the mans Decree: Kai Ping / Chen Ping

Chapter 6021 - 6025

Meanwhile, in Yu Ranran's elegant pavilion,

Kai stood by the window, his gaze seemingly piercing through layers of buildings, landing on the divine envoy who was being fawned over.

Yu Ranran had been temporarily lured to the adjacent quiet room under the pretext of researching a meditation array requiring absolute silence.

As Kai had subtly observed, the guards outside the pavilion were indeed much more lax than in the previous two days, with longer intervals between patrols.

Especially the secluded paths leading to the treasury area, which were now almost deserted.

"A divine envoy... a sixth-grade Immortal..."

Kai muttered to himself, a cold glint in his eyes.

This was an opportunity—an opportunity to contact the divine race, obtain intelligence, and perhaps even find the whereabouts of the Soul Refining Crystal!

Yu Wuji, that old fox, had suddenly relaxed his surveillance; his intentions were obvious—he wanted to use someone else to kill, or test their strength.

Since that was the case, then so be it!

Kai's figure flickered, as if blending into the shadows, and he silently left the elegant pavilion.

He didn’t rush to the treasury immediately. Instead, like the most patient hunter, he stealthily moved along the deliberately loosened paths, using his understanding of the Jade Immortal Mansion’s formations and the concealing properties of chaotic power to avoid all possible eyes and ears.

The treasury was a heavily guarded area.

But at this moment, due to the arrival of the divine envoy, most attention was drawn to the area at the main entrance of the treasury where offerings were exchanged.

Kai appeared like a ghost in a secluded corner behind the treasury.

There was a hidden small door there, used for emergency evacuation or transporting special supplies, with complex restrictions on it.

But all of this was not insurmountable for Kai, who possessed some of Fei Qing’s memories and chaotic power.

Chaotic gray light flickered at his fingertips, like the most skillful key, gently probing into the restriction nodes, silently “paralyzing” and “assimil” them temporarily.

The small door quietly opened a crack.

Inside the treasury, the lights were bright.

Yu Wuji was personally accompanying Envoy Yun Ting as he inventoried piles of shimmering spirit crystals, medicinal herbs, ores, and other offerings.

Several divine guards were scattered on guard.

Kai seemed to blend into the boundary between light and darkness, his aura completely concealed, his gaze swiftly sweeping across the storeroom.

His target wasn't these ordinary offerings, but... the location of the Soul Refining Crystals!

Based on Fei Qing's memories and the information he'd gleaned from Yu Ranran over the past few days, the Soul Refining Crystals should be stored in the deepest part of the storeroom, in the Xuanbing Chamber, a place personally protected by Yu Wuji!

He moved like a slippery fish through the shadows of the massive shelves and mountains of supplies, avoiding the occasional storeroom steward, and stealthily made his way towards the direction he remembered.

Deep within the storeroom, the temperature noticeably dropped.

A heavy, black iron door, inscribed with icy runes, appeared before him, its surface shimmering with light and radiating a chilling aura.

It was the Xuanbing Chamber!

Just as Kai was about to try and break down the door, suddenly, he heard soft footsteps and voices behind him!

It was Yu Wuji and Envoy Yun Ting, who had just completed the transaction, walking towards this direction!

It seemed Yu Wuji was showcasing the treasury's resources to the envoy, or... was he deliberately leading the envoy here?

Kai's heart skipped a beat, and he instantly flashed behind a pile of tall ice-attribute ore, completely concealing his aura.

"Envoy, please look, this is the Xuanbing Chamber, where some special materials are stored,"

Yu Wuji's voice came, carrying a hint of barely perceptible tension.

Envoy Yun Ting walked to the door of the Xuanbing Chamber, sensing the fluctuations of the restrictions on the door, and nodded: "The

protection is adequate. Lord Yu, is the unfinished Soul Crystal condensed here?" "Indeed,"

Yu Wuji replied. "It will take several more days before it can be retrieved."

Envoy Yun Ting stared at the door of the Xuanbing Chamber, his eyes flashing. Suddenly, he said, "Open it. I want to see the progress with my own eyes."

Yu Wuji's expression changed slightly: "Envoy, the condensation process cannot be disturbed. What if..."

"I know what I'm doing."

Envoy Yun Ting's tone was unquestionable, carrying the arrogance unique to the divine race. "Or is it that Lord Yu has something... that's inconvenient for me to see?"

The atmosphere suddenly became tense.

Kai, hiding in the shadows, sneered inwardly.

This old fox, Yu Wuji, was indeed up to no good. He deliberately led the envoy to the location where the Soul Refining Crystal was stored, wanting to use the envoy's hand, or perhaps Kai himself who might be lurking nearby, to stir up the situation!

A look of struggle flashed across Yu Wuji's face. Finally, he sighed, seemingly giving in: "Since the envoy insists... so be it."

He stepped forward, made a hand seal, and released several beams of spiritual light, which landed on the door of the Xuanbing Chamber.

The runes on the gate lit up one by one, the chill intensified, and it emitted a low rumble as it slowly opened inward.

A purer, colder aura, mixed with a faint, unsettling wave of resentment, emanated from within.

A hint of satisfaction flashed in Yun Ting's eyes as

he stepped into the Xuanbing Chamber. Just as his foot was about to step into the chamber...

a sudden change occurred!

A hazy gray sword light burst forth without warning from the shadow of the pile of ice-attribute ores beside him!

Its speed was extreme, as if it had broken through the limitations of space, aiming straight for Yun Ting's vital point in the back! Wherever the sword light passed, even the air emitted a faint hissing sound as it was being eroded and annihilated!

It was Kai's long-awaited fatal strike!

The target was not Yu Wuji, but this divine envoy!

Yun Ting, as expected of a sixth-grade Upper Immortal, reacted extremely quickly!

The instant the sword light struck his body, a dazzling silver divine light erupted from him, and a close-fitting inner armor automatically appeared. Simultaneously, his body forcefully twisted to the side!

*Swoosh!

* The hazy sword light pierced through the silver divine light, leaving a deep mark on the high-grade inner armor, almost piercing it through!

Residual chaotic energy seeped into his body, causing the Yun Ting envoy to groan and his face to turn pale instantly!

"How dare you!"

The Yun Ting envoy, filled with shock and anger, turned and shouted fiercely. At the same time, a flash of light appeared in his hand, and a longsword, gleaming silver and crackling with lightning, appeared in his grasp. He slashed fiercely in the direction from which the sword light had come!

However, Kai retreated immediately after the attack, not bothering to linger.

His figure, like a ghost, once again disappeared into the shadows, rushing towards the outside of the warehouse!

His purpose had been achieved: to attack the envoy, create chaos, and test the envoy and Yu Wuji's reactions!

"Stop him!"

The Yun Ting envoy was furious; someone had actually dared to attack him inside the Jade Immortal Palace's warehouse!

This is an utter disgrace!

He moved like lightning, giving chase, his thunderous sword light tearing through the air! Yu Wuji also shouted urgently, "Assassin! Protect the envoy! Close the treasury! Capture that thief!"

He directed the guards who rushed to the scene, seemingly cooperating fully to capture the assassin, but a strange, almost imperceptible glint flashed deep in his eyes.

Kai's figure moved like a ghost, weaving through the intricate palaces, corridors, gardens, and rockeries of the Jade Immortal Mansion.

He wasn't fleeing aimlessly, but deliberately using the terrain and the mansion's formations to constantly disrupt the vision and senses of the relentlessly pursuing Yun Ting Envoy.

The power of chaos granted him near-perfect stealth abilities; if Yun Ting Envoy hadn't used a divine secret technique to lock onto his faint remaining aura, he would have already shaken him off.

After several close calls, Kai even deliberately lured Yun Ting Envoy's attacks into several unimportant treasuries and gardens, creating even greater chaos.

Finally, like a slippery eel, he narrowly escaped back to the Yu Ranran Pavilion before Yun Ting Envoy's furious thunderous sword energy struck.

At this moment, the seemingly lax guards around the Xiu Pavilion had already been alerted and were tensely setting up their defenses.

Kai, however, slipped in like a wisp of smoke through a tiny gap in their defenses and instantly returned to the pavilion.

He quickly changed out of his slightly damaged outer robe, let his hair down, and made it appear as if he had just come out of the meditation room to study formations.

Almost the instant he finished doing all this, hurried footsteps and shouts came from outside.

Yu Wuji, with a face full of shock and anger, followed by the envoy Yun Ting, whose face was ashen and whose breathing was unsteady, and a large number of guards who were on high alert, surrounded the Xiu Pavilion.

"Search! Don't miss any corner! That assassin must have escaped into this area!"

Yu Wuji ordered sharply, his gaze sweeping across the pavilion, and he met Kai's eyes, who had just come out of his room after hearing the noise. A complex emotion, difficult to describe, flashed deep in his eyes.

The guards rushed into the Xiu Pavilion like wolves and tigers, ransacking the place, not even sparing Yu Ranran's boudoir and meditation room.

Yu Ranran was also startled by the commotion outside. She emerged from her quiet room and, seeing the scene, was both shocked and furious: "Father! What are you doing?! This is my place!" "

Ranran, an assassin infiltrated the treasury and attacked Envoy Yun Ting. He may have fled here. I'm searching for him,"

Yu Wuji reassured her, while discreetly observing Kai's reaction.

Kai's face showed appropriate surprise and concern: "An assassin? Attacked the envoy? Lord, is the envoy injured?"

Envoy Yun Ting clutched his chest, where the wound, still throbbing from the corrupting power of chaos, was terribly grim.

His sharp gaze swept over Kai like a knife, then across the entire Xiu Pavilion.

This young man looked frail, and his aura was indeed only around the eighth rank of the Heavenly Immortal Realm, completely different from the ruthless and unpredictable assassin from before.

But... for some reason, he felt something was amiss.

The guards searched for a full half hour, turning the Xiu Pavilion inside and out, but naturally found nothing.

"My lord, no trace of the assassin has been found," the guard captain reported, forcing a smile.

"Useless!" Yu Wuji feigned rage, "Continue the search! Expand the search area! Seal off the entire inner palace, don't let a single fly out!"

Envoy Yun Ting raised his hand, stopping Yu Wuji's performance.

He looked coldly at Yu Wuji, his voice filled with suppressed anger: “Lord Yu, I was attacked in your heavily guarded treasury. The assassin moved freely within your residence, finally disappearing without a trace near your daughter’s residence… Shouldn’t you give me a reasonable explanation?”

The atmosphere instantly plummeted to freezing.

All the guards fell silent, even Yu Ranran felt the suffocating pressure.

Yu Wuji took a deep breath, a helpless expression on his face: “Envoy, please calm down. This matter… alas, it is shameful to say. In recent years, there have always been some… restless cultivators who harbor resentment towards the Divine Race and have often criticized my Jade Immortal Palace for its allegiance

to the Divine Race.” “They dare not confront us directly, so they often cause trouble in secret, either by spreading rumors, stealing resources, or even… like this time, they have dared to attack the envoy, intending to damage the relationship between my palace and the Divine Race and put my palace in an unjust position!”

He spoke earnestly, directing the blame towards the cultivators who resisted the Divine Race.

“When I was attacked, the assassin used strange and unheard-of power, definitely not that of an ordinary cultivator.”

Envoy Yun Ting stared at Yu Wuji, pressing him relentlessly. “Lord Yu, your treasury is heavily guarded. How did that assassin infiltrate? And how did he know my whereabouts so accurately, ambushing me in front of the Xuanbing Chamber?”

“This…”

Yu Wuji looked troubled. “The treasury’s restrictions are complex. That assassin might be an expert in formations. As for his whereabouts… the

envoy's arrival was quite grand; perhaps someone with ulterior motives secretly spied on him."

"It's all my fault for lax management and negligence, allowing the thief to take advantage! I have ordered a city-wide curfew, sealing off all passages, and I will definitely find the murderer and hand him over to the envoy for punishment!"

He was respectful, taking responsibility upon himself, while reiterating that he would do everything in his power to investigate.

Envoy Yun Ting's eyes flickered, clearly not entirely believing Yu Wuji's explanation.

The possibility of Jade Immortal Palace plotting something under his nose was far greater than any attempt by rebellious cultivators to infiltrate and assassinate him.

However, at this moment, he was alone deep within the core of Jade Immortal Palace. Although he had brought some guards, if he truly broke ties with Yu Wuji, he might not fare well.

Moreover, he was slightly injured, and the strange gray power made him quite wary.

After a moment's hesitation, the envoy Yun Ting coldly snorted, "Fine, I'll trust you this once. Lord Yu, I hope you can give the Divine Punishment Hall a satisfactory explanation as soon as possible."

"As for the Soul Crystal... since it hasn't been completed, I won't linger. The offering has been handed over, and I will return immediately to report. Lord Yu, take care!"

He gave Yu Wuji a deep look, then glanced at the seemingly innocent Kai and the disgruntled Yu Ranran beside him, before turning away with a flick of his sleeve. Leading his divine guards, he left Jade Immortal Palace with a gloomy face amidst Yu Wuji's "respectful farewell."

He needed to collect the offerings elsewhere as soon as possible, then immediately return to the Hall of Divine Punishment to report today's events, especially Yu Wuji's unusual behavior and the situation of the strange assassin, to the Venerable One.

Watching the envoy Yun Ting's carriage disappear into the horizon, the respect and sorrow on Yu Wuji's face slowly faded, replaced by a deep calm.

He dismissed his guards, leaving only a few trusted confidants to guard the outer perimeter of the Xiu Pavilion. "Ranran, go back to your room and rest. I have something to say to Mr. Chen,"

Yu Wuji said to his daughter, his tone leaving no room for argument.

Yu Ranran glanced at Kai worriedly, and seeing him nod slightly at her, she reluctantly returned to her room.

In the small hall outside the Xiuge Pavilion, only Yu Wuji and Kai remained.

The atmosphere was eerily quiet.

Yu Wuji slowly walked to the main seat and sat down, his gaze sharp as he scrutinized Kai.

After a long while, he finally spoke, "Mr. Chen, impressive skills." Kai's expression remained unchanged. He poured himself a cup of tea and took a small sip. "Why do you say that, Lord Yu? I've been studying formations here all this time and am unaware of what's happening outside."

"Heh."

Yu Wuji chuckled, but his smile lacked warmth. "The warehouse assassin, he attacked and retreated in an instant, his movements unpredictable, his strength peculiar. He could move freely within my

residence and finally disappeared near Ranran Pavilion... Mr. Chen, do you think such a coincidence is possible?"

Kai put down his teacup and looked up at Yu Wuji. "Does Lord Yu suspect me?"

"It's not doubt."

Yu Wuji leaned forward slightly, his gaze sharp as a knife. "It's certainty. Although you concealed it well, that gray, annihilating power—in the entire Jade Immortal Mansion, besides you, I can't think of anyone else."

Kai was silent for a moment, then suddenly smiled, but his smile carried a hint of coldness: "Since Lord Yu has already seen through it, why ask such a pointless question? And why deliberately relax the guards to create an opportunity for me?"

