the mans Decree: Kai Ping / Chen Ping

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But Chen Wanqing did not back down.

She raised her head and looked directly into Kai's eyes: "Young Master Chen, although my Chen family is not as powerful as the Temple, we have been operating in Yunxian City for a thousand years and are not pushovers. If the Temple dares to come to my Chen residence to take someone, my Chen family will stop them with all our might."

She paused, her tone firm: "As long as Young Master Chen agrees to help me enter the Dragon Pool, my Chen family is willing to be your backer. If the people from the Temple come to cause trouble, my Chen family will protect you."

Kai looked at her, a hint of surprise flashing in his eyes.

This woman does have some courage.

He was silent for a moment, then suddenly smiled.

"Miss Chen, do you know why I said earlier that I participated in the martial arts contest to find a husband for the sake of the immortal elixir?"

Chen Wanqing was taken aback, not understanding why he suddenly changed the subject.

Kai continued, "Actually, that was just an excuse. My real purpose was to find a backer."

He leaned back in his chair, his expression calm. "I'm wanted by the Temple, and wherever I go, people want to use me for their bounty.

Although Yunxian City is under the Temple's jurisdiction, the forces within the city are complex. As an outsider cultivator, it wouldn't be easy for me to leave alive."

He looked at Chen Wanqing. "So, when I saw the martial arts contest for marriage, I thought, if I could become the son-in-law of the Chen family, wouldn't I have a place to stay? Wouldn't I be able to temporarily escape the Temple's pursuit?"

This Kai, he lies so easily. If he weren't interested in this Dragon Pool, he probably wouldn't have used this whole story!

Chen Wanqing was stunned.

She hadn't expected Kai to have this consideration behind participating in the martial arts contest for marriage.

Kai continued, "Now that Miss Chen has offered to protect me, I am naturally more than happy to oblige. As for Dragon Pool…"

He paused, "To be honest, I am also very curious about where the Dragon Clan went. And where did my Golden Dragon bloodline come from?"

He stood up and extended his hand to Chen Wanqing:

"Miss Chen, it's a pleasure to cooperate."

Chen Wanqing looked at his hand, paused for a moment, then smiled and shook his hand.

"A pleasure to cooperate."

Kai withdrew his hand, then suddenly remembered something and asked, "By the way, Miss Chen, since we are now in a cooperative relationship, may I make a request?"

Chen Wanqing nodded: "Please speak, Young Master Chen."

Kai looked at her and said seriously, “Since we are partners, shouldn’t we get on with our dual cultivation?”

The smile on Chen Wanqing’s face froze.

“You… what did you say?”

Kai spread his hands. “Didn’t you say it yourself? I’m your cultivation partner. The test is over, and now it’s time for cultivation. There’s no time like the present, let’s do it tonight.”

Chen Wanqing’s cheeks flushed red, and she glared at him fiercely. “Young Master Chen, please have some self-respect!”

Kai looked innocent. “How am I not self-respecting? You said it yourself, I’m your cultivation partner. What kind of cultivation partner is it if we don’t cultivate together?”

Chen Wanqing was speechless with anger.

She took a deep breath, suppressing the urge to kick Kai out, and said, word by word,

“Young Master Chen, I’ll say it again. The cultivation partner is just in name, to give you a legitimate reason to stay in the Chen family. Except… except for that, you can have anything you want.” Kai raised an eyebrow: “Anything?”

Chen Wanqing nodded: “Anything.”

Kai thought for a moment, then said seriously: “Then I want one million bottles of immortal elixir.”

Chen Wanqing almost lost her balance.

“One…one million?!”

Her eyes widened, staring at Kai in disbelief.

Kai nodded, looking matter-of-fact: “Yes, one million. Didn’t Miss Chen say that anything except that is fine? One million bottles of immortal elixir shouldn’t be difficult for the Chen family, right?”

Chen Wanqing took a deep breath, then another, barely managing to suppress the urge to slap him.

“Young Master Chen,”

she gritted her teeth, enunciating each word clearly, “one million bottles of immortal elixir, even if you sold my Chen family, you couldn’t come up with that.”

Kai looked at her clenched teeth and suddenly laughed.

“Miss Chen, I was just joking.”

Chen Wanqing was taken aback.

Kai’s smile vanished, replaced by a serious expression. “Miss Chen, since we’re in a cooperative relationship, I have only one request: I need 360 bottles of Immortal Elixir to take the teleportation array to the Holy Land of Light. After the Dragon Pool matter is resolved, you must help me leave Cloud Immortal City.”

Chen Wanqing stared at him blankly, only reacting after a long while.

“You…you were just teasing me?”

Kai shrugged. “Otherwise what? I can’t really cultivate with you, can I? I have partners, and dozens of them at that.”

Chen Wanqing’s cheeks flushed again, this time out of anger.

She glared at Kai fiercely, then turned and walked towards the door.

At the door, she suddenly stopped, turning back to look at Kai:

“Young Master Chen, since you have dozens of partners, why did you come to participate in the martial arts contest for a husband?”

Kai leaned back in his chair, saying calmly, “I said, it’s for the Immortal Elixir, to find a backer.”

Chen Wanqing was silent for a moment, then suddenly smiled.

In that smile, there was relief, appreciation, and a hint of something indescribable…loss.

“Young Master Chen seems like an honest man, but I never expected him to be so dissolute, with dozens of companions.”

She pushed open the door and said softly, “I’ll have someone arrange accommodations for you. Tomorrow morning, I’ll take you to Dragon Pool.”

With that, she turned and left.

Kai watched her retreating figure, a slight smile playing on his lips.

This woman is quite interesting. After leaving her room, Chen

Wanqing didn’t return to her own chambers but headed straight for the depths of the Chen residence.

Passing through several courtyards, she arrived at a magnificent hall. Above the hall’s entrance hung a plaque with the three large characters “Hall of Council Affairs.”

Eight guards stood on either side of the entrance, all at the sixth rank of the Upper Immortal Realm.

Upon seeing Chen Wanqing approach, they all bowed respectfully.

“Miss,”

Chen Wanqing nodded slightly and pushed open the door to enter.

The hall was brightly lit. In the central seat sat an elderly man with graying temples.

The old man had a dignified face, his eyes flashing with a sharp light, his aura as deep as the sea—clearly a True Immortal Realm expert.

This man was none other than Chen Tiangang, the head of the Chen family and Chen Wanqing's father.

On the sandalwood chairs on either side sat six other elderly men, all elders of the Chen family, each possessing a powerful aura, the lowest cultivation level being at least the ninth rank of the Upper Immortal Realm.

Upon seeing Chen Wanqing enter, all eyes turned to her.

Chen Tiangang nodded slightly: "Wanqing, how did the marriage proposal go?"

Chen Wanqing walked into the hall, bowed to her father and the elders, and slowly said:

"Father, the marriage proposal has been decided."

The elders perked up.

"Who is it?"

a red-faced elder asked impatiently, "Is it Wu Lingyun from the Wu family?"

Chen Wanqing shook her head: "No."

"No?"

The red-faced elder was taken aback, “Wu Lingyun is a ninth-grade Upper Immortal, and he also has the Crimson Gold Bloodline. No one in the younger generation of Yunxian City can match him. Besides him, who else can pass the Four Pillars Test?”

Chen Wanqing took a deep breath and said, word by word:

“That person is called Kai.”

“Kai?”

Another white-haired elder frowned, “This name… I seem to have heard it somewhere before.”

Chen Wanqing nodded: “Elder, you have a good memory. This person is the wanted criminal by the Divine Temple, the one who destroyed the Tongtian Road, killed the Great Venerable, and caused chaos on the Holy Mountain, Kai.” As

soon as these words were spoken, the entire hall was shocked.

“What?!”

“It’s him?!”

“Kai, the one with the bounty of 50,000 bottles of immortal liquid?!”

The elders exchanged bewildered glances, their eyes filled with shock.

The red-faced elder abruptly stood up, urgently saying, “Wanqing, you’re confused! This person is wanted by the Divine Temple. Recruiting him into the Chen family is like inviting trouble!”

Chen Wanqing, however, remained calm and slowly said,

“Elders, don’t be hasty. Precisely because he is a wanted criminal by the Divine Temple, he is the person our Chen family needs most.”

The elders were stunned.

Chen Wanqing continued, “Do you all remember who we are looking for?”

The white-haired elder pondered, “A person with dragon blood…”

He suddenly widened his eyes, “You mean…”

Chen Wanqing nodded, enunciating each word clearly,

“Kai possesses the bloodline of the Golden Dragon, the bloodline of the emperor among the dragons.”

The hall instantly fell silent.

You could hear a pin drop.

After a long while, Chen Tiangang slowly spoke,

“Wanqing, are you sure?” Chen Wanqing nodded solemnly: “I saw it with my own eyes. When he was testing his bloodline, a five-clawed golden dragon phantom appeared behind him, its roar shaking the heavens and shattering the testing stone pillars.”

She paused, then added, “Moreover, he passed the Four Pillars Test and the Test of Self-Control, his results far surpassing Wu Lingyun’s.”

The elders exchanged bewildered glances, their eyes filled with disbelief.

The red-faced elder murmured, “Golden Dragon Bloodline…that’s the legendary supreme bloodline…”

The white-haired elder also became excited: “If he can truly enter the Dragon Pool, then my Chen family’s plans…”

Chen Tiangang raised his hand, stopping the discussion.

He looked at Chen Wanqing and said in a deep voice, “Wanqing, is he willing to cooperate with us?”

Chen Wanqing nodded: “I’ve already reached an agreement with him. He’s willing to help us enter the Dragon Pool on the condition that we protect him and help him fend off the Temple’s pursuit. After it’s done, we must also send him away from Yunxian City to the Holy Land of Light.”

Chen Tiangang was silent for a moment, then slowly nodded:

“The conditions are reasonable. As long as he can enter the Dragon Pool, none of this will be a problem.”

He looked at the elders: “What do you all think?”

The red-faced elder pondered: “Patriarch, protecting Kai is tantamount to making an enemy of the Temple. Although our Chen family has some foundation in Yunxian City, if the Temple launches a large-scale attack…”

Chen Tiangang said calmly: “Although the Temple is strong, it also has to consider the constraints of the Divine Hall and the Divine Palace. Moreover, the Temple no longer has much control over Yunxian City. If they want to launch a large-scale attack, they will have no legitimate reason.”

The white-haired elder nodded: “Patriarch is absolutely right. The Temple’s current focus is on repairing the destroyed Holy Mountain Altar. They may not have the spare strength to launch a major attack on Yunxian City.”

Another elder also said: “If we can enter the Dragon Pool and obtain the Dragon Clan’s treasures, our Chen family’s strength will greatly increase. At that time, even if the Temple comes to cause trouble, we may not be without a fighting chance.”

The elders all nodded.

Chen Tiangang looked at Chen Wanqing, his eyes filled with approval:

“Wanqing, you handled this matter well. Where is Kai now?”

Chen Wanqing replied, “I have settled him in the guest courtyard. I will take him to Dragon Pool first thing tomorrow morning.”

Chen Tiangang nodded: “Good. Tomorrow, I will personally lead men to escort you there.”

He paused, his gaze sweeping over the elders:

“Pass down the order: from today onwards, the Chen residence will be on high alert. Everyone must increase patrols and be vigilant against spies from the Divine Temple infiltrating. If any suspicious persons are found, arrest them immediately!”

“Yes!”

the elders responded in unison.

Chen Wanqing bowed slightly: “Father, if there is nothing else, I will take my leave.”

Chen Tiangang nodded: “Go. Get some rest. Tomorrow’s matter is of utmost importance.”

Chen Wanqing turned and walked out of the hall.

Reaching the doorway, she suddenly stopped and turned to Chen Tiangang:

“Father, that Kai… is quite interesting.”

Chen Tiangang raised an eyebrow: “Oh?”

Chen Wanqing’s lips curled slightly: “I just said I was willing to protect him on the condition that he help me enter the Dragon Pool. He agreed,

and then asked me if we could settle our dual cultivation tonight since we're now partners."

Chen Tiangang was stunned.

The elders were also stunned.

The red-faced elder almost choked on his saliva.

Chen Wanqing, however, smiled broadly: "Of course I refused. Then he said he wanted a million bottles of immortal elixir."

"A million?!" the red-faced elder exclaimed.

Chen Wanqing nodded: "That startled me. Then he said he was joking."

She paused, her smile deepening: "This man... is incredibly shameless, but surprisingly... not annoying."

With that, she turned and left, leaving the crowd staring at each other in bewilderment.

Chen Tiangang watched his daughter's departing figure, stunned for a long time, then suddenly smiled.

"This kid... is quite interesting." The next morning, Kai was awakened by a knock on the door.

"Young Master Chen, it's time to depart,"

came Chen Wanqing's cool voice from outside.

Kai got up and opened the door, where Chen Wanqing stood gracefully in a white dress.

The morning light bathed her in a soft golden glow, making her look like a fairy from a painting.

“Good morning, Miss Chen

,” Kai yawned. “Going to Dragon Pool so early?”

“The entrance to Dragon Pool is only open for two hours each day, from Chen Shi (7-9 AM) to Si Shi (9-11 AM). If you miss

it, you’ll have to wait until tomorrow,” Chen Wanqing explained. “Father and the elders are already waiting outside the mansion. Please follow me, Young Master Chen.”

Kai nodded and followed Chen Wanqing out of the mansion.

Along the way, the Chen mansion was heavily guarded, with guards patrolling everywhere.

Kai noticed that the guards looked at him with complex emotions—curiosity, wariness, and a hint of awe.

Outside the mansion gate, eight beast-drawn carriages were ready to depart.

Chen Tiangang stood with his hands behind his back, followed by six elders, all of them possessing profound auras.

Behind them were thirty elite guards from the Chen family, each with a cultivation level of at least the seventh rank of the Upper Immortal Realm.

Seeing Kai emerge, Chen Tiangang sized him up and nodded slightly: “Young Master Chen, did you rest well last night?”

“Thank you for your concern, Patriarch Chen. It was quite good,”

Kai replied with a smile. “The beds in the Chen family are much more comfortable than the stone caves I slept in in the wild.” Chen Tiangang’s

lips curled slightly at this.

This young man was quite interesting.

“In that case, let’s set off.”

Chen Tiangang waved his hand and boarded the first beast-drawn carriage first.

Kai was about to follow when Chen Wanqing stopped him.

“Young Master Chen, please ride in the third carriage with me.”

Kai raised an eyebrow and followed Chen Wanqing into the third carriage.

The interior was spacious, covered with soft animal hides, and tea and snacks were laid out on a table.

Chen Wanqing sat down opposite Kai but remained silent, simply watching him quietly.

Kai felt a little uneasy under her gaze: “Miss Chen, is there something on my face?”

Chen Wanqing shook her head, then suddenly took out an exquisite jade box from her sleeve. Opening the lid, she revealed a silver necklace lying quietly inside.

The necklace was entirely silver-white, engraved with dense runes that faintly shimmered with light.

Kai’s gaze sharpened.

These runes… were restrictive runes.

Chen Wanqing handed the jade box to Kai, her expression calm: “Young Master Chen, please wear this before entering the Dragon Pool.”

Kai didn’t take it, only looking at her indifferently: “What is this?”

“A protective item,”

Chen Wanqing said calmly. “The Dragon Pool is heavily restricted; a slight mistake could trigger a killing formation. This necklace bears protective runes left by my Chen family ancestors, which can protect you in times of crisis.”

Kai smiled. A defensive item?

Although he wasn’t a formation master, he had seen quite a few restrictions.

The runes on this necklace were clearly a combination of a spirit-locking restriction and a tracking restriction.

After wearing it, not only would spiritual power be restricted, but every move would also be sensed by the caster.

This was for self-defense?

This was for protecting him, wasn’t it?

Kai looked at Chen Wanqing, a half-smile on his face: “Miss Chen, are you sure this is for self-defense?”

Chen Wanqing’s expression remained unchanged: “Young Master Chen doesn’t believe me?”

Kai shook his head: “It’s not that I don’t believe you, it’s that I believe you too much.”

He reached out and took the necklace from the jade box, weighing it in his hand.

The silver necklace was icy cold, and the runes on it flickered slightly when they sensed the presence of a living person.

Kai looked into Chen Wanqing’s eyes, enunciating each word clearly:

“Miss Chen, only when I wear this will your Chen family feel at ease letting me enter the Dragon Pool, right?”

Chen Wanqing was silent for a moment, then slowly nodded: “Young Master Chen is indeed clever.”

She didn’t deny it, nor did she make excuses; she simply admitted it frankly.

A hint of appreciation flashed in Kai’s eyes.

This woman was quite frank.

“Miss Chen, you really don’t need to be like this,”

Kai said calmly, toying with the collar. “Since I promised to help you enter the Dragon Pool, I won’t go back on my word. Wearing this only makes it seem like we don’t trust each other.”

Chen Wanqing pursed her lips. “Young Master Chen, I trust you. But I’m not the only one in the Chen family.”

She paused, looking directly at Kai. “Of the six elders, three have doubts about you. They believe you’re wanted by the Temple and might betray us at any time. If you find any treasure in the Dragon Pool, you’re very likely to keep it for yourself. This collar is what they insisted you wear.”

Kai raised an eyebrow. “So, you’re here as a mediator?”

Chen Wanqing shook her head. “No, I’m here to apologize.”

She stood up and bowed deeply to Kai. “Young Master Chen, I’m sorry. I know this isn’t fair to you, but for the sake of the Chen family and for the smooth progress of the Dragon Pool trip, please bear with it. After we come out of the Dragon Pool, I’ll personally remove the collar for you and apologize.”

Kai looked at her, remaining silent for a long time.

After a long pause, he suddenly laughed.

“Miss Chen, your apology is so sincere that I can’t even muster the anger.”

He fastened the collar around his neck with a “click,” and it closed.

Instantly, a strange power surged from the collar, spreading throughout his body along his meridians.

Kai felt his spiritual energy circulation become sluggish, as if suppressed by something.

At the same time, a faint, tangible thought locked onto him, following him wherever he went.

Chen Wanqing watched him put on the collar without hesitation, a complex emotion flashing in her eyes.

“Young Master Chen, you…you’re not angry?”

Kai leaned against the carriage wall, lazily saying, “What good would anger do? Your Chen family has six elders, one True Immortal patriarch, and thirty Upper Immortal guards. If I made a scene, would I be able to leave Yunxian City alive?”

He looked at Chen Wanqing, a playful smile playing on his lips. “Besides, Miss Chen has personally apologized. I, a grown man, can’t possibly hold a grudge against a woman, can I?” Chen Wanqing stared at him blankly for a long while before softly saying, “Young Master Chen, you are much more magnanimous than I imagined.”

Kai waved his hand, “Don’t praise me. I can’t take praise too much. Once I’m praised, I easily get carried away, and once I get carried away, I easily do foolish things.”

Chen Wanqing couldn’t help but laugh.

This smile was more sincere than ever before.

“Young Master Chen, don’t worry. After the Dragon Pool matter is settled, I will definitely…”

“Alright, alright,”

Kai interrupted her, “You already said that. Let’s talk about the Dragon Pool matter. What exactly is the situation inside? Your Chen family has been exploring for three months; surely you’ve gained something?”

Chen Wanqing’s smile faded, and she said seriously, “In the past three months, my Chen family has sent seventeen groups of people into the outer perimeter of the Dragon Pool, but they were all blocked by the dragon clan’s restriction. We don’t know what lies beyond the restriction.”

She took out a map made of animal hide from her sleeve and spread it out on the table.

The map marked the terrain of the mountains north of the city, with one area circled in red.

“This is the entrance to Dragon Pool, located in a secluded valley. The valley is surrounded by ancient restrictions, and it took my Chen family two months to find a safe path,”

Chen Wanqing pointed to the red circle on the map. “After entering the valley, you’ll see a stone gate. Beyond the stone gate lies the outer edge of Dragon Pool. That’s where we encountered the dragon’s restrictions.”

Kai looked at the map and suddenly asked, “Did you try to force your way through?”

Chen Wanqing shook her head: “We did. Three elders at the ninth rank of the Upper Immortal Realm joined forces to attack that barrier, but they were severely injured by the recoil. One of them is still recovering.”

She looked at Kai, her eyes filled with expectation: “That barrier doesn’t react to dragon bloodlines, but if someone without dragon bloodlines gets close, it will unleash lightning power. Young Master Chen, you possess the Golden Dragon bloodline; you should be able to pass through safely.”

Kai nodded without asking further questions.

The beast-drawn carriage headed north, leaving Cloud Immortal City and entering the continuous mountain range.

An hour later, the caravan stopped in front of a valley.

Kai alighted from the carriage and saw a massive stone tablet standing at the entrance of the valley. Engraved on the tablet were four ancient characters:

“Dragon Clan Forbidden Land

,” the faded inscription bearing the marks of time.

Chen Tiangang walked to Kai’s side and said in a deep voice, “Young Master Chen, I entrust the rest to you.”

Kai nodded and followed Chen Wanqing deeper into the valley.

The six elders followed closely behind, while thirty guards remained at the valley entrance on watch.

Passing through a narrow canyon, the view suddenly opened up.

This was a clearing about a hundred feet in diameter, at the end of which stood a massive stone gate.

The gate was about ten feet high, constructed entirely of blue-green boulders.

Lifelike five-clawed golden dragon reliefs were carved on the gate, with two fist-sized luminous pearls embedded in the dragon's eyes, glowing softly.

Before the gate was a pale golden light curtain, upon which lightning flickered.

Chen Wanqing stopped and looked at Kai: "Young Master Chen, that's the Dragon Clan's restriction. You…"

Before she could finish speaking, Kai had already strode towards the light barrier.

"Young Master Chen!" Chen Wanqing exclaimed.

Kai didn't turn around and stepped directly into the light barrier.

The pale golden light barrier rippled, but it didn't trigger any attack.

Kai's figure disappeared behind the light barrier.

Chen Wanqing stared blankly at this scene, her heart filled with mixed emotions.

He… really went in.

Without any hesitation, without any doubt.

It was as if he wasn't worried at all about any danger behind the light barrier. Beyond the light curtain lay a completely different world.

The moment Kai stepped into the Dragon Pool, a monstrous dragon aura rushed towards him.

The aura was so dense it was almost tangible; with each breath, one could feel the immense pressure it contained.

If an ordinary cultivator had entered this place, they would likely have been instantly forced to their knees by the overwhelming dragon aura.

But Kai was different.

He possessed the bloodline of the Golden Dragon, and the dragon aura not only didn't suppress him, but instead made him feel comfortable, as if a wanderer had returned home.

Kai took a deep breath and looked around.

This was a vast underground space, its dome unfathomably high, with faint points of light visible, like a starry sky.

Beneath his feet lay a wide expanse of water, crystal clear yet shimmering with a faint golden hue.

This was the Dragon Pool?

Kai stepped forward, his feet treading on the water as if on solid ground.

In the center of the pool stood nine enormous stone pillars, adorned with lifelike dragon-shaped reliefs.

At the top of each pillar floated a ball of light, within which various treasures could be faintly seen.

"Dragon Clan's Supreme Treasure! "

Kai's eyes lit up, and without hesitation, he leaped onto the first pillar.

The first pillar, bathed in light, revealed a longsword covered in golden scales, its blade faintly emitting a dragon's roar.

The hilt was engraved with two ancient characters: "Dragon's Roar."

Kai grasped the hilt, instantly feeling a surge of powerful sword intent flow into his body.

This sword was at least a True Immortal-level treasure!

Without hesitation, he stored the Dragon's Roar Sword in his storage ring.

The second pillar, bathed in light, revealed a set of golden armor, its surface covered in dense scales, with

a ferocious dragon head on its chest. Kai touched it, and the armor automatically disintegrated, fitting perfectly onto his body.

A treasure!

The third pillar contained a jade scroll, recording the dragon clan's cultivation techniques.

The fourth pillar held a bottle of Dragon Essence Pills, the pills faintly displaying dragon patterns.

The fifth…

Kai swept away the treasures from all nine pillars like a locust swarm.

Just as he was about to collect the treasure from the ninth stone pillar, a sudden change occurred.

"Roar…"

A deafening dragon's roar echoed from the depths of the pool.

The entire Dragon Pool trembled violently, and towering waves surged forth.

The light on the nine stone pillars simultaneously extinguished, replaced by a pair of enormous eyes that slowly rose from the pool's depths.

They were golden vertical pupils, cold, majestic, and exuding boundless pressure.

As those eyes rose, a colossal figure emerged from the pool's bottom.

It was a giant dragon, over a hundred zhang long, its entire body covered in golden scales.

Its head was as massive as a mountain, and with each breath, it stirred up a violent whirlwind.

The dragon surfaced, looking down at Kai from its lofty position. "Human..."

Its voice was deep and majestic, echoing through the space, "You trespassed into the Dragon's Pool and stole the Dragon Clan's most precious treasure. Do you know your crime?"

With its words, a terrifying pressure swept down from the sky. The

pressure was so strong that it could instantly force a ninth-grade Immortal Realm cultivator to their knees.

But Kai remained unmoved.

He raised his head, meeting the golden vertical pupils in his eyes, his expression calm:

"Know your crime? What crime have I committed?"

A hint of surprise flashed in the dragon's eyes.

This human could actually stand under its dragon might?

"Human, you have quite the audacity,"

the dragon said in a deep voice, "But do you know that this is the Dragon Clan's forbidden area? Anyone who does not have Dragon Clan blood will die!"

It opened its massive maw, and a golden dragon breath condensed within.

Kai smiled.

“Those who do not have Dragon Clan blood will die?”

He looked at the dragon, a playful smile playing on his lips, “Then look at me, am I not of Dragon Clan blood?”

As soon as he finished speaking, the power of his bloodline surged within him.

A phantom of a five-clawed golden dragon materialized behind him.

The phantom was entirely golden, with sharp claws, prominent horns, and eyes that opened and closed with a majestic, sea-like aura.

The phantom roared to the sky, its cry shaking the heavens.

The dragon’s might crumbled instantly before this phantom.

“A…a five-clawed golden dragon?!”

The dragon’s pupils contracted sharply, its eyes filled with disbelief.

It stared intently at the phantom behind Kai, its massive body trembling.

“Impossible…this is impossible…”

it murmured, “The five-clawed golden dragon is the king of the dragon race, extinct for ten thousand years…how could you…”

Kai withdrew his bloodline phantom, looking at it calmly: “Now, do you still think I’m human?”

The dragon fell silent.

After a long silence, it slowly spoke, its tone devoid of any majesty, only filled with awe:

“You…you are the inheritor of the Dragon Emperor’s bloodline?”

Kai did not answer, but instead asked, “Who are you? Why are you in this Dragon Pool?”

The dragon was silent for a moment, then said in a deep voice, “I am Long Yuan, an elder of the Heavenly Dragon Clan. Ten thousand years ago, I was ordered to guard this pool, awaiting the arrival of the inheritor of the Dragon Emperor’s bloodline.”

Kai raised an eyebrow: “Awaiting the inheritor of the Dragon Emperor’s bloodline?”

Long Yuan nodded, a complex look flashing in its eyes: “Ten thousand years ago, His Majesty the Dragon Emperor foresaw the impending annihilation of the Dragon Clan, so he sealed the Dragon Clan’s most precious treasures in various secret realms, leaving behind a prophecy: when the Five-Clawed Golden Dragon reappears in the world, it will be the time of the Dragon Clan’s revival.”

It looked at Kai, its eyes filled with hope: “Unexpectedly, ten thousand years later, the prophecy has truly come true.” Kai listened calmly, his expression unchanged.

Long Yuan continued, “Inheritor, the Dragon Pool contains the treasures and inheritance of the Heavenly Dragon lineage. Now that you are here, these things naturally belong to you.”

It paused, then changed the subject, “However, before that, there is something I must tell you.”

“What is it?”

Long Yuan’s gaze turned to the depths of the pool.

Kai followed its gaze and saw a strange black area at the bottom of the pool.

There was no dragon energy there, only a dense stillness and…ominousness.

“What is that?”

Long Yuan said in a deep voice, “That’s a forbidden item of the Dragon Clan, the Demon Dragon Flower.”

“The Demon Dragon Flower?”

Long Yuan nodded, “Ten thousand years ago, a branch of the Dragon Clan betrayed the Dragon Emperor and sided with the Demon Clan. They used their own flesh and blood as a catalyst to cultivate a strange black flower called the Demon Dragon Flower. This flower feeds on dragon energy; wherever it blooms, dragon energy is lost, and the Dragon Clan perishes.”

His voice was filled with deep dread, “Back then, His Majesty the Dragon Emperor personally took action and exterminated that traitorous branch. But the Demon Dragon Flower could not be eradicated and could only be sealed deep within this Dragon Pool, to be guarded by me for generations.”

Kai looked at the black area, his brows furrowing slightly.

