

## **Stronger 961**

### Chapter 961 Celestial Demon Power (Part 2)

The battle between the two sides was incredibly powerful, seemingly about to annihilate hundreds or thousands of miles of surrounding land!

In just a tenth of a breath, both sides had attacked each other thousands of times,

Such terrifying attacks, if they landed on the body of an ordinary Ninth-Grade Earth Immortal, their Immortal Body would have long been battered full of holes!

Yet, the two Ninth-Grade Demon Artifact Level Demon Generals relied on their tough Demon Armor to endure countless feathered spikes from the two Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Array Spirit, further enduring their attacks from long beaks and crane claws! The Thousand Cranes Array Spirits, with their strong and colossal Immortal Bodies, managed to withstand the strikes from the giant White Bone Demon Artifacts of the Demon Generals and the relentless assault of the Power of Resentful Spirits!

This battle,

though it could not be compared to the struggle among the Strongest Immortal Lord Level entities, was not much different!

The numerous Earth Immortals and Cultivators within Spiritual Crane Immortal City and Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect watched the terrifying battle above the sky, each with gazes fixed, feeling that witnessing such a top-tier battle once in their lifetime was more than enough!

When the three-breath time mentioned by Cyan-forehead Qilin was only one-fifth left, the battle abruptly halted!

The two Ninth-Grade Demon Artifact Level Demon Generals suddenly retreated several steps, with a hint of hope on their faces, looking at the two Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Array Spirits!

At this moment,

The two Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Array Spirits, on their immense Immortal Bodies of twenty thousand feet, surrounded by countless Power of Resentful Spirits and under relentless attack, suddenly found two streams of smoke-like Demonic Qi gathering around them!

The countless Power of Resentful Spirits circling their Immortal Bodies were continuously repelled by the Immortal Yuan and feathers of the Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Array Spirits, unable to penetrate their defenses to strike at their vital points!

But those two seemingly faint streams of Demonic Qi, after shimmering for a moment, abruptly penetrated into the Immortal Bodies of the Thousand Cranes Array Spirits!

In an instant, the Immortal Bodies of the two Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Array Spirits stiffened, and their originally clear, bright, and enormous eyes gradually turned dark red, as if their Heart Spirits were affected by something!

Seeing this, Hong Li and the other Ninth-Grade Demon Artifact Level Demon General couldn't help but exchange glances, revealing a hint of joy in their eyes!

Because at this moment, they were extremely confident that, although the two Array Spirits of the Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Array were exceedingly formidable and their combat power terrifying, with their great and condensed Immortal Bodies almost able to clash head-on with them, those streams of Demonic Qi were beyond what the Array Spirits of this Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Array could resist!

Because those two streams of Demonic Qi were not generated by them, but were a strand of Celestial Demon Power bestowed by the Demon Child Gang Bone of Profound Yin Demon Sect, it was evident that despite these diluted streams of Celestial Demon Power, they were equally beyond what the two Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Array Spirits could withstand!

This scene clearly indicated the gradual Demonization of the two Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Array Spirits!

Once the colossal eyes of these two Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Array Spirits fully turn crimson red, it would signify they had been completely Demonized and hence controlled by Hong Li and the other Ninth-Grade Demon Artifact Level Demon General!

At this moment,

The Cyan-forehead Qilin activating the Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Array clearly sensed something amiss!

Many years ago, the Cyan-forehead Qilin and White-forehead Qilin had once followed Immortal Lord Luoshui Yaan Mingyu, slaughtering scattered demons of Profound Yin Demon Sect, so the Cyan-forehead Qilin was very sure, although the demons of Profound Yin Demon Sect possessed extremely powerful Demon Sect Techniques, capable of Demonizing opponents using them!

But typically, demons of Profound Yin Demon Sect require their opponents' Immortal Yuan to be exhausted or their foes completely subdued before attempting Demonization; otherwise, against opponents of the same Realm, Demonization would be exceedingly difficult even if the Demon Sect Techniques were strong!

The present scene was completely different,

The two Array Spirits of the Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Array clearly still possessed vast amounts of Immortal Yuan, being Array Spirits of the Thousand Cranes Array, they could not possibly have their Heart Spirit lose control!

Yet they were still being Demonized?

A hint of doubt flashed in the Cyan-forehead Qilin's eyes, and it furrowed its brows suddenly.

Currently, the Ninth-Grade Demon Artifact Level Demon General Hong Li was looking proud towards the Cyan-forehead Qilin, reminiscing the appearance of three thousand six hundred Immortal Artifacts, with a hundred Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Arrays set, hundreds of Thousand Cranes Array Spirits manifesting, Hong Li indeed felt some panic! However, seeing the Celestial Demon Power bestowed by

the Holy Son Gang Bone capable of Demonizing the Thousand Cranes Array Spirits too, the tension and fear in its heart instantly vanished!

The Cyan-forehead Qilin, however, furrowed its brows, suddenly spoke:

"Initially, I didn't plan on going all out, holding back a bit, but now it seems, the Ninth-Grade Demon Artifact Level Demon Generals indeed possess some capabilities not to be underestimated!"

The Ninth-Grade Demon Artifact Level Demon General Hong Li, hearing the Cyan-forehead Qilin speak thus, was quite surprised,

A mere Seventh-Grade Little Demon King managed to set up such a grand formation effortlessly, already eliciting some alarm, what is this Cyan-forehead Qilin implying? It hasn't exhibited full strength yet? Damn it, is it boasting? When did the little Seventh-Grade Little Demon King of the Qilin Race become such a braggart!

At this point, the Cyan-forehead Qilin found it pointless to say more, it fixed its gaze on the two Thousand Cranes Array Spirits undergoing Demonization, and suddenly let out a long cry.

Instantly,

The bodies of the two Thousand Cranes Array Spirits with slightly stiff Giant Immortal Bodies jolted, their slightly reddened enormous eyes fiercely locked onto the two Ninth-Grade Demon Artifact Level Demon Generals not far away!

The next moment, the two Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Array Spirits vigorously flapped their wings, charging towards the two Ninth-Grade Demon Artifact Level Demon Generals!

Moreover, not just them, simultaneously attacking were another eight Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Array Spirits!

These full ten Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Array Spirits shot forth from different directions, surrounding the Ninth-Grade Demon Artifact Level Demon Generals in the center!

Hong Li, filled with confidence in the greatly diluted Celestial Demon Power, saw the ten Thousand Cranes Array Spirits rushing towards them but showed not a hint of nervousness. In its view, as long as the Celestial Demon Power could quickly Demonize one Thousand Cranes Array Spirit after another, the victory of this battle would ultimately belong to it!

However, what Hong Li did not anticipate was,

When the ten Thousand Cranes Array Spirits surrounded it and the other Ninth-Grade Demon Artifact Level Demon General, these Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Array Spirits, did not launch an attack against them!

