn't even raise a hand, merely letting out a cold snort.

The reincarnation energy around him automatically condensed into countless tiny gray-white energy blades, which spun and shredded the incredibly tough vines like the sharpest meat grinder, instantly cutting them to shreds.

The Wood Vein Elder's face paled; the backlash from the destruction of the vines caused his life force to rapidly ebb away. His once jet-black hair turned gray at a visible speed, and his face became covered in wrinkles, as if he had aged a hundred years in an instant.

The attacks of the Water, Fire, and Earth Vein Elders were equally futile.

The nine water dragons were crushed by Blood Netherworld's claw, turning into a sky full of water mist; The humanoid flames were extinguished by Zhan E's Cycle Qi, and the Fire Vein Elder fell with a scream;

the Rock Giant was blasted into rubble by the combined attack of the two, and the Earth Vein Elder was shattered by the recoil, his internal organs broken, and he was on the verge of death.

Five peak ninth-grade Celestial Immortals couldn't even withstand a single breath from two powerful Upper Immortals!

This was the absolute difference in realm.

"Ants dare to block the way?"

Blood Netherworld's eyes flashed with killing intent, and Nine Nether Demonic Qi condensed into a pitch-black demonic claw that blotted out the sky in his palm.

The claw's five fingers were like hooks, and the tips burned with ghostly green flames. With the power to destroy everything, it slammed down on the heavily injured Kai!

If this palm strike landed, let alone Kai's current critical condition, even in his prime, he might not be able to withstand it.

Death… was imminent.

But just as the demonic claw was about to fall,

"Buzz!"

A wall of crimson-gold fire appeared out of thin air, blocking Kai between the demonic claw and the claw.

The wall of fire was only three feet thick, yet it was as solid as a tangible crystal.

Countless ancient flame runes flowed across its surface, radiating a heat so intense it could distort space itself.

The demonic claw slammed into the wall, producing a deafening clang like metal clashing, sparks flying, but… it failed to penetrate!

The figure of the Earthfire Ancestor slowly emerged from the wall of fire.

This usually taciturn ancestor now had his hair and beard standing on end, his body engulfed in raging flames, making him appear like a god of fire.

There was no fear, no hesitation in his eyes, only a calm that had seen through life and death, and… a resolute determination.

"Want to kill him… you'll have to get past me first."

The Earthfire Ancestor's voice wasn't loud, but it struck everyone's hearts like a heavy hammer.

“Earthfire Ancestor, you’re courting death!”

Zhan E sneered, the Qi of Reincarnation condensing into a three-zhang-long gray-white spear in his palm. Countless tormented soul shadows coiled around the spear, its tip flashing with a chilling light that could pierce through anything, aimed straight at the Earthfire Ancestor’s brow!

This spear thrust contained Zhan E’s understanding of the Dao of Reincarnation. Struck like a dragon, silent and stealthy, it locked onto the soul of the Earthfire Ancestor, leaving him no escape.

“Then…let’s die together.”

The Earthfire Ancestor suddenly smiled.

The smile was faint, carrying a hint of relief, a hint of acceptance, and a hint of…expectation for the young man behind him.

He formed an ancient, almost lost fire seal with his hands in front of his chest.

As the seal took shape, the crimson-gold flames around him surged wildly, their color gradually changing from crimson to pure gold, and then from pure gold to incandescent white.

The temperature was rising rapidly!

The air within a hundred feet was completely ignited, turning into a sea of fire. The ground rocks began to melt, flowing with scalding lava.

Even space itself distorted and deformed under the intense heat, emitting a cracking sound as it succumbed to the pressure. “Earthfire True Scripture – Ultimate Forbidden Technique, True Flame Burns the Heavens – Body Transforms into the Great Sun!”

The voice of the Earthfire Ancestor resounded throughout heaven and earth, each word burning like flames.

“Ancestor, no!!!” Kai screamed hoarsely, tears mingling with blood streaming down his face.

He knew what this move meant; it was the ultimate forbidden technique recorded in the Earthfire True Scripture, costing the caster all their life force, soul, and cultivation to gain power beyond their limits for a short time.

Once unleashed, the caster would… be annihilated, body and soul, never to be reborn!

But it was too late.

The Earthfire Ancestor’s body began to melt in the blazing white flames.

First, his clothes turned to ashes, then his skin, flesh, bones… inch by inch, piece by piece, melting like a candle, transforming into the purest Earthfire True Flame.

That True Flame didn’t attack the enemy, but… all surged towards the heavily injured Kai!

Like a hundred rivers flowing into the sea, endless true flames of earth fire surged into Kai’s body, frantically merging, colliding, and sublimating with his remaining chaotic immortal power, the power of the five elements, and the golden dragon bloodline.

“Boy…live on.”

The last voice of the Earth Fire Ancestor echoed in Kai’s mind, soft and calm, yet as heavy as Mount Tai.

“Live well, carrying

my share.” “The future of the Earth Fire Pavilion…is entrusted to you.”

The voice dissipated.

The Earth Fire Ancestor's figure vanished completely into the blazing white flames, leaving not even a speck of ash.

A generation's ancestor had fallen.

Body and soul annihilated.

Kai felt an unimaginably vast power surging within him.

It wasn't a simple infusion of power, but…a fundamental sublimation.

The true essence of earth fire, formed from the Earth Fire Ancestor's life's cultivation, surged like the most violent torrent, shattering the broken meridians within him.

It reshaped his damaged organs and repaired his broken bones. More importantly, this power resonated miraculously with his original Chaotic Immortal Power, Five Elements Power, and Golden Dragon Bloodline.

Within his dantian, the primordial star, on the verge of shattering, rapidly stabilized under the nourishment of the Earth Fire True Essence.

The surface cracks healed at a visible speed, and the star's light transformed from dim to bright, and then from bright to dazzling.

Gold, cyan, blue, red, and yellow—the colors of the Five Elements—flowed across the star's surface.

A hazy, chaotic energy swirled within the star.

Crimson-gold Earth Fire True Flames burned around the star.

A faint, almost imperceptible dragon's roar emanated from the deepest part of the star—the awakening of the Golden Dragon Bloodline.

These four forces, originally unrelated, now began a slow but resolute fusion under the Earth Fire Ancestor's life-risked mediation.

“Ugh!!!”

Kai roared in agony, looking up at the sky.

It wasn’t the pain of injury, but the pain of a sudden surge of power and the forced transformation of his body.

He could feel every cell in his body being torn apart and reorganized, every meridian being widened and strengthened, and even his soul becoming more solid and resilient under this impact.

His aura… soared!

The bottleneck of the peak of the fourth rank of the Celestial Immortal Realm was easily pierced as if it were paper.

The fifth rank of the Celestial Immortal Realm!

But this was not the end. The Earth Fire Ancestor possessed the cultivation of a third-grade Upper Immortal. Although due to his advanced age and declining vitality, the actual power he could transmit was less than 30% of his peak strength, it was still as vast as the sea for Kai, a Heavenly Immortal.

Heavenly Immortal, fifth grade, mid-stage, late-stage, peak…

“Boom!!!”

Another barrier was broken through.

Finally, his cultivation stabilized at the peak of the fifth grade of the Heavenly Immortal, only a hair’s breadth away from the sixth grade.