He could sense that there was indeed a strange power there, completely opposite to dragon energy, filled with decay and ominousness.

“Is that thing still there?”

Long Yuan nodded. “The seal is still there, preventing the Demonic Dragon Flower from breaking free. But ten thousand years have passed, and the seal has begun to loosen.

Successor, you bear the bloodline of the Dragon Emperor. If you ever become strong enough, you must destroy this thing completely. Otherwise, once the Demonic Dragon Flower reappears in the world, not only the Dragon Clan, but the entire human race will suffer annihilation."

Kai listened quietly, without expressing his opinion.

He simply looked at the black area, a thoughtful look flashing in his eyes.

The Demonic Dragon Flower...

this thing seems rather interesting.

Seeing his silence, Long Yuan assumed he was frightened and comforted him, "Successor, there's no need to worry. The seal on the Demonic Dragon Flower can last for another thousand years. With your talent, you will surely reach the True Immortal realm within a thousand years, at which point you can destroy it."

Kai snapped out of his reverie and nodded, "I understand."

He looked at Long Yuan and suddenly asked, "You just said that the Dragon Pool contains the treasures and inheritance of the Heavenly Dragon lineage. Where is that inheritance?"

A smile flashed in Long Yuan's enormous dragon eyes, "Successor, the nine treasures you just collected are merely appetizers. The true inheritance is here."

It opened its massive maw, and a fist-sized golden dragon pearl flew out.

The dragon pearl was entirely golden, its surface shimmering with mysterious runes, and faint dragon roars emanated from it.

"This is the inheritance dragon pearl of my Heavenly Dragon lineage, containing the cultivation techniques and secret arts accumulated by my clan over ten thousand years. Successor, as long as you absorb the

dragon energy within, you will obtain the complete inheritance of the Heavenly Dragon lineage."

Kai looked at the dragon pearl, his eyes gleaming.

He could sense that the dragon energy contained within the Dragon Pearl was far more powerful than he had imagined.

If he could absorb it, his cultivation would surely advance by leaps and bounds. "How do you absorb it?"

Long Yuan asked. "Use your bloodline power to activate it, and the Dragon Pearl will naturally recognize you as its master."

Kai didn't hesitate and reached out to grasp the Dragon Pearl.

Instantly, a vast surge of dragon energy flooded into his body.

The density of that dragon energy far exceeded his expectations. Almost the instant it entered, his meridians were filled with the dragon energy, and he felt as if he was about to burst.

Kai's expression remained unchanged as he frantically circulated his bloodline power, devouring the dragon energy.

Long Yuan watched this scene, his eyes filled with shock.

This human... no, this inheritor of the Dragon Emperor's bloodline was actually enduring the influx of dragon energy from the Dragon Pearl?

You must know that the dragon energy in the Dragon Pearl had been accumulated over ten thousand years. Even ordinary dragons had to absorb it gradually, refining it bit by bit.

To devour it directly like this was simply courting death!

But Kai not only didn't die, but he devoured it even more fiercely.

His aura began to rise.

Peak of the first rank of the Upper Immortal Realm…

Second rank of the Upper Immortal Realm…

Mid-stage of the second rank of the

Upper Immortal Realm… Peak of the second rank of the Upper Immortal Realm…

“Boom…”

A powerful aura erupted from Kai’s body .

He opened his eyes, golden light flashing within them, his entire being radiating an aura of majesty.

Peak of the second rank of the Upper Immortal Realm!

Just one step away from stepping into the third rank of the Upper Immortal Realm!

Long Yuan stared at him in disbelief, its massive body trembling violently.

“This… how is this possible…”

it murmured, “Directly absorbing the dragon energy of the Dragon Pearl, not only did he not die, but he also broke through his realm… even His Majesty the Dragon Emperor of yesteryear couldn’t do that…”

Kai released the Dragon Pearl, looking at it calmly: “What, is there a problem?”

Long Yuan shuddered, its massive dragon head slamming into the water with a “bang.”

“Your subordinate, Longyuan, pays respects to Your Majesty the Dragon Emperor!”

Its voice was filled with awe and submission. “Your Majesty’s talent is unparalleled; I am utterly convinced! From this day forward, I am willing to go through fire and water for Your Majesty without hesitation!”

Kai looked at the giant dragon, who had been so majestic just moments before but was now prostrate on the ground, and a slight smile appeared on his lips.

“Rise.”

Longyuan cautiously raised its head, and seeing that Kai’s expression was normal, it breathed a sigh of relief.

Just as it was about to speak, it suddenly sensed something, and its expression changed.

“Your Majesty, the fluctuations you caused when you absorbed the dragon energy from the Dragon Pearl were too great. That aura of the Dragon Emperor’s bloodline has likely already spread.”

Kai raised an eyebrow: “Spread?”

Long Yuan nodded, his voice deep: “Although the Dragon Clan disappeared for ten thousand years, they are not entirely extinct. As far as I know, there are still several branches of the Dragon Clan living in seclusion in hidden places within the Fourteen Heavens. The aura you just unleashed could very well have been sensed by them.”

It paused, a hint of worry flashing in its eyes: “Especially… the Heavenly Dragon lineage.”

Kai’s gaze sharpened.

The Heavenly Dragon lineage?

Long Yuan had just mentioned that it was an elder of the Heavenly Dragon Clan.

In other words, this Dragon Pool was originally a secret realm of the Heavenly Dragon Clan? Longyuan, noticing his confusion, explained, “Your Majesty is unaware. Within the dragon race, the bloodline hierarchy is extremely strict. The Five-Clawed Golden Dragon possesses the bloodline of royalty, one in ten thousand. Below it are branches such as the Heavenly Dragon, the Yinglong, and the Jiaolong. My Heavenly Dragon lineage is second only to the royal family among the dragons, making us the nobility.”

It paused, then continued, “Ten thousand years ago, His Majesty the Dragon Emperor foresaw an impending calamity and dispersed the dragon race to various hidden places. A portion of my Heavenly Dragon lineage resided in a secluded location within the Fourteenth Heaven. They… are still here.”

Kai listened quietly, his expression unchanged.

Longyuan looked at him cautiously and said, “Your Majesty, the aura you just unleashed could very well have been sensed by them. Given the pride of the Heavenly Dragon lineage, they might very well send someone to investigate. At that time…”

It didn’t finish its sentence, but the meaning was clear.

Whether the Heavenly Dragon lineage would be friend or foe if they came was still unknown.

Kai remained silent for a moment, then suddenly smiled.

“Come on then,”

he said calmly. “Perfect, I also want to see what the Dragon Clan has left after ten thousand years.”

Long Yuan looked at him, his eyes filled with awe.

This inheritor of the Dragon Emperor's bloodline was not only incredibly talented, but his demeanor was in no way inferior to that of the Dragon Emperor of yesteryear.

Kai put away the Dragon Pearl and looked at Long Yuan: "What else is in this Dragon Pool?"

Long Yuan thought for a moment and said, "Your Majesty, you have already collected ninety percent of the treasures in the Dragon Pool. The rest are all insignificant things. However..."

It paused, looking at the black area deep in the pool: "Would Your Majesty like to take a look at the seal on the Demonic Dragon Flower?"

Kai frowned slightly.

Demonic Dragon Flower...

He was silent for a moment, then nodded: "Lead the way."

Long Yuan's huge body turned and swam towards the bottom of the pool.

Kai followed behind it, the two of them approaching the strange black area.

The closer they got, the stronger the ominous aura became.

Kai could sense that the power contained within the black flower was completely opposite to the dragon energy.

If dragon energy was light and vitality, then the power of the Demonic Dragon Flower was darkness and death.

It devoured dragon energy and corrupted the dragon race.

This thing was indeed a forbidden object for the dragon race.

Kai stood before the seal, quietly watching the black flower. The

flower was the size of a millstone, its petals as black as ink, with a faint crimson light flowing around its stamen. The petals swayed gently, and with each sway, a trace of dragon energy was absorbed into them.

Kai could feel a strange power contained within the flower, a power that… made him feel a slight unease.

But at the same time, a strong desire suddenly surged within him.

That desire came from the depths of his bloodline.

His Golden Dragon bloodline wanted to devour this Demonic Dragon Flower!

Kai's gaze sharpened.

What was going on?

The Golden Dragon bloodline actually desired to devour a forbidden object of the dragon race?

Seeing his unusual expression, Long Yuan asked worriedly, "Your Majesty, what's wrong?"

Kai snapped out of his reverie, suppressed the tremor in his heart, and shook his head: "Nothing."

He took a deep look at the demonic dragon flower, then turned and left.

This thing cannot be touched for now.

But… one day, he will return. Meanwhile

, in the Fourteenth Heaven, in a secluded place

, a valley shrouded in mist stood atop an ancient palace.

The palace was constructed entirely of massive, azure stones, adorned with lifelike dragon reliefs.

Inside the main hall, six figures sat cross-legged.

They were all middle-aged, clad in long golden robes, their auras as deep and profound as the sea.

If Kai were here, he would immediately recognize the intense dragon energy emanating from them.

They were members of the Dragon Clan, the Heavenly Dragon lineage.

Seated in the main seat was an elderly man with graying temples.

His face was dignified, his eyes flashing with a sharp light, his aura reaching the True Immortal realm.

This man was Long Zhan, the current patriarch of the Heavenly Dragon lineage.

At this moment, Long Zhan was meditating with his eyes closed when suddenly he abruptly opened them, his eyes flashing with a brilliant light.

“This aura…”

The other five also paled.

“Clan leader, did you sense it?”

a middle-aged man asked urgently. “That’s…that’s the aura of the Dragon Emperor’s bloodline!”

Long Zhan slowly rose, walked to the entrance of the main hall, and gazed into the distance.

That direction led to Yunxian City.

“A five-clawed golden dragon…”

he murmured, “Ten thousand years have passed, and the Dragon Emperor’s bloodline has actually reappeared in the world…”

Another elder said in a deep voice, “Clan leader, what does the reappearance of the Dragon Emperor’s bloodline mean?”

Long Zhan was silent for a moment, then slowly said, “It means that His Majesty the Dragon Emperor’s prophecy is about to come true.”

He turned around and looked at everyone, his gaze intense:

“Pass down the order to send people to Yunxian City to find out the source of that aura.”

“Remember, at all costs, find the person who possesses the Dragon Emperor’s bloodline!”

“Yes!”

The six figures bowed in unison.

Long Zhan gazed into the distance, a complex expression flashing in his eyes.

The Dragon Emperor’s bloodline…

Ten thousand years ago, His Majesty the Dragon Emperor led the Dragon Clan against the Demon Clan, ultimately perishing. Before his death, he left a prophecy: when the five-clawed golden dragon reappears in the world, it will be the time of the Heavenly Dragon Clan’s revival.

Now, the prophecy has come true.

But Long Zhan knows that the appearance of the Dragon Emperor’s bloodline not only signifies revival, but also… turmoil.

Because not everyone in the Dragon Clan wants the Dragon Emperor's return.

The descendants of those traitors who betrayed the Dragon Emperor and sided with the Demon Clan are still hiding in the shadows.

If the Dragon Emperor's bloodline appears, they will surely make their move.

Long Zhan took a deep breath, a resolute glint in his eyes.

No matter what, the Dragon Emperor's bloodline must be held by the Heavenly Dragon Clan.

This is the Heavenly Dragon Clan's mission, and also... their opportunity.

... Within the Dragon Pool, Kai was unaware of everything happening outside.

Led by Long Yuan, he was exploring

the entire pool. The Dragon Pool was far larger than he had imagined; it took him three full hours to traverse it.

Besides the treasures on the nine stone pillars, there were some scattered treasures within the pool. Kai, without hesitation, pocketed them all.

Long Yuan, watching his locust-like swarm, twitched slightly at the corner of its mouth.

This Dragon Emperor's way of collecting treasures—it was exactly like the greedy dragon of dragon legend!

But it dared not say anything, silently following behind Kai.

Finally, Kai swept the Dragon Pool clean, clapping his hands in satisfaction.

“That’s enough, it’s time to go out.”

Long Yuan was taken aback: “Your Majesty, are you leaving?”

Kai nodded: “There are still people waiting for me outside.”

He looked at Long Yuan and said calmly: “What about you? Will you stay here, or come with me?”

Long Yuan was silent for a moment, then shook its head: “Your Majesty, I cannot leave yet.”

It looked at the black area deep in the pool: “The seal on the Demon Dragon Flower needs my protection. Moreover, if I leave, the Dragon Pool will lose its guardian, which may attract the covetousness of outsiders.”

Kai nodded, without forcing the issue.

Long Yuan looked at him, hesitated for a moment, and suddenly said, “Your Majesty, I have a request.”

“Speak,”

Long Yuan said in a deep voice, “After Your Majesty goes out, if you encounter any members of the Heavenly Dragon lineage, please be careful. They… may not all be willing to submit to you.”

Kai raised an eyebrow: “Oh?”

Long Yuan sighed and slowly said, “Ten thousand years ago, after His Majesty the Dragon Emperor fell, the Dragon Clan was torn apart. Some members of the clan have long been accustomed to freedom and are unwilling to be bound by the Dragon Emperor anymore. Now that you have suddenly appeared, they… may see you as a threat.”

It paused and continued, “Especially the Heavenly Dragon lineage. Our Heavenly Dragon lineage holds a prestigious position in the Dragon

Clan, second only to the royal family. Ten thousand years have passed, and they have long since formed their own faction. If you want them to submit, I'm afraid... it won't be so easy."

Kai listened quietly, his expression unchanged.

After a long while, he suddenly smiled.

"Long Yuan, do you know?"

He looked at Long Yuan, a hint of amusement in his eyes, "The thing I fear least is trouble."

He turned and walked towards the exit of the Dragon Pool.

"If the Heavenly Dragon lineage comes, then let them come."

His voice drifted over calmly, yet carried an undeniable air of dominance:

"Perfect, I also want to see how much of the dragon race's spirit remains after ten thousand years."

Long Yuan watched his retreating figure, his eyes filled with awe.

This Dragon Emperor was indeed extraordinary.

It suddenly felt a surge of anticipation, eager to see the proud members of the Heavenly Dragon lineage kneel and submit before this Emperor.

That scene would surely be quite interesting.

Kai stepped into the light barrier and vanished into the Dragon Pool.

Long Yuan gazed in the direction he had left, murmuring,

"Your Majesty, I await that day." ...

Outside the light barrier, Chen Wanqing waited anxiously.

Three hours had passed.

Kai had been inside for three hours.

During this time, the pale golden light barrier remained unchanged, without any movement.

She didn't know what had happened inside, whether Kai was dead or alive.

She could only wait.

"Wanqing, don't worry,"

Chen Tiangang walked to her side and said in a deep voice, "The light barrier is still there, which means the restriction hasn't been triggered. Kai should be alright."

Chen Wanqing nodded, but the worry in her eyes was undisguised.

She didn't know why she was so worried.

Clearly, she had only known Kai for less than a day.

Clearly, she had made Kai wear that collar precisely to protect him.

But the moment Kai stepped into the light barrier without hesitation, an indescribable emotion suddenly welled up in her heart.

Was it guilt?

Was it gratitude?

Or…something else?

She didn't know.

She only knew that she was very worried about him.

Just then, the light barrier suddenly rippled.

A figure stepped out from within the light barrier.

Kai had returned.

Chen Wanqing's eyes lit up, and she was about to go forward when she suddenly froze.

The aura emanating from Kai had changed.

Three hours ago, he was at the peak of the first rank of the Upper Immortal Realm.

Now, he was at the peak of the second rank!

He had broken through an entire minor realm!

Chen Wanqing was dumbfounded.

Chen Tiangang and the six elders also exchanged bewildered glances, their eyes filled with shock.

What exactly had happened in the Dragon Pool?

Kai walked up to Chen Wanqing, looked at her stunned expression, and suddenly smiled.

"Miss Chen, what are you staring at? Don't you recognize me?"

Chen Wanqing snapped out of her daze, took a deep breath, suppressed her shock, and said softly,

"Young Master Chen, you...you broke through?"

Kai nodded: "I was lucky, I found something inside."

Found something?

Chen Wanqing's lips twitched slightly.

Finding something could break through a realm?

Then she would go find something too!

But she knew that such things were rare and unpredictable. Kai was able to break through because he possessed the Golden Dragon bloodline.

Even if someone else entered the Dragon Pool, they might not have this opportunity.

Chen Tiangang stepped forward and clasped his hands in a fist salute to Kai, saying, "Young

Master Chen, congratulations on your breakthrough." Kai waved his hand, "Patriarch Chen, you're too kind. By the way, I'll tell you about the situation in the Dragon Pool in detail later. But now..."

He looked at Chen Wanqing and pointed to the collar around her neck:

"Miss Chen, shouldn't you take this off?" Chen Wanqing was startled, then reacted quickly, stepping forward and placing her hand on the collar.

She channeled her spiritual power, preparing to break the restriction on the collar.

However, the next moment, her expression changed.

The restriction on the collar remained unmoved.

She tried again, but still couldn't break it.

Chen Wanqing's face turned grim.

“What’s wrong?” Kai asked.

Chen Wanqing looked up at him, a hint of panic in her eyes:

“Young Master Chen, the collar… I can’t break it.”

The collar couldn’t be broken.

The smile on Kai’s face instantly froze.

He looked down at the silver collar around his neck; the runes that had been flowing smoothly on it were now flashing with an eerie red light.

A faint binding force surged from the collar, several times stronger than when he had worn it before.

“Miss Chen, this joke is not funny at all.”

Kai looked up, his gaze fixed on Chen Wanqing, his tone already cold.

Chen Wanqing shook her head repeatedly, her expression anxious: “Young Master Chen, I’m not joking! It really can’t be untied! I… I don’t know how this happened!”

She activated her spiritual power again, pressing her hands against the collar, sweat beading on her forehead.

But the collar remained unmoved, the runes on it flashing even more intensely.

Kai stared at her, a flash of anger in his eyes.

“Miss Chen, I kindly helped you enter the Dragon Pool, and I didn’t intend to keep the treasures inside for myself. I was prepared to share them with you when we came out. But you pull this trick on me?”

He reached out and touched the collar around his neck, sneering: “This thing is probably not something for self-defense, is it? A spirit-locking

restriction, a tracking restriction, and now there's a binding restriction. Miss Chen, is this all the sincerity your Chen family has shown?"

Chen Wanqing's face was pale, her eyes reddening with anxiety: "Young Master Chen, believe me! I really didn't know! I... I just gave this to you to wear as the elders instructed, I really didn't know it couldn't be untied!"

"Enough!"

A deep shout interrupted Chen Wanqing's explanation.

Chen Tiangang strode in, followed by six elders.

Their faces were devoid of their previous politeness and warmth, replaced by an indescribable indifference.

Chen Wanqing was stunned: "Father?"

Chen Tiangang didn't look at her, his gaze fixed on Kai, and slowly said:

"Young Master Chen, since the collar can't be removed, let's speak frankly."

Kai looked at the Chen family head and suddenly smiled.

The smile was cold.

"Family Head Chen, finally dropping the pretense?"

Chen Tiangang's expression remained unchanged: "Young Master Chen is a smart man, so I won't beat around the bush. This collar was indeed tampered with by someone."

Chen Wanqing was struck dumb, staring at her father in disbelief.

"Father! You... what do you mean?!"

Chen Tiangang ignored her, only looking at Kai, and said calmly, “Young Master Chen, hand over what you obtained in the Dragon Pool.”

Kai raised an eyebrow: “Hand it over?”

Chen Tiangang nodded: “The Dragon Pool was discovered by my Chen family, and the treasures inside rightfully belong to my Chen family. We are extremely grateful that you went in and retrieved them for us. But you cannot take these things with you.”

He looked at Kai, his tone calm, yet carrying an undeniable authority: “Hand them over, and I will remove your collar, give you 360 bottles of immortal liquid, and let you leave Yunxian City. We will be even, and neither of us will owe the other anything.”

Kai smiled.

“Patriarch Chen, you’ve really got a clever plan.”

He pointed to the collar around his neck: “Wearing this thing, my spiritual power is suppressed by 30%. You want me to hand over the treasures of the Dragon Pool, and then let me go? Do you think I’ll believe that?” Chen Tiangang’s expression remained unchanged: “You have no choice.”

Kai looked at Chen Wanqing, whose face was streaked with tears, standing there blankly, as if she had lost her soul.

He then looked at the six elders, each with a cold expression, their eyes filled with greed and killing intent.

Finally, he looked at Chen Tiangang and slowly said:

“Patriarch Chen, I have a question.”

“Speak.”

“From the very beginning, you never intended to cooperate with me, did you?”

Chen Tiangang was silent for a moment, then nodded frankly: “That’s right.”

He stood with his hands behind his back, his tone calm: “Young Master Chen, you are wanted by the Divine Temple, a criminal with a bounty of 50,000 bottles of immortal liquid. Although my Chen family has some power, we are not foolish enough to offend the Divine Temple for your sake.”

He paused, then continued: “But you possess the bloodline of the Golden Dragon and can enter the Dragon Pool, which is an opportunity that my Chen family must seize. So, we came up with this plan.”

“To let you enter the Dragon Pool, retrieve the treasure. Then, to control you with the collar, to make you hand over the treasure. Finally…”

He didn’t finish, but the meaning was already clear.

Finally, they handed Kai over to the temple in exchange for the reward of 50,000 bottles of immortal liquid.

A two-birds-with-one-stone strategy.

Upon hearing this, Kai’s smile deepened.

“Patriarch Chen, what a brilliant plan. Truly, a brilliant plan.”

He looked at Chen Wanqing, who was trembling all over, her face ashen.

“Chen Wanqing,” he called her name, his tone calm, “Is that what you thought too?”

Chen Wanqing suddenly raised her head, her eyes filled with tears.

“No…no…”

Her voice trembled. “Young Master Chen, I really didn’t know…I really didn’t know Father and the others…”

“Wanqing.”

Chen Tiangang interrupted her, his tone stern. “Now that things have come to this, what else do you have to say? You are the eldest daughter of the Chen family; everything should be for the benefit of the Chen family.”

Chen Wanqing turned to look at her father, her eyes filled with disbelief:

“Father! You used me?! You made me go to negotiate with Kai, made me put a collar on him, you’ve been using me from beginning to end?!”

Chen Tiangang’s expression remained unchanged: “Wanqing, I was thinking of the Chen family.”

“Thinking of the Chen family?” Chen Wanqing smiled bitterly. “What about Kai? He helped us get into the Dragon Pool; he did nothing wrong to us! And this is how we treat him?!”

“Wanqing!” Chen Tiangang said in a deep voice, “You’re too naive! He’s a wanted criminal of the Temple; if we protect him, we’re making an enemy of the Temple! Is the Chen family’s thousand-year foundation going to be destroyed in the hands of an outsider?”

Chen Wanqing shook her head, tears streaming down her face:

“But we promised him…we promised to protect him…”

“What does a verbal promise mean?” Chen Tiangang said calmly. “Those who achieve great things don’t concern themselves with trifles.”

Chen Wanqing was stunned.

She looked at her father, at the six cold-faced elders, and suddenly felt that these people were so unfamiliar.

Was this still the Chen family she had grown up in?

Was this still the father who taught her to be trustworthy and righteous?

She turned her head and looked at Kai.

Kai stood there, wearing that damned collar around his neck, his expression calm, revealing neither joy nor anger.

But his eyes were cold.

That coldness made Chen Wanqing's heart tremble.

"Young Master Chen..." She opened her mouth, but didn't know what to say.

Kai looked at her and said calmly, "Miss Chen, you don't need to say anything. I believe you are unaware of the situation."

Chen Wanqing was taken aback.

Kai continued, "Your anxiety just now couldn't be faked. Moreover, given your personality, if you really wanted to harm me, you wouldn't have acted so convincingly." He smiled, a bitter smile playing on his lips: "It's just a pity you have such a good father."

Tears welled up in Chen Wanqing's eyes.

Chen Tiangang frowned slightly and said in a deep voice:

"Young Master Chen, enough nonsense. Hand over the treasures of Dragon Pool, and I'll spare your life. Otherwise..."

Before he could finish speaking, Kai suddenly moved.

He didn't attack Chen Tiangang, nor any of the elders, but instead flashed away, rushing directly out of the valley!

“Trying to run?”

The red-faced elder sneered, taking a step forward and blocking Kai’s path.

He raised his hand and unleashed a palm strike, the wind howling as it struck down at Kai’s head!

This palm strike was the full power of a peak ninth-grade Upper Immortal!

Kai’s eyes narrowed, and the power of his bloodline surged wildly within him.

Although his spiritual power was suppressed by thirty percent by the collar, his physical strength remained!

He didn’t retreat, but instead met the attack head-on.

He threw a punch!

“Boom!”

Fist and palm collided, and a violent shockwave swept in all directions.

The red-faced elder staggered, taking three steps back.

Kai, however, was sent flying, crashing heavily to the ground, blood trickling from the corner of his mouth.

His cultivation level was simply too far behind.

A peak second-grade Upper Immortal against a peak ninth-grade, plus the suppression from the collar—even with the Golden Dragon bloodline, it was difficult to bridge this enormous gap.

“Young Master Chen!”

Chen Wanqing cried out, about to rush over.

“Wanqing!” Chen Tiangang grabbed her, “What are you doing?!”

“Let go of me!” Chen Wanqing struggled desperately, “You can’t do this to him!”

“Insolence!” Chen Tiangang slapped her across the face.

“Slap!”

The crisp sound of the slap rang out, and Chen Wanqing staggered, half her cheek instantly swelling red.

She covered her face, staring blankly at her father.

Chen Tiangang’s face was ashen: “You’re going against the Chen family for an outsider?”

Chen Wanqing didn’t speak, only tears silently streaming down her face.

Meanwhile, Kai had already gotten up from the ground.

He wiped the blood from the corner of his mouth, looked at Chen Tiangang, his eyes full of mockery:

“Patriarch Chen, what good upbringing. You even beat your own daughter, tsk tsk.”

Chen Tiangang looked at him coldly: “Even on the verge of death, you’re still being stubborn.”

He waved his hand: “Take him down!”

The six elders stepped forward and surrounded Kai.

Kai looked around; six were at the ninth rank of the Upper Immortal Realm, and one was at the first rank of the True Immortal Realm.

He, however, was suppressed by the collar and could only exert seventy percent of his strength.

This fight was hopeless.

But Kai was never one to sit idly by and wait for death. ”Want the Dragon Pool treasure?” He suddenly laughed. “Then come and take it.”

With that, he flashed forward, rushing towards the weakest point in the encirclement!

That was where the white-haired elder was.

The white-haired elder snorted coldly and struck out with a palm.

Kai neither dodged nor evaded, taking the blow head-on, while simultaneously punching the white-haired elder in the face!

“Bang!”

Kai was sent flying again, three ribs broken.

But the white-haired elder was also forced back by his punch, revealing an opening!

Kai seized the opportunity, his figure like lightning, rushing out through the opening!

“Chase!”

Chen Tiangang shouted coldly, and the six elders gave chase.

Kai frantically channeled his spiritual power, desperately fleeing towards the outside of the valley.

The collar around his neck flickered with an eerie red light, constantly suppressing the flow of his spiritual power.

With every step he took, he felt his spiritual power draining away.

But he couldn’t stop.

To stop meant death.

Outside the valley, thirty Chen family guards were already on high alert.

Seeing Kai charge out, they all attacked simultaneously, unleashing a barrage of spells.

Kai’s eyes narrowed, and he gritted his teeth, charging forward relentlessly.

“Boom boom boom!”

Spells exploded on his body, leaving him a bloody mess.

But he didn’t stop, risking injury to break through the guards’ encirclement.

“Kai!”

Chen Wanqing cried out in alarm from behind.

Kai didn’t turn back, continuing his mad dash.

Suddenly, a figure descended from the sky, blocking his path.

Chen Tiangang.

A True Immortal Realm expert had finally made his move.

Kai stopped, panting heavily.

He was covered in blood and riddled with wounds.

But he remained standing, not falling.

Chen Tiangang looked at him, a hint of admiration flashing in his eyes:

“Young Master Chen, you are indeed remarkable. A second-grade Upper Immortal, able to break through the encirclement of six ninth-grade elders and even break through the blockade of thirty guards. Such strength and will are unparalleled in my life.”

He paused, his tone turning cold:

“But this ends here.”

He raised his hand and struck down with a palm.

This palm strike was a full-force attack from a True Immortal.

Before the palm wind even arrived, Kai already felt the earth-shattering pressure.

His blood surged, his bones creaked, as if he would be crushed into mincemeat in the next second.

But he still did not fall.

He raised his head, looking at the approaching palm, his eyes filled with defiance.

Was he going to die?

No.

How could he, Kai, die here?

He still had so much to do.

He still needed to find Lin Xi, still needed to find his companions, still needed…

“Stop!”