Those ten Thousand Cranes Array Spirits merely encircled them, and suddenly, innumerable cracks appeared on the surface of their massive Immortal Bodies, dazzling beams of light continuously emitted from the countless fissures on their Immortal Bodies!

Immediately following, a feeling of crisis far exceeding the previous one surged in the heart of the Ninth-Grade Demon Artifact Level Demon General Hong Li!

"No, these damn Nine-Layered Array Spirits are about to self-destruct!

Damn it, once these ten Array Spirits self-destruct, hundreds of Immortal Artifacts forming the Array Hub will be affected, array patterns will become flimsy, and unable to be activated for a long time! This damn Cyan-forehead Qilin, is it intending to ruin hundreds of Immortal Artifacts on the spot? It's insane, this guy is insane!"

Hong Li hadn't managed to speak, when its companion, another Ninth-Grade Demon Artifact Level Demon General, couldn't help but shout anxiously!

Before it finished its words, the entire sky suddenly lit up!

Chapter 962: The Cyan-forehead Qilin's Little Show-off

Moments ago,

as the army of the Profound Yin Demon Sect arrived,

above the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect and Spiritual Crane Immortal City, ten thousand feet high in the sky, heavy demonic qi gathered!

The demonic qi was dense and concentrated, making the entire sky incredibly gloomy. Even the previous battles could not disperse the thick, concentrated demonic cloud and demonic qi, even when the Ninth-Grade Demon Artifact Level Demon General Hong Li clashed with the spirit of the Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Grand Array, creating waves that seemed to tear the world apart, it still could not completely dispel the seemingly indestructible demonic cloud and demonic qi!

Yet in that instant,

above the Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Grand Array,

when ten mighty spirits of the array simultaneously self-destructed,

the flames, brightness, and power erupted from countless Immortal Yuan directly dispelled the thick demonic cloud and demonic qi above the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect and Spiritual Crane Immortal City!

Each spirit of the Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Grand Array had an immortal body several times larger than a regular Ninth-Grade Perfect Level Earth Immortal, and with the massive supply of Immortal Yuan from thirty-six Immortal Artifact array hubs, the terrifying self-destruction of such an immense immortal body had power beyond imagination!

Moreover,

it wasn't just one array spirit,

but ten spirits from the Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Grand Array,

equivalent to dozens of Ninth-Grade Perfect Level Earth Immortals self-destructing simultaneously!

Even an ordinary Ninth-Grade Perfect Level Earth Immortal stands at the pinnacle of the Immortal Realm Human Race cultivators. Such powerful beings, every Immortal Technique they fully unleash, possesses the fearsome power to overturn mountains and shatter the void. When such beings self-destruct, it's almost as if they've unleashed the power of tens of thousands of Immortal Techniques all at once!

Of course, under normal circumstances, a cultivator who reaches the Ninth-Grade Perfect Level Earth Immortal would hardly self-destruct. Such powerful beings often have a lifespan limit of a hundred thousand years, and if fortunate enough to obtain Spirit Elixirs that extend lifespan, or cultivate certain Immortal Techniques that significantly increase lifespan, breaking this limit is effortless, possibly living for fourteen or fifteen thousand years!

Such beings would only self-destruct if they were insane!

So, within the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect and Spiritual Crane Immortal City, the Earth Immortals and cultivators, including the two True Disciples of Guangqing Immortal Sect, Guang Ling'Er and Guang Yu'Er, have never seen the terrifying scene of a Ninth-Grade Perfect Level Earth Immortal self-destructing!

In fact, even countless cultivators and Earth Immortals within their sect's records have never encountered any documentation of such an event...

Yet at this moment,

they witnessed it!

They witnessed the scene of Ninth-Grade Perfect Level beings self-destructing, equivalent to dozens of Ninth-Grade Perfect Level Earth Immortals self-destructing simultaneously—a terrifying sight!

Within a thousandth of a breath,

countless cultivators observing the battle cried out in agony!

They weren't directly impacted by the self-destructive power of the Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Array spirits, but at this moment, the terrible brightness from their self-destruction directly burned their eyes, which had endured many metamorphoses, their skin scorched from the incinerating brightness, and nearly a million cultivators had their clothes ignited and burned fiercely!

Within the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect and Spiritual Crane Immortal City, the Earth Immortals wore Dharma Robes comparable to Magical Artifacts and possessed powerful immortal bodies, obviously not blinded by the brightness like the 'bystander' cultivators whose clothes were incinerated. Yet these Earth Immortals weren't spared discomfort!

Every Earth Immortal couldn't help but shut their eyes tight, stimulating their Immortal Yuan to protect their bodies from the scorching brightness!

Even so, these Earth Immortals, surrounded by floating Immortal Qi, still turned red-skinned under the terrible brightness, as if they were prawns fried in a boiling pot for a few minutes!

Including Sect Leader Li of the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect, Chi Liuxia of the Wine Immortal Sect, and other Earth Immortals of Fourth and Fifth Grades, all hastily stimulated their Immortal Yuan to protect their eyes and skin from suffering the embarrassment and injury like those low-grade cultivators and Earth Immortals!

Moreover,

within the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect and Spiritual Crane Immortal City, where the light reached, countless plants were scorched dry and ignited, the earth cracked and dried!

Among those present, only Lin Xuankong, the Cyan-forehead Qilin, the White-forehead Qilin, and the two True Disciples of the Guangqing Immortal Sect, Guang Ling'Er and Guang Yu'Er, were slightly less affected!

Lin Xuankong and the Cyan-forehead Qilin need little mention, as for the White-forehead Qilin, they had long witnessed Lin Xuankong triggering the self-destruction of the Eight-Layered Array Spirit and were naturally prepared... And the two True Disciples of the Guangqing Immortal Sect, Guang Ling'Er and Guang Yu'Er, being Ninth-Grade Perfect Level Earth Immortals themselves, though still couldn't help but

stimulate their Immortal Yuan to protect their eyes, each revealing a face full of astonishment thereafter.

These two True Disciples of the Guangqing Immortal Sect were endlessly shocked throughout the day...

Guang Ling'Er and Guang Yu'Er never expected that in the Golden Patterned Ghost Frog Pouch casually thrown by Lin Xuankong to the Cyan-forehead Qilin, there were over three thousand Immortal Artifacts. They also didn't expect that array patterns had already been laid on these Immortal Artifacts, allowing the Cyan-forehead Qilin to easily set up over a hundred Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Grand Arrays. Now, they further didn't expect the Cyan-forehead Qilin's fighting style was so unique, having hardly encountered any setbacks before just starting to trigger the self-destruction of the Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Array spirits, and doing so ten at a time!

Chapter 963: The Cyan-forehead Qilin Shows Off (Part 2)

That would mean a total of ten Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Grand Arrays would disappear, and a total of three hundred and sixty Immortal Artifacts would be affected, unable to be activated for a long time!