But this was merely the surface.

The true transformation lay in his control over power, in the… entirely new and unprecedented essence of power generated by the fusion of the four forces.

Kai slowly stood up.

His wounds had long since healed, leaving no scars.

Beneath his tattered clothes, skin as smooth as jade was revealed, its surface faintly shimmering with alternating streams of four colors.

He raised his right hand; beside the five-colored pattern on the back of his hand, another crimson-gold flame pattern appeared.

The two patterns intertwined, forming a profound design.

The Dragon-Slaying Sword seemed to sense its master's change, humming excitedly as it automatically flew back into Kai's hand.

On its blade, a hazy, chaotic aura, the five-colored flowing power of the Five Elements, the crimson-gold true flames of the earth, and a faint golden dragon-shaped phantom—the four forces perfectly merged, transforming into a magnificent sword aura, a hundred feet long and interwoven with four colors.

The sword aura remained still, yet it emanated a terrifying pressure that changed the very fabric of the world. Around the sword aura, space continuously collapsed and repaired, cycling endlessly, as if even heaven and earth could not withstand the existence of this power.

"Blood Netherworld… Zhan E…"

Kai's voice was calm, eerily calm.

He raised his eyes, looking at the two culprits who had caused the demise of the Earth Fire Ancestor. His eyes held no anger, no hatred, only… a kind of indifference as if looking down upon ants.

"This sword… is a farewell to the Ancestor."

As his words fell, the sword aura was unleashed.

The instant the sword aura struck, time seemed to freeze for a moment across the entire battlefield.

That wasn't an illusion; the chaotic power contained within the sword aura truly affected the flow of time in that area.

To everyone else, the four-colored sword aura, though not particularly fast, arrived before Xue Youming and Zhan E in an instant.

Xue Youming and Zhan E's expressions changed drastically.

As powerful beings at the Upper Immortal Realm, their combat instincts far surpassed ordinary people.

The moment they saw the sword aura, an unprecedented sense of crisis arose in both of them—an attack capable of threatening their lives!

"Join forces to block it!!!" Xue Youming roared, no longer daring to hold back.

Pitch-black Netherworld demonic energy surged wildly from his body, condensing into a three-zhang-thick black shield before him.

Countless agonizing, distorted faces struggled and wailed on the shield's surface—the remnants of souls he had devoured and refined, now forcibly extracted to reinforce his defense.

Zhan E also fought desperately.

He spat out three mouthfuls of his life essence blood, which transformed into three blood-red runes in the air, merging into the Qi of Reincarnation.

The grayish-white aura of reincarnation instantly turned crimson, becoming even more viscous and eerie, forming nine layers of crimson barriers before him.

Each barrier was powerful enough to withstand a full-force attack from a second-grade Upper Immortal; with nine layers combined, even a third-grade Upper Immortal might not be able to break through them in a single blow.

This was their trump card for survival. “Boom!!!”

The sword energy struck the shield and barrier.

There was no earth-shattering explosion, no world-destroying impact.

There was only… a teeth-grinding “sizzle,” like a hot knife cutting through butter.

To everyone’s disbelief, the four-colored sword energy sliced through Xue Youming’s black shield and severed Zhan E’s nine-layered blood-red barrier as if it had encountered no resistance.

The shield shattered, the barrier broke.

Xue Youming and Zhan E simultaneously coughed up blood, their bodies flying hundreds of feet backward, each bearing a deep, bone-revealing sword wound.

Xue Youming’s left arm was severed at the shoulder, and Zhan E’s right chest was pierced through; the four forces intertwined and corroded at the wounds, making it impossible for them to even stop the bleeding.

But… the sword energy was also completely exhausted.

Kai groaned and spat out another mouthful of blood.

He could feel the power injected by the Earth Fire Ancestor rapidly fading; this burst of power beyond the limit could not be sustained.

This sword strike was the last one he could unleash in a short time.

Although Xue Youming and Zhan E were severely injured, they had not lost their fighting ability.

“He’s exhausted! Truly exhausted!”

Zhan E clutched the bloody hole in his chest, a maniacal joy flashing in his eyes. “Kill him! Now! Immediately!”

The two endured the excruciating pain and pounced again.

This time, they didn’t even use any supernatural powers, but directly used the most primal physical strength to completely obliterate Kai in the fastest and most direct way.

But just then.

“God King Bow!!!”

With a roar from Kai, the God King Bow appeared from his storage ring.

Kai didn’t want to reveal too much, because it would attract trouble, but in this situation, he had no choice but to take out the God King Bow.

The entire bow did not exude any pressure, but gave people an ancient feeling that it should have been there all along, as old as heaven and earth.

“That’s… the God King Bow?!”

Xue Youming’s pupils shrank to the size of pinpoints, his voice distorted with extreme shock.

“Whatever bow it is, kill him first!”

Although Zhan E was also shocked, his killing intent was even stronger.

“Shoot!!!”

Kai pulled the bowstring with all his might.

Countless streams of malevolent energy converged on the Divine King Bow.

Countless cultivators had perished in this great battle, their malevolent energy gathering.

Now, it was all absorbed by the Divine King Bow, condensing into a single arrow!

“Buzz!!!”

The sound of the bowstring vibrating was like the roar of a god, or the thunder of eternity. Time froze completely.

Space was frozen in place.

Everyone felt their thoughts, actions, even their heartbeats, being forcibly suppressed by an invisible force.

They could only watch helplessly as the golden arrow left the bowstring, shooting towards Xue Youming and Zhan E with a speed that seemed slow but actually surpassed all physical laws.

Wherever the arrow passed, the void shattered inch by inch, revealing the pitch-black nothingness behind. Those spatial rifts were not chaotic, but as if cut by the most precise instrument, neat and smooth, exuding a chilling aura of destruction.

Xue Youming and Zhan E’s faces were ashen, like corpses.

They could clearly feel that this arrow… had locked onto their very soul essence.

No matter where they fled, no matter what supernatural powers they used, this arrow would inevitably hit.

This was the rule of the God King's Bow: the arrow would hit its mark, and the one hit would be injured!

There was no escape, no avoidance.

The only option was… to withstand it!

"Join forces to resist!!!" the two roared hoarsely, their voices distorted by fear.

Xue Youming channeled all the remaining Nine Nether Demonic Energy into his severed arm, forcibly regenerating a jet-black demonic arm.

The arm formed a hand seal in front of his chest, condensing into a demonic shield engraved with the face of a Nine Nether Demon.

Zhan E was even more ruthless, directly biting down and shattering his three natal soul teeth—foundational artifacts he had cultivated within his soul during his Reincarnation Technique, each containing immense soul power.

The soul teeth exploded, the pure soul power merging with the Reincarnation Energy, creating a ten-zhang-thick gray-black soul wall before him.

The demonic shield and soul wall overlapped, emitting a suffocating defensive aura.

But… it was useless.

The golden arrow arrived.

"Swoosh…"

A light, fleeting sound.

Like a hot knife through butter, or a drop of water falling into a lake.

The golden arrow encountered no resistance, easily piercing the demonic shield, penetrating the soul wall, and then… passing through the center of Xue Youming and Zhan E's bodies.