A delicate shout rang out, and a figure rushed over, blocking Kai's path.

Chen Wanqing.

Chen Tiangang stopped his hand at the last moment, but the force of his palm sent Chen Wanqing flying, crashing heavily to the ground.

"Wanqing!" Chen Tiangang cried out in shock and rage, "Are you insane?!"

Chen Wanqing scrambled to her feet, blood trickling from her mouth, but she stood firmly in front of Kai.

"Father, you can't kill him!"

Chen Tiangang's face was ashen. "Get out of my way!"

"I won't!"

Chen Wanqing shook her head, tears streaming down her face. "Father, you lied to me, you used me, I accept it all. But you can't kill him! He's innocent!" "Innocent?"

Chen Tiangang sneered. "He's wanted by the Temple, and you call that innocent?"

"That's between him and the Temple!"

Chen Wanqing shouted. "It has nothing to do with our Chen family! He helped us, and we want to kill him? That's repaying kindness with enmity!"

Chen Tiangang took a deep breath, suppressing his anger: "Wanqing, I'll say it one last time, get out of the way."

Chen Wanqing shook her head, took out a short sword from her sleeve, and held it to her neck.

“Father, if you take another step forward, I’ll die in front of you.”

Chen Tiangang’s pupils contracted.

The six elders were also stunned.

“Wanqing!” Chen Tiangang said urgently, “What are you doing? Put the sword down!”

Tears streamed down Chen Wanqing’s face, but she gripped the short sword tightly. The blade had already cut her skin, and blood flowed down her neck.

“Father, from childhood to adulthood, I’ve always listened to you. You wanted me to cultivate, so I cultivated. You wanted me to hold a martial arts contest to choose a husband, so I did. You wanted me to deceive Kai, and I did.”

Her voice trembled. “But this time, please let him go. This is my…last time begging you.”

Chen Tiangang looked at her, a complex expression flashing in his eyes.

Anger, heartache, and a trace of… helplessness.

He remained silent for a long time before finally speaking slowly:

“Put down the sword, and I’ll let him go.”

Chen Wanqing was stunned: “Really?”

Chen Tiangang nodded: “I, Chen Tiangang, keep my word.”

Chen Wanqing hesitated for a moment, then slowly put down the short sword.

Just then, Chen Tiangang suddenly moved.

He pointed a finger, and a burst of energy struck Chen Wanqing's wrist.

The short sword flew out of her hand, and Chen Wanqing cried out in surprise, but he grabbed her and pulled her behind him.

"Take him down!" Chen Tiangang said coldly.

The six elders surrounded them again.

Kai watched this scene and suddenly laughed.

That laugh was full of mockery.

"Patriarch Chen, you truly keep your word."

Chen Tiangang's expression remained unchanged. "All's fair in war. Young Master Chen, accept your fate."

Kai didn't speak, only looking at Chen Wanqing.

Chen Wanqing was restrained by Chen Tiangang, unable to move, and could only watch helplessly as tears streamed down her face.

"Young Master Chen... I'm sorry..."

Kai shook his head. "Miss Chen, there's no need to apologize. This isn't your fault."

He took a deep breath and suddenly roared to the sky.

"Roar..."

A dragon's roar erupted from his mouth.

The power of that dragon's roar was several times stronger than during the previous test!

Golden light burst forth from his body, condensing into a phantom of a five-clawed golden dragon behind him.

The phantom roared to the sky, its dragon might sweeping across all directions.

The six elders were stunned by this sudden dragon might.

Kai seized this moment and fully activated the power of his bloodline.

His aura surged wildly at this moment.

“Break!”

He roared, and the collar around his neck cracked open with a “crack.”

This sudden breakthrough allowed him to break free from the collar’s partial suppression!

Chen Tiangang’s expression changed: “Not good! Stop him!”

But it was too late.

Kai’s figure flashed, transforming into a golden light, and he fled into the distance.

He escaped.

Covered in wounds and filled with boundless rage, he fled.

Chen Tiangang wanted to pursue him, but was blocked by the phantom of the five-clawed golden dragon.

The phantom only existed for three breaths before vanishing without a trace.

But three breaths were enough.

By the time Chen Tiangang broke through the phantom, Kai had already disappeared into the mountains and forests.

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“Chase him!” he commanded in a deep voice. “He’s badly injured; he can’t have gone far!”

The six elders obeyed, leading thirty guards in pursuit of Kai.

Chen Tiangang stood rooted to the spot, his face ashen.

He turned to look at Chen Wanqing.

Chen Wanqing collapsed to the ground, her face streaked with tears, yet a faint smile lingered on her lips.

He escaped…

he escaped!

A surge of indescribable emotion welled up within Chen Wanqing.

Was it relief?

Joy?

Or…something else?

She didn’t know.

She only knew that she was happy.

Chen Tiangang walked up to her, looking down at her:

“Wanqing, do you know what you’ve done?”

Chen Wanqing looked up at her father, her eyes showing no fear, only calm:

“Father, I only did what I thought was right.”

Chen Tiangang was silent for a moment, then suddenly sighed.

“Take her back and lock her in the ancestral hall. She’s not to come out without my order.”

Two guards stepped forward and lifted Chen Wanqing up.

Chen Wanqing didn’t struggle, only giving her father one last look:

“Father, you’ll regret this sooner or later.”

With that, she turned and left.

Chen Tiangang stood there, watching her departing figure, speechless for a long time.

Regret?

Perhaps.

But for the Chen family, he didn’t regret it.

…

Kai ran frantically, not daring to stop.

He didn’t know how long he ran, only that the sky changed from noon to dusk, and then from dusk to night.

He was covered in blood, three ribs broken, his left arm fractured, and his internal organs severely injured.

If it weren’t for his tenacious will, he would have collapsed long ago.

Finally, in a secluded cave, he stopped.

He collapsed to the ground, panting heavily, and took out several healing pills from his storage ring and swallowed them.

The pills entered his stomach, turning into a warm current, slowly repairing his broken body.

Kai leaned against the cave wall, closed his eyes, and recalled everything that had happened that day.

Chen Tiangang…

the Chen family…

very well.

He would remember this debt.

And that collar…

He touched his neck; the collar was still there, but the cracks on it were even bigger.

His breakthrough earlier had allowed him to break through some of the suppression, but this thing wasn't completely destroyed.

The spirit-locking restriction was still there, and so was the tracking restriction.

Chen Tiangang could pinpoint his location through this collar.

Kai's gaze turned cold. He raised his hand and pressed it against the collar, channeling his spiritual power, trying to forcibly destroy it.

But as soon as he did, the runes on the collar flashed violently, and an even stronger binding force surged out, almost suffocating him.

No.

This thing couldn't be forced.

Kai took a deep breath, suppressing the urge to destroy it.

Since he couldn't destroy it for now, he'd leave it.

But he had to leave Yunxian City as soon as possible. He stood up, walked to the cave entrance, and looked out.

The night was deep, and the forest was silent.

In the distance, flickering lights indicated the Chen family was pursuing him.

Kai sneered, his figure flashing as he disappeared into the night.

An hour later, in a secluded courtyard west of Yunxian City,

Kai scaled the wall and gently knocked on a door.

"Who is it?"

a wary voice came from inside.

"It's me."

The door opened, and Ming Li poked her head out. Seeing Kai, she quickly pulled him inside.

"Mr. Chen, how did you get so badly injured?" Ming Li exclaimed.

Liu Qianqian also came out from the inner room, her expression changing upon seeing Kai covered in blood.

Kai waved his hand: "Don't ask. Pack your things and leave immediately."

Ming Li and Liu Qianqian exchanged a glance, asked no further questions, and immediately began packing.

A moment later, the three left the courtyard and disappeared into the night.

...

Yunxian City, Chen Mansion.

In the ancestral hall, Chen Wanqing knelt before the ancestral tablets, her face calm.

Outside the door, two guards stood watch, never leaving.

Suddenly, footsteps approached.

Chen Wanqing looked up and saw three figures dressed in black robes enter.

Leading them was a pale-faced middle-aged man.

His eyes were narrow, with a faint, dark red light flickering in his pupils. His aura was strange, possessing both the majesty of a dragon and an indescribable chill.

Chen Wanqing's pupils contracted.

This man possessed dragon energy.

But...

it wasn't entirely dragon energy.

That chilling aura sent a shiver down her spine.

"Miss Chen,"

the middle-aged man spoke, his voice hoarse, “I am Long Mo, an envoy of the Heavenly Dragon Clan.”

Chen Wanqing’s heart skipped a beat.

The Heavenly Dragon Clan?

Did the dragon clan still exist?

Behind Long Mo stood two other men, also dressed in black robes, one burly and the other with a sinister face. They too exuded that strange aura.

Chen Wanqing stood up, looking at them without speaking.

Long Mo smiled slightly, a smile that sent chills down one’s spine: “Miss Chen, there’s no need to be nervous. We’ve come here for the person who entered the Dragon Pool.”

Chen Wanqing’s heart skipped a beat, but her face remained impassive:

“Who? I don’t know what you’re talking about.”

Long Mo shook his head: “Miss Chen, there’s no need to pretend. We know your Chen family discovered the Dragon Pool and held a martial arts contest to find a dragon bloodline.”

He paused, then continued: “We originally planned to wait until that person came out of the Dragon Pool before contacting him. Unexpectedly…”

He looked at Chen Wanqing, a hint of amusement flashing in his eyes: “Your father actually attacked him. And he even let him escape.”

Chen Wanqing’s expression remained unchanged: “Whether he escaped or not is none of my business.”

Long Mo laughed.

That laughter was grating and unpleasant.

“Miss Chen, you didn’t say that when you saved him.”

Chen Wanqing’s heart sank.

They saw it?

Long Mo seemed to see through her thoughts and said calmly, “We’ve been observing from the shadows. You stood in front of your father, threatening suicide, and let that person go. We saw all of that.”

He stepped forward, looking down at Chen Wanqing, “Miss Chen, tell us, where is that person?”

Chen Wanqing shook her head, “I don’t know.” Long Mo sighed, “Miss Chen, why bother? We are envoys of the Heavenly Dragon Clan. We are looking for that person for the sake of the Dragon Clan, and it has nothing to do with your Chen family. As long as you tell us his whereabouts, we can ask your father to let you go.”

Chen Wanqing sneered, “Since you’ve been observing from the shadows, why don’t you go after him yourselves?”

Long Mo shook his head, “He carries the aura of the Dragon Clan, but we can’t sense his exact location. He must have some kind of treasure to conceal his aura.”

He paused, his gaze falling on Chen Wanqing, “But you are different. You’ve been in contact with him, and his aura lingers on you. As long as we use you as a guide, we can find him.”

Chen Wanqing’s expression changed.

Long Mo reached out and grabbed her.

Chen Wanqing took a step back, but was stopped by the two guards behind her.

“Miss Chen, cooperate a little,” Long Mo smiled, “It’ll be quick, and it won’t hurt.”

His hand pressed on Chen Wanqing’s shoulder.

A strange power surged into her body, and Chen Wanqing trembled, as if something had invaded her.

The feeling was cold, decaying, and nauseating.

She closed her eyes, clenched her teeth, and remained silent.

After a moment, Long Mo withdrew his hand, his brows furrowing slightly.

“Strange… the way he conceals his aura is stronger than I imagined. I can only sense a general direction.”

He turned and walked towards the door.

Reaching the doorway, he suddenly stopped, turning back to look at Chen Wanqing:

“Miss Chen, you are very brave. But bravery can sometimes be your downfall.”

With that, he and two of his men disappeared into the night.

Chen Wanqing collapsed to the ground, drenched in cold sweat.

That power just now…

it was demonic energy!

These so-called dragon envoys possessed demonic energy!

They… they were traitors to the dragon race!

A strong sense of unease surged within Chen Wanqing.

Kai…

you must be careful…

…

In the darkness, Kai and his two companions were traveling swiftly through the mountains.

Suddenly, Kai stopped, his brows furrowed.

“What’s wrong?” Ming Li asked.

Kai touched the collar around his neck:

“This thing vibrated just now.”

Ming Li’s expression changed: “They’re chasing us?”

Kai shook his head: “Not sure. But we have to speed up.”

The three quickened their pace, rushing towards the outskirts of Yunxian City.

Behind them, three dark figures were speeding through the night.

The leader was Long Mo.

He closed his eyes, sensing the faint aura.

“Over there.” He opened his eyes and pointed in a direction, “He’s in that direction.”

The three figures flashed and chased after him.

The night deepened.

A chase was unfolding.

…

Chen Mansion, Ancestral Hall.

Chen Wanqing knelt before the ancestral tablets, looking at the names of her ancestors, tears streaming silently down her face.

She didn't know if she was doing the right thing.

She only knew that she didn't want Kai to die.

That person, although shameless, although outspoken, although always saying he wanted to sleep with her…

he wasn't a bad person.

He helped the Chen family, but was almost killed by them.

And she was an accomplice.

Chen Wanqing closed her eyes, the look in Kai's eyes before he left flashing through her mind.

That look was cold.

But when he looked at her, there was a hint of…warmth.

He said, "Miss Chen, there's no need to apologize. This isn't your fault."

He didn't blame her.

Even though she had lied to him, even though she had almost caused his death here, he didn't blame her. Chen Wanqing opened her eyes, tears blurring her vision.

"Kai…"

she murmured, “You must live…”

…

In the mountains and forests, Kai and the other two had been fleeing for two hours.

The sky was beginning to lighten, dawn was approaching.

The walls of Yunxian City were already in sight.

Once they left the city and entered the wilderness, they would have a chance to escape.

“Hurry!” Kai whispered.

The three quickened their pace, rushing towards the city gate.

Suddenly, Kai’s expression changed.

Behind them, three auras were rapidly approaching.

That aura…

dragon energy?

No, there was something else.

It was demonic energy!

Kai’s gaze sharpened.

Was there a traitor among the dragons?

“They’re coming,” he said in a deep voice.

Ming Li and Liu Qianqian’s expressions changed.

“You two go first,” Kai said. “I’ll draw them away.”

“Mr. Chen!” Ming Li exclaimed urgently, “You’re injured like this…”

“Stop talking nonsense!” Kai interrupted him. “I have a collar on me; they can pinpoint my location. If you come with me, you’ll only get implicated.”

He looked at the two: “You two leave the city first and wait for me in the wasteland. If I haven’t arrived in three days, go to the Holy Land of Light; don’t wait for me.”

Ming Li was about to say something more, but Liu Qianqian stopped him.

“Young Master Chen, take care.”

Kai nodded and turned to run in another direction.

Behind him, three dark figures rushed towards him.

Long Mo opened his eyes, a smile playing on his lips:

“He’s separated. Chase after the one with the collar.”

The three figures turned and chased after Kai.

Kai ran frantically, his injuries worsening.

But he couldn’t stop.

Stopping meant death.

Behind him, three auras drew closer.

He could sense that the strength of those three was all above the ninth rank of the Upper Immortal Realm. Moreover, their aura was strange,

possessing both the majesty of the dragon race and the chilling power of demonic energy.

They were not easy to deal with.

But Kai showed no fear.

He took a deep breath and continued his mad dash.

Dawn broke.

Golden sunlight bathed the earth.

The walls of Yunxian City were already within reach.

Just one step outside the city gates...

Suddenly, three figures descended from the sky, blocking his path.

Long Mo stood in the middle, a smile on his face:

“Young Master Chen, you run quite fast.”

Kai stopped, looked at the three before him, and suddenly smiled.

“The three of you have chased me all night; you must be tired.”

Long Mo raised an eyebrow: “Aren’t you afraid?”

Kai shook his head: “Afraid of what? At worst, I’ll just die.”

He paused, his gaze sweeping over the three: “However, before I die, I have a question.”

Long Mo nodded: “Ask.”

Kai looked at them, enunciating each word clearly: “Who are you? Why are you chasing me?”

Long Mo smiled.

That smile was chilling and piercing. ”We are envoys of the Heavenly Dragon Clan.”

He stepped forward, his aura surging, a mixture of dragon might and demonic energy.

“As for why we’re chasing you…”

He stared at Kai, a greedy glint in his eyes.

“Because of the Dragon Emperor’s bloodline within you. We’re determined to take it.”

Kai’s gaze sharpened.

The Dragon Emperor’s bloodline?

These people, so this was what they came for.

Long Mo continued, “Young Master Chen, you possess the Dragon Emperor’s bloodline; you should be a ruler of my Dragon Clan. It’s just a pity you’re too weak.”

He shook his head, a look of regret on his face. “A commoner is innocent, but possessing a treasure is a crime. You should understand this principle.”

Kai looked at him and suddenly smiled.

“I understand. Of course I understand.”

He wiped the blood from the corner of his mouth, his gaze calm. “So, are you going to kill me, or capture me?”

Long Mo thought for a moment, then said, “Originally, we planned to capture you alive. But you’re too fast, it’s inconvenient to carry you. So…”

He raised his hand, a ball of dark red light condensing in his palm, “Let’s just kill you. Bloodline, we can take it directly.”

Kai took a deep breath, his bloodline power surging.

The phantom of a five-clawed golden dragon manifested behind him.

Although he was covered in wounds, and his spiritual power was suppressed, Kai was never one to sit idly by and wait for death.

“Come on.”

He looked at the three people in front of him, his eyes full of defiance. “Let me see how much skill you traitors of the dragon race have.”

A hint of admiration flashed in Long Mo’s eyes. “You have backbone. It’s a pity…”

Before he finished speaking, his figure flashed, and he rushed towards Kai.

Dark red light bloomed in the dawn.

Kai met it head-on.

The golden dragon shadow collided with the dark red light.

“Boom!”

A deafening roar shook the heavens.

Kai was sent flying backward, crashing heavily to the ground.

He struggled to get up, but spat out a mouthful of blood.

The gap in strength was too great.

A peak second-grade Upper Immortal against three ninth-grade Upper Immortals.

If it weren't for the collar's suppression, Kai wouldn't be afraid at all.

But now, having been tricked by the Chen family, Kai had no confidence in fighting three ninth-grade Upper Immortals.

Moreover, he didn't know if there were still Chen family pursuers here, or even pursuers from the Divine Temple.

He had only been at the fourteenth level of the Heavenly Realm for a short time, yet he already had so many enemies.

Long Mo walked up to him, looking down at him: "Young Master Chen, it's over."

He raised his hand, and dark red light condensed again.

Kai lay on the ground, looking at the sky, and suddenly smiled.

That smile was very calm.

The dark red light crashed down.

Just then...

"Roar..."

A dragon's roar resounded throughout the heavens and earth.

A golden light descended from the sky, blocking Kai's path.

Long Mo's attack was blocked by that golden light.

His pupils shrank as he looked at the newcomer: "It's you?!"

The golden light dissipated, revealing a figure.

It was an old man with white hair and a dignified face, emanating a rich golden dragon aura.

Long Yuan.

The guardian dragon of the ancient dragon pool had arrived.

The old man possessed no demonic energy, only pure celestial dragon aura, majestic and vast.

His appearance instantly made the expressions of Long Mo and the other two solemn.

“Elder Long Yuan…” Long Mo’s voice became low, “You’re still alive.”

Long Yuan looked at the three before him, a complex expression flashing in his eyes. There was anger, regret, and an indescribable sorrow.

“Long Mo, Long Xing, Long Sha.” He called out the three names, one word at a time. “The three of you are indeed still alive. But…”

His gaze fell on the faint, dark red aura emanating from them, a flicker of pain in his eyes: “You really have sided with the Demon Clan.”

Long Mo sneered: “Syconded? Elder Long Yuan, you’re wrong. We simply chose the right path.”

He pointed to himself, then to the two behind him: “Look at us. How much has our strength increased since we fused with demonic energy? We’re at the peak of the ninth rank of the Upper Immortal Realm, ready to break through to True Immortal at any moment. And you, the dragons who cling to tradition? Ten thousand years have passed, and you’re still hiding in dark corners, barely surviving.”

Long Yuan didn’t refute him, only silently watching him.

That gaze filled Long Mo with an inexplicable unease.

“Long Mo,” Long Yuan slowly spoke, “Do you know why His Majesty the Dragon Emperor dispersed and hid the dragons back then?”

Long Mo was taken aback.

Long Yuan continued, “It’s not to avoid anything, but to protect the dragon bloodline from being corrupted by demonic energy. Demonic energy may seem to enhance strength, but it actually corrodes the very essence. You may be powerful now, but it won’t be long before you completely lose yourselves and become puppets of the demons.”

Long Mo’s expression changed, then he sneered, “Scar-mongering.”

Long Yuan shook his head, “Whether it’s scar-mongering or not, you know in your hearts.”

He stepped forward, shielding Kai behind him.

“Today, with me here, you can’t touch him.”

A fierce glint flashed in Long Mo’s eyes, “Long Yuan, do you think you’re still the Heavenly Dragon Elder of yesteryear? You’ve been trapped in the Dragon Pool for ten thousand years, your strength has long since declined. The three of us are at our peak. Can you, one person, stop the three of us?”

Long Yuan didn’t answer, but his body shone with golden light.

A phantom of a golden dragon manifested behind him.

That phantom was more solid and more majestic than Kai’s.

“Whether we can stop him or not, we’ll know after the fight.”

Long Mo snorted coldly, “Stubborn fool!”

He waved his hand, and Long Xing and Long Sha attacked simultaneously.

Three dark red beams of light shot towards Long Yuan.

Long Yuan raised his hand, and golden light transformed into a barrier.

“Boom!”

A deafening roar shook the heavens.

The golden barrier trembled violently, but did not shatter.

Long Mo and the other two’s expressions changed.

Long Yuan’s strength was far greater than they had imagined.

Long Mo gritted his teeth: “Attack together!”

The three attacked simultaneously, the dark red light growing increasingly intense, with a faint stench permeating the air.

Long Yuan’s expression remained unchanged, his body protected by golden light, as he engaged the three in fierce combat.

For a moment, the mountains and forests flickered with light, filled with continuous booming sounds.

Kai lay on the ground, watching this fierce battle between the dragons, his heart filled with shock.

So this was the true power of the dragon race.

The golden dragon energy and the dark red demonic energy, with each collision, stirred up a raging storm.

He could sense that although Long Yuan was powerful, he was, after all, old, and fighting three against one, was gradually losing ground. No.

He couldn’t just sit and wait to die.

Kai struggled to his feet, took out a pill from his storage ring, and swallowed it.

It was the Dragon Essence Pill he obtained from the Dragon Pool, a sacred healing item.

As soon as the pill entered his stomach, a warm current flowed through his entire body. His injuries healed at a speed visible to the naked eye.

Ribs reconnected, fractures healed, internal organs repaired…

After a moment, Kai stood up, his breath having recovered by more than half.

He looked at the battlefield; Long Yuan had already manifested his true form, a hundred-zhang-long golden dragon, locked in combat with three dark red demonic dragons.

Five dragons tumbled in the sky above the mountains and forests.

Dragon roars shook the heavens, and demonic energy surged.

Kai's gaze sharpened, and the power of his bloodline surged within him.

The phantom of the five-clawed golden dragon manifested again.

This time, it was even more solid than before.

He took a deep breath and rushed towards the battlefield.

"Elder Long Yuan, I'm here to help you!"

Long Yuan exclaimed in surprise, "Your Majesty, your injuries haven't healed yet…"

Kai didn't waste any words and threw a punch at Long Mo.

Long Mo was locked in combat with Long Yuan when Kai suddenly attacked, slamming a punch into his back.

“Bang!”

Long Mo staggered, a crack appearing on his dark red scales.

He turned to look at Kai, his eyes filled with disbelief:

“You…your injury…”

Kai sneered: “Thanks to your dragon clan’s elixirs.”

He attacked again, a golden dragon phantom roaring as it charged towards Long Mo.

Long Mo’s face darkened, and he struck out with his palm.

The dark red light collided with the golden dragon phantom, Kai staggering back three steps, and Long Mo also taking a step back.

Although still at a disadvantage, he was no longer as helpless as before.

Seeing this, Long Yuan’s spirits soared.

“Your Majesty is mighty!”

he roared, his attacks becoming even fiercer.

Long Xing and Long Sha were entangled by his dragon, unable to escape.

Long Mo gritted his teeth and suddenly pulled out a dark red bead from his robes.

The moment the bead appeared, the surrounding space distorted.

Long Yuan’s expression changed drastically: “The Demon Dragon Pearl?! Are you crazy?!”

Long Mo sneered: “Long Yuan, did you think the three of us came unprepared?”

He crushed the Demon Dragon Pearl, and a terrifying demonic aura erupted.

That demonic aura was more than ten times stronger than before.

Long Mo’s aura surged wildly at this moment.

Peak of the ninth rank of the Upper Immortal Realm…

Long Mo roared to the sky, his body radiating a brilliant dark red light.

He looked at Kai, his eyes filled with killing intent: “Kai, today, you can’t escape.”

Kai’s expression remained unchanged, but his heart sank.

Long Yuan roared and charged towards Long Mo with all his might.

But Long Mo simply raised his hand and a dark red light repelled Long Yuan.

“Old man, don’t get in my way.”

He walked step by step towards Kai, his eyes full of mockery: “Kai, do you have any last words?”

Kai looked at him and suddenly smiled.

“Yes.”

Long Mo raised an eyebrow: “Speak.”

Kai enunciated each word clearly: “You’re f*cking ugly.”

Long Mo’s face stiffened. He flew into a rage.

“You’re courting death!”

He slammed his palm down, a dark red light spreading across the sky.

Kai closed his eyes.

This time, there was truly no way to dodge.

Just then…

“Stop!”

A delicate shout rang out, and a figure rushed over.

Kai opened his eyes, stunned.

Chen Wanqing.

How did she get here?

Chen Wanqing was covered in blood, her face pale, clearly having fought her way here.

She stood in front of Kai, looking at Long Mo with unwavering resolve: “You can’t kill him.”

Long Mo was stunned.

Then, he smiled.

That smile was full of mockery.

“Miss Chen, your father locked you in the ancestral hall, how did you escape?”

Chen Wanqing didn’t answer, only staring intently at him: “I said, you can’t kill him.”

Long Mo shook his head: “Miss Chen, you’re too naive. Do you think you can stop me?”

He raised his hand, about to strike down with his palm.

Chen Wanqing suddenly took out a jade pendant from her bosom and held it high.

The jade pendant was entirely golden, with a five-clawed golden dragon engraved on it.

Long Mo’s pupils contracted.

“The Dragon Emperor’s Decree?!”

Chen Wanqing exclaimed, “You dragons see the decree as if you see the Dragon Emperor! Do you dare disobey the Dragon Emperor’s decree?”

Long Mo’s expression shifted between anger and uncertainty. He didn’t understand how Chen Wanqing had obtained the Dragon Emperor’s Decree.

He stared intently at the jade pendant, a flicker of fear in his eyes.

The Dragon Emperor’s Decree was a supreme treasure of the dragon race, representing the Dragon Emperor’s authority.

Any dragon must obey the decree; otherwise, it was considered betrayal of the dragon race.

Although they had already pledged allegiance to the demon race, their deep-seated instincts made them instinctively fear this token.

Long Mo remained silent for a long time before finally letting out a cold snort: “Miss Chen, do you think a broken token can protect him?”

He waved his hand, and a dark red light struck Chen Wanqing’s wrist.

Chen Wanqing cried out in pain, and the Dragon Emperor's Decree flew from

her hand. Long Mo caught the token, played with it for a moment, and then put it in his pocket.

"Now, the token is mine."

He looked at Chen Wanqing, a cruel glint in his eyes. "Miss Chen, you've ruined my plans time and time again. Today, you'll die with him."

He raised his hand, dark red light gathering in his palm.

Chen Wanqing's face turned deathly pale, but she didn't flinch.

She turned to Kai, her eyes filled with apology:

"Young Master Chen, I'm sorry... I've ruined you..."

Kai looked at her and suddenly smiled.

"Miss Chen, how could you be so foolish?"

Chen Wanqing was stunned.

Kai continued, "You could have ignored me."

Chen Wanqing shook her head, tears streaming down her face: "I didn't want you to die..."

Kai was silent for a moment, then suddenly reached out and grasped her hand.

"Then let's live together."

He raised his head, looking at Long Mo, his eyes filled with determination: "Come on."

Long Mo sneered and slapped down with his palm. Just then…

“Roar…”

Another dragon roar echoed, louder than ever before.

A golden light descended from the sky.

The light was so intense it blinded anyone.

Long Mo’s attack was blocked by the golden light.

His pupils contracted as he looked at the newcomer.

It was a young man, dressed in a golden robe, with handsome features and radiating pure dragon energy.

Long Mo’s expression changed drastically: “Long…Long Hao?! What are you doing here?!”

The young man looked at him and smiled slightly: “Long Mo, long time no see.”

He turned to Kai and bowed slightly: “Long Hao of the Heavenly Dragon lineage greets His Majesty the Dragon Emperor.”