However, after considering the power and terror of the Ninth-Grade Demon Artifact Level Demon Generals of the Profound Yin Demon Sect, Guang Ling'Er and Guang Yu'Er understood that this was perhaps the best method for the Cyan-Forehead Qilin to defeat the two Ninth-Grade Demon Artifact Level Demon Generals!

But understanding is one thing, and astonishment is another!

Such an extremely, super-lavish way of fighting,

truly left the two True Disciples of Guangqing Immortal Sect astounded beyond measure!

Moreover, Guang Ling'Er and Guang Yu'Er both understood very well that if they weren't staying within the Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Grand Array at this moment, if they weren't affected by the self-detonation of the Array Spirits of ten Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Grand Arrays, they would likely be hundreds of miles away from the explosion site, still unable to avoid some injuries...

Terrifying!

Too terrifying!

And extremely extravagant!

Guang Ling'Er and Guang Yu'Er, these two True Disciples of Guangqing Immortal Sect, were struck with awe amidst their astonishment.

"Such a formidable self-detonation power, even if the Ninth-Grade Demon Artifact Level Demon Generals of the Profound Yin Demon Sect have undergone a Metamorphosis by the Celestial Demon Power, with their abilities and defenses terrifyingly enhanced, they would still find it hard to defend in such an overwhelming explosion! I even doubt whether those two Ninth-Grade Demon Artifact Level Demon Generals could survive such a ridiculously lavish battle tactic!"

Guang Yu'Er couldn't help but mutter a few words, then blinked her eyes, carefully gazing towards the center of the explosion!

At this moment, the center of the explosion was filled with wild and tyrannical Immortal Yuan fluctuations, dazzlingly bright, so much so that even powerful Ninth-Grade Perfection Level Earth Immortal cultivators like Guang Ling'Er and Guang Yu'Er couldn't see clearly what was going on in that explosion center for a moment!

Guang Ling'Er also activated her eyes, summoning Immortal Yuan to power the Guangqing Qi Observation Skill, carefully gazing towards the explosion center.

In her heart, she silently hoped:

I hope those two damn Ninth-Grade Demon Artifact Level Demon Generals have been blown to pieces!

If even this doesn't kill those two Ninth-Grade Demon Artifact Level Demon Generals or if there's no way to deal with those Ninth-Grade Demon Artifact Level Demon Generals, then facing seventy-eight of them along with the Thirty-six Celestial Tribulation Demon Lord Purlo next, could only mean retreating into the Nine-Layered Array, unable to confront and combat directly!

At this moment,

the light produced just by the self-detonation of the Array Spirits of ten Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Grand Arrays was not even the aftermath of the explosion,

yet it had already thrown the entire Spiritual Crane Immortal City and the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect into such chaos,

it was imaginable,

at the site of the explosion,

the ordeal faced by the Ninth-Grade Demon Artifact Level Demon Generals attacked by the self-detonation of ten Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Grand Arrays would be appallingly dire!

Of course, within the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect and the Spiritual Crane Immortal City, nearly every Earth Immortal who still retained their eye power had their hearts in their throats.

They knew that whether they could preserve the Spiritual Crane Immortal City and the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect as well as their lives depended crucially on the outcome of this battle!

When every Earth Immortal in the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect and the Spiritual Crane Immortal City focused their gaze on the center of the explosion, the rampaging and swirling Immortal Yuan fluctuations at the center finally calmed down, and the massive whirlwind of Immortal Yuan gradually dissipated!

In that instant,

the expressions on the Earth Immortals within the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect and the Spiritual Crane Immortal City suddenly paused,

and then, each Earth Immortal's eyes revealed an exceptionally fervent light.

Because at that moment, when the brightness faded, when the flames withdrew, when Immortal Yuan fluctuations settled, they suddenly discovered that at the center of the explosion, only a small fragment of the White Bone Demon Artifact's core remained, and beyond that, the space had already turned into a pitch-black abyss, leaving only chaos after space had shattered!

"Oh heavens! The Cyan-Forehead Qilin Immortal actually disposed of those two Ninth-Grade Demon Artifact Level Demon Generals? Those were Ninth-Grade Demon Artifact Level Demon Generals enhanced by the Celestial Demon Power! The Cyan-Forehead Qilin Immortal is incredible! Hahaha, how satisfying!"

"Indeed! The faces of those two Ninth-Grade Demon Artifact Level Demon Generals just now were really disgusting!"

The way they acted, it seemed as though no cultivator within the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect and Spiritual Crane Immortal City could resist them, but now they've been blasted away by the Cyan-Forehead Qilin Immortal, leaving not a trace of their flesh or Demonic Qi, truly these two Ninth-Grade Demon Artifact Level Demon Generals deserved it!"

"The heavens have eyes, having sent the Cyan-Forehead Qilin Immortal to the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect and Spiritual Crane Immortal City. This Qilin Immortal of the Qilin Race, being someone close to the esteemed Immortal Lord Luoshui Yaan Mingyu, is truly admirable and respect-worthy!"

"What heavens have eyes!"

Didn't you see those Immortal Artifacts of the Cyan-Forehead Qilin Immortal were all given by Tributor Mu to the Qilin Immortal!

I say, it wasn't the heavens having eyes, it was Tributor Mu having eyes, hahahaha!"

"However, this self-detonation maneuver by the Cyan-Forehead Qilin Immortal was indeed beyond my expectations, clicking my tongue, daring to sacrifice over three hundred Immortal Artifacts, the Qilin Immortal's grand gesture truly garners nothing but admiration! Today for the first time, I have seen a

Seventh-Grade Qilin Immortal counterattacking a Ninth-Grade Demon Artifact Level Demon General! Such powerful demon generals that even the strongest Immortal Lord Level powerhouses of the Immortal Realm Human Race could not easily eliminate!"

"Of course! Haven't you heard that even Strongest Immortal Lord Ling Wuji couldn't do much against those Ninth-Grade Demon Artifact Level Demon Generals and almost lost his life instead!"

"Hahaha, now I feel that with the Qilin Immortal overseeing the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect and the Spiritual Crane Immortal City, we're absolutely safe, one hundred percent safe!"

Seeing the Ninth-Grade Demon Artifact Level Demon Generals, who moments ago were immensely terrifying and seemed ready to wipe out countless cultivators in the Spiritual Crane Immortal City, annihilated on the spot... the Earth Immortals within the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect and the Spiritual Crane Immortal City were exceedingly excited, endlessly talking about it.

Hearing those voices of discussion,

Lin Xuankong shook his head with some helplessness.

Lin Xuankong naturally wouldn't feel overly impressed by the Cyan-Forehead Qilin's immediate achievements.... After all, back in the day, he managed to solve the trouble of the Ba Xia race, the most formidable within the Boundaryless Mountain Range, only at the Second Grade realm, which was not just a case of low realm overcoming high realm, it was definitely a one-man duel against an entire race!