"Because I want to know who you really are and what you want."

Yu Wuji said, enunciating each word clearly. "Now that Envoy Yun Ting is gone, it's just you and me here. Can we be frank?"

Kai's smile faded, his eyes becoming deep and sharp. The aura of a powerful figure was no longer deliberately concealed; although it was still the fluctuation of an eighth-grade Celestial Immortal, it brought a subtle pressure to Yu Wuji.

"Since the Lord of the Palace inquires, then this junior will no longer conceal anything,"

Kai said slowly. "My name is Kai, and I do indeed come from the lower realm. I have come here to seek out two old acquaintances, seniors Mu Sha and Liu Qingyin."

Upon hearing these two names, Yu Wuji's pupils contracted slightly, and the fingers on the armrest tightened imperceptibly.

"It seems the Lord of the Palace knows them."

Kai stared at Yu Wuji. “This couple was publicly beheaded at Fallen Soul Slope for the crime of leaving the Heavenly Realm without permission and spying on forbidden matters, and their souls were refined into soul crystals. Was this matter ordered by the Lord of the Palace himself?”

Yu Wuji remained silent, not denying it.

After a long while, he let out a long breath, his eyes filled with complex emotions: “That’s right, it was I who gave the order. But the reasons are not as simple as they are publicly stated.”

“I would like to hear the details.”

Kai’s voice was calm, yet carried an undeniable firmness.

“Musa and Liu Qingyin…”

Yu Wuji seemed to be recalling something, “They weren’t just simple stowaways. They seemed to know something… about how the gods truly controlled the Thirteen Heavens, and their true purpose in collecting Soul Crystals.”

“They were secretly contacting some forces dissatisfied with the gods, trying to do something.”

“I don’t know the specific details, but they sneaked into the vicinity of the warehouse, seemingly trying to steal or verify something, and were discovered by the formation.”

“The gods quickly received the news and put pressure on me, ordering me to deal with them immediately, to execute them without fail, and to refine their souls into Soul Crystals using the Soul Refining Formation and hand them over.”

He looked at Kai, his tone tinged with helplessness: “Although I am the lord of a manor, I have little choice in front of the gods.”

“Disobeying the divine decree, Jade Immortal Mansion is in danger of destruction in an instant. As for Musa and Liu Qingyin, I... feel ashamed, but I had no choice.” Kai processed this information, his heart filled with a mixture of anger and grief, but reason kept him calm. “So, where is their Soul Crystal, numbered Jiaxu 73?”

“In the Xuanbing Chamber,”

Yu Wuji said frankly, “but I cannot give it to you.”

“Why?” Kai’s eyes turned cold.

“Because this is my, and also the lifeline of the Jade Immortal Palace,”

Yu Wuji said solemnly. “The Divine Race collects Soul Crystals periodically, with strict rules and purposes. If I secretly give you this Soul Crystal, how will I explain myself when the next envoy comes?”

“At that time, the Divine Race will surely be furious and investigate thoroughly. Once they discover that the loss of the Soul Crystal is related to me, no one in the entire Jade Immortal Palace will survive.”

“Young friend Chen, I understand your desire to save your old friend, but on my shoulders lies the survival of millions of lives in the entire Jade Immortal City,”

Kai said silently.

What Yu Wuji said was indeed the truth. Forcibly

taking the Soul Crystal would be tantamount to pushing the Jade Immortal Palace to its doom, and would also alert the Divine Race, making them even more vigilant.

“You killed Tu Gang, Tu Meng, and Fei Qing, right?” Yu Wuji suddenly asked.

Kai nodded: “Yes. They were merely executors, but their hands were stained with the blood of my old friends.”

Yu Wuji’s face showed no anger, but rather a hint of sarcasm: “Well done. Fei Qing, on the surface, was loyal to me, but in reality, he had long been secretly bribed by the Divine Race and was my biggest informant.”

“I was held back in many ways because he was watching me. The Tu brothers were his henchmen, and their deaths were not a pity. By eliminating them, you have saved me a lot of trouble.”

Kai looked at Yu Wuji with some surprise.

It seemed that this Lord of the Palace harbored a much deeper resentment and vigilance towards the Divine Race than it appeared on the surface.

“Lord of the Palace, Yu, today you allowed me to attack the envoy and have been so frank with me here. I’m afraid you didn’t just want to tell me these things, did you?”

Kai, with his keen insight, asked directly.

Yu Wuji gave Kai a deep look, leaned back, and his eyes flashed with a gambler’s shrewdness.

“Young friend Chen, you possess extraordinary skills, boundless potential, and exceptional courage, yet you clearly have a grudge against the Divine Race. Today, your ability to injure Yun Ting, though aided by a sneak attack, demonstrates that you indeed have the resources to contend with or even confront the Divine Race.”

“I, Yu Wuji, refuse to be the Divine Race’s dog for eternity, forced to be subservient and perform such heinous acts of extracting souls!”

“But I lack the power to resist. The four Venerables of the Divine Punishment Hall are like four insurmountable mountains.”

“Helping you today is also helping myself. I want to take a gamble, betting that you, Kai, or the power behind you, have the ability to shake the Divine Race!”

His voice was low but filled with determination: “I cannot give you the soul crystals of Mu Sha and his wife for now. But I can promise that, given the right opportunity, I will find a way to help you obtain them and explore whether it is possible to awaken or preserve their remnant souls.”

“At the same time, I can provide you with some intelligence about the Divine Race in the Eastern Region, cover your activities in Jade Immortal City and even Azure Nether Immortal Continent, and even… provide you with necessary support at crucial moments.”

“In exchange,”

Yu Wuji’s gaze was intense, “I want your promise that if you truly have the ability to fight against the gods, in the future… you must help my Jade Immortal Palace break free from control and gain true freedom!”

“And, you must not harm Ranran. Her love for you is genuine.” Kai listened quietly, his mind racing.

Cooperating with Yu Wuji was undoubtedly extremely risky; exposure would mean certain death for both of them.

But the benefits were also obvious: a powerful ally within the God Clan’s controlled territory, an ally who understood the God Clan’s workings, and a glimmer of hope to rescue Senior Mu Sha and his wife.

It was indeed a high-stakes gamble. But Kai had come for revenge and to uncover the truth, already disregarding life and death.

He stood up, walked to Yu Wuji, and extended his hand.

“Lord of the Palace, your frankness today is admirable. I will avenge Senior Mu Sha and investigate the secrets of the God Clan.”

“If given the opportunity, I am willing to join hands with you, Lord of the Palace, to fight for justice for the Jade Immortal Palace and for the oppressed beings of the Thirteen Heavens!”

Kai’s hand clasped tightly with Yu Wuji’s, a fragile alliance formed.

But the flames of revenge and investigation in Kai’s heart did not subside; instead, they burned even more fiercely.

Merely injuring Yun Ting was far from enough.

He needed to delve deeper and make more direct contact with the core of the God Clan!

“Lord Yu…”

Kai released his grip, his gaze intense. “Will Envoy Yun Ting return directly to the Divine Punishment Hall after leaving?”

Yu Wuji shook his head. “No. His trip is routine for collecting offerings and soul crystals from several forces in the Eastern Region. Yu Immortal Mansion is just one stop along the way.”

“According to custom, he will continue to the next location, which should be the Xuanbing Valley in the northern part of the Eastern Region. He will only return to the Divine Punishment Hall to report after all his missions are completed.”

“Xuanbing Valley… how long will it take to get there?” Kai pressed.

“It could take half a day at the fastest, or a day at the slowest. His jade carriage isn’t slow, but it carries a large amount of offerings and follows a fixed route and handover procedure, so it won’t be too fast.”

Yu Wuji seemed to have guessed Kai’s thoughts and frowned. “Young friend Chen, you wouldn’t happen to be…”

“That’s right.”

A cold glint flashed in Kai's eyes. "I want to keep this Yun Ting envoy here permanently. Then, I'll use his identity for my own purposes."

"Absolutely not!"

Yu Wuji blurted out, his expression grave. "Yun Ting is a sixth-grade Upper Immortal, and an elite member of the Divine Race. He's not someone to be trifled with."

"He also has dozens of Divine Race guards with him, none of them ordinary. Although you can injure him, the odds of winning a direct confrontation are uncertain."

"Moreover, if a Divine Race envoy dies abroad, the Divine Punishment Hall will be furious and will send even stronger individuals to investigate. The risk is too great!"

Kai, however, seemed confident: "Lord, there's no need to worry. I'm confident in a direct confrontation."

"As for the risks… since I've decided to be an enemy of the Divine Race, I've already disregarded life and death."

"If I can infiltrate the Divine Race's stronghold as Yun Ting, gather intelligence, and even uncover the secrets of the Soul Crystal, this risk is worth taking."

He paused, looking at Yu Wuji. "Besides, this is the first step in our cooperation, isn't it? If I can't even handle an injured Yun Ting, how can I talk about shaking the Divine Race?"

Yu Wuji looked at Kai's calm yet incredibly confident eyes, and his heart trembled.

This young man was not only incredibly audacious, but also seemed to possess some kind of hidden trump card.

Perhaps… he really could do it?

After pondering for a long time, a decisive glint flashed in Yu Wuji's eyes. Since the bet had already been placed, why not go even higher!"Alright!"

Yu Wuji said in a deep voice, "After Yun Ting leaves my Jade Immortal City, his route to the Profound Ice Valley will inevitably pass through Black Wind Gorge."

"The terrain there is treacherous, the spiritual energy is chaotic, and there are often spatial turbulences, making it an excellent location for an ambush. I can give you a detailed route map."

"However..."

he solemnly instructed, "You must kill him in one strike, leaving no survivors or traces!"

"Moreover, Yun Ting must possess a secret treasure or restriction that allows him to urgently contact the Divine Punishment Hall. We must be extremely careful, and it would be best to instantly imprison his soul to prevent him from transmitting messages or self-destructing!"

"I understand."

Kai nodded.

Soul searching was originally his plan.

He not only wanted to kill him but also to obtain his memories.

The two discussed in secret for a while and finalized the details.

Yu Wuji gave Kai a clearly marked route map and information about the various ways Yun Ting might possess to protect himself and communicate.

Kai then entered the Demon Suppression Tower, using the time inside to further adjust his state, digest what he had gained from his dual cultivation with Yu Ranran, and push his combat power to its peak.

While only half a day had passed outside, dozens of days had gone by inside the tower.

Kai quietly left the Xiuge Pavilion, still avoiding the lax guards, and like a ghost in the night, he left the Jade Immortal Mansion, speeding towards the Black Wind Gorge indicated by Yu Wuji.

He didn't use any overly conspicuous movement techniques or magical treasures, only simulating ordinary escape light with the power of chaos, yet his speed was incredibly fast.

Black Wind Gorge is located between two towering mountain ranges that are perpetually shrouded in black gales.

The gorge is deep and rugged, with strange black whirlwinds howling year-round. These whirlwinds can not only disrupt divine sense but also interfere with spatial stability and communication fluctuations to a certain extent, making it a natural treasure trove for murder, robbery, ambush, and assassination.

Kai arrived ahead of time, carefully surveyed the terrain, and chose a section of the gorge where the cliffs on both sides were steep and the black whirlwinds were most violent and chaotic.

He didn't set up a complex formation, but instead quietly merged his own chaotic power with the surrounding disordered spiritual energy and raging black whirlwind, as if he had become part of the canyon environment, his aura completely disappearing.

He lay in wait like the most patient hunter.

About two hours later, the familiar cry of a phoenix and the sound of a chariot cutting through the air came from the horizon.

A magnificent chariot pulled by a three-headed jade phoenix, surrounded by dozens of silver-armored guards, was flying towards Black Wind Gorge along the predetermined route.

Inside the chariot, Envoy Yun Ting's face was still gloomy. Although he had temporarily suppressed the injury to his chest caused by the chaotic power with a divine secret technique, it still ached faintly, making him extremely depressed.

The details of the attack on Jade Immortal Mansion kept replaying in his mind, as well as Yu Wuji's seemingly respectful but secretly cunning behavior, and doubts arose one after another.

"Speed up and pass through the canyon ahead,"

Yun Ting ordered in a deep voice. The environment of Black Wind Gorge was harsh, and he instinctively didn't want to stay any longer.

The chariot accelerated and plunged into the canyon.

Just as the chariot reached the narrowest point of the canyon, where the black whirlwind was at its most violent, another unexpected event occurred! From the seemingly empty pile of rocks below, a figure suddenly soared into the sky without warning!

There was no elaborate spellcasting, no massive energy fluctuations, only a condensed, almost ethereal gray finger strike, seemingly capable of devouring all light, silent yet lightning-fast, aimed directly at the core of the carriage!

The target was none other than the Cloud Serpent Envoy seated within!

This single strike contained all of Kai's current essence, energy, and spirit, as well as the purest annihilation properties of chaotic power!

Its power was several times greater than the sneak attack in the warehouse!

"Enemy attack!"

The Cloud Serpent Envoy's hair stood on end, his sense of crisis instantly overwhelming him!

He roared, unleashing his divine power without reservation. Layers of defensive divine light instantly illuminated the carriage, and he retreated rapidly, attempting to break through the carriage to escape!

However, he was still a fraction too slow!

That hazy, gray finger force seemed to ignore spatial distance, forcefully corroding a path through layers of divine light defense, and precisely striking the envoy Yun Ting's brow!

*Poof!

* A soft sound.

The envoy Yun Ting's retreating figure abruptly froze!

His eyes widened, his face filled with disbelief, horror, and despair.

A tiny gray dot rapidly spread from his brow, and wherever it passed, flesh, bones, and even the soul hidden within, silently turned to ashes like a weathered sand sculpture!

He didn't even have a chance to crush the emergency communication jade talisman in his robes!

One move, instantly killing a sixth-grade Celestial Realm divine race envoy!

"Envoy!"

The surrounding silver-armored guards were utterly horrified, but their reaction was swift. They instantly formed a battle formation, unleashing a torrent of divine light, magical treasures, and spells upon the figure that had appeared!

Kai ignored the attacks, his figure blurring as he appeared beside the slowly falling corpse of Envoy Yun Ting, his hand resting on its head.

Soul Search!

A massive amount of memory fragments, carrying the cultivation methods of the Divine Race, intelligence on various forces in the Eastern Region, some information about the Divine Punishment Hall, and some vague understanding of the collection and use of Soul Crystals, flooded into Kai's sea of consciousness like a tidal wave.

He quickly filtered and extracted the key information, while simultaneously using the power of chaos to protect his own soul from any potential backlash from the Divine Race's soul restrictions.

At the same time, the chaotic power around him spread out like an invisible domain. The divine light and magical treasures that bombarded him vanished the moment they entered the domain's range, quickly dimming and dissipating, unable to get close at all!

"Monster…monster!"

The silver-armored guards were terrified.