Kai was stunned.

Another dragon?

Moreover, this person had no demonic energy; he was a pure Heavenly Dragon.

Long Hao looked at Long Mo and said calmly, “Long Mo, you betrayed the Dragon Clan and sided with the Demon Clan. Today is your death day.”

Long Mo's face turned ashen. "Long Hao, you're just a ninth-grade Upper Immortal. I can kill you alone! Besides, I have Long Xing and Long Sha!"

Long Hao laughed.

"Are you sure?"

Behind him, more than a dozen figures suddenly appeared.

Each one exuded a dense dragon aura.

Long Mo's expression completely changed.

"You…you brought a large army of the Dragon Clan?!"

Long Hao nodded. "That's right. With the Dragon Emperor's bloodline appearing in the world, my Heavenly Dragon lineage should naturally come to welcome them."

He looked at Kai and bowed again. "Your Majesty, please forgive our lateness."

Kai looked at this scene, his heart filled with mixed emotions.

The Dragon Clan had really come.

And, a whole group of them had arrived.

Long Mo's face was deathly pale. He knew he had failed today.

But he was unwilling to accept it.

He stared intently at Kai, his eyes filled with resentment: "Kai, don't be so smug. Even if you escape today, my Demon Dragon lineage will not let you go. We are determined to have the Dragon Emperor's bloodline!"

“Moreover, the Divine Palace and the Chen family will not let you go. You think you can rely on the dying Heavenly Dragon lineage to protect you? Wishful thinking.”

After saying that, he turned around, taking Long Xing and Long Sha with him, transforming into three dark red lights and fleeing into the distance.

Long Hao wanted to chase after them, but Kai stopped him.

“Let them go.”

Long Hao was stunned: “Your Majesty?”

Kai shook his head: “Now is not the time to get entangled with them. I have things to do.”

He looked at Chen Wanqing, only to see her standing there blankly, seemingly still in shock.

“Miss Chen, are you alright?”

Chen Wanqing shook her head, looking at Kai, her eyes full of complicated emotions.

“You…you are really the Dragon Emperor?”

Kai laughed: “Fake. I’m just an unlucky guy being hunted down by your Chen family.”

Chen Wanqing couldn’t help but laugh, and then she cried.

Long Hao stepped forward and respectfully said, “Your Majesty, please come with us back to Tianlong Valley. Clan Chief Long Zhan is waiting for you.”

Kai thought for a moment and nodded, “Alright.”

He looked at Chen Wanqing, “Miss Chen, what about you?”

Chen Wanqing was silent for a moment, then shook her head, “I am a member of the Chen family, I want to go back.” Kai frowned: “If you go back, your father won’t let you off.”

Chen Wanqing smiled, a bitter smile: “That’s what I deserve. I lied to you, betrayed the Chen family, and let you go… It should all come to an end.”

Kai looked at her, silent for a long time, “Miss Chen, take care.”

Chen Wanqing nodded: “You too.”

She turned and walked towards Yunxian City.

Kai watched her back and suddenly spoke: “Chen Wanqing!”

Chen Wanqing stopped and turned to look at him.

Kai smiled: “After I finish my business, I’ll come back and we’ll cultivate together.”

Chen Wanqing was stunned.

Then, her cheeks flushed red, and she glared at him fiercely: “Get lost!”

She turned and walked away quickly.

But the corners of her mouth couldn’t help but turn up slightly.

Kai watched her departing figure, his smile deepening.

Long Hao watched from the side, his lips twitching.

This Dragon Emperor is really…

“Your Majesty, let’s go.”

Kai nodded and followed Long Hao and his group, disappearing into the wasteland.

…

Yunxian City, Chen Mansion.

Chen Wanqing returned to the ancestral hall and knelt before the memorial tablet.

Chen Tiangang stood behind her, his face ashen. “You dare to come back?”

Chen Wanqing didn’t turn around, only saying calmly, “This is my home, why can’t I come back?”

Chen Tiangang took a deep breath, suppressing his anger:

“Do you know what you’ve done? You let Kai go, offending those three dragon envoys. If they blame you, how will the Chen family bear it?”

Chen Wanqing smiled.

That smile was full of sarcasm.

“Father, do you know who those three dragon envoys are?”

Chen Tiangang was stunned.

Chen Wanqing continued, “They are traitors to the dragon clan, they’ve sided with the demon clan, they possess demonic energy. Cooperating with them is like seeking a tiger’s skin.”

Chen Tiangang’s expression changed: “What did you say?”

Chen Wanqing stood up, looking at her father:

“Father, you’ll do anything for the so-called interests of the Chen family. Using me, deceiving Kai, cooperating with the demon dragons… Have you ever thought about the consequences of these things?”

Chen Tiangang remained silent.

Chen Wanqing continued, “Kai has the bloodline of the Dragon Emperor; the true dragons have already come for him. Offending him is offending the entire dragon race.”

She paused, enunciating each word clearly, “Father, do you regret it?”

Chen Tiangang’s face was ashen; he remained silent.

Chen Wanqing sighed and turned to walk out of the ancestral hall.

“Where are you going?” Chen Tiangang asked.

Chen Wanqing didn’t turn back: “To reflect on my mistakes. This is your punishment.”

She walked out of the ancestral hall and disappeared into the night.

Chen Tiangang stood there, speechless for a long time.

Did he regret it?

He didn’t know.

But he knew that the Chen family might have truly made a mistake. Chen Wanqing’s words, like cold needles, pierced deep into Chen Tiangang’s eardrums, refusing to fade.

“Kai is of Dragon Emperor blood; the true Dragon Clan has come for him. Offending him is offending the entire Dragon Clan.” The word ”

Dragon Clan”…

it seemed light, yet weighed a ton, striking Chen Tiangang's heart with devastating force.

Standing in the dim, solemn space of the Chen family ancestral hall, gazing at the ancestral tablets that had been enshrined for nearly ten thousand years, a bitter smile involuntarily tugged at the corner of his mouth.

He had lived for thousands of years, rising from an ignorant young cultivator to break through countless realms. He had

experienced countless life-and-death battles, witnessed the devastation of sects, the tragedy of dynasties collapsing, the mountains of corpses and seas of blood in the war between gods and demons, and seen countless powerful figures fall before his eyes, countless forces vanish into thin air over time.

What storms, what earth-shattering conspiracies, what desperate situations hadn't Chen Tiangang experienced?

This time, however, he clearly felt a bone-chilling cold rush from his feet to the top of his head, causing his body, which had long since cultivated to the True Immortal Realm and was virtually invulnerable, to tremble uncontrollably.

He was truly wrong.

Wrong beyond belief, utterly wrong, so wrong that even the possibility of redemption seemed to have been severed by his own hands.

When he made those decisions, hadn't he constantly told himself that it was all for the Chen family?

For the Chen family's millennia-long prosperity, for preserving the Chen family's foundation that had stood tall in Yunxian City for a thousand years, for ensuring that the Chen family continued to hold its position as a top family in this Immortal Realm, free from bullying and annexation.

As the head of the family, he bore the life and death, honor and disgrace of the entire clan on his shoulders, every step he took was like walking on thin ice, every choice related to the fate of millions of clan members.

He believed that everything he did was out of a sense of responsibility to the family.

Why was the ancestral hall eerily quiet at this moment? Only his own breathing echoed in the empty room, yet his heart felt as if a piece had been ripped out, leaving it hollow, cold, and utterly devoid of any strength.

That boundless emptiness and regret was more unbearable than when he was severely injured and on the verge of death years ago.

He involuntarily closed his eyes, and the look in Kai's eyes when he left the Chen residence flashed before him.

That look was cold, as cold as eternal ice, as cold as the silent night deep in the wilderness, devoid of any warmth, devoid of any ripple.

Yet, strangely enough, there was no hatred, no resentment, no anger in that look, not even a trace of superfluous emotion.

It was this extreme calm and indifference that tore at his heart more than any overwhelming hatred.

Because that gaze clearly told him that in Kai's eyes, the entire Chen family, including him, the patriarch who had lived for a thousand years, and those self-important elders, were nothing more than a group of insignificant, unworthy clowns. They

weren't even worthy of hatred.

Chen Tiangang's heart felt as if it were being clenched tightly by an invisible hand, the pain almost suffocating him.

He recalled the three messengers who had descended upon the Chen residence not long ago.

At first, he had addressed them with awe as messengers of the Dragon Clan, believing them to be the descent of ancient dragons, a golden opportunity for the Chen family to curry favor with the Dragon Clan.

But now, looking back, where was even a trace of sacred and peaceful dragon aura about those three? It was a chilling aura that seeped into his very bones, a demonic energy that made one's heart tremble and one's soul shudder. It was a demonic dragon, an evil creature, not a true dragon!

He had clearly sensed something amiss with that aura, a flicker of vigilance had crossed his mind, but why had he simply ignored it?

Was it because of greed?

Was it because of the countless dragon treasures promised by the three demonic dragon envoys?

Were they the rare and precious materials, ancient cultivation techniques, and divine weapons that would allow the Chen family to surge in power and dominate Yunxian City?

Or was it because he desperately wanted the treasures buried in the ancient dragon pool?

Desperate to use those treasures to break through the shackles of the Chen family and enter the ranks of the true top immortal sects?

Greed blinded his heart, and profit clouded his judgment.

These eight words, at this moment, were like the sharpest blade, cutting into his conscience again and again.

Chen Tiangang slowly closed his eyes, his aged and dignified face filled with weariness and dejection.

He exhaled a long, stale breath, a breath that contained nearly a thousand years of vicissitudes, and endless regret and self-reproach.

Wanqing was right.

He was wrong.

He, the head of the family, was incompetent and foolish, unable to judge people. For the sake of illusory gains, he schemed against Kai, who possessed the bloodline of the Dragon Emperor, pushing the Chen family into an abyss of no return.

But now, the mistake had been made, and it was too late to undo it.

What could he do?

What could the Chen family do?

Chen Tiangang dragged his heavy steps slowly out of the Chen family ancestral hall.

The night was deep, the dark sky devoid of any starlight, only a pale, waning moon hung forlornly on the horizon, exuding an indescribable desolation.

He looked up at the deathly silent night sky, his lips trembling slightly. In a voice only he could hear, he murmured, “I hope… it’s not too late…”

He didn’t know that the cruelest thing in the world is that just when you feel a trace of regret or a glimmer of hope, fate will mercilessly tell you that it’s all too late.

Meanwhile, outside Yunxian City, dust billowed everywhere.

A menacing hundred-man army was galloping towards the city gate.

The sound of hooves thundered, the clanging of armor crisp and cold, carrying an undeniable air of authority and oppression that terrified the

birds and beasts along the way, causing them to scatter and flee, not daring to even breathe. At the forefront of the procession were more than ten elderly men clad in silver robes.

Each of these men possessed a profound and unfathomable aura, their faces cold and indifferent, emanating a chilling pressure.

Any one of them, even in Cloud Immortal City, would be a powerful figure capable of shaking the entire region with a mere stomp of their foot; their minimum cultivation level was at least the eighth rank of the Upper Immortal Realm!

Such strength would be considered formidable by any powerful family.

The three leading figures possessed an even more terrifying aura, clearly peak ninth-rank Upper Immortal Realm experts, only a step away from the True Immortal Realm!

Their silver robes were of extraordinary quality, shimmering with iridescent light, and embroidered on their chests was a majestic, towering sacred mountain piercing the clouds.

That was the symbol of the Divine Temple.

In this Immortal Realm, the words “Divine Temple” represented supreme authority, absolute dominance, and a terrifying force that no one dared to easily provoke.

Any sect or family, upon hearing the name of the Divine Temple, would show utmost respect, daring not to utter the slightest negligence.

At this moment, the temple’s procession was heading straight for Yunxian City.

Wu Lingyun had been waiting at the city gate for some time.

He was dressed in fine robes, his handsome face bearing an undisguised air of ruthlessness and urgency.

He stood to one side of the gate, his gaze fixed on the dust-filled distance, his hands clasped behind his back, his fingertips trembling slightly, clearly indicating his inner turmoil.

When he saw the temple procession's distinctive silver robes and the sacred mountain emblem, Wu Lingyun's eyes lit up, and a utmost respectful smile immediately appeared on his face as he hurried forward to greet them.

"Wu Lingyun of the Wu family greets the elders of the temple!"

he bowed deeply, his posture extremely humble, daring not to show the slightest disrespect.

Leading the procession was an elderly man with white hair and beard, his face dignified, yet his spirit vigorous, his eyes sharp as lightning, seemingly able to pierce through to the heart.

He glanced at Wu Lingyun indifferently, his voice calm and even, yet carrying an air of superior authority: "Young Master Wu, you said the Chen family is harboring Kai, a criminal from the Divine Temple. Is this true?"

Wu Lingyun quickly bowed again, his tone absolutely certain: "Reporting to the Elder, it is absolutely true, without a single falsehood!

Kai recently participated in the martial arts contest for marriage held by the Chen family. He overcame all obstacles and surpassed all the heroes, passing all the tests. Now he is the Chen family's lawfully wedded son-in-law, and his status has long been tacitly accepted by the Chen family!

The Chen family even personally took him to the Ancient Dragon Pool in the mountains north of the city, with ulterior motives!"

"The Ancient Dragon Pool?"

Upon hearing this, the white-haired elder frowned slightly, clearly familiar with this place.

Wu Lingyun nodded hastily, adding, “Exactly! Elder, you may not know, but the ancient Dragon Pool contains a legendary dragon treasure, possessing boundless power!

Kai, with his golden dragon bloodline, is the destined inheritor of the Dragon Pool. After entering, he must have already obtained the treasure! Now, he must be hiding in the Chen residence, waiting for his chance!”

The white-haired elder remained silent for a moment, his profound gaze gazing into the depths of Yunxian City, in the direction of the Chen residence.

He didn’t ask any further questions, simply waving his hand dismissively: “Enter the city.”

With that, he gave the order. The hundred-strong temple contingent immediately sprang into action, surging into Yunxian City with synchronized steps and overwhelming momentum. Their destination was clear: the Chen residence!

The people lining the streets, witnessing this spectacle, scattered in fear, hiding behind walls, doors, and shops, peeking out and whispering amongst themselves, their faces filled with terror and unease.

“Those are… people from the temple? Why are they in our Yunxian City?”

“Judging by their appearance, they’re up to no good! I heard the Chen family is harboring a wanted criminal from the temple, and the temple has come specifically to arrest him!” ”

A wanted criminal? Is it Kai, the one who caused such a stir recently, the one who destroyed the Tongtian Road?”

“Shh! Keep your voice down! Do you think you can just gossip about names like that? Don’t you want to die? Don’t bring trouble upon yourself!”

The whispers were filled with dread; everyone knew that the temple's wrath could kill millions. Today, the Chen family was likely doomed.

Outside the Chen residence, two ordinary guards were on duty as usual.

They saw a group of menacing figures in silver robes charging towards them. The terrifying pressure emanating from them made their legs go weak, and their faces instantly turned deathly pale.

"Halt! This is the Chen family's territory, no trespassing allowed!"

one of the guards shouted, forcing himself to be brave, but his voice trembled uncontrollably.

The white-haired elder didn't even glance at them, as if he were merely shooing away two insignificant ants.

He simply raised his hand and waved it, an invisible force erupting instantly, slamming into the two guards like a mountain.

"Thump!"

Two muffled sounds followed, and the two guards, before they could even scream, were sent flying, crashing heavily to the ground, spitting blood, and unconscious.

"Surround the Chen family's residence! No one is allowed to enter or leave! Those who disobey will be killed without mercy!"

The white-haired elder's voice was icy cold, devoid of any emotion.

"Yes!"

A hundred temple soldiers responded in unison, their voices clear and loud, causing the entire Chen family residence to tremble slightly.

They quickly dispersed, swiftly surrounding the entire Chen residence, forming layers upon layers, preventing even a fly from escaping.

Inside the Chen residence, chaos reigned. In

the council hall, Chen Tiangang sat with the six elders of the Chen family, their faces grave as they discussed countermeasures.

Anxiety and unease etched themselves on everyone's faces, the atmosphere oppressively tense.

Just then, a sudden burst of loud noise, footsteps, shouts, and the sound of things crashing to the ground erupted outside, creating utter chaos.

Chen Tiangang's brow furrowed sharply, a strong sense of unease rising within him.

He was about to send someone out to investigate when a guard stumbled in, his clothes disheveled, his face deathly pale, his eyes filled with utter terror. "Patriarch...Patriarch! Something terrible has happened!"

"The people from the Temple have arrived! So many! They've completely surrounded the Chen residence!"

Boom!

These words struck like a bolt from the blue, hitting everyone in the council hall hard.

Chen Tiangang's expression changed drastically; his already pale face became completely bloodless.

He abruptly stood up, his aura fluctuating uncontrollably.

The six elders exchanged glances, a barely concealed fear flashing in their eyes.

A red-faced elder's lips trembled, his voice trembling with sobs: "The Temple... how could they have arrived so quickly? We were... we were prepared!"

A white-haired elder slowly closed his eyes, letting out a long sigh, his tone filled with helplessness and sorrow: “What was destined to come has finally come. There’s no escaping it, no avoiding it.”

Another slightly plump elder slammed his fist on the table, gritting his teeth, his voice laced with resentment: “It’s all Kai’s fault! It’s all his fault! If we hadn’t taken him in, let him participate in the martial arts contest, and never taken him to Dragon Pool!

Our Chen family wouldn’t be in this state! If we had known this would happen, we should have handed him over to the Temple directly!”

The red-faced elder shook his head, his face full of regret: “No…” “We can’t blame Kai. It was our own greed, our own madness!

If we hadn’t coveted his bloodline and treasures, hadn’t agreed to the three demonic dragons’ conditions, and hadn’t intended to betray him to the temple, would our Chen family be in this predicament? We ourselves have led ourselves to our doom!”

The white-haired elder gave a bitter laugh, his smile filled with resentment: “What’s the use of saying all this now? The mistake has been made, and it’s too late to regret it.”

Another elder murmured to himself, his voice low and guilty: “I said from the beginning that putting that dragon-locking collar on Kai was dishonest.

Kai sincerely helped our Chen family resolve the crisis and pass the test, but we plotted against him behind his back, plotted against him. This violates the Chen family’s ancestral precepts… it violates the laws of heaven…”

“It’s too late to say all this now, it’s all too late…”

“Patriarch, what should we do now?”

All eyes were focused on Chen Tiangang.

At this moment, Chen Tiangang took a deep breath, forcibly suppressing the turmoil and endless regret in his heart.

He knew that he was the head of the Chen family, and at this time, he absolutely could not act rashly.

He said in a deep voice, “What is destined to come will eventually come. Since the Temple has come knocking, then we will go out and face it.

Remember, no matter what happens later, no matter how aggressive they are, do not make the first move. If you can endure, endure; if you can retreat, retreat. Do not give them an excuse to attack, understand?”

“Understood!”

The six elders nodded in unison. Although their faces were still filled with fear, they still forced themselves to stand up and followed behind Chen Tiangang, walking towards the outside of the council hall.

Outside the council hall, the gate of the Chen family mansion, which had stood for a thousand years and symbolized the majesty of the Chen family, had already been smashed open, with fragments scattered all over the ground.

The cultivators of the Temple filed in like a tide, filling the entire front courtyard. Their silver robes were particularly dazzling in the night.

The white-haired old man stood at the very front, surrounded by stars, his gaze slowly falling on Chen Tiangang, a faint smile curving his lips: “Patriarch Chen, I have long admired your name.” Chen Tiangang forced himself to remain calm, clasped his hands in greeting, and said, “I was unaware of the presence of the elders of the Divine Temple. Please forgive my

lack of hospitality.” The white-haired elder smiled faintly, but his tone was anything but polite: “Patriarch Chen, there’s no need for such formalities. We have come today for no other reason than one person.”

Chen Tiangang's heart sank, knowing that what was bound to happen had finally arrived. He remained outwardly calm, feigning confusion: "Oh? Who is the elder referring to?"

The white-haired elder's gaze sharpened, staring intently at him, and he spoke slowly and deliberately, his voice cold and clear: "Kai."

The name Kai struck Chen Tiangang's heart like two boulders.

He remained silent for a moment, knowing that concealing the truth was futile, but he still had no choice but to bite the bullet and slowly speak, "Elder, to be honest, Kai did indeed come to my Chen family and stayed at the Chen residence for a period of time.

However, after returning from the Dragon Pool, he voluntarily left the Chen residence. As for where he went, this old man truly does not know."

"Left?"

The white-haired elder raised an eyebrow slightly, clearly not believing him.

Chen Tiangang nodded solemnly, "Absolutely true. After he came out of the ancient Dragon Pool that day, he severed all ties with my Chen family and left alone. His whereabouts are secretive, and he comes and goes without a trace. This old man truly does not know where he went."

"Does not know?"

A cold laugh suddenly rang out from the crowd.

Wu Lingyun slowly walked out from behind the people in the temple, his face filled with mockery and smugness, looking at Chen Tiangang with contempt.

"Patriarch Chen, who are you trying to fool? Kai passed your Chen family's martial arts contest for marriage; he's your Chen family's lawfully wedded son-in-law, and he and your daughter Chen Wanqing

are deeply in love. You think you don't know where he is? Do you think we'd believe that?" Wu Lingyun sneered.

Chen Tiangang looked at Wu Lingyun, his eyes flashing with undisguised disgust and coldness.

The Wu family!

It really was the Wu family!

It was that despicable Wu Lingyun who secretly informed the Temple!

It was he who stabbed the Chen family in the back!

If it weren't for the Wu family's interference and constant instigation, things wouldn't have come to this.

"Young Master Wu,"

Chen Tiangang's voice was calm, yet tinged with coldness, "Kai did indeed leave in anger. As for why he left, the reasons are not for me to say."

Wu Lingyun sneered, pressing closer: "Not for me to say? I think it was your Chen family that deliberately hid him and deliberately let him go!"

He stopped looking at Chen Tiangang, turned to the white-haired elder, bowed respectfully, and said, "Elder, the Chen family is lying! Kai must still be hiding in the Chen residence, perhaps in a secret room, the backyard, or the cellar! As long as we search carefully, we will definitely find him!"

The white-haired elder slowly turned his head, his gaze sharp as lightning, falling on Chen Tiangang again, carrying an irresistible pressure: "Patriarch Chen, do you dare to order us to search the Chen residence?" Chen Tiangang's expression changed drastically.

A search?

Allowing the people of the Temple to freely search the Chen family's thousand-year-old mansion?

The Chen family has stood tall in Yunxian City for a thousand years, representing the dignity and face of a prominent clan.

If the people of the Temple were allowed to search the mansion at will today, ransacking it and causing chaos, the Chen family's reputation would be utterly destroyed!

From then on, the Chen family would never be able to hold their heads high in Yunxian City again, becoming a laughingstock!

Moreover, Chen Wanqing was still in the mansion!

If Wanqing, a mere woman, were disturbed by these Temple cultivators, the consequences would be unimaginable!

Chen Tiangang took a deep breath, his eyes hardening, and said in a deep voice, "Elder, I'll say it again, Kai is indeed not in the Chen residence. If you don't believe me, there's nothing I can do. Please don't force me."

A cold glint flashed in the white-haired elder's eyes, and his tone instantly turned icy: "Patriarch Chen, are you determined to protect a wanted criminal of the Divine Temple and become an enemy of our Divine Temple?"

Chen Tiangang quickly shook his head, his tone sincere: "I dare not! I have never had the intention to protect anyone, much less dare to become an enemy of the Divine Temple!

But Kai is indeed not in the residence. Even if you search the entire Chen residence, it will be in vain, a waste of effort!"

The white-haired elder was silent for a moment.

The next moment, he suddenly laughed.

That laugh was devoid of any warmth, chilling to the bone.

“Patriarch Chen, do you think I came here today to discuss things with you?”

He suddenly raised his hand, and the hundred Divine Temple soldiers behind him instantly stepped forward, their auras exploding, filled with murderous intent!

“Search the Chen residence! From the attic to the cellar, every room, every corner, search thoroughly! Anyone who dares to resist, kill them without mercy!”

“Yes!”

At the command,

a hundred temple soldiers surged into the Chen residence like a silver tide.

The study, bedroom, attic, courtyard, secret room, cellar… every place where someone could hide was frantically searched.

Tables and chairs were overturned, vases were shattered, doors and windows were broken; the once exquisite and elegant Chen residence was instantly reduced to a mess.

Chen Tiangang’s face was ashen, his hands clenched tightly, knuckles white, veins bulging. He was furious, but dared not act.

He knew clearly that once he acted, it would be tantamount to declaring war on the temple.

With the Chen family’s current strength, they were no match for the temple; the entire Chen family would be completely annihilated, leaving no one alive.

The six elders were also pale-faced, trembling, but could only watch helplessly as all this happened.

The search lasted a full half hour.

The entire Chen residence was practically turned upside down, leaving it in complete chaos. A temple soldier rushed in from outside, knelt on one knee, and respectfully reported to the white-haired elder, “Reporting to the elder! We’ve searched every corner of the Chen residence! We haven’t found any trace of Kai!”

The white-haired elder frowned slightly, clearly surprised.

Wu Lingyun’s expression changed drastically, and he cried out, “Impossible! Absolutely impossible! He must be hiding in the residence! You must not have searched thoroughly enough! Search again! Search three more times! Search carefully!”

The temple soldier gave Wu Lingyun a cold look, his tone tinged with dissatisfaction, “Young Master Wu, we have searched three times over, leaving no corner unchecked. There is indeed no one named Kai. Why would we lie?”

Wu Lingyun gritted his teeth, his heart filled with anxiety and anger. His eyes suddenly darted around, and he suddenly remembered something. He immediately shouted, “There’s one more person! Chen Wanqing! She’s Kai’s cultivation partner, the person he cares about most! She must know Kai’s whereabouts!”

“Chen Wanqing?”

The white-haired old man’s eyes flashed, clearly having heard of this name as well.

Chen Tiangang’s expression changed drastically!

Oh no!

They’re going to attack Wanqing!

The thing he feared most had happened!

Wu Lingyun revealed a ferocious smile as he looked at Chen Tiangang: “Patriarch Chen, let your daughter come out. As long as she obediently tells us Kai’s whereabouts, I can plead with the elders to spare your Chen family. Otherwise, today… your Chen family will be wiped out!”

Chen Tiangang took a deep breath, forcibly suppressing the panic and anger in his heart, and said in a deep voice, “Wanqing… she’s unwell and is resting in the backyard, not in the mansion.”

“Not here?” Wu Lingyun sneered as if he’d heard the biggest joke in the world. “Patriarch Chen, do you take me for a three-year-old? I already questioned your guards, and they clearly said Chen Wanqing is in the manor and has never left! Are you still trying to deny it?”

He turned to the white-haired elder again, bowing, “Elder, Chen Wanqing has a close relationship with Kai. She must know Kai’s whereabouts! As long as we catch her, Kai will surely show himself! We can definitely find Kai through her!”

The white-haired elder nodded slightly, no longer hesitating, and waved his hand, ordering, “Search! Find Chen Wanqing for me! Alive or dead!”

The temple soldiers moved out again, heading straight for the backyard.

This time, Chen Tiangang could no longer hold back.

He strode forward, arms outstretched, blocking the path of all the soldiers, his voice roaring like thunder: “Who dares touch my daughter!”

The white-haired old man looked at him, a hint of mockery flashing in his eyes: “Patriarch Chen, finally couldn’t hold back? Finally stopped pretending?”

Chen Tiangang's face was ashen, his eyes bloodshot, each word uttered with a chilling intensity: "Kai is indeed not in my Chen family! If you want to find him, go look outside! The ends of the earth are none of my Chen family's business!

But Wanqing is my daughter, she is just an ordinary woman, she has nothing to do with this matter! You cannot touch her!"

"Nothing to do with her?" Wu Lingyun sneered, his eyes sinister, "She is Kai's cultivation partner, they are together day and night, how can she be unrelated? Patriarch Chen, I advise you to obediently step aside, lest you damage the harmony, and then it won't look good for anyone."

Chen Tiangang stood still, as immovable as a mountain, his eyes resolute.

The white-haired old man shook his head slightly, his tone indifferent: "Since Patriarch Chen is so stubborn, then don't blame me for being impolite."

He waved his hand, and two temple elders who had been waiting in ambush stepped forward simultaneously, their auras exploding!

"Take him down!" "Who dares!"

Chen Tiangang roared, his long-suppressed True Immortal Realm aura erupting without reservation!

Golden spiritual energy swept in all directions, even causing the bricks on the ground to crack slightly.

He had lived for a thousand years, cultivating to the True Immortal Realm, his strength already unfathomable.

At this moment, for his daughter, for the last vestige of the Chen family's dignity, he completely unleashed his power!