As for the White-Forehead Qilin, seeing those shameless and brutal two Ninth-Grade Demon Artifact Level Demon Generals really being dealt with by Little Sister Qing beside him, it couldn't help but feel a bit excited, forcibly suppressing the thrill within, it repeatedly nodded towards the Cyan-Forehead Qilin, "Little Qing, you are so incredible!"

Yet no matter how hard the White-Forehead Qilin tried to calm its emotions, to suppress the excitement within, its voice was inevitably filled with a joyful tone when speaking!

Hearing her Sister Bai praise her so,

The Cyan-Forehead Qilin, however, remained calm, while directing the Immortal Yuan to gather up the three hundred and sixty Immortal Artifacts that had lost their effectiveness after the destruction of the ten Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Grand Arrays, she feigned regret and said:

"What a pity, that Ninth-Grade Demon Artifact Level Demon General Hong Li was too talkative, wasted a lot of time, otherwise, within three breaths, those two shamelessly brutal Ninth-Grade Demon Artifact Level Demon Generals would have certainly been pulverized by me!"

After showing off a bit,

the face of the Cyan-Forehead Qilin, just like the White-Forehead Qilin, was filled with a joyful expression,

"But still, even though it took longer than three breaths to kill that Ninth-Grade Demon Artifact Level Demon General Hong Li, it only took an additional thirtieth of a breath! If the Profound Yin Demon Sect's so-called Thirty-Six Tribulation Demon Lord still plans to send a couple of small fry, I'll certainly deal with those small fish and shrimp within three breaths!"

Having said this, the small Qilin, who was being intensely watched by countless cultivators and Earth Immortals within the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect and the Spiritual Crane Immortal City, sneakily rolled its eyes and glanced at Lin Xuankong.

Chapter 964: Celestial Demon Array

At this moment, the Cyan-forehead Qilin, with its demeanor, seemed somewhat eager to claim credit and curry favor.

If it weren't for its gigantic size and the surging Immortal Yuan all over its body, those Earth Immortals nearby might think it was not a genius spiritual beast from the Qilin Race, but a little pet trying to earn its master's affection!

Seeing the Cyan-forehead Qilin like this, Lin Xuankong couldn't help but smile.

However, he soon frowned, turning his head to look at the direction where the Profound Yin Demon Sect's army was gathering.

The Cyan-forehead Qilin, the White-forehead Qilin, Guang Ling'Er, Guang Yu'Er, and many Earth Immortals within the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect and Spiritual Crane Immortal City all thought of something and turned their heads solemnly.

As many Earth Immortals predicted,

at the position where the Profound Yin Demon Sect's army was gathering, countless demonic qi rolled violently,

and the over ten thousand demon soldiers of the Profound Yin Demon Sect made way for a path.

Soon after, seventy-eight towering Ninth-rank Demon Generals of the Profound Yin Demon Sect flew toward the top of the Nine-layered Thousand Crane Formation of the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect. The renowned top Demon Lord Purlo of the Profound Yin Demon Sect, surrounded by many seductive demonesses, revealed himself, looking this way with a hint of surprise.

The Thirty-six Tribulation Demon Lord Purlo was well aware of the strength of the demon general Hong Li,

Among the eighty Ninth-rank Demon Generals he brought, Hong Li, even if not the first, was definitely among the elite!

For this reason, the Thirty-six Tribulation Demon Lord Purlo was quite confident in assigning the task of breaking the Nine-layered Thousand Crane Formation of the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect to the Ninth-rank Demon General Hong Li!

However,

the Thirty-six Tribulation Demon Lord Purlo could never have expected,

that in just a moment, Hong Li, who was outstanding among the Ninth-rank Demon Generals, not only failed to damage the Nine-layered Thousand Crane Formation in the slightest but also fell together with another Ninth-rank Demon General!

Gazing from afar at the top of the Nine-layered Thousand Crane Formation of the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect, looking at the nearly dissipated demonic qi after the fall of Hong Li and another Ninth-rank Demon General, the thirty-six Demon Artifacts around the Thirty-six Tribulation Demon Lord Purlo slightly rotated, clearly showing a mental state that hadn't fluctuated much for hundreds of thousands of years now having a strong disturbance!

However,

upon seeing the over three thousand Immortal Artifacts used by the Cyan-forehead Qilin to arrange the hundred-layer Nine-layered Thousand Crane Formation,

the eyes of the Thirty-six Tribulation Demon Lord, with pale pupils and a hint of red, couldn't help but slightly contract.

The cultivators within the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect and Spiritual Crane Immortal City, including True Disciples Guang Ling'Er and Guang Yu'Er of the Guangqing Immortal Sect, only read about events from the near ancient times of the Immortal Realm Human Race from books. Those Earth Immortals, who at most lived for tens of thousands of years, had never witnessed the glory and prosperity of the Human Race during the ancient and near ancient times!

But the Thirty-six Tribulation Demon Lord Purlo was different,

As a peerless genius of the Demon Race, it had personally experienced the era when the Immortal Realm Human Race flourished with geniuses, pressing the Demon Race to the corners! In that exceptionally prosperous and powerful near ancient era of the Immortal Realm Human Race, not only were Ninth Grade Perfection level Earth Immortals as numerous as cattle, but powerful and unparalleled artifact refiners were also plentiful!

Yet even in that near ancient era, during the highly glorious and prosperous times of the Immortal Realm Human Race, the Thirty-six Tribulation Demon Lord Purlo had never seen a scene with nearly four thousand Immortal Artifacts appearing simultaneously!

Those are Immortal Artifacts, extremely difficult to refine, often failing a hundred times or even countless times before succeeding once!

Those are Immortal Artifacts, desperately yearned for by countless Earth Immortals of the Immortal Realm Human Race!

Those are Immortal Artifacts that rival top Demon Artifacts, capable of greatly enhancing a cultivator's strength!

In that instant,

the eyes of the Thirty-six Tribulation Demon Lord Purlo, with red in their pale pupils, shrank sharply and then suddenly brightened!

The thirty-six Demon Artifacts around it rotated continuously, accompanied by the wails of countless demonic qi and resentful souls!

The Thirty-six Tribulation Demon Lord Purlo is renowned throughout the world, rivaling even the names of the three Demon Lords of the Celestial Banner Earth Fiend Wind Fire Forest, who have lived for seven to eight hundred thousand years, mainly because this Thirty-six Tribulation Demon Lord possesses terrifyingly formidable life force, and in the process of failing to overcome the thirty-six Heavenly Demon Tribulations, has condensed a full thirty-six Demon Artifacts, each comparable to a Second-Grade Immortal Artifact!