Their attacks were completely ineffective against the enemy?!

Kai had now completed the initial soul search of Yun Ting's memories, a look of understanding and coldness flashing in his eyes.

He raised his head, looking at the terrified Divine Race guards.

To cut the weeds, one must pull them out by the roots.

He moved again, transforming into a gray streak of light, weaving through the battle formation of the silver-armored guards.

Wherever he passed, chaotic energy surged, and whether it was sturdy silver armor, fierce attacks, or vibrant life, all were quickly annihilated and dissipated under that gray light. There were no screams, no fierce resistance, only a silent and efficient massacre.

In just a dozen breaths, the canyon returned to calm.

Kai hovered in mid-air, holding several storage rings and key tokens from the Yun Ting envoy.

He closed his eyes, light and shadow swirling around him, his bones crackling slightly, his face, figure, and aura rapidly changing.

A few breaths later, another Yun Ting envoy appeared.

A moon-white star-patterned robe, an arrogant and sinister face, the fluctuations of a sixth-grade Upper Immortal, even the haughtiness of a god and a trace of lingering melancholy from injury in his eyes were perfectly imitated.

Kai stretched his neck, sensing this new identity.

From Yun Ting's memories, he learned the complete route of this inspection tour, the handover between various forces, some of the rules of the Divine Punishment Hall, and even... some chilling speculations about the ultimate use of Soul Crystals.

His original plan was to impersonate Yun Ting and go directly to the Divine Punishment Hall to investigate.

But the information obtained from the soul search made him change his mind.

The Divine Punishment Hall was heavily guarded, with four Venerables stationed there year-round. His rash departure at this moment would be extremely risky; a slight misstep could expose him.

Moreover, Yun Ting's memories showed that the Divine Race had special methods for verifying the identity of envoys, not simply relying on appearance and tokens, but also requiring verification of a unique divine imprint.

Although Kai could imitate auras, he couldn't completely replicate this imprint, which involved the core of the Divine Race, and a forced attempt would easily expose him.

"Since I can't go to the Divine Punishment Hall for the time being..."

Kai's lips curled into a cold smile, "then I'll make good use of this identity and do something else."

His gaze fell on the list of forces Yun Ting was about to visit in his memories.

Xuanbing Valley, Lieyang Sect, Qingmu Sect... these were all powerful sects in the Qingming Immortal Continent of the Eastern Region, requiring them to pay huge tributes to the Divine Race every year.

"Including massive amounts of Yuan Crystals, rare medicinal herbs, rare mineral deposits, and... those chilling Soul Crystals. "

"Cultivation resources are always better in abundance,"

Kai muttered to himself, his eyes gleaming.

Having just arrived in the Thirteenth Heaven, although his opportunities were good, resources were paramount for rapidly increasing his strength to prepare for potential future battles.

The Jade Immortal Palace's resources were limited, and using too much would easily arouse suspicion.

Now, with the divine envoy as a front, he could openly...collect some.

This wasn't just about amassing wealth; it was also a further test of the various forces' attitudes towards the divine race. Perhaps he could even discover those like Yu Wuji who outwardly obeyed but inwardly resentful, and maybe even find clues about more secrets of the divine race. With

the plan set, Kai didn't delay any longer.

The magnificent jade phoenix chariot, with its three jade phoenixes, remained as majestic as ever.

At the same time, he transformed the corpses of the dozens of silver-armored guards into puppets, each one expressionless, awaiting Kai's commands!

Kai boarded the chariot and, mimicking Yun Ting's usual demeanor, leaned lazily against the soft couch. He commanded the void, "Depart, to Xuanbing Valley."

The chariot turned and, surrounded by dozens of silver-armored guards, flew off towards Xuanbing Valley with great pomp.

Thus began a special journey ostensibly undertaken by envoys of the divine race, but in reality, to plunder and investigate.

Chapter 6026

The carriage sped along, piercing through clouds and mist.

Kai sat upright inside, eyes closed in repose, but in reality, he was rapidly digesting and consolidating the information extracted from Yun Ting's memories, adjusting his aura and demeanor to ensure a flawless performance.

The journey from Jade Immortal Mansion to Xuanbing Valley wasn't far.

In just over half a day, the chill ahead intensified, and the outline of a vast valley covered in snow and millennia-old ice appeared on the horizon. At

the valley's entrance, a large contingent was already standing respectfully waiting.

Led by Xuanbing Valley Master Hanming, several elders and core disciples, dressed in their finest attire, eagerly awaited their arrival in the biting wind.

When they saw the familiar jade carriage and silver-armored guards on the horizon, everyone's spirits lifted, and their faces immediately beamed with the most respectful and eager smiles.

The carriage slowly descended, and Master Hanming immediately led everyone forward, bowing deeply. His voice was loud and respectful: "The entire Xuanbing Valley warmly welcomes Envoy Yunting! You must be tired from your journey!"

Kai imitated Yunting's arrogant and indifferent demeanor, nodding slightly, not even bothering to look at Master Hanming.

He merely gave a soft "hmm" and, led by Master Hanming, walked towards the most magnificent main hall in the valley, carved from a single block of Xuanbing ice.

Along the way, all the Xuanbing Valley disciples stood with their heads bowed, not daring to even breathe, their eyes filled with awe for the divine envoy and a hint of barely concealed fear.

Upon entering the main hall, the temperature dropped sharply, yet the atmosphere became even more solemn and luxurious.

The finest ice marrow jade table had already been prepared inside, upon which were placed crystal-clear spiritual fruits and fragrant ice-attribute immortal wine.

"Envoy, please take a seat!"

Venerable Hanming personally pulled out the main seat, an ice chair, for Kai, his attitude extremely humble.

Kai sat down without any ceremony, his gaze sweeping over the slightly tense crowd in the hall. He cut to the chase, his tone carrying the

unquestionable authority unique to the divine race: “Valley Master Hanming, my time is limited. Are the offerings and soul crystals ready?”

“Ready! Ready long ago!”

Venerable Hanming hurriedly replied, waving his hand to indicate. Immediately, disciples brought in several jade boxes exuding icy aura and a specially made cold jade box engraved with sealing runes.

The jade boxes were opened, revealing neatly arranged, high-quality ice-attribute elemental crystals, as well as many rare spiritual herbs and minerals that grew in extremely cold places, their spiritual energy overwhelming.

In the cold jade box lay a soul crystal, numbered Yi Hai 18, emitting a faint blue light, its interior seemingly containing icy, flocculent fluids.

Kai scanned the area with his divine sense, confirming the quantity and quality were correct. He was particularly struck by the Soul Crystal; the icy soul power and resentment it contained chilled him slightly, though he showed no sign of it on his face.

He lightly tapped the ice table with his fingers and said calmly, “Counted correctly. Offering, I will take the Soul Crystal with me.”

His tone was flat, yet carried an invisible pressure.

“Yes, yes, yes!”

Master Hanming, as if granted a pardon, quickly ordered his men to put away the jade box and personally presented the sealed Frost Jade Box to Kai.

Kai casually put it away, not giving it much of a look. This was merely a formality.

However, the main event was just beginning.

Seeing that the envoy had accepted the item and his expression seemed acceptable, Master Hanming immediately gave a signal.

An elder understood and presented a more exquisite and smaller Frost Jade Box. Bowing, he said, “The envoy has traveled a long way and must be very tired. This is a Mind-Clearing and Spirit-Concentrating Pill, refined from the Ten-Thousand-Year Ice Heart Lotus, a specialty of my Xuanbing Valley. It is highly beneficial for cultivation. I offer it to the envoy as a token of my gratitude, and hope the envoy will accept it.”

Kai raised an eyebrow, took the ice jade box, and opened it. A refreshing chill and medicinal fragrance wafted out. Inside were three pills, each the size of a longan, ice-blue in color, with clear pill patterns.

They were indeed good items, with miraculous effects on stabilizing the mind and aiding in the cultivation of ice-attribute techniques.

In the outside world, they would be highly sought after.

“Valley Master Hanming is very kind.”

Kai finally managed a very faint smile as he put away the ice jade box.

This was a private tribute.

Seeing that the envoy had accepted the gift, Hanming Shangren felt relieved, his smile widening. He pressed his advantage, saying, “The envoy must be weary from his journey. Why not rest in the valley for a couple of days?”

“I have already ordered the most secluded Ice Soul Cave to be prepared, and selected several female disciples skilled in ice dance, knowledgeable in music, and whose primordial yin is intact, to attend to the envoy’s needs and relieve his fatigue…”

he said, clapping his hands lightly.

The beaded curtain beside the hall fluttered, and four beautiful young women, dressed in light, flowing ice silk, with exquisitely beautiful features and a cold yet alluring demeanor, gracefully entered. They bowed gracefully to Kai, their voices soft and sweet: “Greetings, Your Excellency the Envoy.”

These young women were all at the fourth rank of the Upper Immortal level, clearly carefully cultivated by Xuanbing Valley to curry favor with important figures.

If it were the real Yun Ting, he might gladly accept their gifts.

Kai sneered inwardly, but his face betrayed a hint of impatience: “I have important matters to attend to; how can I indulge in pleasure? The cave dwelling is ready; all irrelevant personnel, please leave.”

Kai was afraid that being with these female cultivators would expose his identity.

Hanming Shangren’s heart tightened, and he quickly waved for the girls to leave, inwardly cursing himself for perhaps flattering the wrong person; the envoy seemed to be in a bad mood today.

He quickly tried to salvage the situation: “Yes, yes, yes, the envoy’s diligence in his duties is admirable. The cave dwelling is ready; it will be absolutely quiet, and no one will disturb the envoy’s cultivation!”

He wanted absolute quiet and undisturbed peace!

Kai’s expression softened slightly, and he nodded: “Lead the way.”

Deep within the Xuanbing Valley, a cave dwelling located at the core of a giant ice marrow mine, where the spiritual energy was so dense it manifested as tangible ice mist, and which was protected by multiple layers of isolation arrays, was respectfully offered to Kai.

Kai entered the cave dwelling, carefully scanning it with his divine sense. After confirming there were no surveillance or spying arrangements, he

immediately activated the cave dwelling's own and his own added concealment and protection arrays.

Then, with a thought, the ancient Demon-Suppressing Tower appeared in his palm, quickly enlarging to a suitable size.

The tower door opened, and Kai slipped inside.

Inside the Demon-Suppressing Tower,

Kai carefully sealed the Soul-Refining Crystal, numbered Yi Hai 18, in a specially made jade box and affixed a talisman.

He couldn't save the soul inside now, but he had to at least keep it safe for now.

Then, he took out the Mind-Clearing and Spirit-Concentrating Pill that Hanming Shangren had offered as a token of his respect, as well as some cultivation resources that originally belonged to the Divine Punishment Hall and had been plundered from Yun Ting.

Chapter 6027

"Let's begin."

Kai sat cross-legged and began circulating the *Chaos Dao Scripture*.

The dense chaotic energy resonated with his own power. The three Mind-Clearing and Spirit-Concentrating Pills he had consumed dissolved in the medicinal power. They

not only nourished his soul but also subtly harmonized with the chaotic power, making its circulation smoother and more seamless.

His rudimentary understanding of the divine race's cultivation system, gained from Yun Ting's memories, now became nourishment.

He analyzed and absorbed it using the Dao of Chaos, taking its essence and discarding its dross, further refining his understanding of higher-level power.

Time quietly passed within the tower.

Two hours outside, but several days had passed inside.

The medicinal power of the three precious pills had been completely absorbed and refined. Kai's aura became more solid and profound, and his control over the chaotic power improved slightly.

He hadn't broken through to a higher realm, but his foundation had become increasingly solid, and his application of power was more refined.

"Time to go to the next stop."

Kai opened his eyes, his sharp gaze concealed.

He left the Demon-Suppressing Tower, put away the pagoda, dispelled the formation, and walked out of the cave.

Outside the cave, Venerable Hanming was already respectfully waiting. Seeing Kai emerge, he immediately stepped forward to greet him: "Envoy, are you well? If you need anything, please don't hesitate to ask."

Kai simply nodded: "I'm alright. This envoy is heading to the Blazing Sun Sect. You all should take care of yourselves."

"Respectfully seeing off the envoy!"

The entire Xuanbing Valley once again poured out to respectfully see the jade carriage ascend into the sky and disappear into the distance. Only when it was out of sight did many people breathe a sigh of relief and wipe away non-existent cold sweat from their foreheads

. The next stop was the Blazing Sun Sect.

Completely different from the icy cold of Xuanbing Valley, the Blazing Sun Sect was situated atop several active fire veins, with scorching lava lakes and crimson rocks everywhere.

The Blazing Sun Sect Master, Chi Yan, was a burly man with a red face and a seemingly fiery temper, but before the divine envoy, he was as docile as a lamb.

The same grand welcome, the same respectful awe.

The offerings were counted, and the soul crystal, numbered Yi Hai 22, containing scorching soul power, was collected.

Then came the personal tributes.

True Immortal Crimson Flame offered three Earth Fire Blood Corals growing deep within magma, and a pot of Fiery Immortal Wine brewed from ten-thousand-year-old Fire Dates—both top-tier treasures for tempering the body and nourishing fire-attribute immortal power.

“I heard the envoy seemed to have suffered some disturbance at the Jade Immortal Mansion the other day?”

True Immortal Crimson Flame, well-informed, asked cautiously, presenting the gifts at the same time. “These small items may help the envoy calm his mind and consolidate his cultivation.”

Kai snorted coldly, tacitly acknowledging the attack. He accepted the gifts, but his expression darkened further, fully displaying the demeanor of an envoy who had suffered a loss and was in a bad mood.

Seeing this, True Immortal Crimson Flame dared not say more, quickly assuring him, “Rest assured, envoy, my Blazing Sun Sect is absolutely loyal, and our offerings have never been lacking!”

“We have also prepared the most secure secret chamber for you, where no outsiders can disturb you!”

As for offering beautiful women?

Seeing the envoy's expression, True Immortal Chiyan wisely refrained from mentioning it, only hinting that arrangements could be made at any time if the person was interested.

What Kai wanted was the secret chamber. After entering the secret chamber provided by the Blazing Sun Sect, located deep within a volcano and surrounded by scorching lava yet remarkably stable, he set up an array and entered the Demon-Suppressing Tower.

He refined the Earth Fire Blood Coral with chaotic power; the pure fire-attribute energy within did not clash with his physique. Instead, it was transformed by the chaotic power into the most primal vitality and strength, nourishing his meridians and acupoints.

The pot of Blazing Fire Immortal Wine he drank felt like swallowing a warm current, spreading throughout his body and further tempering his physique.

Another considerable period of cultivation ensued within the tower.

Kai's physical strength subtly increased.

When leaving the Blazing Sun Sect, True Person Crimson Flame, along with the entire sect, practically knelt to see the envoy off, praying that this seemingly displeased ancestor wouldn't cause any trouble on their territory.

The next stop was the Azure Wood Sect.