He slammed out a palm, the golden palm print as dazzling as the sun, carrying an overwhelming force as it hurtled forward!

Several elders of the Divine Temple simultaneously snorted coldly, showing no fear, and attacked in unison!

“Boom!!!”

A deafening roar shook the heavens, and a violent shockwave spread wildly from the two of them. The Chen family guards around them had no time to dodge and were directly blown away by the shockwave, crashing heavily to the ground, spitting blood.

Chen Tiangang felt a numbness in his arm, and a tremendous force came, causing him to involuntarily stagger back three steps, a trickle of blood spilling from the corner of his mouth.

But the two elders of the Divine Temple opposite him remained unmoved, their auras calm and composed.

Outnumbered, he was ultimately no match.

Yet he did not retreat.

Not even a step.

Wanqing was still in the manor, still behind him.

He was a father, he was the head of the family, he had to stop them!

“Chen Tiangang, you’re courting death.” The white-haired old man’s voice was icy, devoid of any emotion.

Chen Tiangang wiped the blood from the corner of his mouth, his eyes still as firm as iron, and said in a deep voice, “I said, Kai is not in my Chen family. If you want to find him, go ahead. But if you want to touch my daughter, you’ll have to step over my dead body!”

The white-haired old man shook his head, his tone tinged with impatience: “Stubborn fool.”

He waved his hand again, and the hundred temple soldiers behind him rushed forward like hungry wolves!

“Since the Chen family head refuses to hand over the person, then beat him until he does! Attack!”

“Yes!”

The hundred soldiers, weapons in hand, surged towards Chen Tiangang with murderous intent!

Chen Tiangang’s gaze sharpened, and instead of retreating, he advanced!

He unleashed a powerful palm strike, a burst of golden spiritual energy that sent the three soldiers at the forefront flying, spitting blood and falling unconscious.

However, the enemy’s numbers were simply overwhelming!

Kill one, and ten more immediately appeared!

Kill ten, and a hundred more surged forward! They were

densely packed, seemingly endless!

The remaining guards within the Chen mansion, seeing their patriarch surrounded, were filled with rage and drew their weapons, rushing forward.

“Protect the patriarch!”

“Fight them! We can’t let them harm the patriarch!” “We will

live and die with the Chen family!”

The shouts of battle shook the heavens and earth.

A fierce battle was about to erupt! ”Father!”

A shrill cry suddenly came from the backyard.

Chen Wanqing, dressed in plain clothes, pale-faced and with red eyes, rushed out of the backyard without hesitation.

She had been reflecting on her mistakes in the ancestral hall, her heart filled with worry for her father and guilt towards Kai.

But the sounds of fighting, shouting, and screams outside grew louder and closer, and she could no longer sit still, she could no longer hold back,

she rushed out. The scene before her eyes shattered her heart instantly.

The Chen mansion was in ruins, guards lay groaning on the ground, broken tables and chairs, flowing blood, and her father, covered in wounds and fighting bloodily...

When Chen Tiangang saw Chen Wanqing rushing out, his expression changed drastically, and he shouted sharply, “Wanqing! Go back! Who let you out! Go back!”

But it was too late.

Wu Lingyun spotted Chen Wanqing in the crowd at a glance, his eyes instantly lighting up like a hungry wolf seeing a lamb, a lewd and greedy glint flashing in his eyes without any attempt to hide it.

“Miss Chen, it’s been a long time.”

He walked slowly forward, looking Chen Wanqing up and down, his gaze roaming over her with possessiveness.

Chen Wanqing instinctively took a step back, her heart filled with disgust and fear, her eyes cold as she looked at him.

Looking at the mess before her, at her clansmen lying in pools of blood, at her father covered in blood and swaying precariously, she could no longer hold back her tears, which streamed down her face.

“Why…why are you doing this…what have we, the Chen family, done to wrong you…”

Wu Lingyun chuckled, his tone flippant yet sinister: “Why? Because your Chen family harbored a wanted criminal of the Temple, a crime deserving death! And because…”

He deliberately took a step closer, lowering his voice, his tone lewd: “I’ve taken a liking to you. From the first moment I saw you, I wanted you. Today, with the Chen family destroyed, you are mine.”

Chen Wanqing gritted her teeth, her eyes filled with hatred, and shouted sharply: “Don’t even think about it! I’d rather die than let you succeed!”

The smile on Wu Lingyun’s face vanished instantly, his expression darkening: “You won’t listen to reason, so you’ll have to suffer the consequences!”

He turned to the white-haired elder, bowing and saying: “Elder, since she refuses to reveal Kai’s whereabouts, we’ll have to use force! Capture her, and she’ll surely talk!”

The white-haired elder nodded slightly, waving his hand expressionlessly: “Take her down.”

Two Temple soldiers immediately obeyed, their faces cold, reaching out to grab Chen Wanqing!

“Stop!”

Chen Tiangang roared, his eyes bloodshot, and recklessly blasted away the soldiers surrounding him with a single palm strike, charging towards Chen Wanqing like a madman!

But how could the elders of the Divine Temple let him have his way?

“Trying to leave? Stay here!”

Two elders of the Divine Temple attacked simultaneously, blocking Chen Tiangang’s path, their auras exploding as they relentlessly entangled him!

Chen Tiangang roared repeatedly, instantly engaging several people in battle.

Palm winds howled, spiritual energy exploded, and shockwaves rolled.

The three fought from the ground to mid-air and back again, each collision producing a deafening roar.

Although Chen Tiangang was only at the first level of the True Immortal Realm and possessed formidable strength,

the Divine Temple and the Wu family had joined forces, with more than ten cultivators at the peak of the ninth rank of the Upper Immortal Realm!

With so many top experts attacking him, even the strongest Chen Tiangang could not withstand the onslaught and gradually fell into a disadvantageous position.

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After thirty rounds,

Chen Tiangang’s breathing became erratic, and his movements gradually slowed.

“Bang!”

A palm struck his shoulder hard, the sound of bones shattering clearly audible. He groaned, his body swaying violently, blood gushing from his mouth.

“Bang!”

Another palm struck his back!

Chen Tiangang could no longer hold on, spitting out a mouthful of blood, and plummeted from mid-air like a kite with a broken string!

“Father!” Chen Wanqing cried out, her voice heart-wrenching.

But after landing, Chen Tiangang didn’t hesitate for a moment, immediately forcing himself to his feet and rushing towards Chen Wanqing again.

He couldn’t fall!

He couldn’t die!

Wanqing was still waiting for him!

“Wanqing, go! Get out of here quickly!” he shouted hoarsely, his voice filled with despair.

Chen Wanqing shook her head desperately, tears blurring her vision: “I won’t go! I won’t go! I want to stay with Father! We’ll die together!”

Chen Tiangang’s eyes were bloodshot with anxiety, his voice trembling: “Silly child! If you don’t leave, we’ll both die here! You must live! If you live, go find Kai! Go find him! For the sake of our Chen family, apologize to him! Apologize to him!” ”

Father…” Chen Wanqing sobbed uncontrollably.

Chen Tiangang reached out his trembling hand and gently stroked her cheek, his eyes filled with love, guilt, and reluctance.

“It’s my fault, it’s my mistake, it’s my fault that I harmed the Chen family, harmed all our clansmen. But you can’t die here, you must live.”

He slowly turned around, looking at the frantically pursuing temple soldiers and Wu family guards, a resolute glint in his eyes.

“Go! Go through the back gate of the backyard! Hurry!”

Before Chen Wanqing could say anything more, Chen Tiangang had already turned around abruptly, and like a madman, rushed out again!

“Come on! If you’re not afraid to die, come at me!”

He roared, unleashing his full True Immortal Realm aura. His golden palm print swept across the area, sending the dozen or so Temple soldiers at the forefront flying!

He stood before Chen Wanqing, like an unyielding mountain, blocking all pursuers.

Chen Wanqing watched her father’s bloodied, lonely, and majestic figure, tears streaming down her face like broken beads.

She gritted her teeth, her heart filled with endless pain and hatred.

Finally, she stomped her foot and turned to run wildly towards the backyard.

“Chase her! Don’t let her get away!” Wu Lingyun shouted immediately upon seeing this.

The Temple soldiers and Wu family guards were about to give chase when Chen Tiangang stepped forward, blocking their path once again.

“If you want to chase her, you’ll have to get past me first.”

He raised his hand and a long sword, radiant with light and brimming with spiritual energy, instantly appeared in his hand.

It was his natal magic weapon, the Chen family's treasure passed down for thousands of years—the Azure Cloud Sword.

The white-haired old man looked at him, a faint hint of admiration flashing in his eyes: "Chen Tiangang, you're a good father, but unfortunately, you chose the wrong path and the wrong side."

Chen Tiangang sneered, his laughter filled with sorrow and arrogance: "Enough nonsense! Let's fight! Come on!"

Holding the Qingyun Sword, he no longer defended, no longer hesitated, and charged directly into the crowd like a drawn sword!

The elders of the temple were not to be outdone, swarming forward and attacking!

This time, Chen Tiangang held back, no longer defended, but attacked frantically, risking his life!

He knew clearly that every moment he held on, Chen Wanqing had a better chance of escaping.

The sword flashed, the air chilling. The wind howled, shaking heaven and earth.

Blood splattered, staining his robes crimson.

Fifty rounds.

Three more deep, bone-revealing wounds appeared on Chen Tiangang's body, dripping with blood, yet he still did not retreat a single step.

Seventy rounds.

Another wound slashed from his shoulder down to his waist, flesh torn open, excruciating pain, yet he continued to fight.

Ninety rounds.

His left arm was struck hard by an elder's palm, the bones instantly shattering, hanging limply at his sides.

Yet he still gripped the Qingyun Sword tightly with his right hand, gritting his teeth and persevering, still fighting!

"Father!"

From afar came Chen Wanqing's heart-wrenching cry.

She hadn't run far; she hid behind a corner in the shadows, watching her father fight bloodied and battered, her heart breaking, her pain unbearable.

Chen Tiangang heard his daughter's cries, but he didn't turn back.

He couldn't turn back.

If he did, Wanqing would soften, would give up on escaping.

He could only fight, fight on, fight to the last moment, fight until he fell.

One hundred rounds.

Chen Tiangang was covered in blood, a blood-soaked figure, his clothes tattered, wounds covering his entire body, his breath barely perceptible.

Yet his eyes remained bright as stars, unwavering as iron.

He stared intently at the two True Immortal Realm elders before him, a bitter yet proud smile slowly curving his lips.

"Come on... come again... I can still fight..."

A flicker of fear crossed the hearts of the temple elders.

So many of them, besieging a heavily wounded man, and several had already fallen.

How could Chen Tiangang not fall?

The white-haired elder snorted coldly, his eyes icy, and looked at Wu Lingyun beside him: “Young Master Wu, have your Wu family members all come at us! Let’s finish this quickly!”

“Alright!” Wu Lingyun nodded without hesitation.

Instantly, the Wu family’s guards and experts all joined the battle.

A dozen top experts surrounded Chen Tiangang.

The pressure on Chen Tiangang instantly surged!

After only ten rounds,

the white-haired elder seized an opening and struck Chen Tiangang’s chest with a powerful palm strike!

“Pfft!”

Chen Tiangang spat out a mouthful of blood, his body flying backward like a kite with a broken string, crashing heavily to the ground.

“Father!”

Chen Wanqing could no longer control herself and rushed out from the shadows like a madwoman.

Chen Tiangang’s face changed drastically when he saw her, and he shouted with his last ounce of strength, “Wanqing! Why haven’t you left yet! Leave now! Hurry!”

Chen Wanqing ran to his side, crying, and carefully helped him up, tears dripping onto his wounds: “I won’t leave… I won’t leave… I can’t leave Father alone… I want to stay with you…” Chen Tiangang looked at her, his eyes filled with heartache and helplessness, and said weakly, “Silly child…how could you be so foolish…I don’t deserve this…”

He struggled, using the last bit of strength in his body, to slowly stand up, once again shielding Chen Wanqing behind him.

The white-haired old man slowly walked up to him, looking down at him, his tone indifferent: “Chen Tiangang, you have done your best, you have done more than enough. Hand over Chen Wanqing, and I can give you a quick death, a dignified one.”

Chen Tiangang slowly shook his head, his voice weak but incredibly firm, each word deliberate: “Want to touch my daughter…unless…step over my dead body…”

The white-haired old man sighed softly: “Stubborn to the end, unrepentant to the death.”

He waved his hand, and the temple soldiers stepped forward again, their killing intent palpable.

Just at this critical moment.

“Protect the patriarch!”

“Protect the young lady!”

The remaining six elders of the Chen family, covered in wounds and with torn clothes, still roared and rushed forward, blocking Chen Tiangang and Chen Wanqing!

They instantly clashed with the temple soldiers and martial arts guards!

The red-faced elder slapped a temple soldier away, turning to Chen Wanqing, his voice hoarse: “Miss! Go! Don’t worry about us! Go!”

The white-haired elder pierced a martial arts guard's throat with his sword, his voice hoarse: "Miss! Go! Don't let us sacrifice in vain! Don't let us die in vain!"

Another elder, surrounded by three temple soldiers, was stabbed multiple times, his robes stained with blood, yet he still clung tightly to a soldier, refusing to let go.

He looked back at Chen Wanqing, his eyes filled with endless guilt and regret: "Miss…we've wronged you…we were greedy…we harmed the Chen family…we deserve it…"

His words trailed off.

A long sword pierced his heart.

His body went limp, and he slowly collapsed into a pool of blood, lifeless.

"Third Elder!" Chen Wanqing cried out, her voice heart-wrenching.

Another elder, surrounded by several men, coughed up a mouthful of blood and fell heavily to the ground.

On his deathbed, he gazed at Chen Wanqing and murmured weakly, "Tell Kai…we were wrong…we…deserve to die…"

Chen Wanqing knelt on the ground, trembling, tears blurring her vision.

She watched as the elders who had watched her grow up and loved her dearly fell before her, one by one, leaving forever.

Her heart was breaking. She was

in unbearable pain. The red-faced elder, surrounded by three temple soldiers, was stabbed multiple times, his body covered in wounds, yet he fought on relentlessly, refusing to retreat.

With his last ounce of strength, he slapped two soldiers away, then slowly collapsed, gazing in Chen Wanqing's direction with a relieved smile: "Miss...take care..."

The white-haired elder was struck hard on the crown of his head by a palm strike from the white-haired elder.

Blood splattered. He

died instantly.

Before falling, he looked at Chen Wanqing, his eyes filled with love, reluctance, and worry: "Miss...go quickly...live on..."

All six elders had perished.

The Chen family had completely lost all resistance.

Chen Wanqing knelt on the ground, looking at the corpses and blood everywhere, tears silently streaming down her face.

"No...no...don't die..."

she murmured, her spirit nearly broken.

Chen Tiangang struggled to his feet, using his last ounce of strength to pull her up, his voice hoarse: "Wanqing...go...let's go..."

He grabbed Chen Wanqing's hand and rushed towards the back door without regard for anything else.

Behind them, pursuers closed in relentlessly, their battle cries deafening.

Chen Tiangang ran frantically, turning back to fight. He slapped away a pursuing soldier with a palm strike, then pierced another's throat with his sword, but the enemy's numbers were simply too overwhelming.

Finally, they reached the back gate of the courtyard.

Chen Tiangang suddenly shoved Chen Wanqing away violently.

“Go! Go quickly! Never come back!”

Chen Wanqing fell to the ground, turning back to look at him, tears streaming down her face: “Father! What about you? What will you do?”

Chen Tiangang looked at her, a smile both tender and desperately etched on his face.

“Father can’t leave… Father must stay and keep the ancestors of the Chen family company… But you, you must live.”

He slowly turned around, gazing at the pursuing temple soldiers and Wu family guards, a resolute glint in his eyes. ”Come on!”

he roared, wielding the Azure Cloud Sword, and charged forward again!

Sword light flashed, blood splattered.

He pierced the heart of a martial arts guard with his sword, and then slapped away a temple soldier with a palm strike.

But his wounds were too severe. He

lost too much blood, his breath grew weaker, and his movements slower.

Finally, the white-haired old man caught up.

His eyes were cold and emotionless, and he struck out with a powerful palm strike, hitting Chen Tiangang squarely in the back!

“Pfft—!”

Chen Tiangang spat out a mouthful of blood, his body collapsing forward, crashing heavily to the ground, unable to rise again.

“Father!”

Chen Wanqing cried out, frantically trying to rush back.

With his last strength, Chen Tiangang turned his head with difficulty, looking at her, his voice so weak it was almost inaudible: “Go…go quickly…go find Kai…tell him…it’s your father who wronged him…it was your father who was wrong…tell him…to protect you…”

He paused, a deep pain, regret, and despair flashing in his eyes.

“And… tell the ancestors of the Chen family… it was I, Chen Tiangang… who was incompetent… it was I who destroyed the Chen family’s millennia-old foundation… I… regret it… I really regret it…”

His voice grew weaker and weaker.

Finally, he slowly closed his eyes.

His body completely lost its life force.

The head of the Chen family, Chen Tiangang, had fallen.

“Father!!!”

Chen Wanqing’s cries were shrill and desperate, echoing throughout the night sky, heart-wrenching.

Wu Lingyun slowly walked to Chen Tiangang’s corpse, kicked it disdainfully to confirm that he was completely dead, and then slowly raised his head to look at Chen Wanqing not far away.

In his eyes, that lewd and greedy light flashed again.

“Miss Chen, your father is dead, and the Chen family is finished. Now, you are mine.”

He waved his hand and shouted sharply, “Chase! Find her alive or dead! Don’t let her escape!”

Chen Wanqing looked at her father's cold corpse, at the blood of her clansmen scattered on the ground, at the Chen mansion that had become a living hell, her heart filled with endless pain, hatred, and despair.

She knew.

The Chen family was finished.

A thousand-year-old foundation, destroyed in an instant.

She gritted her teeth, enduring the excruciating pain in her heart, turned around and rushed into the boundless night, running wildly.

Behind her, Wu Lingyun led a large group of pursuers, hot on her heels, their shouts of battle deafening.

"Chen Wanqing! You can't escape! Surrender obediently!"

"Chase! She's injured, she can't go far!" Chen Wanqing ran desperately, fleeing with all her might, running frantically without regard for anything else.

Tears streamed down her face, dried by the wind, only to flow again.

But she dared not stop.

Not even a single step.

To stop meant death.

To stop would be to betray her father's sacrifice, to betray the elders' efforts, to betray all the clansmen who died protecting her.

She had to live.

She had to find Kai.

The night grew deeper, pitch black.

Chen Wanqing ran madly through the desolate mountains and forests.

Blood flowed incessantly from the wound on her back, staining her clothes red.

Her calves were also cut by rocks during her escape, each step sending piercing pain through her.

But she dared not stop.

She knew clearly that Wu Lingyun and the pursuers were right behind her, relentlessly chasing her.

She closed her eyes, focusing her senses on the dragon-locking collar that Kai had once worn and that he had later taken away.

There was a faint connection between the collar and her.

Over there.

In the direction of the wasteland.

Kai was in that direction.

She gritted her teeth, ignoring the excruciating pain and the despair in her heart, and accelerated again, sprinting towards the wasteland.

Behind her, the firelight flickered, growing ever closer.

The shouts of battle and the sounds of pursuit grew clearer.

But she didn’t look back.

Not even once.

She just kept running, running, towards the direction where Kai was, towards that only hope.

Dawn was approaching, a faint glimmer of light appearing on the horizon.

The wasteland was now almost in sight.

Chen Wanqing, disregarding everything, rushed into the vast wasteland.

Behind her, Wu Lingyun, leading his pursuers, continued relentlessly, his voice vicious: “Chen Wanqing! You can’t escape! The wasteland will be your burial ground!”

Chen Wanqing still didn’t look back.

She just kept running, running, towards the direction the collar sensed, towards that only light in her heart. Tianlong Valley is hidden deep within the vast mountains thousands of miles north of Yunxian City.

This place is shrouded in layers of restrictions laid down by the ancient dragon ancestors, with clouds and mist constantly swirling and veiling, completely obscuring the valley.

Even if ordinary cultivators flew past it countless times, they would only perceive it as a desolate wilderness with sparse spiritual energy and rampant demonic beasts, completely unaware that behind the clouds lies a blessed land where the dragons have secluded themselves for millennia, harboring ancient secrets powerful enough to shake the entire Fourteenth Heaven.

Kai followed behind Long Hao and other powerful dragons, step by step traversing the layers upon layers of obscure ancient restrictions.

With each restriction passed, the surrounding spiritual energy became denser, and the ancient pressure in the air grew heavier.

Only when the last layer of pale golden light dissipated before him did he truly step into this legendary dragon holy land.

The sudden unfolding scene before him startled even Kai, whose composure far surpassed that of ordinary people, causing him to pause slightly, a hint of surprise flashing in his eyes.

Mountains embraced the valley like arms, firmly cradling it in the center.

Above the valley, instead of the usual blue sky and white clouds, auspicious clouds formed from pure, golden dragon energy flowed and churned slowly, almost as if alive. The

oppressive aura emanating from that dragon energy was as vast as the ocean, as ancient as the primordial wilderness; simply standing below and looking up was enough to make one's heart tremble, involuntarily giving rise to a sense of reverence.

On the ground, pavilions and towers stood side by side, stretching as far as the eye could see.

Their architectural style was completely different from the magnificent palaces of human cultivators; they lacked elaborate carvings and paintings, yet exuded the unique majesty, ruggedness, and grandeur of the dragon race.

The palaces were constructed primarily of thousand-year-old wood and ten-thousand-year-old spiritual jade. Dragon patterns of various shapes were engraved on the beams and pillars, each pattern containing the essence of the universe, with faint echoes of dragon roars reverberating within.

In the distance, rolling mountains rose and fell, spiritual springs gurgled, and exotic flowers and herbs bloomed everywhere. The air was filled with the intoxicating fragrance of ambergris, and every inch of land contained extremely pure dragon vein power.

Further into the distance, several colossal dragons, thousands of feet long, stretched their bodies, swirling and dancing among the mountains.

Their scales shimmered brilliantly in the sunlight, their massive claws tore through the clouds, and their long tails swept across the peaks. Distant and desolate dragon roars echoed from the clouds, causing the void to tremble slightly, displaying the supreme majesty of these ancient divine beasts.

“Your Majesty, please follow me. The clan leader has been waiting for a long time,”

Long Hao bowed deeply, his tone extremely respectful, slowly leading the way, not daring to overstep his bounds in the slightest. Kai nodded slightly, suppressing the shock in his heart, and followed Long Hao deeper into the valley.

Along the way, the dragons they encountered stopped to watch.

There were tall, handsome young dragons in human form, graceful and beautiful female dragons, and young dragons who had not yet fully transformed, only showing half their tails or horns.

Their gazes all fell on Kai, filled with curiosity, heartfelt awe, and a complex mix of emotions—anticipation, excitement, and a touch of emotion at the dawn of a thousand years of silence.

The Dragon Emperor’s Bloodline.

These four words carried an incredibly heavy and crucial meaning for the entire dragon race, which had lived in seclusion for millennia.

It was the supreme symbol of the dragon race, the sole proof of command over all legitimate dragons, and the only hope for fighting traitors and restoring the dragon race’s glory.

For millennia, the dragon race of the Fourteenth Heaven had been fragmented and hidden away, all because of the fall of the Dragon Emperor, the interruption of their bloodline, and the absence of a leader.

Now, the appearance of pure golden dragon blood is like a thunderbolt thrown into a dead abyss, rekindling hope in all the dragons who remained true to their nature.

Kai continued on his way, feeling the gazes gathering from all directions, but he felt no arrogance, only a sense of solemnity.

He knew very well that this golden dragon bloodline brought him not only power and prestige, but also countless troubles and crises.

Passing through one magnificent palace after another, crossing several white jade bridges engraved with dragon patterns, Long Hao finally stopped before a grand hall standing in the very center of the valley, its imposing presence reaching its peak.

This hall was entirely constructed of deep blue dragon jade, towering a thousand feet high, with nine lifelike five-clawed golden dragons coiled on its roof, seemingly ready to soar into the heavens at any moment.

Above the palace gate hangs a huge plaque, several meters wide, with two ancient and imposing characters, “Dragon Palace,” engraved in ancient dragon script.

The characters contain boundless dragon might; just one glance is enough to shake one’s soul and prevent one from looking directly at them. ”Your Majesty, Clan Chief Long Zhan is waiting respectfully inside the hall.” Long Hao stepped aside to make way, bowing respectfully.

Kai took a deep breath, suppressing the turbulent emotions within him, and strode into the Heavenly Dragon Hall.

The hall’s interior was far larger than imagined.

The dome was immeasurably high, inlaid with countless luminous pearls and star jade, illuminating the entire hall as if it were daytime.

The surrounding walls were engraved with lifelike dragon reliefs.

From the ancestral dragon of the Primordial Era to the Dragon Emperor of the Middle Ages, and then to the powerful dragons of modern times, each relief recorded a piece of the dragon race's history, majestic and awe-inspiring.

In the main seat at the center of the hall sat an elderly man with graying temples and an aged face, yet his majesty remained undiminished.

The old man wore a golden robe embroidered with nine dragons playing with a pearl, his face resolute, his wrinkles etched with the marks of time, yet showing no signs of decline.

Especially his dragon eyes, which flashed with a sharp light when they opened and closed, as sharp as a blade, seemingly able to pierce the heart.

His aura was as deep as the sea, restrained yet exuding a powerful pressure that made heaven and earth tremble.

This man was Long Zhan, the current patriarch of the Heavenly Dragon lineage and one of the pillars of the Dragon Clan.

Seeing Kai step into the main hall, Long Zhan slowly rose from his seat and walked down the steps to stand before Kai.

He did not speak immediately, but quietly looked at Kai, his gaze carefully examining him. In his weathered dragon eyes, a mixture of emotions—excitement, relief, and solemnity—flashed, lingering for a long time.

After a moment, Long Zhan suddenly bent his knees slightly, bowed deeply, and performed the most solemn and honorable kowtow of the Dragon Clan. His voice was old but extremely solemn:

"Long Zhan, patriarch of the Heavenly Dragon lineage, pays respects to His Majesty the Dragon Emperor!"

This bow represented the complete submission of the entire Heavenly Dragon lineage to the Dragon Emperor's bloodline.

Seeing this, Kai quickly stepped forward and gently helped Long Zhan up, his tone sincere: "Clan Chief Long, there's no need for such formality. Please rise. I am not some Dragon Emperor, but merely an ordinary cultivator with the bloodline of the Golden Dragon. I am unworthy of such a grand gesture."

Long Zhan slowly straightened up, maintaining his respectful posture, his gaze fixed intently on Kai, his tone unwavering.

"Your Majesty is mistaken. The Golden Dragon bloodline is the supreme blood of our Dragon Clan's emperors, worshipped by all dragons, one in ten thousand." " Since Your Majesty possesses such supreme bloodline, you are undoubtedly the rightful and divinely ordained ruler of our Dragon Clan.

This is a fact witnessed by Heaven and Earth, and cannot be changed, whether Your Majesty acknowledges it or not!"

Kai remained silent for a moment, knowing that arguing with Long Zhan on this matter was pointless, so

he simply stopped dwelling on it. He raised his hand and gently pointed to the black collar around his neck, a bitter smile on his face: "Clan Chief Long, since that's the case, then let's not stand on ceremony. To be honest, I've been placed under a restriction, which has been suppressing my cultivation. I beg Clan Chief Long to remove it for me."

Only now did Long Zhan truly notice the inconspicuous black collar around Kai's neck.

His gaze sharpened, and after a brief sweep of his divine sense, his expression immediately darkened, his brows furrowing tightly.

"A spirit-locking restriction, a tracking restriction, and multiple powerful binding restrictions... three restrictions stacked together, the method is

insidious and extremely sophisticated. This is clearly the work of a human cultivator." "Your Majesty, who exactly put this on you? Why would they want to harm you like this?"

Kai's eyes turned slightly cold as he calmly recounted the Chen family's actions.

Upon hearing this, Long Zhan instantly unleashed a terrifying dragon's might, causing the entire hall to tremble slightly. He snorted coldly, his voice filled with rage.

"The mere Chen family, relying on their meager cultivation, dared to treat His Majesty the Dragon Emperor of my Dragon Clan in this way, harming the bloodline of the Emperor. They are utterly courting death and deserve to die a thousand deaths! If I have the chance, I will make this Chen family pay a terrible price!" "

With that, Long Zhan said no more, slowly raising his right hand.

Golden dragon energy condensed wildly in his palm, transforming into a dazzling golden light, containing boundless dragon might and pure power.

He gently placed his palm on the black collar.

Instantly, countless black runes on the collar lit up, flashing violently, writhing wildly like living things, seemingly desperately resisting the intrusion of the dragon energy, emitting a hissing sound.