"Pfft!"

"Pfft!"

Both simultaneously spat out a mouthful of black blood mixed with fragments of internal organs.

Two bloody holes, each the size of a bowl, appeared on his chest.

The edges of the wounds were neat and smooth, as if cut by the most precise instrument. Even more terrifying was that no blood gushed from the wounds; instead, they presented a bizarre state of "nothingness," where flesh, bone, and even space itself had been completely obliterated by the force carried by the arrow.

Xue Youming looked down at the bloody holes in his chest, his dark pupils filled with disbelief.

He could feel that the foundation of his Nine Nether Demonic Arts… had been severely damaged by this arrow by at least fifty percent!

Without hundreds of years of arduous cultivation, it would be impossible to recover. Even more terrifying was that the divine power remaining in the wounds was still eroding his life force, preventing the wounds from healing. Zhan E was in a similarly miserable state.

The Qi of Reincarnation inherently possessed immortality, allowing ordinary injuries to heal instantly.

But now, the bloody hole in his chest showed no signs of healing; instead, it continued to widen. It was the law-breaking rule contained within the God-King's arrow, forcibly dismantling his foundation of reincarnation.

Although not dead, this arrow... had completely rendered them powerless.

For a short time, let alone continuing to fight, even maintaining consciousness would be difficult.

The arrow continued its trajectory towards the distant horizon, finally disappearing into the void, leaving only a lingering spatial rift.

The battlefield... fell into a deathly silence.

Absolute silence.

Everyone looked at Kai, at the God-King's Bow in his hand, its golden light gradually dimming until it returned to its ancient, simple form.

They looked at the two Upper Immortal Realm experts, their chests pierced, their auras utterly depleted. They

looked at this... earth-shattering arrow that had reversed the course of the battle.

After a brief silence, the Evil Path Palace side was the first to react.

"The Palace Master is seriously injured! Retreat! Retreat!!!"

A black-robed elder screamed hoarsely, his voice distorted with fear.

"Ancestor! Protect the Ancestor and get him out of here!!!"

The disciples of the Nine Nether Palace also panicked, rushing towards the spot where Xue Youming had fallen.

The allied forces completely collapsed.

Having witnessed their two leaders being severely wounded by an arrow, these cultivators, whose morale was already low, had no will to fight

left. They fled like stray dogs, madly fleeing off the battlefield.

Many even killed each other to fight for escape routes, the scene was extremely chaotic.

The alliance wanted to pursue, but Kai used his last strength to shout hoarsely, “Don’t chase… We… retreat too!”

He knew the situation all too well.

Although the Divine King Bow was powerful, forcibly activating it now would have a backlash far beyond his imagination.

At this moment, he felt his right hand was completely numb, his five fingers unable to bend, the meridian damage caused by the backlash from the Divine King Bow.

The primordial star in his dantian dimmed again, and new cracks even appeared on its surface.

Even more serious is the depletion of his soul.

Activating the Divine King Bow requires a massive amount of Daoist energy, and his soul is now as weak as if it had been hollowed out, making it difficult to even maintain basic consciousness.

His vision is blurring, his ears are ringing, and he could faint at any moment. Meanwhile, the alliance suffered devastating losses.

The Earthfire Ancestor perished, True Person Xuanwei died in battle, three elders of the Five Elements Sect were seriously injured, and two were lightly injured. The Heavenly Sword Pavilion lost two sword elders and dozens of elite disciples. More than half of the beasts in the Ten Thousand Beast Valley were killed or wounded, and 30% of the beast tamers perished…

If they continued fighting, even if they could annihilate the remaining enemies, they would have very few people left.

At that point, let alone counterattacking the Evil Path Palace, even self-preservation would be a problem.

“Listen to Fellow Daoist Kai… retreat!”

Jin Buhuan gritted his teeth and ordered, his eyes bloodshot, his voice hoarse like a broken bellows.

How he longed to chase after them, to wipe out the remaining enemies, and to avenge his fallen comrades!

But as sect leader, he had to be responsible for the surviving disciples.

Li Baichuan and Dugu Ao, though unwilling, knew this was the only option.

Li Baichuan’s three-headed Flaming Lion King was already on its last legs, and he himself had lost an arm and was bleeding profusely; continuing the fight would surely mean certain death.

Dugu Ao’s iron sword was riddled with cracks, threatening to shatter at any moment, and his own sword intent was becoming unstable due to overexertion.

“Retreat!” the two shouted almost simultaneously.

The remaining disciples of the three major sects began an orderly retreat.

The seriously wounded were taken away first, the lightly wounded helped each other, and the fallen… could only be hastily buried, without even time to erect tombstones.

Supported by the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord, Kai took one last look at the battlefield.

Mountains of corpses, seas of blood, severed limbs, and scorched earth stretching for miles.

The blood of the Earth Fire Ancestor and the Profound Mystery True Person had long since seeped into the earth, mingling with the blood of countless fallen warriors, staining the entire land a dark red.

Faint sobs drifted in the wind, the surviving disciples mourning their fallen comrades.

The air was thick with the stench of blood and burnt flesh, mixed with the eerie aura of reincarnation and the demonic energy of the Nine Netherworlds, creating a nauseating atmosphere of death.

Kai gripped the Divine King Bow tightly. The bow was icy cold, yet it felt as if scalding blood flowed within it.

It was the blood of the Earthfire Ancestor and the Mysterious Subtle True Man, the blood of countless fallen warriors, the blood of resentment, the blood of revenge.

“Blood Netherworld… Zhan Evil…”

he muttered to himself, each word seemingly squeezed from between his teeth, carrying a deep-seated hatred, an indelible vow.

“The grudge of today… will be repaid a hundredfold in the future!”

“The day I return… will be the day you… are annihilated!” Three days later, 80,000 miles northwest of the Five Elements Mountains, in a hidden valley shrouded in a natural maze.

This was one of the secret realms discovered by the Five Elements Sect in its early years. The entrance was hidden behind a waterfall, the interior space was vast, rich in spiritual energy, and protected by multiple natural formations, making it extremely concealed.

At this moment, the remaining disciples of the three major sects were all hiding here.

Deep in the valley, in a hastily constructed cave,

Kai sat cross-legged, his face as pale as paper, his breath so weak it was almost imperceptible.

His bare upper body was covered with crisscrossing wounds, the most serious being a bloody hole the size of a bowl on his chest.

It was caused by the backlash of the Chaos Returning to Nothingness Pearl; even after three days of recuperation, the bleeding had only barely stopped, and the chaotic turbulence within was still raging.

The cave was filled with a rich medicinal fragrance. Jin Buhuan had brought out almost all the precious healing medicines treasured by the Five Elements Sect.

Beside Kai lay a dozen jade bottles, the pills within already consumed by him. Their medicinal power dissolved within his body, working alongside his Chaos Immortal Power to repair his damaged meridians and internal organs.

Outside the cave, Jin Buhuan, Li Baichuan, Dugu Ao, the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord, and other high-ranking members of the alliance gathered in a simple stone pavilion, their faces grave, the atmosphere oppressive and suffocating.

“The casualty statistics… are out.” Jin Buhuan’s voice was dry and hoarse, as if he hadn’t had water in a long time.