The Azure Wood Sect was situated within a vast ancient forest, its buildings largely coexisting with giant trees, brimming with life.

The sect leader, Fairy Qingye, was a still-charming middle-aged beauty, gentle in demeanor yet possessing an extremely delicate mind.

After the routine business, Fairy Qingye presented him with a personal gift: a small bottle of Ten-Thousand-Year-Old Green Wood Spirit Essence and several Life-Creating Pills, all priceless treasures for healing, prolonging life, and strengthening one's foundation.

"The envoy seems to be in better spirits than before, and his cultivation has improved even more; truly a cause for celebration,"

Fairy Qingye said with a charming smile, her words perfectly timed. "This is a small token of our Green Wood Sect's appreciation; we earnestly hope the envoy will accept it. We have prepared a 'Yi Wood Spirit Cave' for you within the sect, a most tranquil and peaceful place, which will help you regulate your qi."

She had also heard about the Jade Immortal Mansion but remained silent, only offering the best resting environment.

Kai accepted it all. In the tranquil spirit cave provided by the Green Wood Sect, located within the heart of an ancient spirit tree, he once again entered the Demon-Suppressing Tower.

The Ten-Thousand-Year-Old Green Wood Spiritual Marrow contained boundless life essence, and the Vitality Creation Pill was a precious medicine for nourishing the soul and body.

Using these, Kai completely eliminated the potential instability in his foundation caused by his rapid cultivation and continuous absorption of resources of different attributes. His soul became increasingly crystalline and translucent, his body vibrant with life, achieving a more beautiful balance with the chaotic power filled with destructive energy.

When he left the Green Wood Sect, his cultivation had firmly established itself at the ninth rank of the Heavenly Immortal Realm, only a hair's breadth away from the Upper Immortal Realm.

His aura was perfectly smooth and unimpeded, without any sense of emptiness caused by his rapid advancement.

Fairy Qingye sensed the increasingly unfathomable and innate aura emanating from Kai, and her awe deepened. She humbly bid him farewell.

Thus, Kai, disguised as Yun Ting, traveled like an emperor on a royal tour.

Wherever he went, all forces trembled with fear, doing everything in their power to flatter and fawn.

Precious cultivation resources, rare natural treasures, and even stunning female cultivators as cultivation partners... all sorts of tributes were continuously delivered to him.

He, in turn, used the privileges granted by his envoy status to request an absolutely secluded and safe retreat in each faction, then entered the Demon Suppression Tower to efficiently convert the acquired resources into his own strength.

The time difference within the Demon Suppression Tower gave him seemingly unlimited cultivation time.

The accumulation of massive resources, coupled with the all-encompassing nature of the Chaos Dao, allowed his cultivation to steadily and solidly improve at an unimaginable speed.

In this way, Kai's strength actually reached the peak of the ninth rank of the Heavenly Immortal Realm!

With continued effort, he would soon reach the Upper Immortal Realm!

"This strength is good enough; it's time to meet those four Venerables of the Divine Punishment Hall!"

Kai felt the surging power within his body, his heart filled with boundless confidence!

Chapter 6028 - 6030

Kai drove the Jade Phoenix Chariot towards the Hall of Divine Punishment!

He dismantled the chariot thousands of miles away.

Dozens of silver-armored puppet guards were also easily annihilated by him. While these puppets could provide a show of force, in a heavily guarded place like the Hall of Divine Punishment, they would easily be exposed.

Kai then rode his escape light alone, flying towards the magnificent complex of buildings shrouded in pale golden divine light.

The closer he got, the stronger the oppressive aura emanating from the divine race's majesty became.

The entire complex of the Hall of Divine Punishment resembled a lurking behemoth, exuding an aura that sent shivers down one's spine. The

towering palaces were arranged according to some mysterious pattern, vaguely forming a peerless array covering a radius of thousands of miles, resonating with the laws of heaven and earth.

Kai felt a chill in his heart, but his face maintained the arrogance unique to the Envoy of Cloud Thunder, along with a trace of gloom left from his injuries sustained in the attack.

He carefully concealed the fluctuations of chaotic power, perfectly mimicking Yun Ting's divine power characteristics. This was a precious technique he had gained from soul searching; although it couldn't completely replicate the divine imprint, it was enough to deceive most inspections.

Upon arriving at the majestic palace gate, two divine generals clad in golden armor, their auras reaching the peak of the third rank of the Upper Immortal Realm, stood solemnly like two gatekeepers.

Their gazes were like lightning, scanning every approaching individual, their eyes carrying the unique arrogance and indifference of the divine race.

Seeing Kai fly over, the cold-faced divine general on the left stepped forward and routinely shouted, “Halt! State your identities!”

Kai stopped his escape, his face immediately plastered with Yun Ting’s usual obsequious smile, and he bowed slightly: “Both divine generals have worked hard. I am Yun Ting, the envoy on patrol. I have completed this round of collection missions in the Eastern Region and have come to report to Your Excellency.”

As he spoke, he revealed the token representing his identity as an envoy and several tokens.

The divine general took the token, infused it with divine power to verify it, and then carefully examined Kai’s face and aura.

After a moment, he nodded and handed the token back: “Identity confirmed. Go in; Venerable Xuanbing should be in the side hall right now.”

Kai felt a slight relief and was about to step forward.

“Wait.”

The divine general on the right, who had been silent all along but whose eyes were now even sharper, suddenly spoke.

He stared at Kai, his gaze like a blade: “Envoy Yunting, why didn’t you send back the record jade slip of your collection trip beforehand via the communication array? According to the rules, an envoy must immediately send back a backup record after completing each collection.”

Kai's heart skipped a beat. Yunting's memories did indeed contain this detail, but it wasn't absolutely strict; sometimes delays could occur due to various reasons.

He immediately feigned a perfectly timed expression of shame and lingering fear: "Reporting to the Divine General, this trip... encountered some unexpected events. We were attacked by unknown assassins at the Jade Immortal Mansion, and the communication jade slip was damaged in the battle."

"The subsequent collection efforts were also rushed due to the assassins' harassment, and we didn't have time to repair the communication in time. This matter... I need to report to the Venerable One in detail."

"Attacked?"

The two Divine Generals exchanged a glance, their eyes now scrutinizing him.

The Divine General on the left said coldly, "In that case, open your storage bag. I need to check the quantity of offerings and soul crystals. Only after verification can you enter and report back."

This was an extra harassment.

According to normal procedures, the envoy only needs to report to his direct Venerable One for handover; the gatekeeper Divine General has no right to check the specific supplies.

Kai's smile froze, then turned into a suppressed anger.

This was precisely Yun Ting's typical reaction when he was being harassed.

He straightened his back, his tone somewhat forceful: "Two divine generals, according to the palace rules, envoys only need to hand over and inspect the supplies they receive to their direct superior. Have you

two overstepped your authority in this matter? Do you suspect that I am embezzling funds?”

He deliberately raised his voice a few decibels, attracting the attention of several patrolling divine guards nearby. The right-hand general’s face darkened: “Yun Ting! Mind your place! It’s my duty to inspect; what’s wrong with that? You’re making excuses; do you perhaps have some shady business to hide?”

The atmosphere instantly became tense.

Kai sneered inwardly, but outwardly displayed resentment at being humiliated.

He took a step forward, staring at the general, and said, word by word, “I was attacked on this mission and risked my life to complete it, rushing back with injuries.”

“You show no compassion for your comrade’s hardships, and yet you’re making things difficult for me for no reason! Do you think I’m made of clay?”

“You!” The right-hand general roared in anger, golden light surging from his body.

Just then, Kai moved!

Fast!

Extremely fast!

The two generals only saw a blur before Kai’s figure was already close like a ghost.

Without using any divine power or magic, he simply raised his hands.

*Slap!

Slap!

* Two crisp, loud slaps landed squarely on the faces of the two generals!

The force was perfectly controlled, neither triggering their protective divine light's automatic counterattack, yet striking with tremendous force, causing both men's heads to tilt to the side, their cheeks visibly swelling and turning red!

This not only stunned the two divine generals, but also left the nearby patrolling guards dumbfounded, staring in disbelief at the scene.

The envoy... slapped the gatekeeper divine generals?

At the entrance of the Divine Punishment Hall?

This was utterly outrageous!

"You... you dare hit us?!"

The divine general on the left, clutching his face, blazed with furious rage, his terrifying aura of a peak third-grade Upper Immortal erupting as he prepared to attack.

"So what if I hit you?!"

Kai advanced instead, unleashing his terrifying pressure without reservation, his cultivation level firmly surpassing that of the two divine generals.

His eyes were icy cold as he swept over the two men, his voice like a biting winter wind:

"I am a direct envoy of Venerable Xuanbing, carrying out a mission personally assigned by the Venerable!"

"You are nothing but gatekeepers, daring to point fingers at me? These two slaps today are to teach you a lesson about your place!"

“If you dare to obstruct me again, delaying my important mission to report to the Venerable… can you bear the consequences?!”

Every word he uttered implied the Venerable and the mission, hurling

heavy accusations at them. The two generals trembled with rage, but looking into Kai’s cold and murderous eyes,

feeling the suppression of his cultivation level, and considering the unimaginable consequences of delaying the envoy’s report to the Venerable… their anger was forcibly suppressed. The divine race was strictly hierarchical, with a clear distinction between the noble and the lowly.

Although Yun Ting was merely an envoy, as a confidant of Venerable Xuanbing, his status was indeed higher than that of the gatekeeper generals.

Normally, everyone was polite and courteous, but if things really came to a head, they might not fare well.

Moreover… why was Yun Ting so forceful today?

Was it truly because he was in a terrible mood after the attack?

Or had his mission encountered a serious problem, and he was in a hurry to report to the Venerable?

Various thoughts flashed through the minds of the two generals.

Finally, the general on the right gritted his teeth and took a step back, squeezing out a sentence through clenched teeth: “Fine… Envoy Yun Ting, please come in! I will remember what happened today!”

Kai snorted coldly, not even glancing at them, and turned away, striding into the deep and grand doorway of the Divine Punishment Hall.

Only after his figure disappeared into the shadows within the doorway did the two generals dare to fully unleash their anger.

“Damn it! That damned Yun Ting! Just because he’s favored by Venerable Xuanbing, he dares to be so arrogant!”

The left general roared, the burning pain and humiliation on his face driving him almost mad.

“This isn’t over!”

The right general’s eyes were venomous. “There’s definitely something wrong with his trip! Once Venerable Xuanbing deals with him, let’s see how arrogant he is then!”

“Go, go report to the enforcement team under Venerable Gengjin, say that Yun Ting’s behavior is abnormal, and request an investigation!”

The two left angrily, unaware that the Yun Ting they spoke of had already been replaced by another person.

…

Entering the Divine Punishment Hall, Kai felt little emotion.

Those two slaps were not only an establishment of authority but also a test, a test of the rules and bottom line within the Divine Race, and the deterrent power of his identity as Yun Ting.

The result satisfied him.

Within the Divine Race, the law of respecting the strong and a strict hierarchy also prevailed.

As long as he held onto the tiger skin of a Venerable’s confidant, many unnecessary troubles could be avoided.

Following his memory, he quickly traversed the magnificent and solemn hall corridors.

The members of the Divine Race who came and went all hurried along, their expressions indifferent. Occasionally, someone who recognized Yun Ting would merely nod slightly and brush past him, no one approaching to speak. This was exactly what Kai wanted.

After many twists and turns, passing through several palaces and array restrictions, he finally arrived at the Cold Desolation Palace, located in the northern part of the Divine Punishment Palace.

The palace doors were tightly closed, emanating a chilling aura.

There were still no guards at the entrance, but the faint yet soul-chilling cold pressure within the palace was clearer than the last time he had been there. Venerable Xuanbing was inside.

Kai straightened his clothes and expression, adjusting the slight discomfort from his injuries to its best state. He took a deep breath and gently knocked on the palace door.

“Come in.”

A cold, flat, and emotionless voice came from within the palace; it was Venerable Xuanbing.

Kai pushed open the door and entered.

The scene inside the palace was exactly the same as before.

The light was dim, the temperature was extremely low, and the walls and floor seemed to be made of millennia-old black ice. Deep within the main hall, Venerable Xuanbing stood with his back to the entrance, hands clasped behind his back, gazing up at the intricate star map etched on the wall.

He wore a black robe trimmed with blue, his hair as white as ice crystals; even his silhouette exuded a suffocating chill and oppressive aura.

Kai strode forward, stopping ten feet away from the Venerable, kneeling on one knee, head bowed, his voice filled with respect and a hint of fear: “Your subordinate, the patrol envoy Yun Ting, pays respects to Venerable Xuanbing! I have completed this round of missions in the Eastern Region and have come to report!”

Venerable Xuanbing slowly turned .

His face remained as cold as an ice sculpture, his gaze sweeping over Kai like a tangible icicle.

“Rise,”

he said calmly. “Mission jade slip, offerings, soul crystals.”

“Yes!” Kai rose, taking out a pre-prepared mission jade slip and a storage bag… noticeably smaller than expected.

He held the jade slip and storage bag in both hands, taking a few steps forward and respectfully placing them on the ice table beside Venerable Xuanbing.

He then quickly retreated, standing with his hands at his sides, a tense expression involuntarily appearing on his face.

Venerable Xuanbing first picked up the mission jade slip, scanned it with his divine sense to confirm the route was correct.

Then, he picked up the storage bag and probed it with his divine sense.

Instantly, the temperature inside the hall plummeted!

An extremely terrifying, icy rage erupted from Venerable Xuanbing like a storm!

“Yun Ting!”

Venerable Xuanbing’s voice was no longer calm, but filled with piercing coldness and rage. “Why are there less than 30% of the regular offering crystals in the storage bag?”

“Rare materials are even scarcer! And Soul Crystals… why are there only four? According to the list, seven Soul Crystals should have been collected this time! Where are the other three? What about the Jiaxu 73 Soul Crystal from Jade Immortal Mansion?”

Faced with the Venerable’s violent pressure and questioning, Kai seemed to tremble with fear, and knelt down again with a thud, his voice filled with sobs and urgency: “Venerable, please calm down! Please calm down! This matter… this matter does have a reason! Allow me to report!”

“Speak!”

Venerable Xuanbing’s gaze was like an icy blade, fixed on Kai.

Kai quickly delivered his prepared explanation, speaking with great emotion, pushing all the blame onto the mysterious powerful enemy, creating the image of a loyal but unlucky messenger who was the target of the thieves.

However, after listening, the coldness in Xuanbing Venerable’s eyes not only didn’t dissipate, but intensified, filled with deep suspicion and mockery.

“Oh? A mysterious and powerful enemy? Repeatedly harassed? And even managed to steal the Soul Crystal from you?”

Xuanbing Venerable slowly descended the ice steps, arriving before Kai, looking down at him condescendingly. “Yun Ting, do you take me for a three-year-old child?”