"Hmph, a mere human restriction, daring to show off before the dragon race."

Long Zhan sneered, a hint of disdain flashing in his eyes. The golden dragon energy in his palm suddenly surged, its power multiplying.

Pure dragon emperor aura flowed into the collar through his palm, melting snow like the sun, instantly suppressing all the black runes. A

crisp cracking sound rang out.

The runes on the collar instantly dimmed, as if stripped of all power. Then, fine cracks spread rapidly like a spider web. A

muffled

thud followed.

The spirit-locking collar that had suppressed his cultivation shattered completely, falling from Kai's neck and landing on the cold ground, turning into a pile of useless scrap metal, no longer posing any threat.

The moment the collar shattered, Kai felt a sense

of lightness throughout his body. The oppressive, clinging force had vanished without a trace.

His limbs and bones felt incredibly free, and the long-dormant spiritual energy within him began to surge wildly. His golden dragon bloodline also stirred slightly, emitting a joyful hum.

He gently stretched his neck and muscles, exhaling a long breath of stale air, a long-lost relaxed smile appearing on his face: "Thank you, Dragon Clan Chief, for your help in resolving my predicament."

Long Zhan withdrew his hand, waved it, and said respectfully, "Your Majesty is too kind. Protecting the Dragon Emperor and relieving the clan's troubles is simply my duty, nothing to boast about."

With that, Long Zhan waved his hand, and several dragon clan maids immediately entered respectfully from outside the hall, carrying shimmering jade boxes.

The jade boxes were opened, revealing various rare and precious herbs and elixirs, overflowing with spiritual energy and exuding a fragrant aroma, almost condensing into liquid.

Thousand-year-old Dragon Essence Fruit, ten-thousand-year-old Dragon Blood Mushroom, pure Dragon Marrow Liquid, Marrow Cleansing Pill, Spirit Gathering Pill… each one was a priceless treasure in the outside world, enough to cause cultivators to scramble for it, yet now it was piled up before Kai like ordinary objects, countless in number.

“Your Majesty has been traveling and exhausted these past few days, and has been trapped by restrictions, suffering considerable internal injuries and a significant depletion of spiritual energy. These rare treasures and elixirs are a small token of our Heavenly Dragon lineage’s goodwill. We urge Your Majesty to accept them, take good care of your health, and recover to your peak condition as soon as possible.”

Kai looked at the mountain of treasures piled up before him, brimming with spiritual energy, and sighed inwardly.

It was said that the Dragon Clan possessed profound resources and were as wealthy as a nation; seeing them today, it was indeed true.

These treasures, if placed outside, would be enough to instantly elevate a small sect to a regional hegemon, but here in the Dragon Clan, they were merely items casually taken out for recuperation.

He didn’t stand on ceremony; now was the time when he needed power, and there was no need to feign arrogance.

He immediately nodded and reached out to store all the treasures into his storage ring: “Since that’s the case, then I won’t be polite.”

Kai began to use these resources to restore his strength.

Deep within Heavenly Dragon Valley, in a secluded cultivation chamber sealed by numerous restrictions and with extremely dense spiritual energy.

Kai sat cross-legged on a futon crafted from ten-thousand-year-old dragon jade, his eyes closed, golden light flowing endlessly around him, his aura deep and restrained, like an unfathomable ocean.

He showed no sign of slackening, utilizing the vast cultivation resources provided by the dragon race, along with various dragon treasures obtained from the ancient dragon pool, to cultivate with all his might, frantically increasing his strength.

Dragon Essence Pills melted instantly upon entering his mouth, transforming into incomparably pure spiritual energy that surged into his dantian;

Dragon Blood Mushrooms were refined, nourishing his physical body and strengthening his golden dragon bloodline;

Dragon Marrow Liquid flowed along his meridians, cleansing his bone marrow, making his foundation incredibly solid;

and various ancient dragon jades and dragon vein hearts continuously provided pure energy. One by one, rare and precious materials were refined and absorbed by him without reservation, transforming into the purest spiritual energy and dragon essence, surging wildly into his body, cleansing his limbs and bones, and strengthening his dantian and qi sea.

His aura was rising at a terrifying speed, visible to the naked eye.

Peak of the second rank of the Upper Immortal Realm…

His aura trembled, and his bottleneck shattered. Third

rank of the Upper Immortal Realm…

His spiritual energy surged again, and his momentum rose steadily.

Mid-stage of the third rank of the Upper Immortal Realm…

Peak of the third rank of the Upper Immortal Realm…

“Boom…!”

An incomparably powerful aura erupted from Kai's body, sweeping through the entire secret chamber like a tsunami, impacting the surrounding restrictions, and producing a series of booming sounds.

Kai slowly opened his eyes.

Two golden beams of light flashed from the depths of his eyes, like two small suns, sharp and piercing, unstoppable.

Peak of the third rank of the Upper Immortal Realm!

In just three days, he had broken through several minor realms from the peak of the second rank of the Upper Immortal Realm, directly soaring to the peak of the third rank, and was only one step away from the fourth rank!

Kai slowly stood up, clenching his fists.

The surging power within him, like a rushing river, filled him with confidence.

Breaking through several realms in three days—if this cultivation speed were to spread, it would surely shock the entire Fourteenth Heaven, leaving countless exceptionally talented cultivators dumbfounded and incredulous.

But Kai knew very well that this was far from enough.

The pursuers from the Divine Temple were everywhere, their strength formidable;

the Demon Dragon Clan was eyeing him covetously, eager to seize his bloodline;

and there was also the unfathomable, perilous lower-level rules of the Fourteenth Heaven... He had to become stronger, strong enough to sweep away all enemies, strong enough to protect those he wanted to protect, strong enough to overcome all obstacles in his path.

Kai concealed his aura, pushed open the door of the secret chamber, and stepped out.

Outside the door, Long Hao had been waiting respectfully for a long time. Upon seeing Kai emerge from seclusion, he immediately bowed and greeted him with great joy: “Congratulations, Your Majesty! Your cultivation has greatly improved, and your strength has increased dramatically!”

Kai waved his hand and said calmly, “It’s nothing. I only broke through with the help of external forces. Long Hao, where is the Dragon Clan Chief now? I have an important matter to ask him.”

Long Hao nodded quickly: “Your Majesty, rest assured, the Clan Chief anticipated that Your Majesty would emerge from seclusion today and is currently in the Dragon Palace, awaiting Your Majesty’s summons.” …

Inside the Dragon Palace.

Upon seeing Kai enter, Long Zhan immediately sensed the change in Kai’s aura, a flicker of undisguised surprise and emotion crossing his eyes.

“Your Majesty has emerged from seclusion so quickly? And your cultivation… has actually broken through several minor realms in just three days, reaching the peak of the third rank of the Upper Immortal Realm?

Such talent, such speed, is truly rare throughout history. Even the Dragon Emperor of yesteryear might not have been able to match it in his youth!”

Kai smiled faintly: “Clan Chief, you flatter me. If it weren’t for the massive resources provided by the Heavenly Dragon lineage, I wouldn’t have been able to progress so quickly.”

Long Zhan shook his head, his expression serious: “Your Majesty is mistaken. Resources are certainly important, but one’s own talent and foundation are fundamental.

If it were someone else, even if the entire Dragon Clan’s treasure trove were piled before them, they might not have achieved such a breakthrough in three days.

All of this is due to Your Majesty’s exceptional talent and profound blessings.”

The two took their seats, one as the head and the other as the tailor.

Kai abandoned all formalities, his expression turning serious as he looked at Long Zhan, his tone utterly solemn: “Clan Chief Long, I’ve come to you today to inquire about something. Those three demonic dragons that chased me before were incredibly powerful and of mysterious origin. I want to know, what exactly are they? And why were they so determined to kill me?”

Upon hearing this, Long Zhan’s smile slowly faded. After a moment of silence, his expression became extremely grave as he slowly spoke: “Since Your Majesty is so sincere in asking, then I will no longer conceal anything and will tell you the truth.”

He took a deep breath, as if recalling an incredibly heavy chapter of history.

“Ten thousand years ago, before his fall, the ancient Dragon Emperor foresaw an impending catastrophe for our dragon race.

To preserve the dragon lineage, he ordered the entire dragon race to be dispersed, hidden in various corners of the Fourteen Heavens, to recuperate and await the day when the Dragon Emperor’s bloodline would reappear.

Our Heavenly Dragon lineage is one of the branches that was ordered to hide in these Fourteen Heavens.”

“However, human hearts are unpredictable, and not everyone in the dragon race was willing to obey the Dragon Emperor’s arrangements and endure for ten thousand years.” A portion of the dragon clan, driven by evil intentions and greed for power, were unwilling to remain unknown and secretly colluded with the ferocious demons.

Using their own dragon blood and flesh as a catalyst, they actively merged with the demonic energy of the demons, abandoning the glory of the dragon race and transforming into monsters that were neither human nor demon, yet possessed immense power. ”

These traitors who betrayed their clan and allied with the demons are the demonic dragons who have brought shame upon the entire dragon race.”

At this point, a deep pain and hatred flashed in Long Zhan’s eyes: “They betrayed their ancestors, betrayed the dragon race, and allied with their mortal enemies. They are the greatest disgrace to our dragon race in ten thousand years, and also our most dangerous and ferocious foe.”

Kai listened calmly, his expression unchanged, but he already understood.

Long Zhan continued, “For ten thousand years, the demonic dragon lineage has been secretly growing stronger, absorbing traitors, colluding with the demons, and its power has grown increasingly formidable.

They hide in the dark corners of the Fourteenth Heaven, waiting for their opportunity to erode the power of the orthodox dragon race.” ”

Now that Your Majesty’s Dragon Emperor bloodline has appeared in the world, it is both a deadly threat and a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for them.”

“The threat stems from the fact that the Dragon Emperor bloodline is naturally a natural counter to the Demonic Dragons. With a single call from Your Majesty, you can command all the orthodox dragons, gathering all their forces of resistance to utterly destroy their conspiracy.”

“The opportunity lies in the fact that the Dragon Emperor bloodline itself contains unparalleled supreme power.

If they can capture Your Majesty and devour your Golden Dragon bloodline alive, their strength will undoubtedly increase several times over. They might even break through their cultivation barriers and reach that legendary, unattainable realm, one that even the Dragon Emperor himself never reached!”

He looked at Kai with a solemn gaze, enunciating each word with utmost seriousness: “Therefore, Your Majesty, the Demonic Dragon lineage will hunt you down like madmen, sparing no expense to capture you and seize your supreme bloodline. Your future situation will be extremely perilous.” Chen

Ping nodded slightly. He had already guessed this when he was being chased by the demonic dragon.

He looked at Long Zhan and calmly asked, “I understand. And what about you? Your Heavenly Dragon lineage found me, supported me, and what do you want me to do? Please speak frankly.”

Upon hearing this, Long Zhan immediately stood up from his seat, walked to Kai, and bowed deeply to him again, his tone sincere and urgent: “Your Majesty, I dare to beg Your Majesty to intervene and help my Heavenly Dragon lineage revive the Dragon Clan of the Fourteenth Heaven and restore the Dragon Clan’s former supreme glory!” Kai raised an eyebrow, his tone calm: “Revitalize the Dragon Clan?”

“Exactly!”

Long Zhan raised his head, his eyes burning with anticipation. “For ten thousand years, although my Heavenly Dragon lineage has lived in seclusion here, barely surviving, we have never forgotten the glory of the Dragon Clan, nor the entrustment of our ancestors.

However, the Demonic Dragon lineage has developed too quickly in the shadows, its power growing ever stronger. My Heavenly Dragon lineage

is unable to withstand it alone, suffering defeat after defeat. Now we can only cower in Heavenly Dragon Valley, barely surviving, and at any moment we face the risk of being wiped out."

"Now that the Dragon Emperor's bloodline has reappeared, this is the only hope for the revival of our Dragon Clan! Your Majesty possesses the Golden Dragon bloodline, making you the born emperor of our Dragon Clan, to whom all dragons submit.

As long as Your Majesty is willing to step forward, raise your arm, and command all the orthodox dragons under heaven, gathering all our strength, we will have the hope of completely crushing the Demon Dragon lineage, reclaiming everything that belongs to the Dragon Clan, and restoring the glory of the Dragon Clan that once dominated the nine heavens!"

He stared intently at Kai, his eyes filled with expectation and pleading: "Your Majesty, are you willing to lead us to revive the Dragon Clan?"

Kai remained silent for a long time.

He looked up at Long Zhan, his tone frank and without any concealment: "Clan Chief, I will speak the truth. I have little interest in the revival of the Dragon Clan or the glory of the Dragon Clan.

I came to the Fourteenth Heaven for only one purpose: to go to the Holy Domain of Light and find a way to restore the divine soul within the Soul Crystal."

Although Kai was also a dragon, and a Golden Dragon at that, he did not currently have a strong sense of mission to restore the glory of the Dragon Clan in the Fourteenth Heaven.

Although he possessed the bloodline of a golden dragon, and everyone said his father was a golden dragon, there was still no conclusive evidence that his father was actually a dragon!

It was not uncommon for human cultivators to possess the bloodlines of other races.

A hint of disappointment flashed in Long Zhan's eyes, but he didn't press the matter further, simply nodding silently.

Kai continued, "However, one thing at a time. Those three demonic dragons repeatedly hunted me down, trying to kill me; I've remembered that debt.

And that Chen family, they repaid kindness with enmity; I will settle accounts with them later. As for the Divine Temple, I will make them wish they were dead."

He paused, his tone becoming firm: "Since the demonic dragon lineage insists on capturing me, I won't sit idly by.

Before I finish my own business and leave the Fourteenth Heaven, I can help you deal with the demonic dragon lineage. As for revitalizing the dragon race, that can wait until I finish my own business."

Upon hearing this, Long Zhan was first stunned, then his face erupted with undisguised elation. He immediately bowed again, his voice trembling with excitement.

"Thank you, Your Majesty! Thank you, Your Majesty! Your Majesty's words are enough for me! Even if it's just dealing with the Demon Dragon lineage, it's still an immense favor to my Heavenly Dragon lineage!"

Kai waved his hand, his tone calm: "Don't be too happy yet. I'm only at the third rank of the Upper Immortal Realm right now, while there are many True Immortal Realm experts among the Demon Dragons. If we really had to face them, I might not be their match."

Long Zhan quickly shook his head, his tone certain: "Your Majesty, please don't underestimate yourself! Your Golden Dragon bloodline is the blood of the supreme emperor of the Dragon Clan, naturally

restraining all Dragons.” Although those demonic dragons have fused with demonic energy, becoming neither human nor demon, they are still fundamentally rooted in the dragon race.

Under His Majesty’s bloodline pressure, their strength will be suppressed by at least 30%, preventing them from unleashing their full power!

He paused, then added, “Moreover, many of the treasures His Majesty obtained from the ancient dragon pool are ancient treasures lost by our dragon race, possessing boundless power.

As long as His Majesty studies them carefully and uses them skillfully, his strength will surely increase greatly again. At that time, he will even be able to fight against demonic dragons at the True Immortal Realm!”

Kai nodded slightly, completely agreeing with this point.

Each of the unknown treasures obtained from the ancient dragon pool contained terrifying power, but he hadn’t had time to study them carefully yet.

“By the way,”

Kai suddenly remembered something important and asked, “Do you know about the Dragon Emperor’s Decree? What is its origin? What is its purpose?” ”

Long Zhan hurriedly explained, “Your Majesty, the Dragon Emperor’s Token is the personal token of the ancient Dragon Emperor, representing his supreme authority.

The entire dragon race, regardless of location or branch, must obey the Dragon Emperor’s Token as if the Dragon Emperor himself were present, without exception!”

“Before his fall, the Dragon Emperor passed several Dragon Emperor’s Tokens to a few of his most trusted elders, instructing them to use them

to command the dragon race and assist the new emperor when the Dragon Emperor's bloodline reappears.

Unfortunately, due to countless wars over the past ten thousand years, the Dragon Emperor's Tokens have changed hands many times, and most have been lost to the annals of history."

Kai frowned slightly, his tone grave: "But that Dragon Emperor's Token was stolen by a demonic dragon named Long Mo."

"Long Mo!"

Upon hearing this name, a cold glint and killing intent flashed in Long Zhan's eyes, and he gritted his teeth: "That traitor who betrayed his race!" " Back then, it was he who colluded with the demons, luring the demon dragons to invade the Dragon Pool, causing our dragon race to suffer heavy losses!

Your Majesty, rest assured, that Dragon Emperor's Token is our dragon race's most precious treasure, and it must not fall into the hands of the demon dragons! We must find a way to retrieve it!"

"Don't worry, I'm now at the third rank of the Upper Immortal Realm. That Long Mo is nothing but trash in my eyes. I will retrieve the Dragon Emperor's Token myself," Kai said confidently.

"With Your Majesty's confidence, there is hope for the revival of our dragon race!"

Long Zhan's eyes were filled with longing! ...

While Kai was peacefully cultivating in Tianlong Valley and discussing countermeasures against the demonic dragon with Long Zhan

, outside Yunxian City, on the vast wilderness,

a disheveled figure was frantically fleeing for her life.

It was Chen Wanqing.

She had been fleeing for three days and three nights without sleep.

For those three days and three nights, she hadn't dared to stop for a single moment. When she was extremely tired, she would bite her tongue hard to stay awake with the excruciating pain;

when her legs were weak from exhaustion, she would forcefully circulate the last of her spiritual energy to support her running;

her wounds bled and became infected, and she could only tear off pieces of her clothing to bandage them haphazardly, with no time to heal.

She dared not stop.

Not even a single step.

Behind her, Wu Lingyun, with a large number of Wu family guards and soldiers sent by the temple to assist, relentlessly pursued her like a leech, impossible to shake off.

If she stopped, only death awaited her, along with a humiliation even more terrible than death.

"Chase her! All of you, chase her now! Don't let that little bitch get away!"

On the desolate plains, Wu Lingyun rode atop a ferocious, jet-black beast, his gaze fixed on the staggering, thin figure ahead, his eyes filled with excitement, greed, and ruthlessness.

Chen Wanqing, you can't escape.

No matter where you run to, I will bring you back.

You are destined to be my woman.

Chen Wanqing felt her vision blurring, her legs

numb and devoid of feeling. Each step felt like walking on knives, excruciating pain.

Her spiritual energy was exhausted, her body on the verge of collapse, held together only by an indomitable will.

She closed her eyes again with difficulty, sensing the aura of the spirit-locking collar that had once worn around Kai's neck.

Over there.

Right ahead.

Kai was in that direction.

She could clearly feel that faint yet familiar connection growing stronger and stronger.

She was almost there.

She was almost there.

Chen Wanqing gritted her teeth, biting her lips until they bled. With the last of her strength, she took another step and ran frantically forward.

Two more hours passed.

The setting sun dyed the sky blood red.

Chen Wanqing had completely lost track of time, not knowing how far she had run, only that the sky had gone from noon to dusk, and from dusk to the approaching night.

Just as she was about to collapse,

a vast, towering mountain range suddenly appeared before her.

Clouds swirled among the mountains, a mystical aura emanating from them, with faint golden light emanating from within, mysterious and majestic. A brilliant light of hope suddenly shone in Chen Wanqing's cloudy eyes.

Here.

This is it!

The feeling was crystal clear.

Kai was in these mountains!

She used her last ounce of strength, rushing towards the mountains as if her life depended on it.

Behind her, Wu Lingyun also saw the strange and mysterious mountains, his brow furrowing slightly, a hint of doubt on his face.

"What is that place? Why is the spiritual energy so strange, and why is there a faint golden light?"

A guard who had followed him for many years hurriedly stepped forward and whispered, "Young Master, that's the deepest part of the Cangmang Mountains. It's said that powerful demonic beasts roam there year-round, making it extremely dangerous. Few cultivators dare to approach. Should we... continue chasing?"

Wu Lingyun sneered, a hint of disdain and ruthlessness flashing in his eyes: "Chase! Of course we should chase! We've already chased this far, just one step away from catching that little bitch, how can we give up? Even if it's a dragon's den or a tiger's lair, I'll brave it today!"

He suddenly waved his hand and ordered, "Everyone, follow me! She's exhausted, she can't escape!"

A large number of guards and soldiers immediately followed, rushing towards the mountains.

Chen Wanqing ran desperately, getting closer and closer to the mountains.

Closer.

Even closer.

The collar's sensing power had reached its peak.

Kai was right in front of her, right in these mountains!

She even seemed to see Kai's figure.

But at this crucial moment...

"Stop! Don't run anymore!"

A cold, sharp shout suddenly rang out.

Several powerful figures rushed out from the side like tigers descending a mountain, directly blocking her path.

Wu Lingyun, leading all his pursuers, finally caught up with her completely at this moment.

Chen Wanqing's face instantly turned deathly pale, devoid of any color.

She instinctively wanted to turn and run, but found herself surrounded on all sides by her pursuers, completely blocked, like an iron barrel.

She had nowhere to escape.

Wu Lingyun leaped down from the back of the demon beast, a smug, confident smile on his face, and slowly walked up to Chen Wanqing.

"Miss Chen, why did you stop running? Keep running. Weren't you supposed to be a fast runner? You've been running for three days and three nights, making this young master chase you so hard."

Chen Wanqing gasped for breath, her chest heaving violently, her beautiful eyes fixed on Wu Lingyun, filled with deep-seated hatred and disgust.

Looking at her disheveled state—her clothes tattered, covered in dust and blood, her hair disheveled, her face pale—Wu Lingyun couldn't hide her stunning beauty and pitiful charm. A lewd glint flashed in his eyes as he greedily scanned her from head to toe.

"Miss Chen, do you know? For these past three days and three nights, the more you've tried to escape, the more excited I've become. The harder the prey is to catch, the more satisfying it is when you finally have it. Don't you agree?"

Chen Wanqing gritted her teeth, each word hoarse yet filled with boundless hatred: "Wu Lingyun, you despicable scoundrel, you deserve to die a horrible death!" Instead of being angry, Wu Lingyun burst into laughter: "A terrible death? Miss Chen, you can't just say things like that. Now, your life and death are completely in my hands. With just one order, you'll be torn to pieces, leaving no trace of your body."

He took a step forward, pressing closer and closer.

Chen Wanqing subconsciously took a step back, only to find her back pressed firmly against the cold, hard mountain wall, with nowhere left to retreat.

Wu Lingyun slowly walked up to her, suddenly reached out, grabbed her chin, and forced her to raise her head and look directly at him.

"Chen Wanqing, do you know? From the first time I saw you at the Chen family, I wanted you. You're so beautiful, there's no one else like you in the entire Yunxian City."

He moved closer to her face, his breath carrying a nauseating, metallic stench, his tone vicious: "What's so good about that Kai?

A fugitive wanted by the Divine Temple, a mere first-grade Upper Immortal, does he even deserve a beauty like you?

Today, I'll show you clearly who truly deserves you!"

Chen Wanqing struggled desperately, pushing against Wu Lingyun with both hands, but he held her shoulders firmly, making her unable to move.

"Let me go! Wu Lingyun, let me go!" she shouted sharply, her voice filled with despair.

Wu Lingyun's sneer deepened, his eyes turning sinister: "Let go? You think I'll let go just because you tell me to? You've been running for three days and three nights, making me waste so much time and effort, and now you want me to let you go? Do you think that's possible?"

He suddenly waved his hand and shouted sharply, "Men, hold her down!"

Several guards immediately stepped forward, like hungry wolves, and pinned Chen Wanqing to the ground, rendering her unable to move.

Chen Wanqing struggled desperately, cried out, and fought back, but it was all in vain.

She was only an eighth-grade Upper Immortal cultivator, and the three days and three nights of fleeing had already exhausted all her spiritual power and physical strength.

Now, facing Wu Lingyun, a ninth-grade Upper Immortal, and numerous guards, she was like a lamb to the slaughter, utterly powerless to resist.

Wu Lingyun slowly squatted down, looking at Chen Wanqing, pinned to the ground, tears streaming down her face, her clothes disheveled, a perverse pleasure and triumph welling up inside him.

“Miss Chen, don’t cry. Obey me, and I promise you’ll enjoy wealth and luxury, and never have to worry about food or clothing. But if you insist on not obeying…”

His eyes turned cold, and he reached out, grabbing Chen Wanqing’s collar.

“Rip!”

A piercing tearing sound rang out.

Chen Wanqing’s outer garment was ripped open, revealing her snow-white skin and pink undergarment.

“Ah!”

Chen Wanqing let out a shrill scream, desperately covering her chest with her hands, tears streaming down her face like a broken string of pearls.

“No! Get away! Get away from me!”

Wu Lingyun looked at her terrified, desperate, tearful appearance, his eyes filled with even greater excitement, a ferocious smile spreading across his face: “Scream! Scream louder! The more you scream, the more I like it!”

He reached out again, his target aimed at the last piece of clothing covering Chen Wanqing.

Chen Wanqing closed her eyes in despair.

Tears silently streamed down her face.

Kai…

where are you…

I’m so scared…

please come and save me… ” Please…

come save me… ”

Her heart was filled with endless despair and helplessness.

At this critical moment, a split between life and death, a deafening dragon roar suddenly erupted! The power of that roar was like a thunderclap from the heavens, its terrifying might sweeping in all directions, causing the pursuers’ eardrums to ache, their blood to surge, their feet to falter, their faces pale with terror. Wu Lingyun’s outstretched hand froze in mid-air, unable to move forward an inch. He abruptly raised his head, his expression changing drastically, his eyes filled with extreme fear. A dazzling golden light crashed down from the sky! The light was so intense that everyone could not open their eyes, unable to look directly at it. The golden light slowly dissipated. A tall and aloof figure hovered silently in mid-air, then slowly landed in front of Chen Wanqing. It was a young man. He wore a golden dragon robe, his face cold and his eyes icy. He exuded a suffocating, terrifying pressure emanating from the depths of his blood. He stood silently before Chen Wanqing, like an unshakeable mountain, shielding her from all danger and humiliation. It was Kai. Chen Wanqing slowly opened her blurry eyes. When she saw that familiar yet unfamiliar, incredibly reliable figure, all her strength crumbled instantly. Tears welled up again, her voice trembling with endless grievances, longing, and the relief of surviving a calamity, as she murmured, ”Kai…” Kai didn’t turn around, but simply stood with his back to her, his voice soft yet incredibly firm, softly saying, ”Miss Chen, I’m late.” These five simple words were like a reassuring pill, instantly calming Chen Wanqing down, all her fear and despair vanishing. Wu Lingyun, seeing Kai suddenly appear, was so frightened that he retreated repeatedly, his face ashen, his voice trembling: “Chen… Kai?! What are you doing here?” Kai slowly turned his head. His gaze first fell on Wu Lingyun, then swept over the trembling, fear-stricken guards beside him, and finally settled on Chen Wanqing behind him, her clothes torn, her face disheveled, and tears streaming down her cheeks. At that moment, his eyes held no emotion, only an extreme coldness. Within that coldness lay a world-destroying

killing intent. Kai looked at Wu Lingyun, his lips parted slightly, his voice calm, yet carrying a chilling intent that could freeze the heavens and earth. ”Wu Lingyun, you’re courting death…”

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Wu Lingyun’s hand remained frozen in mid-air, still in the position of tearing at Chen Wanqing’s clothes.

His face was no longer just “pale”; it was a deathly ashen color that seemed to emanate from his very bones. His lips trembled, his teeth chattered, making a “clucking” sound.

Kai stood there calmly, his gaze fixed on the group of pursuers before him.

That calmness wasn’t feigned composure, nor was it suppressed anger; it was a genuine, heartfelt calm, like watching ants crawling at one’s feet, feeling no ripples in one’s heart, because ants are not worth one’s anger.

Yet it was precisely this calmness that filled Wu Lingyun with an unprecedented fear.

He wasn’t afraid of Kai’s rage, his clenched teeth and curses, or even his frantic charge.

That Kai, at least, was still “human,” still vulnerable, still capable of dealing with things.

But the Kai before him was too quiet.

Quiet as if he weren’t a man witnessing his woman being violated.

Quiet as if he weren’t a living person.

“Chen…Kai, you…you mustn’t do anything rash!”

Wu Lingyun instinctively took a step back, his voice trembling. “I…I have the Wu family behind me! The Divine Temple! You…if you dare touch me, the entire Fourteenth Heaven will not let you off!”

Kai finally moved.

He slightly turned his head, his gaze falling on Wu Lingyun’s face.

Just that one glance.

Just one glance.

Wu Lingyun felt a chill run from the soles of his feet straight to the top of his head, as if he were being stared at by an ancient ferocious beast, his blood freezing in that instant.

He opened his mouth, wanting to say something more, but found that his throat was being tightly gripped by an invisible hand, unable to utter a single word.

Kai withdrew his gaze and looked at the guards behind him who were holding Chen Wanqing down.