It is well known that throughout the Immortal Realm Continent, including the Boundaryless Mountain Range, the Profound Yin Demon Realm, and the Spirit Platform Buddha Realm, there exists only one Third-Grade Immortal Artifact, held by the Sect Master of the Divine Dynasty Immortal Sect.... Of course, many Earth Immortals and demon strongmen now also know that another Third-Grade Immortal Artifact exists in the hands of Mu Shiba, the tributor of the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect!

Third-Grade Immortal Artifacts are exceedingly rare in the world, and Second-Grade Immortal Artifacts are likewise incredibly scarce!

Most Second-Grade Immortal Artifacts had already been taken into the Upper Realm by those extraordinarily talented cultivators during their ascension in the ancient and near ancient times!

In the entire Immortal Realm Continent, alongside the Boundaryless Mountain Range, the Profound Yin Demon Realm, and the Spirit Platform Buddha Realm, the surviving Second-Grade Immortal Artifacts now amount to only a few hundred at most!

Only this Thirty-six Tribulation Demon Lord of the Profound Yin Demon Sect, with its heaven-defying talent, independently created its own Demon Technique, and in the process of surviving the Heavenly Demon Tribulation, condensed upper realm demonic qi into thirty-six top-tier Demon Artifacts comparable to Second-Grade Immortal Artifacts! Moreover, these thirty-six top-tier Demon Artifacts are powerful enough to easily corrupt First-Grade and Initial-Grade Immortal Artifacts!

#### Chapter 965: Celestial Demon Array (Part 2)

The Thirty-Six Tribulation Demon Lord Purlo, having cultivated for four hundred thousand years, had arduously relied on fate-defying talent and numerous Demon Artifacts to gradually become one of the leading figures among the Seventy-Two Demon Lords. His current status was already comparable to those old demons, Fenghuo Lin, who've cultivated for seven or eight hundred thousand years!

Precisely for this reason, the Thirty-Six Tribulation Demon Lord Purlo and countless demons from the Profound Yin Demon Realm repeatedly launched the Immortal Demon War. Their purpose was nothing more than to poison living beings to refine Demon Artifacts or to seize more Immortal Artifacts from the hands of the Immortal Realm Human Race Earth Immortals and then contaminate those Immortal Artifacts to create Demon Artifacts that could be wielded by their Demon Techniques!

After all, even if the Thirty-Six Tribulation Demon Lord Purlo could rely on fate-defying talent to condense Demon Artifacts during the Celestial Demon Tribulation, he still needed some Initial Tier Demon Artifacts and First-Grade Demon Artifacts as refining materials! Whereas other Demon Lords required some Immortal Artifacts as materials, to be contaminated into Demon Artifacts and then used to refine with countless living beings!

Under such circumstances,

how could the Thirty-Six Tribulation Demon Lord Purlo not be tempted by those Immortal Artifacts of the Cyan-forehead Qilin!

At this moment,

the Thirty-Six Tribulation Demon Lord Purlo even felt that he was much luckier than those old fellows like Fenghuo Lin and others.

Those old fellows were being targeted by the Strongest Immortal Lord-level powerhouses of the Immortal Realm Human Race, often having to endure a battle that could severely damage the core to seize some Immortal Artifacts and Resentful Souls of living beings!

But as for himself now, he was so fortunate to merely follow the orders of the Holy Son Gang Bone for a surprise attack on the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect to capture Mu Shiba, and he actually stumbled upon thousands of Immortal Artifacts. The most crucial part was, there wasn't even a single Strongest Immortal Lord-level powerhouse here, with the highest Realm being just two Ninth Grade Perfection level brats from the Guangqing Immortal Sect!

The Holy Son Gang Bone ordered him to attack and capture Mu Shiba precisely because of these thousands of Immortal Artifacts, could it be that these thousands of Immortal Artifacts were all refined by Mu Shiba....

Many thoughts flashed through his mind like lightning and fire,

the Thirty-Six Tribulation Demon Lord Purlo gradually grew excited. He turned his eyes, flashing with a red light, and suddenly spurred endless Demonic Qi, shouting:

"All Demon Generals listen to the order, immediately set up the Celestial Monarch Array, break these arrays, obtain the Immortal Artifacts, and capture Mu Shiba alive!"

At that instant,

when the Thirty-Six Tribulation Demon Lord spurred Demonic Qi and suddenly issued the command, the whole world seemed to change color because of it!

The Demon Cloud and Demonic Qi above the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect and Spiritual Crane Immortal City had already cleared a bit when the Cyan-forehead Qilin activated over three thousand Immortal Artifacts, but in the blink of an eye, where the Demonic Qi fluctuations from the Thirty-Six Tribulation Demon Lord reached, the Demon Cloud and Demonic Qi churned unpredictably, once again turning the

whole sky into a world of Demon Clouds and Demonic Qi, making the world dark once again, even more so than before!

Accompanying the command from the Thirty-Six Tribulation Demon Lord,

those seventy-eight Ninth-Grade Demon Artifact level Demon Generals all shouted in unison.

Instantly, the bodies of these seventy-eight Ninth-Grade Demon Artifact level Demon Generals began rapidly expanding, just like small balloons suddenly being inflated, and in less than a tenth of a second, their Demon Bodies had grown tens of times larger!

The bodies of these Ninth-Grade Demon Artifact level Demon Generals were already ten thousand feet high, and with such sudden expansion, they transformed into incredibly terrifying gigantic existences!

Every Ninth-Grade Demon Artifact level Demon General stood amidst endless Demonic Qi above their heads and tread the boundless earth, these gigantic bodies made the layers upon layers of the Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Grand Array seem smaller by comparison, with the very top of the Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Grand Array only reaching the chest of those Ninth-Grade Demon Artifact level Demon Generals!

Such gigantic Demon Bodies, coupled with the simultaneous action, had a full seventy-eight Ninth-Grade Demon Artifact level Demon Generals, as well as the fearsome Thirty-Six Tribulation Demon Lord seated, this imposing manner immediately made every cultivator and Earth Immortal within the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect and Spiritual Crane Immortal City tense and anxious.

If the Cyan-forehead Qilin hadn't swiftly killed two Ninth-Grade Demon Artifact level Demon Generals just now, the numerous cultivators and Earth Immortals present might have already started reciting the Rebirth Mantra for themselves....

"Everyone doesn't need to panic, since the Cyan-forehead Qilin Immortal could effortlessly kill those two Ninth-Grade Demon Artifact level Demon Generals, dealing with these seventy-eight Ninth-Grade Demon Artifact level Demon Generals shouldn't be a problem! All it requires is a few more uses of the Grand Array, a few more activations of the Array Spirits of the Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Grand Array!"

"Yeah, yeah, there's absolutely no need to panic! Even if we can't kill all these seventy-eight Ninth-Grade Demon Artifact level Demon Generals instantaneously, just relying on the defensive might of over ninety layers of the Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Grand Array should be enough to defend against the Ninth-Grade Demon Artifact level Demon Generals!"