He pressed on, pointing out the flaws in Kai's injuries and the vigor of his blood and qi. Finally, his icy blue eyes fixed on Kai's eyes, and he said, word by word:

"More importantly... your soul fluctuations, although you try your best to imitate, are slightly different from the real Yun Ting... Speak! Who exactly are you?! Where is the real Yun Ting?"

He had been exposed!

Kai had expected this, and now he was calm.

He slowly raised his head, his fear gone, replaced by a cold calm.

He slowly stood up, and the weak aura on his body vanished instantly, replaced by a deep, restrained yet boundless and domineering chaotic aura! He

unleashed his cultivation at the peak of the ninth rank of the Celestial Immortal Realm without reservation!

"As expected of Venerable Xuanbing, your insight is indeed sharp."

Kai's voice was calm and unwavering. "Since you've been seen through, then... there's no need to continue the act."

Venerable Xuanbing's eyes flashed with cold light: "How dare you! You dare to impersonate a divine envoy and break into the Divine Punishment Hall! No matter who you are, today I will extract your soul and refine it into a soul crystal for eternal torment!"

Before he finished speaking, Venerable Xuanbing had already made his move!

He didn't even use a weapon, just a simple palm strike!

In an instant, the hall seemed to transform into an absolute zero-degree icy hell!

A gigantic ice palm, entirely condensed from the ultimate Xuanbing Law, carrying the terrifying power to freeze all things and annihilate souls, pressed down on Kai!

Even space itself was frozen with fine cracks!

This palm strike was enough to easily kill an ordinary sixth-grade Upper Immortal!

Venerable Xuanbing clearly intended to subdue his enemy in one move and capture him alive for interrogation!

Facing this terrifying attack, a blazing fighting spirit flashed in Kai's eyes.

"Well done!"

he shouted, advancing instead of retreating, his hands rapidly tracing mysterious paths in front of his chest.

Chaotic power surged forth, not to directly confront the icy palm, but to rapidly condense and rotate before him!

"Chaos returns to its origin, space opens!"

With Kai's shout, a point of extreme darkness suddenly appeared at the center of the rotating chaotic power.

It then expanded wildly, tearing open an unstable rift to the unknown void before Kai in the nick of time!

The enormous icy palm print slammed into this temporary spatial rift created by chaos, its power weakened, dispersed, and devoured layer by layer by the chaotic spatial power!

Kai's figure blurred, and he followed, rushing into the rift!

Simultaneously, he exerted all his strength to maintain the stability of this temporary spatial passage, using it as an anchor point to forcibly

create a small, extremely unstable chaotic world, roughly a hundred feet in diameter, within the void's crevice!

"Trying to escape? Dream on!"

Venerable Xuanbing was startled to see his opponent unleash such exquisite spatial techniques, but his killing intent intensified.

He would not allow this imposter to escape! His figure transformed into a streak of icy blue light, following closely behind, and he too rushed into the rapidly shrinking spatial rift!

Boom!

Inside the Cold Silence Palace, the spatial rift vanished, leaving only residual chill and chaotic spatial fluctuations. The two had disappeared from the palace simultaneously.

...

Inside the Chaotic Small World.

The hazy chaotic energy surged, and the spatial boundaries constantly twisted and trembled.

This was a temporary battlefield forcibly created by Kai using the power of chaos. It could both isolate external perception to prevent alerting the other four Venerables and allow him to take advantage of his home ground! As

soon as Venerable Xuanbing entered this place, he immediately felt that his connection with the Xuanbing Laws of the outside world was greatly weakened, while the omnipresent chaotic energy around him was subtly repelling and eroding his divine power shield.

"A mere trick! You think you can trap me in a tiny, unstable space?"

Venerable Xuanbing sneered, unleashing his terrifying cultivation at the seventh rank of the Upper Immortal Realm!

Previous Chapter Endless icy divine power transformed into chains of icy blue law, binding his body and forcing away the chaotic energy. Simultaneously, he formed hand seals, and a crystal longsword, entirely condensed from the Xuanbing law, crystal clear and radiating the aura of frozen time, appeared in his hands.

“Impersonator, die! Extreme Ice Annihilation Slash!”

The Xuanbing Venerable swung the crystal longsword, unleashing an icy blue sword aura that seemed capable of cleaving heaven and earth, carrying the power of the law to destroy all things, slashing towards Kai!

The power of this sword strike was more than ten times stronger than the casual palm strike he had delivered in the hall earlier!

Kai’s expression was solemn, but his eyes showed no fear.

He clenched his fists, and the hazy chaotic power frantically gathered, transforming into an ancient-looking gray longsword that seemed to contain the primordial principles of heaven and earth.

“Chaos Opening Heaven!”

He also unleashed a sword strike!

There were no dazzling legal phenomena, only a pure, hazy gray sword light, meeting the icy blue sword aura head-on!

Swoosh!

Two sword lights, completely different in nature yet both containing terrifying power, collided!

Instead of a deafening explosion, they emitted a sickeningly corrosive sound!

The extreme cold and destructive laws contained within the icy blue sword aura, upon contact with the chaotic sword light, were instantly neutralized, assimilated, and annihilated by the hazy gray light, as if encountering their nemesis!

While the chaotic sword light was also consumed, it pierced through the icy blue sword aura's barrier at an even faster speed, directly targeting the Xuanbing Venerable's true form!

"What?!"

The Xuanbing Venerable's expression finally changed drastically!

He stared in disbelief at his sword strike, imbued with eighty percent of its law power, so easily shattered by the opponent's strange gray energy!

He hurriedly parried with his sword, while icy blue chains danced wildly around him, forming layers of defense in front of him.

Boom!

The remaining power of the chaotic sword light struck the ice crystal sword and the law chains, producing a muffled boom.

The Xuanbing Venerable trembled violently, a tingling and numb sensation spreading through his sword-wielding arm. His protective divine light fluctuated wildly, and he was actually forced back several steps by this sword strike!

"You... what kind of power is this?!"

The Xuanbing Venerable was filled with shock and disbelief.

His opponent was clearly only at the peak of the ninth rank of the Heavenly Immortal Realm, but the level of that gray energy was terrifyingly high, almost... almost like a natural enemy of all orderly laws!

Kai did not answer, pressing his advantage relentlessly. His figure subtly merged with the Chaos Small World, appearing beside the Xuanbing Venerable as if by teleportation. The Chaos Longsword drew a profound trajectory, enveloping the opponent's vital points!

The Xuanbing Venerable was both shocked and furious. He focused all his attention, pushing the Xuanbing Law to its limit. His ice crystal longsword transformed into countless ice-blue sword shadows, engaging Kai in battle.

Within this chaotic miniature world, Kai thrived like a fish in water. The power of chaos seemed inexhaustible, each attack carrying the characteristics of annihilation and disintegration, constantly restricting the Xuanbing Venerable's power of laws, preventing him from unleashing even 70% of its full potential.

Most of the Xuanbing Venerable's attacks were weakened and absorbed by the chaotic energy and the miniature world itself.

What alarmed the Xuanbing Venerable even more was that Kai's combat skills, timing, and application of laws were exquisitely refined, seemingly effortless, as if he had experienced countless battles—completely unlike a Celestial Immortal cultivator!

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The battle took a sharp turn for the worse!

In just over a hundred rounds, Venerable Xuanbing was already struggling to survive, facing imminent danger.

His ice crystal longsword was being eroded by the power of chaos, its spiritual light dimming, his protective law chains constantly shattering, and several deep, bone-revealing, and difficult-to-heal gray wounds appearing on his body!

If Kai hadn't had to spare energy to maintain this chaotic mini-world, Venerable Xuanbing would likely have already been defeated!

"Impossible! This is impossible!"

Venerable Xuanbing's Dao heart almost collapsed.

He, a dignified seventh-grade Venerable of the Upper Immortal Realm, one of the five rulers of the Divine Punishment Hall, was actually being suppressed and beaten by a mere Celestial Immortal Realm brat, utterly powerless to fight back?

"Xuanbing, seal!"

He gritted his teeth, burning a portion of his essence and soul, unleashing his trump card, a forbidden technique!

His entire body transformed into a dazzling beam of ice-blue light, carrying a resolute intent to seal, rushing towards Kai, intending to risk severe damage to his own life force to temporarily freeze Kai!

However, Kai merely smiled coldly: "Even a grain of rice can shine?"

He sheathed his Chaos Longsword, clasped his hands together in front of his chest, and then slowly opened them.

As he separated his hands, a tiny yet seemingly all-consuming and all-ending chaotic rift appeared between his palms!

"Return to the Void!"

The tiny chaotic rift suddenly expanded, like a void beast with its jaws wide open, meeting the oncoming icy blue beam of light!

There was no sound, no intense clash of light.

The icy blue beam of light, containing the Xuanbing Venerable's desperate attack, melted away like ice and snow the moment it touched the Return to the Void rift.

Silently devoured and decomposed, it transformed into the most primordial chaotic energy, replenishing this small world and actually enhancing Kai's power!

"Pfft!"

The forbidden technique was broken, and the backlash caused the Xuanbing Venerable to be struck as if by a heavy blow. He coughed up a mouthful of pale golden divine blood, his aura instantly weakened, and he staggered backward, his eyes filled with boundless fear and despair.

Kai took a step forward, instantly appearing before the heavily injured Xuanbing Venerable. One hand gripped his neck like an iron clamp, lifting him up.

The other hand pressed against his crown, and an incomparably powerful chaotic force instantly surged into his body, sealing all his divine power and suppressing his soul!

"Ugh... Heh heh..."

Xuanbing Venerable struggled weakly, his eyes filled with terror as he looked at the demon-like youth before him.

Kai's eyes were icy cold, like millennia-old ice: "Now, I ask, you answer. If there's a single lie, I'll let you taste a pain ten thousand times greater than soul refining."

Xuanbing Venerable trembled; he could feel the gray energy swirling around the edge of his soul, the annihilation and pain it brought causing his very soul to tremble.

"Who...who exactly are you?"

“Who I am is unimportant.”

Kai’s tone was chilling. “Tell me, why did the God Clan execute Mu Sha and Liu Qingyin, and refine them into Soul Crystals? Was it merely because they discovered some secrets and wanted to rebel?”

Venerable Xuanbing’s eyes flickered, but after Kai intensified the pressure of the Chaos Power, he finally collapsed, hissing, “Yes…and not entirely! They…they were indeed investigating the final destination of the Soul Crystals, touching upon a taboo!” ”But more importantly… they might be tainted with the aura of ‘Primordial Qi’! That’s… that’s a mark that the Great Venerable explicitly forbade and that had to be erased!”

“Primordial Qi?”

Kai’s gaze sharpened.

“Continue! Soul Crystals, what are you going to do with all these Soul Crystals?!” Kai pressed.

Venerable Xuanbing’s face showed extreme fear, as if mentioning this matter would bring about disaster: “Soul Crystals… Soul Crystals are ‘keys,’ and also ‘sacrifices’… They’re for… for maintaining the Path to Heaven, offered to… to those above…”

“Above? What above? What is the Path to Heaven?” Kai’s heart trembled.

“I… I can’t say… If I say it, I’ll be instantly annihilated, even my true spirit will be…”

Venerable Xuanbing shook his head in fear, his divine soul fluctuating violently, as if he had triggered some deeper restriction.

Kai knew that if he pressed further, the other party might really trigger the restriction and perish.

He changed the subject: “Besides the five of you, what other divine race strongholds are there in the Eastern Region? What is the true purpose of

the divine race in the Thirteen Heavens? Where is the Great Venerable you speak of?”

Venerable Xuanbing gasped for breath, speaking haltingly: “The strongholds are distributed across five major regions, with the core in the Central Region’s Tianyuan Sacred Continent… The purpose… is to harvest… the Great Venerable, he…”

His words grew increasingly incoherent, his divine soul flickering erratically, clearly indicating that he had touched upon core secrets, and the restrictions were beginning to backfire.

Kai’s eyes turned cold: “One last question, regarding the soul crystal (Jiaxu 73) of the Musa couple, besides serving as a key or offering, is it possible to awaken or preserve their remnant souls?”

A strange glint flashed in Venerable Xuanbing’s unfocused eyes: “A soul crystal… once refined… becomes… becomes ‘pure’ resources… The remnant souls… have long… been obliterated… Unless… unless there is a ‘primordial’… reversal… but that is… forbidden… impossible…”

Before he finished speaking, a dazzling golden rune suddenly shone brightly deep within his divine soul, exploding with a deafening roar!

Kai was prepared and instantly released his grip, forming a protective shield of chaotic power.

However, the explosive power of the golden runes was extremely strange; it wasn’t a direct kill, but a complete purification and dissolution.

The Xuanbing Venerable’s physical body and remaining soul melted away rapidly in the golden light, like ice and snow under the sun, leaving not a trace, only a small amount of the purest ice-type divine power and a few unclaimed treasures.

Kai dispersed the golden light, his face grim.

The Xuanbing Venerable was dead; the restriction had been triggered, and both body and soul were destroyed.

The information he received was fragmented, but several keywords shook him to his core.

Primordial Qi, the Path to Heaven, above, harvest, Great Venerable…

and the Musa couple might have been targeted because they were tainted by Primordial Qi; the remnant soul in their soul crystal might have been obliterated unless Primordial power reversed it…

“Primordial…”

Kai murmured to himself, feeling the surging chaotic power within his body.

Was what he cultivated from the *Chaos Dao Scripture* some kind of Primordial power?

The terms “Path to Heaven,” “Above,” and “Harvest” suggest that the gods rule the thirteen heavens and collect soul crystals.

It seems to imply a continuous and brutal sacrifice to maintain some kind of passage or to offer as tribute to a higher being. That wasn’t ordinary flame; it was the Heaven-Burning Divine Fire, a culmination of his life’s cultivation and the very essence of his laws!

The flames were dark gold, their temperature high enough to melt stars, distorting and collapsing even space itself!

Despite his severe injuries, he had chosen the most brutal fighting style, burning his very essence to perish alongside his enemy!

“Whoever you are! Die! Heaven-Burning Annihilation!”

The Crimson Flame Venerable transformed into a dark gold fireball over ten zhang in diameter, carrying a terrifying, all-destroying power as it hurtled towards Kai!

Wherever it passed, the restrictions on the Star Gazing Platform instantly vaporized, and the ground turned to magma!

Kai's eyes narrowed. He hadn't expected the Crimson Flame Venerable to be so fierce, his final counterattack so terrifying. He

couldn't take it head-on!

Nor could he let this commotion spread!

He moved his hands rapidly, unleashing a surge of chaotic power that created layers of gray barriers before him, while simultaneously retreating hastily.

Boom!

The dark gold fireball crashed into the chaotic barriers, producing a deafening roar. The chaotic barrier shattered layer by layer, but each shattered layer consumed a large amount of divine fire.

Kai was shaken by the immense impact, his blood churning and he staggered back dozens of steps.

Taking advantage of this opening, he forcefully summoned his chaotic power and once again unleashed his spatial divine ability!