He held a jade slip in his hand, its surface emitting a faint light, covered with densely packed text.

With each line he read, his face paled further, his hand trembling slightly as he held the jade slip.

“The Five Elements Sect…”

He paused, took a deep breath, and continued, “Of the 3,200 disciples, 1,237 died in battle, including 48 elders and deacons of the eighth rank

or above of the Heavenly Immortal Realm; 856 were seriously injured, and many more were slightly wounded… almost everyone was injured."

"Among the five lineage elders, the Metal Lineage elder's natal magic weapon was destroyed, his soul was severely damaged, and he is unconscious; the Wood Lineage elder's life force was excessively depleted, and his lifespan has been reduced by at least 500 years; the Water, Fire, and Earth Lineage elders, although less seriously injured, will need at least half a year to recover their fighting strength."

The stone pavilion was deathly silent.

Only the rustling of the mountain wind through the leaves and the suppressed sobs coming from afar could be heard.

"Heavenly Sword Pavilion…"

Dugu Ao continued, this usually cold and aloof sword fanatic now had bloodshot eyes. "Nine hundred sword cultivators, three hundred and twelve died in battle, including two sword elders and forty-six elite disciples; two hundred and seven were seriously injured, and half of the remaining disciples were wounded. My Lone Peak Sword… is shattered."

He held a section of the hilt in his hand; the blade had already been completely destroyed in the battle.

That was his natal sword, nurtured for tens of thousands of years. As long as the sword was there, he was there; the sword was gone… He was not dead, but his foundation was damaged.

"Ten Thousand Beast Valley…"

Li Baichuan's voice was even lower. This once-bold beast king was now hunched over, as if he had aged a hundred years overnight.

"Nine thousand demonic beasts, four thousand three hundred killed in battle, including the Thunderwing Golden Eagle King, the Ironback Earth Dragon King critically wounded, and the Gale Wolf King with a

broken leg; four hundred beast tamers, one hundred and eighty-seven killed, and all three Beast Taming Grandmasters perished… My natal battle beast, the Three-Headed Flaming Lion King… is also nearing its end."

His voice choked with emotion as he finished speaking.

The Three-Headed Flaming Lion King was not only his battle beast, but also his companion and brother who had been with him for nearly ten thousand years.

At this moment, the majestic lion king lay in a cave at the other end of the valley, two of its three heads completely lifeless, and the remaining one coughing up blood, clearly on its deathbed.

A long silence fell once more in the stone pavilion.

The Crimson Cloud Demon Lord leaned against a stone pillar, his scarlet demonic eyes filled with exhaustion.

Although he hadn't suffered the same heavy losses as the three major sects, he had also been seriously injured in the battle, and more importantly… he saw no hope.

"The Earth Fire Ancestor has fallen, and True Person Xuanwei has died in battle…"

Jin Buhuan murmured, "Adding to the disciples of the Azure Sword Sect, the elders of the Five Elements Sect, and the Grandmaster of the Valley of Ten Thousand Beasts who died earlier… In this battle, we have lost at least five top-tier combatants at the ninth rank of the Heavenly Immortal Realm."

"As for the enemy… Xue Youming and Zhan E, although seriously injured, are not dead. Of the three Ghost Kings of the Nine Nether Palace, only the Chi Ghost King is dead; the other two are still alive. The elders of the Evil Path Hall also have at least five or six members intact.

Once they recover…”He didn’t finish his sentence, but everyone understood his meaning.

Once the Evil Path Palace recovered, it would undoubtedly launch a full-scale attack to wipe out the remaining forces of the Alliance.

And given the Alliance’s current situation… it had no power to resist.

“The problem now is,” Dugu Ao said coldly, a hint of despair in his voice, “what do we do next? How long can we hide here? The Evil Path Palace has suffered such a huge loss; they will definitely turn the Twelve Heavens upside down to find us. When they come knocking… that will be the time of our total annihilation.”

The stone pavilion fell silent for the third time.

This silence was even more oppressive, even more desperate.

After a long silence, Jin Buhuan slowly spoke, his voice filled with a resigned weariness: “The only thing we can do now… is to hide.”

“Hide?”

Li Baichuan smiled bitterly. “How long can we hide? A month? Three months? Or a year?”

“We’ll hide as long as we can.” Jin Buhuan closed his eyes. “At least… we have to wait for our young friend Kai to recover. He is our only hope.”

“Furthermore,”

he paused, forcing himself to stay alert, “we need to contact other forces that still hold onto justice. The Twelve Heavens are so vast; there must be some who refuse to bow to the Evil Path Hall, who refuse to be enslaved by the Gate of Reincarnation

. If we can find them and unite, perhaps… there is still a glimmer of hope.” “And,” the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord added, “we must find a

way to expose the truth about the Gate of Reincarnation. As long as more people know that it's a trap, that so-called immortality is nothing more than turning living people into puppets, the power of the Evil Path Hall will crumble from within."

"Easier said than done."

Dugu Ao sneered. "After this battle, the news that the Lord of Reincarnation bestowed blessings and allowed tens of thousands of cultivators to break through has probably already spread to every corner of the Twelve Heavens."

"Now everyone believes the Evil Path Hall is the chosen one, the controller of the Gate of Immortality. Who would still believe the words of us losers?"

Silence fell again.

Inside the cave, Kai slowly opened his eyes.

He had heard every word of the discussion outside. He understood

their current predicament.

A desperate situation. A

truly hopeless situation.

But in his eyes, there was no despair.

Only... an unfathomable coldness, and... a desperate, all-or-nothing resolve.

He raised his right hand, looking at the two intertwined lines on the back of his hand, five colors, five elements, crimson gold, and earth fire.

He felt the dim, yet still slowly rotating primordial star in his dantian.

“One month…”

he murmured, his voice hoarse but firm, “Give me one month…”

“Blood Netherworld, Zhan E, Lord of Reincarnation…”

“The day I emerge from seclusion… will be the day you… perish!”

Outside the window, night deepened.

An atmosphere of oppression, sorrow, and despair permeated the valley. Kai chose a naturally formed, secluded grotto deep within the valley as his place of seclusion.

The grotto’s entrance was narrow, but the interior was surprisingly spacious, with natural patterns on the stone walls that subtly prevented detection—perfect for him.

“Senior, please protect me here. No one is allowed to disturb me,”

Kai instructed the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord who followed closely behind.

He couldn’t let too many people know the secret of the Demon-Suppressing Tower; after all, human hearts are unpredictable.

The Demon-Suppressing Tower, capable of altering the flow of time, would inevitably attract unwanted attention if others knew about it.

After all, time is the most precious thing for cultivators.

The Crimson Cloud Demon Lord nodded emphatically, his crimson demonic eyes filled with solemnity: “Don’t worry, with me here, not even a fly can get in. You can focus on your recovery.”

Kai said no more and turned to enter the depths of the grotto.

He waved his hand, setting up several simple warning and shielding barriers, then sat cross-legged, took a deep breath, and a flash of light appeared in his palm—the ancient and mysterious Demon-Suppressing Tower.

With a thought, he was sucked into the tower.

Three months inside the tower equals only one day outside.

This was his only advantage, and the source of his confidence to say he would destroy Xue Youming and Zhan E in a month.