"It's a shame that our strength is just too lacking, when the Ninth-Grade Demon Artifact level Demon Generals and the Qilin Immortal engage, there's no way we can offer any assistance, alas!"

"Don't be fooled by those Ninth-Grade Demon Artifact level Demon Generals' changes in body size, looking fierce. They're just puffing themselves up to appear intimidating! If I, a Second-Grade Earth Immortal, were to employ Immortal Techniques to alter my body, I could just as easily expand to a gigantic size, even creating a palm image to cover the heavens effortlessly! They're merely using Blinding Techniques!"

The numerous Earth Immortals and cultivators within the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect and Spiritual Crane Immortal City were chatting non-stop, as if only by speaking this way could they temporarily suppress that sense of unease and panic in their hearts!

It was only a short while after these cultivators and Earth Immortals began their discussions when suddenly,

an anomaly occurred,

those Ninth-Grade Demon Artifact level Demon Generals who had altered their body sizes suddenly gathered together, each assuming highly peculiar postures,

some kneeling on the ground waving their arms skyward, some clasping their hands together, muttering something under their breath, some twisting their bodies and faces as if enduring some dreadful pain....

At the same time,

incredibly condensed Demonic Qi gushed forth from the bodies of these Ninth-Grade Demon Artifact level Demon Generals, instantly vaporizing to the top, joining together to form a mass of writhing, meat-like black Demon Clouds!

The Demon Cloud was tremendously massive, dozens of times larger than the Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Grand Array below,

compared to the dense and consolidated Demon Cloud above, the Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Grand Array seemed like a baby standing before an adult elephant, the most terrifying aspect was, from within the Demon Cloud, came successive horrifying wails as if some peerless demon creature was gestating within, about to be born any moment!

Witnessing this scene,

the numerous cultivators and Earth Immortals who had been discussing all closed their mouths immediately, displaying signs of tension on their faces, focusing intently on the changes in the Demon Cloud.

At this moment, Guang Ling'Er and Guang Yu'er of the Guangqing Immortal Sect, with charming visages, were filled with a look of dread,

Guang Yu'er couldn't help but glance toward the Cyan-forehead Qilin, urgently exclaiming: "It's the Seventy-Two Celestial Demon Array, this absolutely must be the Seventy-Two Celestial Demon Array that once confronted the Strongest Immortal Lord-level powerhouses during the Immortal Demon War hundreds of thousands of years ago, capable of concentrating the Demonic Qi of seventy-two Demon Generals to manifest a terrible demon comparable to a Demon Lord-level!

During the eightieth-first Immortal Demon War, this battle known as the Fallen Immortal War, the Profound Yin Demon Sect used this Celestial Demon Array to forcibly withstand the joint siege of over ninety Strongest Immortal Lords from the Immortal Realm Human Race, and in one battle, killed eight Strongest Immortal Lords and thousands of Ninth Grade Perfection Level Earth Immortals. That war severely depleted the strength of the Immortal Realm Human Race, never again restoring its former glory and prosperity!

But it's said that in that Fallen Immortal War, our countless Earth Immortals and Strongest Immortal Lords of the Immortal Realm Human Race killed every demon who knew how to arrange the Celestial Demon Array. From then on, the Profound Yin Demon Sect was also severely weakened, and the Celestial Demon Array never appeared again!

How could the Celestial Demon Array appear again now?

Could it be that the supposed Upper Realm Celestial Demon passed down to our Immortal Realm not only a trace of Celestial Demon Power but also the method to arrange the Celestial Demon Array? Damn, how did that Upper Realm Celestial Demon break through the World Wall to pass down these things to the lower realm?

What else did that Celestial Demon send down to the lower realm? Damn it, truly damn it!

Comparing Demon Generals with Demon Lords, it's like comparing heaven and earth. Like this, it means we have to face not just one, but two Demon Lord-level existences!"

Chapter 966: Celestial Demon with the Buddha's Face

This True Disciple of the Guangqing Immortal Sect spoke with extreme apprehension in his eyes.

By his side, another True Disciple of the Guangqing Immortal Sect, Guang Ling'Er, couldn't help but look at Lin Xuankong, and said:

"It seems that the Profound Yin Demon Sect's main purpose of coming here is for you, and to target you, they have actually mobilized nearly twenty thousand Demons and Demon Soldiers, a Thirty-Six Tribulation Demon Lord Purlo who has been renowned for hundreds of thousands of years, as well as a full eighty Ninth-Grade Demon Artifact Level Demon Generals and the Celestial Demon Array. You, you, you... what secret do you harbor that has drawn such a Thirty-Six Tribulation Demon Lord and a Celestial Demon Array comparable to a Demon Lord?"

Faced with the pale-faced Guang Ling'Er and Guang Yu'Er, Lin Xuankong had not yet spoken when the Cyan-forehead Qilin couldn't help but let out a low roar, "It's just a Celestial Demon Array comparable to a Demon Lord, why be so alarmed? Even if that Thirty-Six Tribulation Demon Lord and the Celestial Demon Array act together, what could they do? Could they possibly break through the Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Grand Array, famed for its defense?"

Before the Cyan-forehead Qilin's words had completely fallen,

The immense Demon Cloud in the sky suddenly unveiled,

A gigantic figure appeared in the high heavens!

This figure was nearly a hundred times the size of the Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Grand Array, floating in the high heavens in a seated posture, beneath it was a black Buddha Lotus Throne, and over its enormous body was covered in black Buddha Bubbles. From both sides of the body extended as many as eighteen immensely long, thousand-zhang thick arms, each hand holding various Buddha Seals...

Most peculiarly, this Celestial Demon Array Spirit composed of black Demon Cloud and condensed Demonic Qi, bore the appearance of a Spirit Platform Buddhist Sect Bodhisattva, seeming benevolent and kind-hearted, with a face of peace and harmony, the Demonic Qi exuded not a trace of malice, instead full of peaceful aura, inspiring a sense of closeness and reverence in anyone who gazed upon it!

If not for the fact that this eighteen-armed Bodhisattva appeared in black, one might mistake it for a Great Accomplishment Bodhisattva of the Spirit Platform Buddhist Sect!

At this moment, this immense Demon Buddha completed its transformation, floating high above, those seemingly gentle giant eyes slowly opened a sliver, uttering a Buddha's recitation, then slowly spoke:

"Where the Holy Sect arrives, all beings must pay homage, why do you not quickly prostrate?"

This voice was incomparably grand, seemingly imbued with a special magic power, not only causing ripples through endless space but also instantly reaching the ears of countless Cultivators of the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect and Spiritual Crane Immortal City.