"Chaotic Cage!"

With a low shout, the surrounding chaotic energy surged wildly, forming a massive gray cage that trapped the dark golden fireball transformed from the Crimson Flame Venerable within!

Countless tiny chaotic cracks opened and closed on the inner walls of the cage, constantly grinding away and devouring the divine fire like a millstone!

“Ahhh! Break for me!”

The Crimson Flame Venerable roared furiously within the fireball, relentlessly battering against the chaotic cage.

But this was Kai’s home turf; the chaotic cage was incredibly resilient and continuously drew chaotic energy from the void to replenish itself.

In just a few breaths, the dark golden fireball shrank by nearly half in size, its power greatly diminished.

Seizing the opportunity, Kai’s eyes flashed with a cold light. He formed hand seals and pointed towards the center of the cage:

“Return to Nothingness, Devour Heaven!”

At the center of the chaotic cage, a massive, seemingly all-consuming dark vortex suddenly appeared, radiating a terrifying suction force!

“No!!!”

The Crimson Flame Venerable roared in despair. His remaining divine fire, along with his soul and body, were mercilessly swallowed by the dark vortex, crushed, and decomposed, transforming into the purest fire-elemental divine power and fragments of laws.

A few breaths later, the vortex vanished, and the chaotic cage dissipated.

On the Star Gazing Platform, only a small amount of pure crimson divine power, a few treasures, and the lingering scorching heat remained.

The Crimson Flame Venerable was annihilated, body and soul!

Kai's face paled slightly. The continuous creation of small worlds and the use of Return to Nothingness had taken a heavy toll. He quickly collected his spoils and rested for a moment.

"Three more..." His eyes were icy cold as he transformed back into the form of Venerable Xuanbing and headed towards his next target, Venerable Qingmu's Qingmu Palace.

Having learned from his experience killing Chiyan, Kai was even more cautious.

Venerable Qingmu primarily cultivated wood-based laws, possessed a relatively gentle personality, and had a respectable relationship with Venerable Xuanbing.

Kai, using the pretext of discovering Chiyan's suspicious movements and suspected collusion with external resistance forces, lured Venerable Qingmu to a secluded location behind the Divine Punishment Hall.

Here, Kai didn't waste any more words and launched a surprise attack!

Venerable Qingmu excelled in vitality and restraint, possessing extremely strong survival abilities.

However, faced with the annihilating nature of chaotic power, his wood-based laws were completely suppressed.

After a fierce battle, Venerable Qingmu was utterly annihilated by Kai, his soul and spirit destroyed.

Next was Venerable Houtu.

Earth-based laws provided unparalleled defense, and his power was steady and substantial.

Under the guise of Xuanbing, Kai lured the Earth Venerable to a secret chamber beneath the Divine Punishment Hall under the pretense of

discussing strengthening its defenses in preparation for a potential attack.

There, Kai used a wisp of the Demon-Suppressing Tower's pressure, combined with the power of chaos, to forcefully suppress the Earth Venerable's terrifying defenses, comparable to the stars and the earth, ultimately shattering and annihilating his physical body and soul.

Having consecutively killed three more Venerables, Kai's mastery of chaotic power grew increasingly refined, and his combat experience expanded.

While his cultivation level didn't break through, his combat strength rapidly increased.

Finally, only the strongest and most wary remained: the Gengjin Venerable.

The Gengjin Venerable primarily cultivated metal-based laws, possessing unparalleled attack power among the five Venerables, and was known for his resolute and decisive character, as well as exceptional wisdom.

His relationship with the Xuanbing Venerable was lukewarm, but they harbored mutual suspicion.

Kai knew that simple deception wouldn't suffice against Gengjin.

He decided… to go directly to him!

Using Xuan Bing's identity and the pretext that a major upheaval was brewing in the Eastern Region, requiring the five Venerables to discuss the matter, he went directly to the Gengjin Palace!

This was an open conspiracy.

Although Gengjin had his suspicions, he had no choice but to appear given the agreement of the other three Venerables.

The Gengjin Palace was entirely forged from a metal called Taibai Refined Gold, gleaming with a cold, silvery-white luster, exuding a sharp and intimidating aura.

Inside the palace, Venerable Gengjin sat high in the main seat.

He appeared to be around thirty years old, with a resolute face, sword-like eyebrows, and bright eyes. He wore silver-white armor, with two sheathed longswords crossed on his back.

He was like a peerless divine weapon drawn from its sheath, radiating an invincible and sharp aura.

Seeing Xuanbing arrive alone, a hint of doubt flashed in Gengjin Venerable's eyes, but he remained calm on the surface: "Xuanbing, you sent a message saying that there has been a great change in the Eastern Region, and that the five of us need to discuss it together. Where are Chiyan, Qingmu, and Houtu?"

Kai's expression was cold, and he said indifferently: "They will arrive shortly. I came first because I have something important to confirm with you privately." "What is it?"

Venerable Gengjin's gaze was sharp as a sword, as if trying to pierce through Kai's disguise.

Kai took a few steps closer and lowered his voice: "It's about... the recent anomalies in the Path to Heaven. The Great Venerable has sent a secret order, instructing us to intensify the collection of Soul Crystals, especially... those containing special auras."

He deliberately mentioned the Path to Heaven and the Great Venerable, core secrets known only to the five Venerables.

Venerable Gengjin's eyes changed slightly, but his vigilance remained: "Where is the secret order? Why haven't I received it?"

"The secret order is here."

Kai stretched out his hand, and a jade slip emitting a faint golden light appeared in his palm. This was the unique fluctuation he had simulated from Xuan Bing's memories when the Great Venerable sent the order.

Venerable Gengjin's gaze fell on the jade slip, and his divine sense subconsciously probed out, wanting to examine it.

The moment his divine sense touched the jade slip!

Another anomaly occurred!

The jade slip exploded!

This was no ordinary explosion; instead, it transformed into countless fine, grayish-brown chaotic needles, raining down on Gengjin Venerable's face like a storm!

Simultaneously, Kai leaped into the air, unleashing his full chaotic power. His hands transformed into a myriad of palm shadows, enveloping Gengjin Venerable's vital points!

"A trap, as expected!"

Gengjin Venerable, though startled, remained calm, seemingly prepared.

His twin swords were drawn with a clang, transforming into two silver-white sword beams that tore through the heavens and earth. One slashed at the chaotic needles, the other aimed directly at Kai's face!

At the same time, his body glowed with brilliant Gengjin divine armor, countless fine runes flowing around it, instantly boosting his defense to its peak!

Clang! Clang! Clang! Clang!

A dense cacophony of collisions rang out.

Most of the chaotic needles were shattered by the sword beams, but some still penetrated the defense, striking the Gengjin divine armor and leaving tiny dents that eroded its spiritual light.

The sword energy that Gengjin Venerable unleashed at Kai was forcefully deflected by Kai's gray palm, formed from chaotic power!

"You're not Xuanbing! Who are you?!"

Gengjin Venerable roared, his eyes blazing with killing intent. He was now certain that the person before him was not Xuanbing!

That gray power, filled with an aura of annihilation, was completely different from Xuanbing's ice-based laws!

"The one who will take your life!"

Kai no longer feigned defeat, his figure flashing like lightning as he clashed with Gengjin Venerable!

The Gengjin Palace was instantly filled with terrifying sword energy and chaotic power.

The silvery-white Gengjin sword energy was incomparably sharp, cutting through everything;

the hazy gray chaotic power annihilated everything, dissolving laws.

The two fought from inside the palace to outside, from the ground to the air, leaving behind a trail of destruction: palaces collapsed, the earth cracked, and formations shattered!

Gengjin Venerable truly lived up to his reputation as the strongest of the five Venerables; his attacks were incomparably fierce, his swordsmanship exquisite, each strike containing the terrifying power to sever laws.

Kai pushed the power of chaos to its limit, transforming it into gray barriers, palm prints, and fist energy, which constantly collided with and eroded the Gengjin sword energy. This battle was more intense and dangerous than any before!

The Gengjin Venerable grew increasingly alarmed as the fight progressed.

His opponent, though only at the peak of the ninth rank of the Heavenly Immortal Realm, possessed an incredibly high level of gray power. His Gengjin sword aura was rapidly worn down, its sharpness diminished, and its power greatly reduced.

Moreover, the opponent's combat awareness was terrifying; he always managed to neutralize his most ferocious attacks with minimal cost.

"This cannot drag on! This boy is strange; I must finish this quickly!"

A fierce glint flashed in the Gengjin Venerable's eyes. He bit his tongue, spitting out a mouthful of blood essence onto his twin swords!

"Gengjin Great Dao, Slay Immortals and Gods!"

The twin swords suddenly merged into one, transforming into a towering, silver-white sword pillar!

Countless ancient runes appeared on the sword pillar, faintly revealing terrifying phenomena of immortals and gods falling and stars collapsing!

This sword strike, imbued with the Gengjin Venerable's lifelong cultivation, essence, and understanding of the laws, was his strongest attack, possessing the terrifying power to kill even those of the same level and threaten those at the eighth rank of the Upper Immortal Realm!

The sword pillar locked onto Kai and crashed down!

Wherever it passed, space shattered like fragile glass, revealing dark void turbulence!

Faced with this world-destroying sword strike, a solemn expression appeared in Kai's eyes.

He knew he could no longer hold back.

He took a deep breath, and the chaotic power within his body circulated wildly at an unprecedented speed. A hazy gray light shone brightly around him, as if he had transformed into a chaotic deity.

He slowly raised his hands, holding them in front of his chest, and a tiny gray sphere of light, seemingly containing the birth and death of the universe, rapidly condensed.

"Chaos… Return to Origin… Great Annihilation!"

With his deep voice, the gray sphere of light suddenly expanded, transforming into a gray vortex with a diameter of about ten feet, meeting the descending towering sword pillar!

There was no sound.

Or rather, all sound was swallowed up by the gray vortex.

The silver-white sword pillar plunged into the gray vortex, like a mud ox entering the sea, without stirring up the slightest ripple.

The terrifying power of the sword pillar, capable of slaying immortals and gods, was mercilessly decomposed, devoured, and annihilated by the gray vortex!

A few breaths later, the towering sword pillar completely vanished. The gray vortex only rippled slightly before slowly dissipating.

Gengjin Venerable's face was ashen, his aura extremely weak, his eyes filled with unbelievable despair and fear.

His strongest attack… had been so easily neutralized?!

“No… impossible… what… what kind of power is this…”

he muttered to himself, his Dao heart completely shattered.

Kai’s face was also somewhat pale; his previous move, the Chaos Returning to Origin Great Annihilation, had consumed a great deal of energy.

But he didn’t give Gengjin Venerable any chance to catch his breath. In a flash, he appeared before him, pressing a palm against his crown.

Chaotic power surged in, instantly sealing all his power. ”Now, you can answer my questions properly.”

Kai’s eyes were icy. “Tell me everything you know about the Gods, Soul Crystals, the Path to Heaven, the Great Venerables, the Primordial Qi… everything.”

The Gengjin Venerable gave a bitter laugh: “You… you might as well kill me. Touching the core secrets will automatically trigger the restrictions in my soul, annihilating me body and soul… I won’t tell you anything.” ”

Is that so?”

Kai’s lips curled into a cold smile. “Then let’s see if my chaotic power dismantles your restrictions first, or if the restrictions trigger first.”

With that, he manipulated a wisp of subtle yet incredibly pure chaotic power, like the most agile probe, carefully probing into the depths of the Gengjin Venerable’s soul, towards the faintly visible golden restriction rune.

The moment the chaotic power touched the restriction rune, the rune suddenly lit up, about to explode!

But in that instant, a bright gray light shone in Kai’s eyes. The wisp of chaotic power suddenly split into countless finer threads, wrapping the entire restrictive rune layer by layer, like wrapping a rice dumpling! *

Sizzle! Sizzle! Sizzle! *

The gray light and golden light fiercely clashed and eroded each other. The restrictive rune struggled frantically, trying to self-destruct, but was firmly suppressed and eroded by the chaotic power.

The Gengjin Venerable let out a painful groan, pale golden blood seeping from his seven orifices.

A full incense stick's time passed.

Pop!

A soft sound, like a bubble bursting, rang out.

Deep within the Gengjin Venerable's soul, the golden restrictive rune… completely dimmed and shattered!

It had been forcibly obliterated by the chaotic power!

"The restriction… is broken?"

The Gengjin Venerable felt the changes in his soul in disbelief. The sharp sword that had been hanging above his head had disappeared, but what followed was a deeper fear.

This person before him could even break the soul restriction personally planted by the Great Venerable?!

Kai's face grew even paler; breaking this restriction had consumed a tremendous amount of his mental and physical energy.

But his eyes remained sharp: "Now, you can speak."

Gengjin Venerable collapsed to the ground, having lost all will to resist. He said bitterly, "You…what do you want to know?"

"Everything," Kai replied succinctly.

After a moment of silence, Venerable Gengjin slowly spoke: “The Eastern Region’s Divine Punishment Hall is merely one of the five major strongholds established by the Divine Race in the Thirteen Heavens. Each of the five regions—East, South, West, North, and Central—has a Divine Punishment Hall, each overseen by a Grand Venerable.”

“We five are merely executors of the Eastern Region’s Divine Punishment Hall.”

“The Grand Venerable resides in the Divine Punishment Hall at the deepest part of the Central Region’s Tianyuan Sacred Continent. There lies the entrance to the Path to Heaven.”

“The Path to Heaven…”

A deep awe and fear flashed in Venerable Gengjin’s eyes. “It’s a mysterious passage connecting the upper realms to the Thirteen Heavens. The Divine Race rules the Thirteen Heavens, collecting Soul Crystals, but their fundamental purpose… is to maintain the stability of this passage and to periodically offer sacrifices to those above.”

“Sacrifices?”

Kai pressed. “What… is above? Is it the Divine Race’s patriarch? And why do you use this Path to Heaven to offer sacrifices? If those above need resources, they can simply bring them from the Thirteen Heavens!”

Venerable Gengjin shook his head: “I don’t know. That’s a secret only the Grand Venerable knows. We are only responsible for carrying out orders: suppressing all resistance and collecting a sufficient quantity and quality of Soul Crystals.”

“Soul crystals are refined from the divine souls of special beings. The stronger the divine soul and the more unique the spirit, the higher the quality of the refined soul crystal, and the better its effect on maintaining the passage and for sacrifices.” ”

Moreover, these things cannot be directly taken to higher worlds; this is the law. If anyone could plunder the resources of lower worlds at will, those lower worlds would not be able to survive.” ”

However, there are loopholes in the laws of heaven and earth, namely, the Path to Heaven can be used to circumvent the suppression and spying of the laws.”

After hearing Gengjin Venerable’s words, Kai was stunned. He hadn’t expected that the always self-righteous and aloof gods would actually be exploiting loopholes in the laws to do such underhanded things! They secretly transported resources from the Thirteenth Heaven upwards.