He believed that these two would never recover in a month.

The space inside the tower was vast and filled with chaotic energy.

Kai went directly to the central area and took out a large number of spirit stones and pills given to him by Jin Buhuan, as well as spoils of war containing pure energy that he had collected from the previous battle.

He did not immediately begin to absorb them, but instead examined his own body.

In his dantian, the primordial star that had fused the powers of chaos, the five elements, earth fire, and the golden dragon was still dim, and the newly added cracks on its surface were shocking. The star's rotation was sluggish, as if it might stop at any moment. In his meridians

, the damage caused by the backlash from the Divine King Bow was like a dried-up and cracked riverbed. Chaotic currents lingered at the wound on his chest, constantly eroding the newly grown flesh.

"Time is of the essence, I must take the risk."

A fierce glint flashed in Kai's eyes.

He abandoned the methodical nurturing process and instead formed hand seals, activating a domineering technique called "Nirvana Forging

Technique” from the *Chaos Immortal Scripture* and the legacy of the Earth Fire Ancestor.

Boom!

A massive amount of spirit stones were instantly drained of their spiritual energy, turning to dust.

The pills melted upon entering his mouth, transforming into a torrent that rushed into his meridians.

Kai groaned, his face suddenly flushing red, and fine, bloody gashes reopened on his body.

With his powerful will, he guided this violent force, forcefully crashing into the blocked and damaged meridians, like the most brutal craftsman hammering a broken bridge, forcibly mending and widening it.

Excruciating pain!

Far exceeding the pain of his previous battle injuries!

It was a tearing sensation spreading from the depths of his soul.

But he gritted his teeth, veins bulging on his forehead, sweat mixed with blood soaking his robes.

Driven by the “Nirvana Forging Technique,” the Chaos Immortal Power and Earth Fire True Essence simultaneously destroyed and regenerated, forcibly repairing his Dao Foundation in a manner akin to self-destruction.

At the same time, he immersed his mind in the Origin Star. The four colors of light intertwined and collided within the star, sometimes merging, sometimes repelling.

The final power of the Earth Fire Ancestor acted as a glue, but true perfect fusion required a long and painstaking process.

Kai couldn't do that; he directly drew upon the ancient dragon soul power deep within the Golden Dragon bloodline, using the dragon soul's domineering power and majesty as a hammer, and the chaotic energy as an anvil, relentlessly hammering at the four powers, forcing them to merge!

Within the tower, there was no sun or moon, only a cycle of pain and perseverance.

Kai's aura was sometimes as faint as a candle in the wind, sometimes as violent as a volcanic eruption.

His body became increasingly resilient through repeated collapses and reconstructions, with four-colored light shimmering beneath his skin, and his bones seemingly coated with a faint golden luster.

Meanwhile, outside, only ten days had passed. In

the Evil Path Hall, at the deepest Reincarnation Altar,

Xue Youming and Zhan E sat cross-legged in two enormous blood pools.

The blood pools churned with viscous liquid containing the essence of countless living beings and vengeful spirits.

The phantom of the Gate of Reincarnation hung high above the altar, casting a greyish-white halo that accelerated their recovery.

At the edge of the bloody hole in Zhan E's chest, the intractable power of the Divine King's Bow was being gradually worn away and transformed under the light of Reincarnation and the nourishment of the blood pool.

His aura, though still weak, had stopped deteriorating and was beginning to slowly recover.

At Xue Youming's severed arm, flesh buds writhed wildly, and a new, slightly pale arm was growing.

His body was enveloped in surging Netherworld demonic energy, absorbing the power of vengeful spirits from the blood pool to repair the damaged foundation of his demonic arts.

Both men wore expressions of extreme resentment and longing.

“Kai... Divine King Bow...”

Xue Youming squeezed out the name through gritted teeth, “Once I recover, I will surely extract your soul and refine your spirit, seize your divine bow, and offer it to the Lord!”

Zhan E looked at the Gate of Reincarnation with even greater piety and fervor: “Thank you for your grace, Lord! I will certainly live up to your expectations, quell the rebellion as soon as possible, and offer more souls to the eternal cycle of reincarnation!”

As if sensing his piety, the illusory image of the Gate of Reincarnation suddenly fluctuated, and from the deep, endless gray-white vortex within the gate, a cold and vast will emanated:

“Loyalty deserves reward.”

As the words fell, three gray-white beams of light shot out from within the gate and landed on the altar.

The beams of light dissipated, revealing three figures.

These were three humanoid puppets, expressionless, with pale skin and completely gray-white pupils, devoid of any emotional fluctuation.

However, the aura emanating from them had clearly reached the level of the second rank of the Upper Immortal Realm!

Moreover, their auras shared a common origin, both being the purest essence of reincarnation energy, resonating with each other and subtly forming an array.

“These are the guardians of reincarnation, granted your command to clear away obstacles,”

the Lord of Reincarnation’s voice rang out again, utterly calm.

Zhan E was overjoyed. Ignoring his injuries, he struggled to climb out of the blood pool, prostrating himself on the ground, his voice trembling with excitement: “Thank you for your grace, Lord! I swear to

serve you to the death, and will thoroughly eradicate the traitors, so that your glory may shine upon every inch of the Twelve Heavens!” Xue Youming looked at the three powerful guardians of reincarnation, his eyes flashing with awe and greed, and quickly followed suit, bowing down.

With these three puppets at the second rank of the Upper Immortal Realm, plus their restored power, and the remaining resources of the Evil Path Palace, they could easily sweep away the heavily damaged remnants of the alliance, and even unify the Twelve Heavens! ...

Within the Demon-Suppressing Tower, several years had passed.

Kai, who had been sitting cross-legged, suddenly opened his eyes.

“Boom!”

A powerful aura involuntarily emanated, causing the chaotic energy within the tower to churn.

His eyes shone brightly, as deep as the starry sky, with four-colored streams of light flashing by.

The blood hole in his chest had long since disappeared, his skin smooth as jade, faintly gleaming with precious light.

The five elements and earth fire patterns on the back of his hands were even clearer and more profound, as if naturally formed.

Within his dantian, the primordial star had not only fully recovered from its wounds but had also increased in size by 30%, rotating steadily and powerfully. The four colors—gray, five-colored, crimson gold, and pale gold—were perfectly blended, forming a unique luster that resembled the beginning of chaos and contained endless birth and death.

The essence of the power it emitted far surpassed that of an ordinary peak fifth-grade Heavenly Immortal.

His cultivation had stabilized at the peak fifth-grade Heavenly Immortal realm, but his combat strength, after the initial fusion of the four forces and the tempering akin to a rebirth, was now incomparable to what it once was.

The backlash from the Divine King Bow had subsided, and his right hand was fully recovered.

“Time’s up,”

Kai muttered to himself, his figure flashing as he exited the Demon-Suppressing Tower.

Outside the cave, the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord, who had been vigilantly waiting, sensed it immediately and looked over.

When he felt the harmonious yet subtly powerful aura emanating from Kai, his eyes lit up with surprise: “You…you’ve fully recovered? And it seems…you’re even stronger!”

Kai nodded, saying nothing more, and returned with the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord to the stone pavilion in the center of the valley.