Instantly,

Countless Cultivators and Earth Immortals within the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect and Spiritual Crane Immortal City had a hint of confusion flash in their eyes,

Soon after, that hint of confusion gradually turned into a trace of fanaticism, in less than a third of a breath, in the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect and Spiritual Crane Immortal City, innumerable Cultivators

unexpectedly knelt down in numbers reaching tens of thousands, even some First and Second Grade Earth Immortals, with a touch of fanaticism in their faces, knelt down from afar to the Demon Buddha!

Only those Third Grade and above, Fourth and Fifth Grade Earth Immortals, due to slightly congealed Divine Souls, were not controlled by that terrifying Demon Sound, managed to remain awake, and did not kneel down!

However, even those Third Grade, Fourth and Fifth Grade Earth Immortals, although resisting the influence of the Demon Sound with their slightly congealed Divine Souls, each showed expressions of struggle, evidently battling against the illusions induced by the Demon Sound!

The White-forehead Qilin, Guang Ling'Er, Guang Yu'Er, and others, affected slightly by the Demon Sound, turned pale when witnessing this scene.

Guang Yu'Er couldn't help but exclaim, "The Demon Buddha summoned by the Celestial Demon Array is indeed terrifying to the extreme, merely a single word can influence the Heart Spirit of millions of Cultivators and Earth Immortals. If not for the heavy protection of the Thousand Cranes Array mitigating most of the Demon Sound's power, millions of Cultivators within the Spiritual Crane Immortal City might have already begun demonizing and losing all reason!

However, if this Demon Buddha continues to wield the Demon Sound unchallenged, even before the Thousand Cranes Array is breached, a large portion of the millions of Cultivators and Earth Immortals within the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect and Immortal City would likely demonize! Cursed, truly damned!"

The Cyan-forehead Qilin, upon hearing this, hesitated no longer, emitting a long, resonant cry.

Instantly,

The remaining ninety Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Arrays had their array patterns on the light membranes continuously flashing!

In the next moment, no less than twenty Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Array Spirits appeared, transforming into Great Accomplishment Bodhisattva, transforming into Immortal Cranes with Immortal

Bodies over twenty thousand zhang long, flapping their wings into streaming light, rushing toward the Demon Buddha high above!

These array spirits of the Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Array were all Ninth Grade Perfection Level and because they were summoned through array patterns meticulously carved by Lin Xuankong, they were a few degrees stronger than ordinary Immortal Sect's Sect Protection Array Spirits. Moments ago, upon self-destruction, they instantly annihilated even Ninth-Grade Demon Artifact Level Demon Generals, illustrating the formidable power of these array spirits!

A full twenty Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Array Spirits charged collectively, their might extremely fierce!

And when these twenty Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Array Spirits flew high into the sky, approaching the gigantic Demon Buddha,

The seemingly benevolent giant Demon Buddha suddenly opened its eyes wide, its face momentarily twisted into an extremely ferocious expression, following which the eighteen immensely long arms on one side of its body began to swing at terrifying speeds!

Instantly,

The twenty Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Array Spirits engaged in battle with the gigantic Demon Buddha!

The array spirits of the Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Array were extremely powerful, constantly emitting long cries, transforming into streaming light, attempting to break through the eighteen arms' defense and crash into the Demon Buddha's body for self-detonation, but unfortunately, the giant Demon Buddha's arms, each tens of thousands zhang long, while enormous, were not in the least less agile, swinging with speeds swifter than lightning flashing across the sky. No matter how the twenty Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Array Spirits flew or maneuvered, they could not penetrate the defense of those eighteen hands!

Chapter 967 Celestial Demon with a Buddha Face (Part 2)

The most astonishing thing is,

In less than three breaths,

as many as six spirits of the Thousand Cranes Grand Array were caught in the palm of that Eighteen-Armed Demon Buddha. Then with a mere gentle squeeze of that immense hand, the spirits of the Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Grand Array let out a sorrowful cry, their immortal bodies shattered directly, transforming into countless spiritual lights filling the sky!

These were spirits able to contend with Ninth-Grade Demon Artifact Level Demon Generals, far stronger than ordinary Ninth-Grade Perfect Level Earth Immortals, and even compared to the two True Disciples of the Guangqing Immortal Sect, Guang Ling'Er and Guang Yu'Er, these spirits were superior. Yet such powerful array spirits were instantly obliterated with a grasp from the Eighteen-Armed Demon Buddha. It's evident how terrifying this Demon Buddha, whose power is said to rival that of a Demon Lord, truly is!

Within the Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Grand Array,

Guang Ling'Er and Guang Yu'Er of the Guangqing Immortal Sect's True Disciples witnessed this and their faces changed dramatically. Guang Yu'Er anxiously looked towards the Cyan-forehead Qilin, continuously shouting, "Cyan Forehead, you must refrain from urging the array spirits to attack this Demon Buddha summoned by the Celestial Demon Array!

The strength of all Sect Protection Arrays lies in their defensive capabilities,

as does the Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Grand Array,

If you refrain from attacking and rely on the remaining eighty or so Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Grand Arrays for defense, no matter how powerful this Demon Buddha summoned by the Celestial Demon Array is, it cannot break through so many grand arrays in a short time!

Even if it has a terrifying demon sound capable of potentially demonizing the cultivators within Spiritual Crane Immortal City, it would still take a very long time!

But if you continue attacking like this, once all the Thousand Cranes Array Spirits are annihilated by this Demon Buddha, and the eighty or more Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Grand Arrays vanish, leaving only one Nine-Layered Array, none of us, including all the cultivators within Spiritual Crane Immortal City, will be spared!"

Guang Ling'Er also nodded repeatedly with a face laden with panic, "In just three breaths, we've lost six Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Array Spirits and six arrays. At this rate, it won't take more than ten breaths for all twenty array spirits to be annihilated! Quickly summon the array spirits back, don't fall for the tricks of this Demon Buddha of the Profound Yin Demon Sect!"

The Cyan-forehead Qilin, having already been infuriated by the destruction of the six array spirits, was not foolish and considered Guang Ling'Er and Guang Yu'Er's words,

After a brief contemplation, it turned to Lin Xuankong and hesitantly spoke, "Young Master, what do you think?"

At this moment, Lin Xuankong, gazing at the immense Demon Buddha in the sky, had already furrowed his brows. He didn't anticipate that the so-called Saint Son Gang Bone of the Profound Yin Demon Sect would go to such lengths, even deploying the legendary Celestial Demon Array just to deal with him!

However,

Upon hearing the Cyan-forehead Qilin's inquiry,

Lin Xuankong, whose brows were slightly furrowed, suddenly thought of something, and his brows relaxed as he smiled and said:

"The demon sound of this Demon Buddha is peculiar; we don't know how long countless cultivators and Earth Immortals within Spiritual Crane Immortal City and Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect can hold out. In such circumstances, how can we allow this Demon Buddha to have its way? Just attack it with full force. If twenty Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Array Spirits are insufficient, use thirty, and if thirty aren't enough, employ forty, fifty, sixty at once, or all the array spirits of the Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Grand Array if necessary. No matter how strong it is, can it withstand attacks from nearly ninety array spirits of the Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Grand Array simultaneously?"