And to maintain the path to heaven, they even refined people into soul crystals!

How is this any different from the actions of demonic cultivators?

What kind of divine race are they?

“Primordial Qi… what is it?” Kai asked the most crucial question.

Venerable Gengjin shook his head again: “That’s forbidden. I’ve only vaguely heard that it’s the most primordial power from the beginning of heaven and earth, related to chaos.” ”

The higher-ups of the divine race seem extremely wary of this power; once discovered, it must be completely eradicated. The Musa couple may have accidentally come into contact with something containing Primordial Qi in the lower realm…”

Kai was shocked.

Chaos… Primordial… his own “Chaos Dao Scripture”…

Kai frowned. Could it be that because the Musa couple had contact with him, they were being targeted after returning to the Thirteenth Heaven?

Kai continued, “What is the strength of the Venerables of the Five Great Domains? Besides the Grand Venerable, how many experts does the Central Domain’s Divine Punishment Hall have?”

Venerable Gengjin replied, “The Venerables of the Five Great Domains are all at the seventh rank of the Upper Immortal Realm, the same level as us, but their strength varies.” ”

The Grand Venerable is at the peak of the eighth rank of the Upper Immortal Realm; he could easily suppress the five of us working together.”

“As for the Central Domain’s Divine Punishment Hall, I don’t know how many experts the Grand Venerable has around him. Perhaps he has divine envoys sent from above…”

His voice trailed off, his eyes filled with fear.

Kai digested this information.

The situation was more dire than he had imagined.

The Eastern Domain’s Divine Punishment Hall was merely an outer stronghold; the real enemy lay with the Grand Venerable of the Central Domain’s Tianyuan Sacred Continent.

If this Grand Venerable also had divine envoys sent from above, he feared he wouldn’t be able to handle it with his own abilities!

The previously confident Kai now doubted himself again!

“Has the Grand Venerable always been inside the Central Domain’s Divine Punishment Hall?” Kai asked.

Gengjin Venerable nodded: “The Great Venerable is stationed at the Divine Punishment Hall in the Central Region year-round, guarding the Path to Heaven. He doesn’t usually leave easily…”

“You…you killed four of us in succession. The Great Venerable may have already noticed something amiss. The life tablets of all the Venerables in our Divine Punishment Hall are with him…”

Before he could finish speaking, the entire Divine Punishment Hall suddenly trembled!

A magnificent, majestic, and seemingly ruthless voice, like the Dao of Heaven itself, resounded throughout the entire Divine Punishment Hall:

“Who dares to offend my Divine Punishment Hall and kill my Venerables?”

The terrifying pressure contained in the voice made all the members of the Divine Race tremble and prostrate themselves on the ground.

The Great Venerable…was alarmed!

Kai’s eyes narrowed, knowing that he could not delay any longer.

He glanced at the ashen-faced Gengjin Venerable, raised his hand, and struck him on the top of his head.

Chaotic power erupted, Gengjin Venerable’s body trembled, his eyes quickly dimmed, and his soul was annihilated.

Kai quickly put away the divine power and treasures he had left behind, then his figure blurred and transformed into a gray stream of light, rushing towards the outside of the Divine Punishment Hall! Kai sped towards Jade Immortal City.

Behind him, a terrifying pressure emanating from the Eastern Region’s Divine Punishment Hall swept in like a tangible wave. The Great Venerable’s roar shook heaven and earth: “Traitor! Don’t run!”

The power of law contained in that voice made Kai’s blood surge, but he gritted his teeth, his chaotic power surging wildly within him to resist the impact of that pressure.

“I can’t turn back! Now is not the time to face the Great Venerable!”

Kai was clear-headed, knowing that with his current state and strength, his chances of winning against a Great Venerable from the Central Region, who was at least at the peak of the eighth rank of the Upper Immortal Realm, or perhaps even stronger, were extremely slim.

He used the Fire Control Step repeatedly, each flash covering a hundred miles, leaving the pursuers far behind.

Inside the Eastern Region’s Divine Punishment Hall, a golden phantom a hundred feet tall stood in the air.

The phantom’s face was blurred, but the pressure emanating from it made the entire space of the Divine Punishment Hall tremble.

It was a phantom projected by the Great Venerable from the Central Region through some secret technique!

The phantom’s gaze swept across the ravaged Divine Punishment Hall, over the ruins of the Crimson Flame Hall, the Azure Wood Hall, the Thick Earth Hall, and the Geng Metal Hall, finally settling on the battlefield before the Cold Silence Hall, where the lingering aura of chaos still lingered.

“Mysterious Ice, Crimson Flame, Azure Wood, Thick Earth, Geng Metal…”

The phantom’s voice was icy and merciless, yet contained a raging inferno, “The five Venerables, all perished on the same day…”

“Who?! Who possesses such power, capable of slaying five Venerables within my Divine Punishment Hall?!”

The phantom raised a hand, and five shattered fragments of life tablets flew from the depths of the Divine Punishment Hall, hovering in his palm.

The last trace of aura remaining on the life tablets pointed in the same direction: Jade Immortal City!

“Jade Immortal City… Yu Wuji…”

A cold light flashed in the illusory figure’s eyes. “Could it be him? No, although Yu Wuji has the cultivation of a seventh-grade Upper Immortal, it’s impossible for him to have simultaneously killed five Venerables, let alone possess that… strange gray power.”

From the fragments of the life tablet and the residual aura of the battlefield, he detected a trace of extremely special energy fluctuations filled with annihilation characteristics.

“This power… is unheard of. It’s not any of the known laws of the Thirteen Heavens. Could it be… the ‘Primordial Beginning’?”

The illusory figure muttered to himself, then a deep sense of apprehension and killing intent flashed in his eyes. “No matter who it is, anyone who dares to touch the foundation of my divine race will surely die!” The

illusory figure raised his hand, and a golden light shot into the sky, transforming into countless golden runes that flew in all directions!

“By my decree: All sects and forces in the Thirteen Heavens, immediately launch a full-scale manhunt for the culprits!”

“Anyone providing clues will be rewarded with one million high-grade Yuan Crystals and a Divine Clan cultivation technique!”

“Anyone capturing or killing the culprits will be rewarded with the rank of Divine General of the Divine Clan!”

“Anyone harboring or concealing the culprits… will have their entire family exterminated and their souls extracted and refined into crystals!”

The majestic and awe-inspiring voice, accompanied by golden runes, instantly resounded throughout the entire Thirteen Heavens!

The Thirteen Heavens trembled!

...

Jade Immortal City, the secret chamber of the Boundless Palace.

Yu Wuji, Yu Ranran, and Ming Li, who had just secretly returned, gathered together.

The atmosphere in the secret chamber was so heavy it was almost palpable.

Yu Wuji held a newly received communication jade slip in his hand, his face ashen.

Yu Ranran, on the other hand, was filled with worry and fidgeted restlessly. Ming Li, clad in a black robe, exuded a chilling aura, but his eyes held a grave expression.

“Father, what happened? Kai... he really went to the Divine Punishment Hall?”

Yu Ranran finally couldn’t help but ask, her voice trembling.

Yu Wuji took a deep breath and handed the jade slip to his daughter, his voice dry: “See for yourself.”

Yu Ranran took the jade slip and probed it with her divine sense.

Instantly, her face turned deathly pale, her delicate body swaying, almost unable to stand.

The jade slip contained the wanted notice just issued by the Grand Venerable of the Central Region!

It detailed the characteristics of the criminal, as well as the stifling bounty and punishment!

“Kai… he killed the five Venerables of the Divine Punishment Hall?”

Yu Ranran’s voice trembled, her eyes filled with disbelief. “This… how is this possible? He’s only a ninth-grade Celestial Immortal!”

“But that’s the truth,”

Yu Wuji said in a deep voice, a complex light flashing in his eyes. “The simultaneous fall of the five Venerables of the Divine Punishment Hall, their life tablets shattered—this can’t be faked.”

“The Grand Venerable was enraged and issued this highest-level ‘Divine Punishment Wanted Order’… The Thirteen Heavens can no longer tolerate him.”

Ming Li’s cold voice rang out: “Mr. Chen’s strength far surpasses his apparent realm. That gray power… I’ve never seen such a bizarre and domineering energy. His ability to kill the five Venerables is shocking, but not entirely impossible.”

“But…but where is he now? Is he safe?”

Yu Ranran was on the verge of tears. “The Great Venerable has issued a warrant for his arrest, and the entire Thirteen Heavens are hunting him down! No matter how powerful he is, can he stand against the entire Divine Race?”

Yu Wuji was silent for a moment, then slowly said, “With his alertness and methods, he should have already escaped the Divine Punishment Hall area. I guess…he might return to Jade Immortal City.”

“Return to Jade Immortal City?”

Yu Ranran's eyes lit up, then dimmed again. "But...the Divine Race has already issued a warrant for his arrest, and Jade Immortal City is no longer safe. Father, what...what should we do?"

She looked at Yu Wuji, her eyes filled with pleading.

She loved Kai, loved him so deeply that she would disregard everything.

But she also didn't want her father and the entire Jade Immortal Palace to fall into eternal damnation because of her.

Yu Wuji looked at his daughter and sighed inwardly.

How could he not know what his daughter was thinking?

But as the lord of the palace, he had to be responsible for the millions of lives in the entire Jade Immortal Palace.

"Ranran, I understand your feelings,"

Yu Wuji said in a low voice. "But the Divine Clan has issued a warrant for our arrest. If the Jade Immortal Manor openly harbors Kai, it will face annihilation. At that time, not only you and I, but the entire Jade Immortal City will be reduced to ashes."

Yu Ranran's face turned pale, her lips trembled, but she could not speak.

She knew her father was telling the truth.

Ming Li suddenly spoke up: "Manor Lord, perhaps... you can secretly assist him. Mr. Chen possesses a shocking secret and potential; he may truly be the key to breaking the Divine Clan's rule."

"Cooperating with him is extremely risky, but if successful, the rewards will be unparalleled." After leaving the Jade Immortal Mansion, Kai and Ming Li concealed their presence and sped towards the Northern Region's Cold Abyss City.

Their speed was extremely fast, and within a few days, they returned to this massive, snow-covered city.

Cold Abyss City remained unchanged; its dark blue-black ice walls gleamed coldly in the sunlight, and the city gates were heavily guarded.

This time, however, Kai and Ming Li were not questioned; it was clear that True Person Cold Abyss had given prior instructions.

The two flew directly into the city, landing towards the City Lord's Mansion.

The guards at the City Lord's Mansion, upon seeing them, not only did not stop them but also bowed respectfully, indicating that True Person Cold Abyss had given prior orders.

Led by attendants, Kai and Ming Li arrived at a quiet chamber deep within the City Lord's Mansion.

The quiet chamber was carved from a single piece of ten-thousand-year-old cold jade; the air inside was chilling, but for cultivators, it actually helped to calm the mind and concentrate.

True Person Cold Abyss was already waiting there. He was still dressed in an ice-blue Daoist robe, his face gaunt, but a hint of worry seemed to have appeared between his brows.

Upon seeing Kai and Ming Li, he rose to greet them, his expression complex.

"Fellow Daoist Chen, Fellow Daoist Ming Li, you… you've indeed returned."

Han Yuan Zhenren's voice carried a hint of weariness. "Please sit."

The three took their seats as host and guest, and a maidservant served them spiritual tea before quietly withdrawing, leaving only the three of them in the quiet room.

Master Hanyuan set up several soundproof barriers before looking at Kai with a solemn expression: “Fellow Daoist Chen, what you did at the Eastern Region’s Divine Punishment Hall… has already spread throughout the Thirteen Heavens.”

Kai remained calm, taking a sip of his tea: “It seems the Great Venerable’s wanted notice has already reached the Northern Region.”

“More than that,”

Master Hanyuan smiled bitterly, “On the very day the wanted notice was issued, an envoy from the Divine Race came to Hanyuan City, ordering me to fully cooperate in apprehending the culprit and to thoroughly investigate all cultivators related to the Eastern Region.”

He paused, then looked at Kai: “The envoy also specifically mentioned that the culprit may possess a strange, gray power, unlike any known cultivation system. Fellow Daoist Chen, this time… you’ve gone too far.”

Ming Li said in a deep voice from the side: “City Lord Hanyuan, the Divine Race has acted perversely, oppressing all races since ruling the Thirteen Heavens, extracting the souls of living beings to refine soul crystals—their sins are heinous. Mr. Chen’s actions are to rid the people of this scourge.”

“I know, I know,”

Han Yuan Zhenren sighed. “I’ve heard about the actions of the Divine Race. But… they are powerful.” ”

The Grand Venerable of the Central Region is at the peak of the eighth rank of the Upper Immortal Realm, with countless powerful subordinates. There are even rumors that he has connections with higher worlds. To oppose them is like throwing an egg against a rock.”

Kai put down his teacup and looked directly at Han Yuan Zhenren. “City Lord, I’ve come not to drag Han Yuan City into this mess. On the contrary, I’ve come to inform you of something to avoid unnecessary

misunderstandings between Han Yuan City and the Jade Immortal Mansion."

"Oh? What is it?" Han Yuan Zhenren's expression turned serious.

"The Jade Immortal Mansion's Lord, Yu Wuji, is actually dissatisfied with the Divine Race's rule,"

Kai said slowly. "I've reached an agreement with him that the Jade Immortal Mansion will secretly support any actions against the Divine Race. Although Yu Wuji didn't directly participate in the Divine Punishment Hall incident, he did provide me with some convenience." A hint of surprise flashed in Han Yuan Zhenren's eyes: "That old fox Yu Wuji... he actually has such audacity? Isn't he afraid the Divine Race will raze Yu Xian Fu to the ground?"

"He is afraid, but he doesn't want to be the Divine Race's dog forever,"

Kai said calmly. "Yu Wuji is an ambitious man; he is unwilling to be subservient forever. The greater the oppression from the Divine Race, the deeper the seeds of resistance are sown."

Han Yuan Zhenren was silent for a moment, then slowly nodded: "I see... no wonder Yu Xian Fu's attitude towards other forces in the Eastern Region has softened recently. I thought they were brewing some kind of conspiracy."

"If what Fellow Daoist Chen says is true, and Yu Xian Fu is also secretly resisting the Divine Race, then I certainly don't need to be overly wary of them anymore,"

Kai continued. "Not only that. Yu Wuji's daughter, Yu Ranran, is now my Daoist partner. For both public and private reasons, I hope that Han Yuan City and Yu Xian Fu can coexist peacefully, and even... support each other when necessary."

"A Daoist partner?!"

Master Hanyuan was genuinely astonished this time. He looked Kai up and down. “Fellow Daoist Chen, you…you even have Yu Wuji’s darling daughter…”

Ming Li added from the side, “Mr. Chen and Miss Yu are truly in love. This is absolutely true. Now Mr. Chen is practically half the master of the Jade Immortal Mansion.”