Jin Buhuan, Li Baichuan, Dugu Ao, and others rushed over upon hearing the news. Seeing Kai’s condition, they were all invigorated, as if they had seen a ray of light in their desperate situation.

“Fellow Daoist Kai, how are you recovering?” Jin Buhuan asked anxiously.

“I’m mostly recovered.”

Kai’s gaze swept over everyone. Although they had rested for over a month, their faces still bore the marks of fatigue and injury; their overall strength had recovered to less than 50%. “Seniors and fellow Daoists, I have something to ask you.”

Everyone quieted down and looked at him.

“I intend to make a trip to the Hall of Evil Paths…” Kai’s tone was calm, yet it was a bombshell.

“What?!”

“No!”

“Kai, have you gone mad?!” A chorus of objections erupted from the stone pavilion.

Jin Buhuan exclaimed urgently, “The Evil Path Hall must be heavily guarded now. Although Xue Youming and Zhan E are injured, their foundations remain. Moreover, the Gate of Reincarnation is unpredictable. Going alone is tantamount to walking into a trap!”

Li Baichuan also shook his head, “Boy, we know you hate, and we hate too! But revenge isn’t urgent. Let’s wait until everyone has recovered a bit before making a decision!”

Dugu Ao gripped the hilt of his newly acquired iron sword and said coldly, “If we’re going, we’ll go together.”

Kai raised his hand, silencing the crowd, his gaze resolute, “It’s precisely because everyone’s injuries haven’t healed, and the Evil Path Hall could attack at any moment, that I must go.”

“We can’t just sit here and wait to die. They might not have anticipated my recovery.”

“This journey is not for a decisive battle, but for reconnaissance. If there’s an opportunity…”

A cold glint flashed in his eyes, “…to cut off their leader, disrupt their formation, and buy us more time.”

He looked at the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord: “Senior, you stay here to assist in the defense. When I return, I will accompany you to find the Nine Aperture Divine Soul Grass to fulfill your wish.”

The Crimson Cloud Demon Lord opened his mouth, wanting to say something, but seeing the determination in Kai’s eyes, he finally just nodded heavily: “…Come back alive.”

Everyone wanted to persuade him further, but Kai had already turned around, preparing to leave.

Just then…

“Buzz!”

The natural maze above the valley suddenly fluctuated violently, and two incomparably powerful, yet not malicious, auras, like tearing through a curtain, forcefully penetrated in!

“Enemy attack?!”

Everyone’s expression changed in horror. Jin Buhuan and the others instantly surged their magic power, Li Baichuan summoned his remaining battle beasts, Dugu Ao’s sword energy soared into the sky, and the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord’s demonic energy surged, as if facing a formidable enemy.

Kai’s heart also tightened, and he focused his gaze.

Space distorted, and two figures emerged leisurely.

The leader, dressed in a simple grey robe, possessed a refined

and gentle face, yet his eyes were as deep as the sea, as if they had witnessed countless vicissitudes. Beside him was a woman in a plain long dress, exquisitely beautiful and with a gentle temperament, though her face was slightly pale, as if she had just recovered from a long illness. However, her gaze towards the grey-robed man was filled with longing and a joy akin to rebirth.

The aura emanating from these two individuals had clearly reached the Upper Immortal Realm!

And they were certainly not newcomers to this realm, especially the grey-robed man, whose aura was as profound as the sea, giving Kai the feeling that he was faintly stronger than the Earth Fire Ancestor at his peak!

Kai was initially stunned, then his eyes flashed with joy, and he quickly waved to stop the others who were preparing to fight to the death: “Wait, everyone! They’re our own people!” He strode forward and bowed respectfully to the gray-robed man: “Senior Musa! What brings you here!”

The newcomer was none other than Musa, the mysterious powerhouse Kai had rescued from the Heavenly Ladder years ago, and his wife, whom Kai had longed to resurrect through the supernatural powers of Mr. Shi, whom he had begged to do so!

Musa smiled, looking at Kai, his gaze sweeping over him, a hint of surprise flashing in his eyes.

“Mr. Chen is indeed extraordinary. In such a short time, you have made such progress. Your foundation is so profound that I have never heard of it.”

He then looked at Jin Buhuan and the others, who were on high alert and filled with doubt, and nodded slightly: “Please do not panic. My wife and I are old friends of Mr. Chen. We are not here to be enemies.”

Jin Buhuan and the others sensed that Musa and his wife meant no harm and were acquainted with Kai, so they relaxed slightly, but remained vigilant.

Kai quickly introduced the two sides.

Upon hearing that Musa possessed the profound cultivation of an Upper Immortal Realm expert and was an old friend of Kai, Jin Buhuan and the others were both surprised and delighted, and quickly paid their respects.

After exchanging pleasantries, Kai asked urgently, “Senior Mu Sha, what brings you here so suddenly?”

“How much do you know about the current situation in the Twelfth Heaven, especially the Gate of Reincarnation and the Hall of Evil?”

Mu Sha’s expression turned serious. He took his wife’s hand and gestured for everyone to sit down.

He glanced at Kai and slowly said, “That’s exactly why I’ve come. Mr. Chen, you just mentioned wanting to go to the Hall of Evil?”

“Yes,” Kai nodded.

Mu Sha shook his head, his tone grave: “Mr. Chen, put that thought aside for now. At least until you reach the Upper Immortal Realm, until you have completely mastered the powers within you, and until you understand the true nature of the Lord of Reincarnation, do not take unnecessary risks.”

“Senior knows the identity of the Lord of Reincarnation?” Kai’s pupils contracted.

Musa paused for a moment, seemingly considering his words, before finally speaking slowly: “In the past, in my quest to resurrect my wife, I traveled to many hidden places, and by chance, I glimpsed a trace of the essence of the Gate of Reincarnation.”

“That wasn’t the original gate of this world; its origin… involves taboos from ancient times and even further back. The so-called Lord of Reincarnation behind the gate isn’t a true being, but rather seems to be… an aggregation of rules, or rather, an ancient, vast, and malevolent projection of will.”

He paused, looking at Kai: “Do you know why the Gate of Reincarnation can grant power, allowing one to break through?”

Kai recalled the scene on the battlefield: “Absorbing the energy dissipating from within the gate?”

“Yes and no,”

Musa said in a deep voice, “That gate is ‘opening its own path’.”

“Opening its own path?” Everyone was puzzled.

“The Great Dao of Heaven and Earth has its own laws of operation. Reincarnation is one of the laws of Heaven and Earth, and it has its own order.”

“But this Gate of Reincarnation is forcibly altering, stripping away, and monopolizing the laws of reincarnation in this world, severing them from the other laws of Heaven and Earth, and bringing them under the control of the will behind the gate.”

Musa’s words were astonishing. “The so-called blessing is nothing more than it feeding back the stolen Dao of reincarnation that originally belonged to all living beings in this world in a crude way, just like forcibly pouring the water of a vast ocean into a stream, which will naturally cause the stream to swell instantly.” ”But if this continues, the cycle of reincarnation in this world will be completely disrupted, the true souls of all beings will be controlled by it, and even the Great Dao of Heaven and Earth will be damaged.”