The guards were already terrified, and when they saw Kai looking over, they were like cats whose tails had been stepped on, suddenly releasing their grip and scrambling backward, wishing they could disappear into the ground immediately.

Chen Wanqing regained her freedom, but she no longer had the strength to stand up.

She collapsed to the ground, her clothes torn, her hair disheveled, tears blurring her vision. She could only lift her head, staring blankly at the tall, imposing figure before her.

That figure was exactly the same as it had been three days ago at the Chen residence.

No, it was different.

A few days ago, when Kai left the Chen residence, he was covered in wounds, utterly disheveled, having been chased and killed.

But now, standing there, though his aura remained impassive, he exuded an indescribable majesty, a pressure that compelled one to kneel in worship.

Kai finally turned around.

He looked down at Chen Wanqing, at her tattered clothes, at the undried tear stains on her face, at the red mark on her neck left by Wu Lingyun.

His gaze remained calm.

But at that moment, Chen Wanqing clearly saw a fleeting, extreme coldness flash within those eyes, calm as a deep pool.

That coldness was not of this world.

It was the icy chill of the deepest hell.

Kai didn't speak, but simply raised his hand, took off his outer robe, and gently draped it over Chen Wanqing, covering her tattered clothes and exposed skin.

His movements were light and gentle, as if afraid of hurting her.

Chen Wanqing's tears welled up again.

"Kai..." she murmured, her voice hoarse, filled with endless grievance and longing.

Kai reached out and gently stroked her cheek, wiping away her tears. The gesture was extremely gentle, completely different from the coldness he had shown just moments before.

“Miss Chen, I’m sorry you’ve suffered,”

he said softly. “Leave the rest to me.”

He straightened up and turned around. The gentleness on his face gradually

faded, replaced by an absolute calm.

He looked at the group of pursuers before him, and at Wu Lingyun, who had shrunk to the back of the crowd, and spoke calmly.

“You all deserve to die.”

Five words.

Flat and emotionless.

But the moment those five words fell, everyone present felt an invisible pressure descend from the sky, making it hard for them to breathe.

One of the Wu family guards finally broke down.

“Kill! Kill him!”

he roared hoarsely, “He’s just one person! There are so many of us, what are we afraid of! Charge together, kill him!”

Encouraged by him, more than a dozen guards and soldiers finally mustered their courage and roared as they charged towards Kai.

Swords flashed and magic swirled.

Kai watched the charging figures, a slight smile playing on his lips.

Then, he raised his hand.

He simply raised his hand casually, without forming hand seals, without gathering power, without even a fluctuation of spiritual energy.

He simply raised his hand.

“Boom!”

A muffled sound.

The dozen or so guards at the forefront were sent flying backward as if struck by an invisible mountain. They coughed up mouthfuls of blood mid-air, their ribs caved in, their tendons severed, and they landed lifeless.

One move.

No, not even a single move.

Just a gesture.

A dozen men, all wiped out.

The remaining pursuers were utterly dumbfounded.

What kind of strength was this?

What kind of technique?

They hadn’t even seen Kai make a move, hadn’t seen any spiritual energy leak out, yet their comrades were dead? Completely dead?

“Peak of the third rank of the Upper Immortal Realm… no, no, the aura on his body… this is…”

A temple soldier suddenly exclaimed, his voice trembling.

Although he wasn’t a master, he had worked in the temple for many years and had seen many powerful figures.

But the feeling Kai gave him at this moment wasn’t strength, but… terror.

A terror originating from the level of life, from the depths of his bloodline.

It was as if standing before them wasn’t a person, but a dragon.

No, more terrifying than a dragon.

A Dragon Emperor.

Kai gave them no more time to react.

He took a step.

This step seemed slow, but when he landed, he was already in the center of the crowd. The guards and soldiers didn’t even have time to react; they only saw a flash of golden light before losing consciousness.

Kai didn’t use any fancy moves or earth-shattering spells.

He simply slapped someone down, waved his hand, and sent someone flying; he pointed at someone, and their forehead exploded.

Every move resulted in someone falling.

Every fall was a swift and fatal death, without even a scream.

He walked slowly through the crowd, as if strolling in a garden, his robes fluttering, untouched by dust. Wherever he went, corpses littered the ground, and blood flowed like rivers. In less than the time

it takes to drink half a cup of tea

, more than thirty guards and more than twenty temple soldiers were all wiped out.

Not a single survivor.

Kai stopped, standing amidst the mountain of corpses and sea of blood, his body still clean, without a trace of blood.

He looked up at Wu Lingyun, who had huddled in a corner of the mountainside, trembling.

Wu Lingyun was now completely devoid of his previous arrogance.

He slumped to the ground, his legs soaked and emitting a pungent, foul stench.

The dignified young master of the Wu family, a genius at the ninth rank of the Upper Immortal Realm, now trembled like a defeated dog.

“No…don’t…don’t come any closer…”

He watched Kai approach step by step, desperately trying to retreat, only to find himself with nowhere to go, the cold, hard mountain wall behind him.

Kai stopped three steps away from him, looking down at him.

“Wu Lingyun,”

he spoke, his voice still calm, “You know, from the first moment I saw you, I thought you were trash.”

Wu Lingyun opened his mouth, but couldn’t speak.

Kai continued, “Ninth Rank of the Upper Immortal Realm, the eldest young master of the Wu family, a lackey of the Divine Temple, a genius of Yunxian City… Your life has been smooth sailing, you’ve had everything you could want, so you think everyone should revolve around you, and all women should be yours.”

He leaned slightly forward, looking into Wu Lingyun’s terrified eyes, and said, word by word, “But you’re wrong. There are some things in this world you can’t touch.”

Wu Lingyun trembled all over, his teeth chattering even more violently.

“Chen… Kai, you… you can’t kill me… I am the only heir of the Wu family… my father is a True Immortal Realm… if you kill me, he won’t let you go… and the Divine Temple… the Divine Temple won’t let you go either…”

Kai smiled.

That smile carried a faint hint of mockery.

“Wu Lingyun, do you think I care about any of that?”

He straightened up, raised his hand, and golden light condensed in his palm.

Wu Lingyun looked at the golden light, his pupils suddenly contracted, and his face showed extreme despair.

“No…”

he screamed, his voice shrill.

Just as Kai was about to strike with his palm…

“Stop!”

A cold shout came from afar.

Immediately afterwards, three dark red lights descended from the sky, landing between Kai and Wu Lingyun, blocking Kai’s path.

The dark red lights dissipated, revealing three figures.

The leader, with a pale face and an eerie dark red aura emanating from him, was none other than Long Mo.

Behind him stood Long Xing and Long Sha.

The three demonic dragon envoys had arrived.

Long Mo looked at Kai, a cold smile curling at the corner of his mouth: “Kai, we meet again. This time, you can’t escape.”

Kai withdrew his palm, his gaze falling on Long Mo.

Three days ago, he had been chased and nearly kil Three days later…

a slight smile played on his lips.

“Run?”

He repeated the word softly, then shook his head. “Who said I was going to run?”

Long Mo was taken aback.

He looked Kai up and down, then suddenly frowned.

“You… your aura…”

He realized that Kai’s aura was completely different from three days ago.

Three days ago, Kai was only at the peak of the second rank of the Upper Immortal Realm, and he had beaten him without any chance to fight back.

But now, Kai gave him a feeling of unfathomable depth.

Even… there was a faint sense of oppression that made his blood tremble.

“Peak of the third rank of the Upper Immortal Realm?”

Long Mo sneered. “Breaking through from the peak of the second rank to the peak of the third rank in three days is indeed remarkable. But do you think that this little progress makes you an enemy of us?”

Behind him, Long Xing and Long Sha also stepped forward simultaneously, the three forming a triangle, surrounding Kai in the middle.

Long Mo looked at Kai, his eyes filled with greed: “Kai, hand over your Golden Dragon bloodline, and I can give you a quick death. Otherwise…”

He didn’t finish his sentence, but the threat was already crystal clear.

Kai looked at him calmly, then suddenly smiled.

That smile was exactly the same as the one he had shown when he looked at Wu Lingyun.

Faint, tinged with a hint of mockery.

“Long Mo, do you know, three days ago when you were chasing me, I was indeed no match for you,” he said slowly. “But today…”

He paused, raising his hand, golden light condensing in his palm.

That golden light was dazzling, radiating a suffocating pressure.

“Today, the three of you are nothing more than three ants in my eyes.”

Long Mo’s expression changed, then he sneered, “Arrogant!”

He waved his hand, and Long Xing and Long Sha attacked simultaneously.

Three dark red beams of light, carrying intense demonic energy, hurtled towards Kai!

Kai didn’t move.

He didn’t even dodge. He

simply stood there quietly, letting the three attacks, powerful enough to split mountains and shatter rocks, strike him.

“Boom…”

A deafening roar shook the heavens, and dust billowed everywhere.

Long Mo’s lips curled into a smug smile: “Fool, taking the full force of the three of us head-on? Even if you’re a True Immortal, you’d still…”

His words caught in his throat.

The dust settled.

Kai remained standing, completely still.

He didn’t have a single wound.

Not even a tear in his clothes.

Long Mo’s eyes nearly popped out of their sockets.

“This… how is this possible?!”

Kai raised his hand, lightly brushing away non-existent dust from his robes, and said calmly, “That’s it?”led by these three demonic dragons. Three days later…

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“This… how is this possible?!”

Kai raised his hand, lightly brushing away non-existent dust from his robes, and said calmly, “That’s it?” Long Mo’s expression completely changed.

He finally realized that the Kai before him was not the same Kai who had been chased and forced to flee three days ago.

It wasn’t because of an improved cultivation level, but because of…

that aura.

That aura that made the depths of his bloodline tremble.

It was the pressure of the Dragon Emperor’s bloodline.

Three days ago, Kai was severely injured, his spiritual power suppressed, unable to unleash the true power of his bloodline.

But today, his injuries had healed, the collar had been removed, and his bloodline had fully awakened.

The Kai of this moment was the true Dragon Emperor.

A strong sense of unease surged in Long Mo’s heart, and he subconsciously took a step back.

But at that moment, Kai moved.

He took a step forward.

In Long Mo’s eyes, this step seemed to turn the entire world upside down at that moment.

An invisible pressure, as if it were tangible, pressed down heavily on Long Mo.

Long Mo felt the dragon blood within him solidify at that moment, his legs went weak, and he almost knelt down.

“No…impossible…”

he murmured, “You’re only a third-grade Upper Immortal, how could you…”

Kai didn’t answer.

He simply raised his hand and pointed lightly at Long Mo.

“Poof…”

A golden light shot out from his fingertip.

The golden light seemed weak, but the moment it shot out, Long Mo felt death approaching.

He tried to dodge, but found his body frozen, unable to move at all.

The golden light pierced through his brow.

Long Mo’s body stiffened on the spot, his expression frozen.

Between his brows, a blood hole the size of a thumb was oozing dark red blood.

He opened his mouth, wanting to say something, but couldn’t utter a word.

“Bang!”

The corpse fell to the ground.

Long Mo had fallen.

From Long Mo's body, the Dragon Emperor's Token slowly flew into Kai's hand.

The remaining Long Xing and Long Sha were completely dumbfounded.

They hadn't even reacted to what had happened before Long Mo was already dead.

Long Xing roared and turned to flee.

Long Sha followed closely behind.

They had barely flown ten zhang when Kai appeared before them.

"Why are you running?"

Kai said calmly. "Weren't you going to kill me for my bloodline?"

Despair flashed in Long Xing's eyes as he mustered all his strength and threw a punch at Kai.

Kai didn't dodge, nor did he even defend.

He simply stood there, letting the punch slam into his chest.

"Bang!"

The fist landed solidly on Kai's body.

But Kai didn't budge, while Long Xing's fist felt a sharp pain, his finger bones shattering.

"You…your physical body…" Long Xing's eyes widened.

Kai looked at him and said softly, "The Dragon Essence Pill that Long Yuan gave me not only improved my cultivation but also tempered my

physical body. Now, the strength of my physical body is comparable to that of a True Immortal."

He raised his hand and gently patted Long Xing's forehead.

Long Xing's brow collapsed, his eyes instantly lost focus, and his body fell from mid-air.

Seeing this, Long Sha was utterly despairing. He knelt on the ground with a thud, kowtowing repeatedly: "Spare me! Your Majesty the Dragon Emperor, spare me! I submit! I surrender!"

Kai looked down at him, his eyes calm.

"Surrender?"

he repeated softly, "When you surrendered to the Demon Clan, did you ever think of surrendering?"

Long Sha trembled, unable to utter a word.

Kai didn't look at him again, but simply raised his hand and struck down with his palm.

"Pfft..."

Long Sha's corpse fell into a pool of blood.

All three demonic dragons were annihilated.

From the start to the end, it took only ten breaths.

Kai stood between the three corpses, his robes still spotless, not a single drop of blood on them.

He turned around and looked at Wu Lingyun, who was cowering in the corner of the mountain wall, terrified out of his wits.

But at that moment, his brows furrowed slightly.

Wu Lingyun was gone.

On the ground, only a puddle of water remained, along with a faint trace of a teleportation talisman.

Kai looked up and saw a figure desperately fleeing on the distant horizon, disappearing into the distance in the blink of an eye.

“Teleportation talisman…” Kai said calmly, a hint of disappointment flashing in his eyes.

He didn’t give chase.

A teleportation talisman, once activated, could instantly transport someone a thousand miles away. There was no way to catch up.

But it didn’t matter. Whether

he killed Wu Lingyun or not, it was all the same.

Kai withdrew his gaze and turned to walk towards Chen Wanqing.

Chen Wanqing was still slumped on the ground, utterly powerless.

But her eyes remained fixed on Kai, never wavering for a moment.

She had witnessed everything that had just happened.

The guards who had chased her for three days and three nights were all wiped out by Kai like ants being crushed.

The three terrifying demonic dragons were all killed by Kai within ten breaths.

Wu Lingyun, who had terrified her to the extreme, was so frightened by Kai that he wet his pants and fled in a sorry state.

This man…

this man was too strong.

Not strong in terms of cultivation, but a strength that came from the very bones, an innate strength.

That kind of strength made people submit, made people worship, made people… their hearts flutter.

Kai walked up to her, squatted down, and looked at her gently.

“Miss Chen, can you still walk?”

Chen Wanqing snapped out of her daze, her cheeks flushing slightly. She lowered her head and whispered, “I… my legs are weak…”

Kai smiled and reached out to help her up.

Chen Wanqing stood up, draped Kai’s robe over her shoulders, and leaned against him, feeling incredibly safe.

“Kai…”

she whispered, “Thank you…”

Kai shook his head: “Don’t thank me. I’m late, and I’ve made you suffer.”

Chen Wanqing’s eyes welled up, and she almost cried again.

Kai gently patted her back and said, “Let’s go, I’ll take you somewhere.”

Chen Wanqing nodded, leaned against him, and let him lead her into the depths of the mountains.

Behind them, corpses littered the ground.

The bodies of three demonic dragons lay silently in pools of blood.

In the distance, in the void, a faint, ethereal consciousness watched all of this.

After a moment, that consciousness slowly dissipated.

Previous Page In the fourteenth heaven, in a hidden place

, within a gloomy hall, a dark red life lamp suddenly shattered.

The black-robed elder guarding the lamp abruptly opened his eyes, his expression changing drastically.

“Long Mo’s life lamp… is broken!”

He abruptly rose and rushed into the depths of the hall.

In the innermost part of the hall, a figure shrouded in dark red mist slowly opened his eyes.

They were cold, ruthless, and demonic eyes.

“Long Mo is dead?” the figure spoke, his voice hoarse and grating.

The black-robed elder knelt, trembling as he said, “Yes, Long Mo’s life lamp is broken, and Long Xing and Long Sha’s life lamps are also broken. The three… perished simultaneously.”

The hall fell into a deathly silence.

After a moment, the figure let out a cold laugh.

“Interesting… that Dragon Emperor bloodline is more interesting than I imagined.”

He stood up, the dark red mist churning around him.

“Pass down the order to intensify the investigation. I need to know where that Dragon Emperor bloodline is hiding.”

“Yes!”

The black-robed elder accepted the order and left.

The figure gazed into the distance, a greedy glint in his eyes.

“Dragon Emperor bloodline…you are mine.”

…

Outside Heavenly Dragon Valley, Kai led Chen Wanqing through layers of restrictions and stepped into this sacred land of the dragon race.

Chen Wanqing stared at everything before her—the golden dragon aura filling the sky, the majestic dragon-shaped palace, the giant dragons circling and soaring in the distance—she was completely stunned.

“This…this is…”

Kai, supporting her hand, said calmly, “Heavenly Dragon Valley, the secluded dwelling place of the dragon race.”

Chen Wanqing gasped.

The dragon race…

the legendary dragon race, actually exists?

She recalled the three demonic dragons, recalled the strength Kai had just displayed, and suddenly understood many things.

Kai truly was the Dragon Emperor.

Long Hao had already been waiting at the valley entrance with several members of the dragon race. Seeing Kai return with a woman, they hurriedly went to greet him.

“Your Majesty, this is…”

Kai said, “My friend. Arrange a place for her to stay, and find some healing pills.”

Long Hao nodded quickly and ordered someone to help Chen Wanqing to rest.

Before leaving, Chen Wanqing turned back to look at Kai, her eyes filled with complex emotions.

She wanted to say something, but didn’t know where to begin.

Kai looked at her and smiled slightly: “Heal your injuries first. We can talk about it later.”

Chen Wanqing nodded and left with the Dragon Clan members.

Kai stood there, watching her departing figure, his smile slowly fading.

He turned around and looked at Long Hao. ”Long Hao, summon Long Zhan. I have something to ask him.”

Long Hao immediately obeyed.

A moment later, Long Zhan rushed over.

“Your Majesty, you summoned me?”

Kai nodded, standing with his hands behind his back, his gaze profound.

“Long Mo is dead. Long Xing and Long Sha are also dead. I killed them.”

Upon hearing this, Long Zhan was first stunned, then his face lit up with wild joy.

“Your Majesty is mighty! Those three traitors have finally been executed!”

Kai waved his hand, his expression remaining calm.

“Long Zhan, I ask you, how many people are in the Demon Dragon lineage? Where is their lair?”

Long Zhan’s smile faded, and after a moment of contemplation, he replied, “Your Majesty, I don’t know the exact number of the Demon Dragon lineage. But there are at least three to five hundred of them, including many True Immortal Realm experts. Their lair… is very well hidden. I’ve investigated for years, but I still haven’t found its exact location.”

Kai was silent for a moment, then said calmly, “I understand.”

Long Zhan looked at him, hesitated for a moment, and said, “Your Majesty, you killed Long Mo and the other two. The Demon Dragon lineage will surely retaliate fiercely. What do you intend to do…”

Kai turned around and looked into the distance.

The afterglow of the setting sun bathed him in golden light.

“Retaliation?” A slight smile appeared on his lips. “Let them come.”

Long Zhan was taken aback, then a look of awe flashed in his eyes.

This Dragon Emperor was indeed extraordinary.

“By the way,” Kai suddenly said, “that Wu Lingyun escaped. He had a teleportation talisman, so I couldn’t catch him.”

Long Zhan frowned: “Wu Lingyun? You mean the young master of the Wu family?”

Kai nodded.

Long Zhan pondered, “Your Majesty, the Wu family has considerable power in Yunxian City and is also colluding with the Divine Temple. After Wu Lingyun escapes back, he will definitely add fuel to the fire and

incite the Wu family and the Divine Temple to deal with you. Should I send someone…”

Kai raised his hand, interrupting him.

“No need. One Wu Lingyun can’t cause any trouble.”

He paused, his tone indifferent: “Let him go back and spread the news. Perfect, I also want to see just how many people in the Fourteenth Heaven want to kill me.”

Upon hearing this, Long Zhan’s heart trembled.

This Your Majesty is… actively inviting the enemy?

He looked up at Kai, only to see that on that young face, there was not a trace of fear, only a faint, arrogant disdain for the world.

At that moment, Long Zhan suddenly thought of His Majesty the Dragon Emperor from ten thousand years ago.

The Dragon Emperor of yesteryear had the same gaze.

The same bearing.

Long Zhan took a deep breath and bowed deeply.

“Your Majesty, I am willing to follow you, even unto death!”

Kai glanced at him and nodded.

“Rise. Take good care of Miss Chen for me first. We can discuss other matters later.”

“Yes!”

Long Zhan accepted the order and left. The night in Tianlong Valley was so quiet that you could hear the whisper of the wind rustling through the leaves.

The deep, inky sky seemed to have been painted with a giant brush, even the stars seemed daunted by the valley's spiritual energy, daring only to peek out with a faint glow.

A full, jade-like moon hung high in the sky, its clear light pouring down like water, gently enveloping the entire Tianlong Valley.

The moonlight was not its usual coldness, but rather carried a faint, luminous glow, contrasting beautifully with the surging golden dragon energy above the valley.

The dragon energy condensed into tiny golden dragon phantoms, circling and swirling in the air, sometimes swooping down, sometimes soaring up.

Their scales shimmered with dazzling golden light in the moonlight, emitting a soft yet majestic dragon roar, as if guarding this secret realm.

Kai sat cross-legged on the edge of a towering cliff.

Clouds and mist swirled around the cliff edge, with a bottomless abyss below, yet he sat as still as a rock, his posture upright like a pine tree, eyes closed, his aura calm and deep.

He wore a simple golden robe, the fabric of which was dragon scale brocade specially sewn for him by the dragon clan, soft and smooth, with subtle patterns flowing across it, echoing the golden light surrounding him.

At this moment, the golden light around him flowed ceaselessly, not deliberately manipulated, but rising and falling naturally like breathing.

With each flow, his aura became more solid, and the concentration of spiritual energy around him surged.

His aura was several times more solid than when he first stepped into Heavenly Dragon Valley three days ago.

Although his cultivation level remained at the peak of the third rank of the Upper Immortal Realm, showing no signs of breakthrough, Kai knew in his heart that his current strength far surpassed that of cultivators of the same level.

Yet, in the past few days, he had not rushed into seclusion to cultivate and break through to the fourth rank.

He was waiting, waiting for two crucial people.

He was waiting for Chen Wanqing to recover from her injuries.

Chen Wanqing, covered in wounds and in a disheveled state, had stumbled into Tianlong Valley, her aura chaotic and her meridians severely damaged.

If it weren't for the miraculous healing pills of the Dragon Clan, and the wisp of golden dragon energy he had transferred to her to protect her heart, she would likely have already perished.

He was also waiting for news of Ming Li and Liu Qianqian.

Those two, he didn't know where they had gone. Kai's brow furrowed almost imperceptibly, a hint of worry in his heart. Ming Li was extremely experienced, and Liu Qianqian was meticulous; theoretically, the two of them traveling together should be able to handle any trouble they encountered. But despite his worry, Kai wasn't too impatient. The golden light around him paused slightly, then resumed its steady flow, and his mind calmed down. Just then, he heard soft footsteps behind him. "Your Majesty." Long Hao's respectful voice rang out. He was a core member of the Heavenly Dragon lineage, with a cultivation level reaching the ninth rank of the Upper Immortal Realm. He was also the first dragon cultivator to submit to Kai after he entered Heavenly Dragon Valley.

Kai did not turn around, remaining in his cross-legged meditation posture, his voice indifferent: “What is it?”

Long Hao immediately stopped, standing a few steps behind Kai, bowing deeply: “Reporting to Your Majesty, the guards at the valley entrance just reported that they have captured two suspicious human cultivators.

A man and a woman, both with cultivation levels at the sixth rank of the Middle Immortal Realm, carrying no identification and refusing to reveal their origins.” ”

They were merely peeking around outside the valley, behaving suspiciously, seemingly trying to sneak into the valley under the cover of night.

The guards noticed something amiss and stepped forward to stop them. The two tried to resist, but were easily subdued by the guards.”

Kai raised an eyebrow slightly, his tightly closed eyes slowly opening, a hint of surprise flashing in them.

“Bring them here.” His voice remained calm, yet carried an undeniable air of command. “I want to see them myself.”

“Yes, Your Majesty!” Long Hao respectfully accepted the order and turned to leave quickly.

A moment later, heavy footsteps echoed.

Several dragon guards clad in silver armor escorted two people slowly to Kai’s side.

The two were bound tightly with thick black iron chains, the chains wrapped with dense, restrictive runes that suppressed their spiritual energy.

Obvious signs of a struggle remained on their bodies.

The man was covered in dirt, his hair disheveled, his face bruised and swollen, his clothes tattered;

the woman also had disheveled hair, her clothes caked with mud, several shallow wounds on her face, and a pale complexion.

But when Kai saw their faces clearly, he froze.

“Ming Li? Liu Qianqian?”

he murmured, his tone carrying a barely perceptible hint of teasing, and a hidden concern.

The two bound men froze upon hearing the familiar voice.

They struggled to lift their heads, and their eyes widened in shock when they saw Kai, the man they had been searching for.

“Mr. Chen?!”

“Young Master Chen?!”

they exclaimed simultaneously, their voices filled with excitement, elation, and the relief of surviving a close call.

“Quick! Untie me!” Kai urged, his voice urgent. The dragon guards were stunned, clearly not expecting that the two human cultivators they had captured were actually acquaintances of His Majesty.

They quickly stepped forward, carefully unlocking the black iron chains binding the two men and removing the restrictive runes from their bodies.

As soon as the restrictions were removed, the spiritual energy within Ming Li’s body instantly began to circulate.

He immediately broke free from the guards’ restraints and rushed to Kai’s side, scrutinizing him closely from head to toe.

“Mr. Chen, we’ve been searching for you for days!”

Ming Li said excitedly. “We waited for you in the wasteland for days and nights, enduring wind and sun, without even a hot meal, but you never showed up.

We thought something had happened to you, that you’d been captured by the temple or the Wu family, and we were so worried.”

He paused, then glanced back at the dragon guards, his voice trembling slightly: “And then, just as we found this mountain, before we even got close to the valley, a group of… a group of dragons suddenly rushed out?”

Liu Qianqian also slowly stepped forward, tidying her disheveled hair and clothes, and bowed to Kai: “Young Master Chen, we’re relieved to see you safe and sound. These past few days, we’ve been worried about you the whole way, fearing that something terrible might have happened to you.”

Kai looked at the two of them in their disheveled state, and a warm feeling welled up in his heart.

“It’s good that you’re alright.” Kai nodded gently, his tone mild. “I’m sorry you had to suffer.”

After a pause, Kai continued, “Come, let me introduce you.”

He pointed to Long Hao, who was still bowing beside him. “This is Long Hao, a member of the Heavenly Dragon lineage, with a cultivation level of the ninth rank of the Upper Immortal Realm. This is Heavenly Dragon Valley, the secluded dwelling place of the Dragon Clan, and also where I’m temporarily staying.”

Ming Li and Liu Qianqian gasped simultaneously, their shock deepening.

The Dragon Clan?!

This is actually the secluded dwelling place of the Dragon Clan?!

The legendary Dragon Clan actually exists?!

Moreover, Mr. Chen can actually stay here, and judging from Long Hao's respectful attitude towards Mr. Chen...

It took Ming Li a while to process what she was seeing before she could barely calm down.

He looked at Long Hao, a slightly embarrassed smile on his face, and quickly cupped his hands in greeting: "So...so it's Lord Long Hao. We were very rude just now, please forgive us."

Liu Qianqian also quickly bowed slightly to Long Hao: "Greetings, Lord Long Hao. We were impetuous just now, please forgive us."

Long Hao quickly waved his hand, a humble smile on his face: "No need for such formalities, you two. Since you are His Majesty's friends, then you are honored guests of my Heavenly Dragon Valley."

His Majesty?! Ming Li and Liu Qianqian were both stunned. They exchanged a glance, their eyes filled with shock and confusion.

They looked at Kai again, their eyes full of questions.

Kai saw the confusion and shock in their eyes and smiled faintly: "This is a long story. Let's go into the valley first, and I'll explain it to you slowly." "

Okay! Okay!" Ming Li nodded quickly. Liu Qianqian also nodded slightly and didn't ask any more questions.

Long Hao quickly stepped forward and bowed, saying, "Your Majesty, distinguished guests, please come in. I have already had guest rooms and meals prepared."

"Hmm." Kai nodded slightly and took the lead, walking into the valley.

Deep in Tianlong Valley, in an elegant courtyard,

Chen Wanqing had been recuperating for three days.

The Dragon Clan's healing pills were indeed as good as their reputation, with miraculous effects.

After three days, her injuries had healed by about 70-80%, and her spiritual energy had recovered by more than half.

At this moment, she sat on the stone bench by the window, dressed in a plain white dress, her dark hair simply tied back with a white ribbon.

Her face was still slightly pale, but her eyes were much brighter than three days ago.

However, there was a faint sadness and confusion in her eyes, as well as an undisguised hatred.