Master Hanyuan’s expression shifted, and after a long while, he sighed, “Fellow Daoist Chen, you really are…every time we meet, you bring me surprises, or rather, shocks.”

He stood up and paced around the quiet room. “If the Jade Immortal Mansion truly intends to resist the Divine Race, then the alliance between the Northern and Eastern Regions is indeed a force to be reckoned with.”

“However…the Divine Race is powerful, and we must be extremely cautious.”

He stopped and looked at Kai. “Fellow Daoist Chen, what are your plans now? The warrant has been issued, and although the Thirteen Heavens are vast, I’m afraid there will be no safe haven for you.”

Kai said, “We are preparing to head to the Ten Thousand Demon Mountains in the Western Regions.”

“The Ten Thousand Demon Mountains of the Western Regions?!”

Master Hanyuan’s expression changed drastically. “That place is now a den of dragons and tigers! The Divine Race is suppressing the Demon Race’s rebellion with bloody methods, and the entire Western Regions is engulfed in war!”

Ming Li explained, “Lord Hanyuan, I sensed the aura of the Ghost Race in the Ten Thousand Demon Mountains of the Western Regions. There may still be some of my people active there. We must go there.”

“Ghost Race…”

Master Hanyuan frowned. “The situation in the Western Regions is complex now, with the Divine Race, the Demon Race, and various other races mixed together. There may indeed be traces of Ghost Race activity. But…”

He looked at Kai, his tone serious, “Fellow Daoist Chen, do you know how dangerous the situation in the Western Regions is right now?” ”

The Demon Suppression Hall, which the Divine Race has stationed in the Western Regions, is led by a Demon Suppression Venerable at the peak of the seventh rank of the Upper Immortal Realm. Five Demon Kings have joined its ranks, and tens of thousands of troops are besieging the Demon Race’s rebellious forces.”

“The Demon Race, led by the ‘Golden-Winged Roc King,’ the ‘Nine-Tailed Celestial Fox,’ and the ‘Mountain-Moving Giant Ape,’ once gathered a hundred thousand people to rebel, but now they are suffering repeated defeats and heavy casualties.”

“The Golden-Winged Roc King has fled severely injured, the Nine-Tailed Celestial Fox is trapped, and the Mountain-Moving Giant Ape has been suppressed. The remnants of the demon race’s resistance are besieged in the vicinity of the Heavenly Demon Valley, barely clinging to life.”

Master Hanyuan walked to the wall, his finger tracing the surface of the jade wall, where icy energy condensed into a simplified map: “This is the Ten Thousand Demon Mountains, and this is the Heavenly Demon Valley. The divine army has surrounded it from five directions, setting up the Nine Heavens and Ten Earths Demon-Sealing Array. The remnants of the demon race have no chance of escape.”

He turned to Kai: “Going there now is tantamount to walking into a trap. The divine race’s defenses in the Western Regions are even more stringent than in the Eastern Regions. Moreover, you are wanted; once discovered, you will surely die.” Kai laughed upon hearing this. The Eastern Region at least had five Venerables guarding the Divine Punishment Hall, but in the Western Region, there was only one Demon-

Suppressing Venerable. Although he was at the peak of the seventh rank of the Upper Immortal Realm, he was still no match for the combined might of the five Venerables.

It seemed the demon race in the Western Region didn't have any powerful figures; they were controlled by a mere Divine Race Venerable, and even the five Demon Kings had submitted to them—they were practically traitors.

"Senior, that's precisely why we must go," Kai said.

"Why?" Han Yuan Zhenren asked, puzzled.

"First, Ming Li needs to find his clansmen; this matter is crucial to him,"

Kai said slowly. "Second, the God Clan's bloody suppression of the Demon Clan in the Western Regions precisely demonstrates the intensity of the Demon Clan's resistance. The enemy of my enemy is my friend. If we can unite with the Demon Clan's resistance army, it will greatly benefit our fight against the God Clan."

"Third..." A cold glint flashed in Kai's eyes, "With the God Clan's attention focused on the Western Regions, their monitoring of other areas will be relatively relaxed. If we cause trouble in the Western Regions, it might actually buy time and space for the resistance forces in the Eastern and Northern Regions."

Upon hearing this, True Person Han Yuan fell into deep thought.

After a long silence, he slowly said, "Fellow Daoist Chen, your considerations are thorough, I admire you. However... the journey to the Western Regions is extremely dangerous. The Demon Suppressor is at the peak of the seventh rank of the Upper Immortal Realm, his strength far surpassing that of the five Venerables of the Eastern Region."

"The five Demon Kings are also at the sixth and seventh ranks of the Upper Immortal Realm, and their armies are strong and well-equipped. For you two to go is tantamount to lambs to the slaughter."

Kai smiled slightly, “City Lord, there’s no need to worry. Since I dare to go, I have my own confidence.”

His smile was calm and confident, and a special aura originating from the power of chaos faintly emanated from him, causing Han Yuan Zhenren’s heart to tremble.

Han Yuan Zhenren recalled how Kai could reach the Thirteenth Heaven with the cultivation of a Heavenly Immortal Realm, how he could kill the five Venerables of the Divine Punishment Hall,

and the mysterious and unpredictable gray power emanating from him… Perhaps, this young man truly could create miracles.

“Very well.”

Master Hanyuan finally made up his mind. “Since Fellow Daoist Chen has made up his mind, I will no longer try to dissuade him. However, the journey to the Western Regions is long and fraught with danger, so you need to be fully prepared.”

He took out an ice-blue storage ring from his robes and handed it to Kai: “Inside are some Ice Soul Pills and Cold Jade Marrow, special products of the Northern Regions, which are remarkably effective for healing injuries and restoring spiritual power. The environment in the Western Regions is harsh, so these things may come in handy.”

Kai took the ring and scanned it with his divine sense. Inside, there were not only a large number of pills and materials, but also tens of thousands of high-grade Yuan Crystals, as well as several ice-attribute magic treasures of good quality.

“Thank you, City Lord.” Kai thanked him solemnly.

Master Hanyuan then took out a palm-sized, jet-black bone fragment: “This is a map I drew when I traveled the Western Regions in my youth. Although the terrain may have changed since then, the general area should be correct.”

“It marks some dangerous places and possible resource points; you can refer to it.”

Kai took the bone fragment and probed it with his divine sense. Sure enough, he saw a detailed map, including not only the Ten Thousand Demon Mountains but also most of the Western Regions, even marking the locations of several divine strongholds.

“The City Lord’s great kindness will be remembered by this junior,” Kai said, bowing again. Master Hanyuan waved his hand: “No need to be so polite. Fellow Daoist Chen, you must be careful on your journey to the Western Regions.”

“If things don’t go well, you can always retreat to the Northern Regions. I will always leave you a way out.”

He paused, then added: “As for the Jade Immortal Mansion, I will send a message to a few old friends, telling them to stop targeting the people of the Eastern Regions. If Yu Wuji truly harbors any intention to rebel against the Divine Race, the Northern Regions are willing to secretly support him.”

Kai felt reassured, knowing that the purpose of this trip to Hanyuan City had been achieved.

“City Lord, we will not disturb you any longer.”

Kai stood up. “The journey to the Western Regions should be undertaken sooner rather than later.”

Master Hanyuan also stood up: “I will see you off.”

The three of them walked out of the meditation room and into the courtyard outside the City Lord’s Mansion.

Fine snowflakes drifted in the sky, and the cold wind was biting.

“Fellow Daoist Chen, Fellow Daoist Mingli, take care on your journey,” Master Hanyuan said solemnly.

Kai and Ming Li exchanged a glance, then simultaneously cupped their hands in greeting: “City Lord, take care. Farewell.”

With that, the two figures blurred, transforming into two streaks of light that soared into the sky, hurtling westward and quickly disappearing into the vast snowfield where the horizon met the sky.

Han Yuan Zhenren stood in the courtyard, gazing in the direction the two had vanished, silent for a long time.

Snowflakes fell on his shoulders, gradually accumulating into a thin layer.

“Kai... the Western Regions’ Ten Thousand Demon Mountains... the Divine Race...”

he murmured to himself, a complex light flashing in his eyes, “Is the fate of the Thirteen Heavens truly about to change?”

Behind him, a trusted elder quietly appeared, whispering, “City Lord, the Divine Race envoy has sent someone again to inquire whether the wanted criminal has been found.”

Han Yuan Zhenren turned around, his face regaining its usual coldness: “Tell them that Han Yuan City has searched with all its might, but has not yet found any trace of the villain. If there is any news, I will report it.”

“Yes.” The elder bowed and withdrew.

Han Yuan Zhenren looked westward again, a hint of expectation mixed with worry in his eyes.

“Kai, I hope you can really... come back alive.” Kai and Ming Li left Hanyuan City and sped towards the Western Regions. The

journey from the Northern Regions to the Western Regions required traversing the northern edge of the entire Central Region, a distance of hundreds of thousands of miles.

To avoid potential spies and checkpoints set up by the gods, the two chose the most desolate route, heading west along the Burial God Mountains, which border the Northern and Central Regions. The

Burial God Mountains were rumored to be one of the battlefields of the ancient war between gods and demons. The mountains stretched endlessly, towering into the clouds, perpetually shrouded in a gray-black deathly mist.

Spiritual energy was scarce, the laws were chaotic, the environment harsh, teeming with poisonous insects and ferocious beasts, and many ancient remnants of broken restrictions and dangerous spatial rifts, making it unapproachable for ordinary cultivators.

But precisely because of this, it became an excellent route to evade pursuit.

“Mr. Chen, traversing the Burial God Mountains will take at least twenty days, and we may encounter many dangers along the way,”

Ming Li warned, his body shrouded in black mist, keeping the deathly fog at bay.

Kai nodded, and a faint gray light shield formed around his body from the power of chaos. The death mist, powerful enough to corrode the protective aura of even a cultivator at the Upper Immortal Realm, was assimilated and absorbed the moment it touched the chaotic light shield, becoming nourishment for the power of chaos.

“It’s alright, this is a good opportunity to consolidate my cultivation,” Kai said calmly.

He had just broken through to the ninth rank of the Heavenly Immortal Realm. Although his foundation was solid, he did need time to adapt to the power of the new realm.

The harsh environment of the Burial God Mountain Range had become the best place for him to hone his skills.

The two transformed into two streaks of light and plunged into the vast Burial God Mountain Range.

The mountain range was indeed fraught with danger.

There were remnants of ancient ferocious beasts lurking in the mist, suddenly launching attacks;

there were seemingly calm grounds that were actually spatial rifts that devoured everything; there were remnants of ancient killing formations that, once triggered, would unleash a barrage of arrows;

and there were even bizarre illusions of inner demons that could evoke the deepest fears in a cultivator's heart.

But all of this seemed utterly insignificant in the face of Kai's power of chaos.

Remnants of ferocious beasts? A surge of chaotic power was directly absorbed and refined, becoming nourishment for strengthening the divine soul.

Spatial rifts? Chaotic power could stabilize space, forcibly closing rifts.

Ancient killing formations? Chaotic power eroded the formation's foundation, rendering the formation ineffective in moments.

Illusions of inner demons? Kai's Dao heart was as firm as a rock, having experienced countless life-and-death experiences, and with the chaotic power protecting his divine soul, illusions could not shake him in the slightest.

Moreover, Kai himself possessed the Origin of Illusions, making illusions utterly vulnerable before him!

On the contrary, Ming Li had been in danger several times, and it was Kai who came to his rescue.

“Mr. Chen, your chaotic power… is far too domineering.”

Ming Li couldn’t help but sigh as he watched Kai easily dissolve a spatial storm powerful enough to annihilate a fifth-grade Upper Immortal.

Kai smiled slightly, saying nothing more.

He was also constantly exploring new uses for chaotic power.

After breaking through to the ninth rank of the Celestial Immortal Realm, his understanding of the Great Dao of Chaos deepened. The power of chaos was no longer merely about annihilation and devouring; it had also begun to take shape in creation and evolution.

For example, he could now use the power of chaos to simulate attacks of various attributes. Although its power was not as great as that of cultivators who specialized in that attribute, its advantage lay in its versatility, making it difficult to defend against. The two traveled westward, hiding by day and moving by night, trying to avoid causing too much of a disturbance.

Ten days later, they had penetrated deep into the heart of the Burial God Mountains.

The death fog here was so dense it was almost tangible, reducing visibility to no more than ten feet.

The air was filled with an aura of decay and decay, and even time seemed to slow down.

“Mr. Chen, there’s an unusual energy fluctuation ahead.”

Ming Li suddenly stopped, looking warily into the depths of the dense fog ahead.

Kai also sensed it. It was a cold, eerie energy fluctuation, carrying a strong aura of death, completely out of place with the overall atmosphere of the Burial God Mountains, yet seemingly from the same source.

“Let’s go take a look.” Kai, skilled and daring, took the lead and flew towards the source of the fluctuation.

After passing through a hill made of piled bones, the view suddenly opened up.

The dense fog had dispersed here

, creating an open space about a hundred feet in diameter. In the center of the open space stood a dilapidated black stone palace.

The stone palace was ancient and grotesque in style, with countless patterns of ghosts and demons carved on the walls. Many parts had collapsed, but from the remaining outlines, it was clear that this stone palace had once been extremely magnificent.

The chilling, deathly energy fluctuations emanated from the depths of the stone hall.

“This is… an ancient Ghost Clan sacrificial temple?”

A flicker of excitement crossed Ming Li’s eyes. “I’ve seen similar records in our clan’s ancient texts! In ancient times, the Ghost Clan was scattered throughout the heavens, establishing countless sacrificial temples to worship the Lord of the Underworld.

I never expected to see ruins here!”

Kai surveyed the stone hall, his brow furrowing slightly. “Be careful, there’s something inside.”

He sensed a powerful aura emanating from the depths of the stone hall, at least equivalent to a fourth-grade Upper Immortal, filled with violence and chaos.

The two concealed their auras and quietly entered the stone hall.

The interior space was much larger than it appeared from the outside, clearly the result of spatial expansion techniques.

The floor was covered with a thick layer of dust and bone fragments, and most of the murals on the walls were peeling and faded, but one could still vaguely discern scenes depicting Ghost Clan sacrifices, battles, and cultivation.

Deep within the hall, a ferocious statue ten zhang tall stood.

The statue, with three heads and six arms, a blue face and fangs, held a knife, sword, halberd, shield, rope, and seal in its six hands—the very image of the “Lord of the Underworld” worshipped by the Ghost Clan.

However, the statue was now broken; two of its three heads were missing, and four of its six arms were severed.

At the statue’s feet lay a monster.

Resembling a giant lizard, it was over five zhang long, covered in dark red scales, with three rows of sharp bone spikes growing from its back, and a massive bone hammer at the end of its tail.

Its head was dragon-like yet not quite, dripping corrosive saliva that eroded the ground, creating numerous pits.

Most bizarrely, this monster was surrounded by a dense aura of death and resentment, originating from the same source as the Burial God Mountain Range, yet far more refined and ferocious.