“The power it bestows bears its mark; the more it uses it, the deeper the dependence, and ultimately… body and mind will be assimilated, becoming nourishment for its own growth, or rather, a puppet.”

Everyone felt a chill run down their spines.

So the so-called trap of immortality was truly terrifying—it was about stealing the very foundation of a world!

“Then what exactly is the Lord of Reincarnation?” Kai pressed.

A deep sense of apprehension flashed in Musa’s eyes: “I cannot fully see through it either. I only know that it is ancient, powerful, and filled with a cold malice towards living beings.”

“It may have been the lingering obsession of a fallen supreme being, or the will of someone who failed to transcend and fell into depravity, or perhaps a predator from beyond this realm intending to devour it… Its current state is peculiar; it seems unable to fully descend upon this realm, needing to rely on the Gate of Reincarnation and its followers as anchors and henchmen.”

“Zhan E and Xue Youming are merely its more capable pawns.”

He looked at Kai, solemnly warning, “Mr. Chen, you possess great fortune and great karma. The power fused within you subtly possesses the characteristic of restraining the Qi of Reincarnation, especially the power of chaos and the aura of the God-King Bow.”

“This may be precisely why it, or its puppets, desires to eliminate you. But now is far from the time for you to confront it directly.”

“The Evil Path Palace will surely receive even greater rewards after this battle. Now, you mustn’t go into this dragon’s den or tiger’s lair.”

Kai remained silent, his heart churning with turmoil.

Mu Sha's words confirmed many of his suspicions and revealed a deeper level of terror.

But the flame in his eyes did not extinguish; instead, it burned even more calmly.

"Senior Mu Sha, if Mr. Shi were to come, could he destroy the Gate of Reincarnation and the Lord of Reincarnation?" Kai asked curiously.

"This..." Mu Sha was silent for a moment, then gave a bitter smile: "Although I don't know Mr. Shi's true strength, destroying the Lord of Reincarnation would be as easy as snapping his fingers."

"Kai, if Mr. Shi were to help you, let alone the Twelfth Heaven, he could easily wave his hand and send you to the upper levels of the Heavenly Realm." Crimson Cloud Demon Lord said.

He had been in Kai's sea of consciousness and had seen Mr. Shi several times. Crimson Cloud Demon Lord didn't know Mr. Shi's strength either, but he knew that Mr. Shi's strength was probably beyond what these lower and middle levels of the Heavenly Realm could compare to.

"Mr. Shi is that powerful? " Kai was somewhat surprised.

Mu Sha smiled and said, "Then Mr. Shi can arbitrarily change the laws and resurrect people whose souls have been destroyed. In this respect alone, he is far superior to the Lord of Reincarnation."

"If the Lord of Reincarnation had this ability, he wouldn't need to create the Gate of Reincarnation, immortality, or resurrection."

Kai thought about it and realized it made sense. Mr. Shi could casually resurrect someone whose soul had been destroyed, which was far superior to the Lord of Reincarnation who used the laws of reincarnation to resurrect people, and even resurrected puppets. "I understand your meaning, senior."

Kai took a deep breath. “I will postpone my actions and continue to improve my strength. However, the Evil Path Hall will not give us much time. Once they recover, they will definitely come back.”

Although Mr. Shi was very powerful, Kai knew that Mr. Shi would not help him easily. He didn’t know if Mr. Shi had difficulties after arriving in the Heavenly Realm, or if there were other reasons, but he had never shown his face again.

Musa nodded: “That’s right. So, we need to make more preparations. Contact all available forces, find the weaknesses of the Gate of Reincarnation, and at the same time… Mr. Chen, you need to grow faster.”

His gaze swept over the lines on the back of Kai’s hand, “The fusion within your body seems to have entered the basics, but it’s still far from being truly perfect and able to unleash its supreme power. I might be able to lend you a hand, but you will also need to find your own opportunities.”

Just then, Musa’s wife, the gentle woman, spoke softly, her voice like a clear spring: “Brother Sha, have you forgotten the clue about the ancient Qi Refiner’s cave? Perhaps it will be useful to Mr. Chen.”

Musa suddenly realized: “That’s right! I almost forgot.”

“Mr. Chen, I once obtained a clue in an ancient site, pointing to the cave left behind by a group of cultivators known as the Ancient Qi Refiners in ancient times.”

“Their cultivation methods are ancient and powerful, especially adept at harmonizing and refining various exotic energies. Perhaps they can help you completely integrate the power within your body, or even… find an opportunity for further rapid advancement. However, that place is quite secluded and fraught with danger.”

A glint flashed in Kai’s eyes. If he could find the inheritance of an ancient Qi cultivator, accelerate the fusion of the four energies, and even break

through to the sixth or seventh rank of the Celestial Immortal Realm… then, facing the restored Evil Path Palace and the Lord of Reincarnation, he would truly have the strength to fight, and even have the possibility of beheading them!

“Senior, where exactly is that cave?”

Kai looked intently at Mu Sha.

Mu Sha did not answer directly, but instead raised his hand and pointed in the void, and a very simple map outlined by faint starlight appeared.

Most of the area was blurry, but in one corner, there was an ancient and strange rune mark. The shape of the mark resembled a swirling cloud vortex, or some kind of primordial furnace.

“This place is located on the western edge of the Twelfth Heaven, in a crevice near the Void Gale Belt.”

Mu Sha pointed to the rune mark, his tone grave. “The spatial structure there is fragile and chaotic, constantly eroded by the gales and spatial turbulence, forming countless spacetime fragments and natural labyrinths. Ordinary cultivators find it extremely difficult to find the correct path, and even if they do, they may not be able to withstand the environment.”

“The entrance to that cave is hidden within a tranquil spacetime fragment known as the Eye of Return to the Void. It appears to be a secluded paradise, but inside, danger lurks at every turn.”

He looked at Kai: “Mr. Chen, your internal power is special, and you may be able to resist some of the environmental erosion.”

“But I must warn you, that cave is ancient, with unpredictable restrictions. The methods of ancient Qi cultivators are vastly different from our current cultivation methods. Their trials often target the very source, and are extremely dangerous.”

“Opportunities are found in danger, I understand.”

Kai cupped his hands, his eyes unwavering. The Crimson Cloud Demon Lord grinned, his demonic eyes gleaming with a mixture of warlike curiosity and amusement. “Sounds interesting. I’ll come with you.”

Kai nodded. Having the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord along might help them find the Nine Aperture Divine Soul Grass.

Musa nodded, condensing the illusory star map into a pale gray token—neither gold nor jade—and handed it to Kai. “This is a guiding talisman. Infuse it with your unique spiritual power to activate it. It will guide you as you approach that area.”

“But whether you can truly enter the Eye of the Ruins and find the cave depends on your own fortune and strength.”

Kai solemnly accepted the token, sensing an extremely ancient and obscure aura within it.

Taking advantage of the lull before setting off, Kai’s doubts about the structure of the Celestial Realm resurfaced, especially regarding the origins of Musa and her husband.

He couldn’t help but ask, “Senior Mu Sha, I am deeply grateful for your help, you and your wife. But may I ask where you two are currently cultivating in the Twelfth Heaven? If there is any important matter in the future, I can pay you a visit to express my gratitude.”