Everything that had happened three days ago replayed in her mind like a movie.

Her father's remorseful eyes before he died, his hand tightly gripping hers, using his last bit of strength to urge her to go to Kai, to apologize to Kai.

Those words, "I'm sorry to him, I was wrong," still echoed in her ears, each word piercing her heart.

The resolute eyes of the elders as they fell one by one, they had given their all to protect her, to protect the Chen family, and in the end, they all fell into pools of blood, their bodies never to be found.

And Kai, that figure who descended like a god, suddenly appearing in her most desperate and helpless moment, shielding her from all danger.

Will Kai help her get revenge?

Will he forgive the Chen family?

These two questions kept nagging at her, keeping her tossing and turning, unable to fall asleep. Just then, a soft footstep sounded outside the door.

Chen Wanqing snapped out of her reverie, the confusion and sorrow in her eyes instantly vanishing, replaced by a hint of wariness and doubt. She quickly looked up towards the doorway.

The wooden gate to the courtyard was gently pushed open, and Kai walked in first.

He wore a long golden robe, his posture upright, his face stern, his aura restrained yet still exuding an undeniable air of dominance.

Behind him followed two strangers, a man and a woman.

“Kai?” Chen Wanqing quickly stood up, a look of surprise on her face.

Kai walked up to her, stopped, and looked her up and down carefully. His gaze was gentle: “You look much better. It seems the Dragon Clan’s pills are indeed excellent; they haven’t disappointed me.”

Chen Wanqing nodded gently, her cheeks slightly flushed, and whispered, “Thank you, Kai. If it weren’t for you, I’m afraid… I would be dead.”

Kai waved his hand lightly, his tone calm: “No need to thank me. I just did what I should do. Your recovery is the most important thing.”

After a pause, Chen Wanqing’s gaze fell on Ming Li and Liu Qianqian, a hint of doubt in her eyes: “Kai, who are these two…?”

Kai turned around, pointed to Ming Li and Liu Qianqian behind him, and introduced them: “They are my friends, Ming Li and Liu Qianqian.

We escaped from Yunxian City together and agreed to meet in the wasteland. However, they encountered some trouble on the way, which delayed their journey, and they only found their way here today.”

Chen Wanqing was slightly taken aback, then quickly realized what was happening and bowed slightly to Ming Li and Liu Qianqian, saying, “Greetings, both of you. Thank you for accompanying Kai all the way, and thank you for coming to help.” Ming Li

quickly waved his hand, a warm smile on his face, “Miss Chen, there’s no need for such formalities. I am Mr. Chen’s attendant. You and Mr. Chen are already cultivation partners, so I should call you ‘Mistress’ in principle.”

Ming Li’s words made Chen Wanqing blush!

Although she had indeed become Kai’s cultivation partner through a martial arts contest, it was to use him.

Now, being told this by Ming Li, Chen Wanqing felt very embarrassed.

The four of them sat down together, and Long Hao had already had tea and snacks prepared and placed on the stone table.

After they sat down, a brief silence fell in the courtyard, and the atmosphere was somewhat awkward.

Kai put down his teacup, his gaze falling on Chen Wanqing. He saw through her thoughts and her hesitation.

He spoke softly, his voice gentle: “Miss Chen, please speak freely. Whatever it is, I will do my best to help you if I can.” Hearing Kai’s words, Chen Wanqing’s body trembled slightly, and tears instantly welled up in her eyes.

She took a deep breath, raised her head, looked at Kai, her eyes filled with a hint of determination, and finally mustered her courage to speak, “Kai, I… I have something I want to tell you, and I also want to… ask you for something.”

“Go ahead,” Kai looked at her, his gaze gentle, his tone calm.

Chen Wanqing took another deep breath, trying to calm her emotions, but her voice still trembled, and tears slowly slid down her cheeks.

“That day, not long after you left the Chen family, the people from the Temple arrived.”

Hearing the words “Temple,” Kai’s brows furrowed slightly, his aura instantly turning colder, and a chill flashed in his eyes.

Chen Wanqing, oblivious to Kai’s change in expression, remained lost in her painful memories, continuing, “It was Wu Lingyun who betrayed you.

After escaping from you, he immediately went to the Temple and told them everything about you in the Chen family.”

“He led the Temple elders and soldiers to surround the entire Chen family compound, forcing my father to hand you over.”

“My father said you were gone and would never return, but they didn’t believe him. They forcibly broke into the Chen family compound, wanting to search the house and arrest me, saying they would take me back to torture me and force me to reveal your whereabouts.”

Her voice trembled more and more, and her tears flowed more and more fiercely.

“My father fought them to protect me and uphold the dignity of the Chen family. The six elders and over a hundred guards from the Chen family also rushed forward, fighting them to the death.”

“But the people from the Temple were too strong, and with the Wu family helping them, our Chen family was no match for them.”

“The six elders, each one of them fought with all their might to protect me and cover my escape. They all died in battle, their deaths gruesome, their bodies never recovered.

And the Chen family's guards, over a hundred of them, not one retreated, not one surrendered, they all gave their lives to protect the Chen family, and in the end, they all died too."

Kai remained silent, his aura growing increasingly icy.

That icy aura, almost tangible, permeated the entire courtyard, instantly lowering the temperature by several degrees.

Ming Li and Liu Qianqian couldn't help but shiver, a hint of fear appearing on their faces.

They had never seen Kai so cold. Chen Wanqing raised her head, tears blurring her vision. Looking at Kai, her eyes were filled with pain and despair, her voice choked with sobs: "My father... he's dead too."

"To allow me to escape, to hold off the people from the Temple and the Wu family, he used his last ounce of strength. In the end, he was killed by a single blow from an elder of the Temple."

"Before he died, he held my hand tightly, begging me to find you, to apologize to you, to tell you... he was sorry, he was wrong, he was too greedy, he shouldn't have schemed against you, shouldn't have hurt you. He

begged me, if there's a chance, you must help him, help the Chen family, and avenge them."

Having said this, Chen Wanqing could no longer hold back, covering her face and bursting into tears.

Her cries were sorrowful and desperate, heart-wrenching, as if she were crying out all the pain and grievances in her heart.

Ming Li and Liu Qianqian exchanged a glance, a complex expression flashing in their eyes.

They wanted to comfort Chen Wanqing, but the words caught in their throats, and they could only watch her silently, letting her weep.

Kai calmly watched her, watching her weep uncontrollably, watching the pain and despair in her eyes, remaining silent for a long time.

So long that the crying in the courtyard gradually subsided.

So long that Ming Li and Liu Qianqian were about to speak up to comfort her, he finally spoke slowly, “Miss Chen, do you hate me?”

Upon hearing this, Chen Wanqing trembled slightly, her crying instantly ceasing.

She slowly lowered her hands, raised her head, and looked at Kai with teary eyes, her gaze filled with confusion and bewilderment.

Then, she shook her head vigorously, tears still streaming down her face: “No… I don’t hate you. It’s my Chen family that wronged you, it’s my father, it’s the elders of my Chen family, they were too greedy.

They schemed against you, hurt you, it’s all their fault, it has nothing to do with you.”

“I… I only hate the Wu family, I hate the Temple, I hate their cruelty, I hate that they killed my father, killed everyone in my Chen family, I hate that they destroyed everything I had!”

Her voice carried a hint of resolve, a hint of overwhelming hatred.

Kai was silent for a moment, then suddenly smiled.

The smile was faint, yet it carried a hint of relief and a subtle tenderness, instantly dispelling the icy aura surrounding him.

“To be honest, I did harbor resentment towards the Chen family before,”

he said calmly, without a trace of bitterness. “You schemed against me, put a collar on me, restricted my freedom, and even tried to hand me over to the temple for a bounty, intending to kill me. I’ve always remembered that debt, and I’ve never forgotten it.” He paused, his gaze falling on Chen Wanqing: “But now, the entire Chen family is dead. Chen Tiangang is dead, the six elders are dead, and hundreds of guards are dead.

They paid this debt with their lives. Death erases debts; this is an age-old truth. They have paid the price with their lives. Let bygones be bygones.”

Chen Wanqing was stunned. Her eyes widened as she looked at Kai in disbelief.

She hadn’t expected Kai to forgive the Chen family so easily, to forgive those who had hurt him.

“Kai…”

she murmured, her voice choked with emotion, tears welling up in her eyes once more. This time, they were not tears of pain and despair, but tears of gratitude and appreciation.

Kai gently waved his hand, his tone indifferent yet carrying a hint of resolve: “However, the debt between the Wu family and the Divine Temple cannot be settled so easily.”

With that, he slowly stood up, hands behind his back, gazing into the distance towards Yunxian City, a cold glint in his eyes.

“Wu Lingyun led his men to hunt you down. The Wu family, in alliance with the Divine Temple, annihilated my Chen family. This blood debt must be

repaid.” His voice was calm and firm, yet carried an undeniable resolve. “What they owe the Chen family, what they owe Chen Tiangang, what they owe the six elders, what they owe the hundreds of guards, and what

they owe you—I will collect it all. Not one of them will escape, not one will be spared!”

Chen Wanqing suddenly looked up, her eyes filled with disbelief, tears instantly blurring her vision. “You…you want to avenge me?”

Kai turned around, looking at her, a faint smile playing on his lips. “Miss Chen, you traveled thousands of miles, risking your life, to find me—isn’t that what you’re here for?”

“I, Kai, though not a saint, will never stand idly by while my friend is bullied and his entire family is wiped out. The Wu family and the Divine Temple, since they dared to act, must be prepared to bear the consequences.”

Chen Wanqing’s lips trembled, tears welling up again. This time, the tears were of emotion and joy.

She had waited so long, so long, and finally, someone was willing to help her avenge herself.

She could no longer hold back; with a thud, she knelt before Kai, her forehead pressed tightly to the ground.

“Kai, I beg you… I beg you to help me avenge myself!”

Her voice choked with sobs, a mixture of determination and humble pleading. “As long as I can get revenge, as long as they pay the price, I’ll do anything, even be their slave, even give my life, I’ll do it all willingly!”
”Get up quickly.”

Kai stepped forward, reached out, and gently helped her up, his voice gentle and reassuring.

“Miss Chen, there’s no need for this. I promised you, and I will definitely do it. I will help you avenge your family and make the Wu family and the Temple pay the price they deserve.”

“You are the only descendant of the Chen family, and you are also my friend. Protecting you and helping you avenge your family are things I should do. There’s no need to be so humble.”

He looked at Chen Wanqing, his gaze firm: “Rest assured, I will make Wu Lingyun, Wu Lie, and those people from the Temple pay for their crimes in blood.

I will make them pay a terrible price for what they have done, to comfort your father and the spirits of all the deceased members of the Chen family.”

Chen Wanqing was helped up by Kai. She looked at Kai, her eyes filled with emotion and gratitude, and nodded vigorously.

Tears continued to fall, but she could no longer utter a word.

Kai turned around, his gaze falling on Ming Li and Liu Qianqian. His tone was calm, yet tinged with inquiry: “Are you two coming with me to Yunxian City to avenge Miss Chen, or will you stay here to continue recuperating?”

“This trip to Yunxian City will undoubtedly be extremely dangerous. The Wu family and the Divine Palace won’t surrender easily. Staying here will be safer.”

Ming Li immediately stood up, patted his chest, and a determined smile appeared on his face: “Wherever Mr. Chen goes, I’ll go!

The Wu family and the Divine Palace aren’t good people either. I’ve long disliked them. How could I miss an opportunity to teach them a lesson?”

“Besides, my life already belongs to Mr. Chen. How can I stay in such a safe place and reap the benefits while you go on this dangerous journey?

No matter how dangerous it is, I will go with you, even if it means going through fire and water!”

Liu Qianqian also quickly stood up, nodded gently, and said with a firm look in her eyes, “Young Master Chen, we will go with you.

No matter how dangerous this trip is, we will not back down. We will stay by your side and help you deal with the Wu family and the Temple.”

Kai looked at the two of them, a faint smile on his face, and a hint of relief flashed in his eyes.

“Alright.”

Kai nodded gently, his tone firm. “In that case, let’s go to Yunxian City together to avenge Miss Chen and make the Wu family and the Divine Temple pay for their blood debt!”

His gaze then fell on Chen Wanqing, his tone gentle yet tinged with concern: “Miss Chen, your injuries haven’t fully healed yet. Would you like to rest for a few more days until they are fully healed before we set off?”

“I’m fine!”

Chen Wanqing quickly replied, her tone firm, her eyes filled with determination. She shook her head vigorously. “I’m really fine. My injuries are almost completely healed, and I can fight normally now.”

“Besides, I’m familiar with the environment of Yunxian City and the locations of the Wu family and the Divine Temple’s branch halls. I can lead the way and help you find them faster, help you avenge yourselves more quickly!”

Her eyes were firm and resolute, without the slightest hesitation or retreat.

She couldn’t wait any longer; she couldn’t wait to return to Yunxian City and find the Wu family and the Divine Temple.

Looking at the determination and resolve in her eyes, Kai knew that no amount of persuasion would be of any use.

He nodded slightly and said nothing more: “Alright. Then let’s set off early tomorrow morning for Yunxian City to avenge ourselves!”

“Okay!”

Chen Wanqing, Ming Li, and Liu Qianqian all spoke at the same time, their voices firm, their eyes filled with determination and anticipation. Silence fell once more in the courtyard.

But this time, the silence lacked the previous awkwardness and sorrow; instead, it was filled with a resolute determination, a poised and ready momentum.

All four gazed into the distance, towards Yunxian City, their eyes gleaming with unwavering resolve.

The next morning, as the sky began to lighten

, a faint ray of dawn pierced the clouds, illuminating the land of Tianlong Valley and dispelling the gloom of night, bringing a touch of warmth.

At this moment, at the entrance of Tianlong Valley, four figures were already fully prepared to leave and speed towards Yunxian City.

Kai walked at the forefront, his golden robe fluttering in the morning breeze.

The dragon scale patterns on his robe shimmered brilliantly in the morning light, echoing the subtle golden light emanating from him, making him exceptionally dazzling.

He stood tall and straight like a pine tree, his face cold and stern, his eyes sharp as an eagle’s. His aura was restrained, yet he still exuded an air of domineering arrogance.

Behind him followed closely Chen Wanqing, Ming Li, and Liu Qianqian.

Chen Wanqing had changed into a plain white dress, her black hair simply tied up, a long sword at her waist.

The tear stains of yesterday were gone from her face; instead, there was a long-suppressed hatred and resolve. Her eyes were cold and sharp, fixed on the direction of Yunxian City.

Ming Li and Liu Qianqian had also changed into clothing provided by the Dragon Clan.

Ming Li wore a black robe; the weariness and dishevelment of yesterday were gone, replaced by a spirited appearance.

Liu Qianqian wore a light blue dress; her figure was slender, her features beautiful, her eyes bright, and her aura calm and composed.

Although the two only possessed the cultivation of the sixth rank of the Upper Immortal Realm, they seemed somewhat insignificant before Kai.

But following Kai, feeling the powerful and domineering aura surrounding him, they inexplicably felt confident.

The four of them traveled at breakneck speed, like four streaks of light, weaving through the mountains and forests.

After about an hour, they had left the territory of Tianlong Valley and arrived at a deserted mountain forest.

Ming Li couldn't help but step forward, walk to Kai's side, lower his voice, and cautiously ask, "Mr. Chen, are we just going to charge straight back to Yunxian City like this? Aren't we going to make any preparations?"

"I've heard that the Wu family's influence in Yunxian City is enormous. The patriarch, Wu Lie, is a True Immortal Realm Level 1 expert, with incomparably formidable strength.

The Wu family also has dozens of Upper Immortal Realm experts and hundreds of guards; their strength should not be underestimated."

"Moreover, the Temple also has a branch in Yunxian City, with three elders, all at the ninth rank of the Upper Immortal Realm, and more than twenty Temple soldiers, all of whom are quite strong."

Ming Li's face showed a hint of worry: "There are only four of us. Although you are powerful, isn't it too risky to face so many powerful enemies?"

Kai didn't turn his head, maintaining his unhurried pace without slowing down at all. His tone was indifferent, yet it carried a hint of barely perceptible sarcasm and domineering arrogance: "Risk?"

The corners of his mouth slightly turned up, revealing a faint smile. That smile carried a hint of confidence and a hint of contempt, as if in his eyes, the people from the Wu family and the Temple were just a bunch of ants, utterly vulnerable."Do you think I'm the kind of person who would take risks?" Kai's tone was calm, yet carried an air of domineering arrogance. "I, Kai, never do anything without certainty. If I weren't absolutely certain, I wouldn't have easily agreed to help Miss Chen avenge her, much less have led you all to Yunxian City, walking right into their trap." Ming Li thought for a moment, then shook his head vigorously, his tone firm: "No. Mr. Chen never does anything without certainty. From the time I met Mr. Chen until now, everything Mr. Chen has done has been with absolute certainty; he has never failed." His worries lessened slightly. He knew that Kai was always meticulous and composed; if he dared to say that, he must be absolutely certain. Kai smiled, a smile even more confident and domineering: "Then that settles it." He paused, his tone still calm, yet carrying an air of domineering arrogance, as if the Wu family and the people of the Divine Temple were utterly insignificant in his eyes. "The Wu family is nothing more than a local aristocratic family. Relying on their patriarch, who is at the first level of the True Immortal Realm, they are arrogant, do as they please, and look down on everyone." "That old fellow Wu Lie, although he is a first-level True Immortal Realm expert, his strength is only barely at the threshold of the first level of the True Immortal Realm. His foundation is unstable and his resources are insufficient. He can't be considered a true

expert at all.” “As for the Upper Immortal Realm experts in the Wu family, most of them are only at the seventh or eighth rank of the Upper Immortal Realm . Their strength is mediocre and they are easily defeated. Even the ninth-rank Upper Immortal Realm experts are few and far between, and they are no match for me.” “As for the elders left by the Divine Temple in Yunxian City, the strongest of them is only at the ninth rank of the Upper Immortal Realm. Although their strength is somewhat stronger than those experts in the Wu family, it is only relative.” Kai paused, a cold glint flashing in his eyes: “Three days ago, you should have heard that I killed three ninth-rank Upper Immortal Realm demonic dragons outside Tianlong Valley within ten breaths.” “Those three demonic dragons are the natural enemies of the dragon race. Their strength is incomparably powerful, far surpassing that of ordinary ninth-grade Upper Immortal cultivators. They have thick hides and incredible defense, and their attack power is also extremely formidable.” “Even so, they couldn’t last ten breaths against me before I slew them.” Hearing Kai’s words, Ming Li and Liu Qianqian felt much more at ease. With Kai there, they only needed to assist from behind. … Cloud Immortal City, the sky hangs low. The once prosperous city, shrouded in auspicious clouds and flying cranes, is now shrouded in an impenetrable layer of leaden-gray clouds. The clouds are so thick they seem to weigh down the city walls, exuding a suffocating sense of death and desolation. The aftershocks of the bloody battle three days ago have not yet subsided, yet they have already reverberated like thunder throughout the entire cultivation world. The Chen family, standing for a thousand years and deeply rooted, was slaughtered overnight, leaving no one alive. Rumors spread like wildfire. Some said the Chen family was courting death by harboring a wanted criminal, thus incurring divine retribution; others said the Wu family had been plotting for a long time, using the temple to carry out their annexation with ruthless methods; still others asserted that the Chen family’s eldest daughter, who had managed to escape, was merely a sitting duck, destined to be dragged out and reduced to ashes sooner or later. Opinions were divided, and fear gripped the people. But everyone knew one fact—from this day forward, the world of Yunxian City belonged to the Wu family. The Wu mansion was brightly decorated today. Within its vermilion walls, red lanterns hung high, and the sounds of string and wind instruments filled the air, a scene of prosperous celebration. This contrasted sharply with the lifeless city outside, creating a stark and absurd scene. Today was the birthday of

Wu Lie, the patriarch of the Wu family. Wu Lie, a powerful figure at the first level of the True Immortal Realm, was the pillar of the Wu family. At this moment, he sat high on the main seat in the main hall, clad in a python robe, his face glowing, enjoying the tidal wave of flattery from the guests. Beside him, his eldest son, Wu Lingyun, dressed in brocade robes, appeared elegant and refined, a polite smile playing on his lips. However, if anyone could peek into the depths of his eyes, they would find a hidden fear and gloom that could not be concealed. The scene from three days ago, like a nightmare, replayed wildly in his mind day and night. That figure that descended like a god or demon, those eyes so indifferent as to regard all living beings as ants, and those companions who were usually high and mighty. The image of them being easily crushed like paper in front of that person... every frame made him break out in a cold sweat in the middle of the night. He had escaped back. Only with the life-saving teleportation talisman that his father had obtained by risking his reputation did he barely manage to return here. But he knew better than anyone else: that person would not let him go.

That person would definitely come. Wu Lie keenly noticed his son's unusual demeanor, his brow furrowing slightly as he lowered his voice and scolded, "Lingyun, why do you look so absent-minded? Today is my birthday, don't be impolite!" Wu Lingyun snapped back to reality, forcing out a smile that was more like a grimace: "Father, please forgive me, I... I've just been feeling a bit tired lately." "Useless thing!" Wu Lie sneered, a hint of disdain flashing in his eyes. "Isn't he just a third-grade Upper Immortal? Even if he's a bit strange, as long as he dares to step into my Wu family's gate, I can kill him with a single palm strike! Why are you so panicked?" Wu Lingyun opened his mouth, his Adam's apple bobbing, but ultimately swallowed the words that were on the tip of his tongue. He dared not speak. He dared not tell his father that the so-called "third-grade Upper Immortal" had torn three demonic dragons with ninth-grade Upper Immortal bloodlines to shreds in ten breaths with his bare hands. If he did, his father would only think he was crazy, spouting nonsense. Just as the father and son were whispering, a commotion suddenly arose outside the mansion. The noise grew louder as it approached, instantly shattering the peaceful atmosphere of the birthday banquet. Wu Lie's face darkened, and he waved his hand, saying, "Go and see who's causing this trouble!" A guard obeyed the order and was about to turn around when, before he could even step out of the hall, a

deafening roar suddenly erupted. The vermilion gate, a symbol of the Wu family's prestige, three feet thick and engraved with countless defensive formations, shattered like a fragile sheet of paper in that instant! Wood chips flew everywhere, pebbles sprayed, and a violent shockwave, carrying smoke and dust, instantly engulfed the entire main hall. Guests gasped in surprise, wine glasses fell to the ground and shattered. Amidst the chaos and billowing dust, four figures slowly entered. The leader, clad in a long, flowing golden robe, exuded no spiritual energy whatsoever, yet seemed to carry the weight of a towering mountain on his back. Each step he took caused the hearts of all the cultivators present to involuntarily tighten. His face was as cold and stern as iron, his eyes as deep and unfathomable as an abyss; wherever his gaze fell, the air seemed to freeze into frost.Behind him followed a woman dressed in pristine white, and a young man and woman.

It was Kai and his entourage. When Wu Lingyun saw that face clearly, he was struck dumb, his face turning deathly pale. His legs went weak, and he collapsed into his chair. His teeth chattered, making a gurgling sound:

"Chen... Kai?! It's you!!"

This scream, shrill and desperate, instantly echoed throughout the deathly silent hall. Wu Lie abruptly stood up, his True Immortal Realm aura erupting like a mountain. His eyes flashed like lightning, locking onto the golden figure: "You are the culprit who destroyed the Chen family, Kai?" Kai stopped, his gaze sweeping calmly over the entire room. Those guests who usually considered themselves from prestigious families dared not meet his eyes under his gaze, all lowering their heads and trembling. Finally, his gaze fell on Wu Lie, his tone as indifferent as if asking about the weather:

"You are Wu Lie?" Wu Lie laughed in fury, the sound shaking dust from the rafters: "How dare you! I was just looking for you, and you've delivered yourself to my doorstep to die! Since you're here, don't even think about leaving alive!" Kai smiled. The smile was faint, yet carried a mocking condescension, exactly the same expression he had shown Wu Lingyun three days ago. "Deliver yourself to my doorstep?" He repeated softly, his voice not loud, but clearly penetrating everyone's ears. "Wu Lie, you seem to have some misunderstanding about your position." He

slowly raised his hand, his slender fingers passing over Wu Lie, pointing directly at Wu Lingyun behind him. “I’m here today to do only two things.” His voice was cold and unquestionable. “First, kill Wu Lingyun.” “Second, destroy the Wu family.” As soon as he finished speaking, the entire hall erupted in uproar, followed by a deathly silence. The guests looked at each other, their eyes filled with disbelief and a sense of absurdity. “Has this kid gone mad? Wu Lie is a genuine True Immortal Realm Level 1 expert! The Wu family has dozens of Upper Immortal Realm experts and hundreds of elite guards, their formations are formidable! How dare he, alone, with only three juniors who look like Upper Immortal Realm cultivators, utter such arrogant words as annihilating the entire Wu family? ” Wu Lie trembled with rage, his anger turning into a cruel laugh: “Fine! Fine! Fine! In my hundred years of dominating Yunxian City, this is the first time I’ve seen such an arrogant and ignorant madman! Men! Seize them! I will tear them to pieces to appease my son’s terrified soul!” “Kill!” Dozens of heavily armored guards roared in unison, their weapons gleaming coldly, like a torrent of steel, instantly surrounding Kai and his companions. Chen Wanqing gripped her longsword tightly, her knuckles white from the force, a resolute glint in her eyes. Ming Li and Liu Qianqian also summoned their magical artifacts, their spiritual energy surging, ready for battle. Only Kai remained standing with his hands behind his back, not even lifting an eyelid, as if those surrounding him weren’t murderous cultivators, but a flock of lambs to the slaughter. “Miss Chen,” he suddenly spoke, his voice gentle. Chen Wanqing was startled: “Hmm?” Kai said calmly, “How did your father and the elders die?” Chen Wanqing’s eyes reddened slightly, and she gritted her teeth, saying, “They…ambushed and killed them, leaving no trace of their bodies.” Kai nodded slightly, a cold smile curving his lips: “Then today, you’ll open your eyes wide and watch how I make sure they don’t even leave a complete corpse.” Before he finished speaking, he took a step forward. This step seemed slow and leisurely, like a casual stroll. But strangely, as his foot landed, his figure vanished into thin air, and the next second, he appeared in the very center of the dozens of guards! Too fast! Extremely fast, so fast that even divine sense couldn’t detect it! The guards didn’t even have time to react; a flash of golden light, and the world plunged into eternal darkness. Kai didn’t use any fancy spells, nor did he chant any lengthy incantations. He simply slapped his hand, and a guard’s head exploded like a ripe watermelon; he casually waved his hand, and

an invisible force swept across, sending three guards flying like kites with broken strings, their ribs shattered; he casually pointed, and golden light flickered from his fingertip, instantly piercing a guard's brow, severing his life force. With each strike, someone fell. Each fall was instantaneous, without even a scream. He walked slowly through the crowd, his robes fluttering, spotless. Wherever he passed, blood mist filled the air, limbs flew, like a demon descending to earth, reaping lives as easily as cutting grass. Less than ten breaths. Just ten breaths. Dozens of elite guards, all wiped out. Not a single survivor. Corpses littered the floor, blood flowed like a river, and the pungent stench of blood instantly filled the entire hall. The guests were utterly stunned. Their mouths gaped open, their eyes nearly bulging out of their sockets, their minds blank. What kind of power was this? What kind of method was this? They hadn't even seen how Kai made his move, and those people were already dead? This was a crushing defeat! A naked, unquestionable crushing defeat! Wu Lie's expression finally changed. His previous contempt and anger were now replaced by a deep solemnity. He finally understood why his son had been so terrified. This young man couldn't be judged by ordinary standards! But he was, after all, a True Immortal Realm Level One expert; how could he be intimidated by a junior? "You dare, you brat!" Wu Lie roared, his true essence circulating wildly, his True Immortal Realm aura exploding forth, causing the entire hall to tremble. He raised his hand and struck out with a palm strike, as if holding a towering mountain within it, carrying the power to split mountains and shatter rocks, capable of destroying the heavens and the earth, slamming it down fiercely towards Kai's crown! This palm strike contained all his life's power, enough to level a mountain! Facing this thunderous attack, Kai looked up at the enormous palm print approaching him, a playful smile playing on his lips. He didn't dodge. He didn't even raise his hand to block. He simply stood there quietly, hands behind his back, letting the terrifying palm strike land squarely on his body. "Boom!!!" A deafening roar shook the heavens, and a violent shockwave swept outwards from the two figures, instantly turning the surrounding tables and chairs to dust. Many guests with lower cultivation levels were even thrown into the air, coughing up blood. Wu Lie's lips curled into a cruel and triumphant smile: "Arrogant brat, prepare to die!" But the next moment, his smile froze completely on his face. The dust settled.