Mu Sha and his wife exchanged a glance and smiled gently, a smile carrying a hint of detachment: “Mr. Chen, there’s no need for such formality. We are not long-term residents of the Twelfth Heaven.”

“Not long-term residents?” Kai was taken aback.

“That’s right.”

Mu Sha nodded and slowly said, “My wife and I actually come from the Thirteenth Heaven.” ”

The Thirteenth Heaven?”

Not only Kai, but even Jin Buhuan, Li Baichuan, and the others beside him showed surprise.

As the leaders of top sects in the Twelfth Heaven, they naturally knew about the Thirteenth Heaven, but they also knew that entering the Thirteenth Heaven was difficult and not something that could be achieved simply by having strength.

“Fellow Daoist, could you tell me how you got to the Thirteenth Heaven?” Jin Buhuan asked.

“Can’t we just go by opening the void passage?” Kai asked, puzzled. He didn’t understand why Jin Buhuan was asking this. “I’ve always done it this way, starting from the First Heaven and then arriving here through the void passage.”

Jin Buhuan, Li Baichuan, and the others all shook their heads after hearing this.

This left Kai completely confused, and even the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord was somewhat bewildered. Musa smiled slightly and explained, “Mr. Chen, the thirty-six heavens of the celestial realm are not simply stacked one on top of the other. Rather, they are roughly divided into upper, middle, and lower realms based on the completeness of the laws of heaven and earth, the level of spiritual energy

, and the stability of the world.” “The lower realm comprises the first to twelfth heavens. The twelfth heaven you reside in is the pinnacle of the lower realm, with relatively complete laws and abundant spiritual energy. However, it is fundamentally different from the middle realm. Within the lower realm, one can traverse using void passages.”

“The middle realm encompasses the thirteenth to twenty-fourth heavens. Each heaven is far more expansive and profound than the lower realm, with purer and more active spiritual energy, and the laws of heaven and earth are more rigorous and powerful.”

“Cultivating in the middle realm often leads to greater speed and comprehension than in the lower realm, but it also means fiercer competition, more brutal resource struggles, and a higher average strength for the beings living there. My wife and I are temporarily residing in a secluded place in the thirteenth heaven.”

“The Upper Realm, from the twenty-fifth to the highest thirty-sixth Heaven, is a legendary realm, inaccessible to those without great fortune, perseverance, and luck. It is rumored that the laws of the Upper Realm are nearly perfect, containing the essence of the Great Dao, making it a place truly close to the ultimate state of immortality. The specifics are beyond my ability to fully describe.”

These words were like opening a completely new door for Kai. Although he knew the thirty-six Heavens were divided into Upper, Middle, and Lower, no one had ever explained the differences to him.

“Senior Mu Sha, since the laws of the Upper and Lower Realms are fundamentally different, is it exceptionally difficult to travel from the twelfth Heaven to the thirteenth Heaven? What conditions are required?” Kai asked.

Musa said, “The barriers between layers, especially those crossing realms, are far more difficult than traversing between realms within the same realm.”

“From the twelfth to the thirteenth heaven, seemingly only one level apart, it’s actually a transition from the lower realm to the middle realm.”

“First, simply using enough powerful force to tear open a spatial passage might be feasible within the lower realm, but penetrating the legal membrane between the two realms is almost impossible.”

“That membrane automatically repels and dissolves forces and life forms that don’t conform to the essential laws of the middle realm.”

“Second, a guide or beacon is needed. There are usually two methods: one is that a powerful force or great being in the middle realm actively opens a stable, law-approved ascension passage for guidance; this is usually for those with exceptional talent in the lower realm or disciples of specific lineages.”

“The second is to find a treasure containing the aura or coordinates of the middle realm’s laws, using it as a beacon to construct a temporary passage at a specific location and time, combined with a special ritual and powerful energy. The latter is extremely dangerous, with a slim success rate, and the passage is highly unstable.”

“Finally, and most importantly,”

Musa said solemnly, “a cultivator must reach a certain level of life and compatibility with the laws. Simply put, in the lower realm, one needs to reach the Upper Immortal realm and have a deep understanding of their chosen path. Their physical body and soul must undergo a certain degree of transformation before they can initially adapt to the pressure of the laws in the middle realm.”

“Not every Upper Immortal cultivator can reach the Thirteenth Heaven. Understanding is the most crucial point; otherwise, even if they are fortunate enough to enter, they will be crushed by the heavier and denser laws of the middle realm, or unable to absorb the more refined spiritual energy and rapidly perish.”

After listening, Kai finally understood. Moreover, the guidance was somewhat similar to the Heavenly Ladder he had encountered in the Heavenly Realm.

If it weren’t for the Heavenly Ladder, Kai wouldn’t have been able to reach the Heavenly Realm back then. ”My wife and I were able to reach the Twelfth Heaven this time because we sensed Mr. Chen’s aura and then used a rare treasure we acquired in our early years to temporarily conceal and adapt to the laws of the lower realm.” ”

However, the power of this treasure is limited, and we cannot stay here for long, otherwise our foundation may be eroded by the laws of the lower realm, which would be detrimental to our cultivation."

Mu Sha glanced at his wife beside him, his eyes filled with apology and tenderness. "Now that we have explained the situation, we should leave. Please take care, Mr. Chen."

Although Kai felt reluctant to part and had many more questions, he knew it was inappropriate to insist that he stay. He bowed deeply and said, "Thank you for your explanation and guidance, senior. I will always remember your kindness."

Mu Sha helped Kai up and smiled, "Mr. Chen has profound fortune and a strong will. His future is limitless. Perhaps we will meet again in the Thirteenth Heaven or even higher."

"Take good care of yourself and strive to fully integrate your power as soon as possible. That ancient Qi Refiner's cave may be the beginning of your rise to power."

With that, the Mu couple didn't linger. They nodded slightly to the crowd, a hazy gray light emanating from them, the space rippling like water. Their figures gradually faded away, disappearing without a trace, as if they had never existed.

A moment of silence fell over the valley, the crowd still reeling from the overwhelming amount of information.

Kai took a deep breath, suppressing his excitement, and turned to the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord: "Senior, let's prepare to depart."

The Crimson Cloud Demon Lord licked his lips, his scarlet demonic eyes blazing with battle intent: "I can't wait any longer. Let me see what treasures that ancient Qi Refiner's lair holds!"

Kai then said to Jin Buhuan and the others: "Sect Master Jin, seniors, I'm going to seek opportunities to break this deadlock as soon as

possible. The safety of the valley is temporarily entrusted to you all. Be sure to be careful and discreet, and be wary of the Evil Path Hall's investigation." Jin Buhuan

... Kai nodded, "Fellow Daoist Kai, go with peace of mind. We will guard this place and recover as quickly as possible. You... be very careful!"

Li Baichuan patted Kai on the shoulder, "Kid, come back alive. I'm still waiting to fight back to the Evil Path Palace with you!"

Dugu Ao simply uttered two cold words: "Return quickly."

Kai said no more, exchanged a glance with the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord, and the two transformed into two streaks of light, one golden and one red, breaking through the valley's maze and speeding towards the western horizon, towards the desolate region that Mu Sha called the Void Gale Belt.