Even the strongest of Immortal Lord-level experts here would find it difficult to block an onslaught from nearly ninety array spirits of the Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Grand Array without missing a beat. Yes, just test it and see how powerful this Demon Buddha truly is!"

Pausing here, Lin Xuankong continued, "Just go all out. If you falter, I'm still here!"

Observing his Young Master speaking in such a manner left the Cyan-forehead Qilin without a single doubt in its heart,

As a genius Seventh-Grade Demon King of the Qilin Race, its reverence and trust in Lin Xuankong had long equaled that for its own master, the Immortal Lord Luoshui Yaan Mingyu!

Nodding forcefully at Lin Xuankong, it then took a deep breath, mobilizing its entire Immortal Yuan before letting out a thunderous roar,

In an instant,

The light membranes of the remaining seventy or so Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Grand Arrays shimmered as countless array patterns illuminated at once!

In the next moment, as many as seventy array spirits of the Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Grand Array appeared in mid-air, all crying out in unison and spreading their massive wings, transforming into streaming lights rushing toward the immense Demon Buddha in the high heavens!

At this moment, the Cyan-forehead Qilin, full of respect and trust for Lin Xuankong, indeed went all out, directly prompting the array spirits of all the Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Grand Arrays....

Witnessing this, Guang Ling'Er and Guang Yu'Er of the Guangqing Immortal Sect's True Disciples were immediately stunned, their expressions quickly turning to disappointment.

Guang Yu'Er couldn't help but glance at Lin Xuankong,

In Guang Yu'Er's mind, the current Lin Xuankong was no longer that earlier small Third-Grade Earth Immortal; after all, someone capable of casually gifting the Cyan-forehead Qilin with three thousand six hundred Immortal Artifacts couldn't possibly be an ordinary weak Third-Grade chicken!

But, oh but, could the current Third-Grade Lin Xuankong possibly be stronger than the Cyan-forehead Qilin, who can wield three thousand six hundred Immortal Artifacts?

Could it be possible for Lin Xuankong to produce another three thousand six hundred Immortal Artifacts?

How could that be possible?

That's absolutely impossible!

This Lin Xuankong is simply too impulsive, and this Cyan-forehead Qilin is too reckless!

Guang Yu'Er felt a surge of disappointment, lamenting not being the one endowed with three thousand six hundred Immortal Artifacts!

Nearby, Guang Ling'Er vigorously shook her head, muttering in a low voice, "It's finished, it's finished. At this rate, once these Thousand Cranes Array Spirits are crushed one by one by that Demon Buddha, leaving only one Nine-Layered Array, it might hold out for at most one or two days. Alas, truly worrying, Cyan Forehead, how could you just...."

These two True Disciples from Guangqing Immortal Sect, amidst their frustration and disappointment,

The eighty-some array spirits of the Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Grand Array, summoned by Cyan-forehead Qilin, had completely turned into bits of streaming light, spiraling around the ever-so-giant Demon Buddha, launching attack after attack!

Earlier times,

When attacking simultaneously,

Twenty array spirits of the Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Grand Array were involved,

The colossal Demon Buddha, with its eighteen hands, handled it rather effortlessly!

Yet at present, with over eighty array spirits assailing simultaneously, even this mighty Demon Buddha, equaling a Demon Lord-level entity in strength, found it a bit overwhelming!

Despite, within two breaths,

This gigantic Demon Buddha, with the incredibly swift assault of its eighteen hands, managed to seize six array spirits of the Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Grand Array and squeezed them with demonic energy until they exploded, but at the instant it succeeded, a small defensive gap finally appeared!

In the nick of time,

One array spirit of the Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Grand Array turned into streaming light, cunningly and timely grasping this gap, drawing close to the enormous body of this Demon Buddha!

"Boom"

A tremendous explosion shook the heavens and earth!

The array spirit of the Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Grand Array, which had neared the gargantuan Demon Buddha, didn't pause, self-destructing at once!

The Cyan-forehead Qilin, witnessing this, couldn't help but shout out,

"Hahaha, finally got to blow up this fellow! The self-destruction of a Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Array Spirit can obliterate a Ninth-Grade Demon Artifact Level Demon General instantly, reducing it to

dust, perishing on the spot. Though this colossal Demon Buddha's strength equates to a Demon Lord-level expert, it ultimately isn't genuinely a Demon Lord-level; its demon body shouldn't be as mighty as those Demon Lord-level experts who have undergone tens of thousands of years of cultivation, right!"

Chapter 968 A One-in-a-Thousand Chance

At this moment,

accompanied by the self-destruction of the Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Array Spirit,

the eyes of Cyan-forehead Qilin, White-forehead Qilin, Guang Ling'Er, Guang Yu'er, and others were filled with anticipation as they watched closely.

In addition, due to the massive explosion wave, the Demon Buddha's Demon Sound was temporarily affected, causing some cultivators and Earth Immortals in the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect and Spiritual Crane Immortal City to awaken in a daze, then look around at the kneeling cultivators with bewildered expressions...

In the high heavens,

the shockwave from the self-destruction of the Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Array Spirit forced the surrounding Thousand Cranes Array Spirits to temporarily retreat. Even several arms of the Demon Buddha were blown away by the terrifying shockwave!

When the astonishing flames from the explosion's shockwave dissipated,

the result of the self-destruction of the Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Array Spirit finally revealed itself!

Cyan-forehead Qilin and Lin Xuankong looked up, only to see that the Demon Buddha's abdomen had an enormous wound, stretching from the lower abdomen to the chest, with nearly half of it missing. Many of the Buddha's massive black intestines were severed, writhing slightly in the vast abdomen, while around the ruptured cavity, green demon blood flowed incessantly!

The most lethal wound was at the Demon Buddha's chest, where several ribs were already broken, exposing the damaged organs inside. Even the Buddha's heart, as large as the entire Spiritual Crane Immortal City, had been blasted with a massive hole. As the black heart throbbed slightly, endless green demon blood spurted outward, turning into a torrential downpour, cascading down onto the endless earth below!

"Hahaha, the self-destruction of the Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Array Spirit indeed injured this creature!

Hmph, so what if that Celestial Demon Array Spirit's strength is incredibly close to the Demon Lord Level? The power of the Array Spirit's self-destruction is so immense that just one strike injured it to this extent. If it were done dozens of times, this creature's Demon Body would likely collapse instantly!"

Cyan-forehead Qilin couldn't help but smile, repeatedly speaking.

Lin Xuankong looked at the terrifying wound on the Demon Buddha's Demon Body, frowning slightly.

The next moment,

as Lin Xuankong had anticipated,

the colossal Demon Buddha glanced down at the horrific wound on its own Demon Body. Its face twisted further, chanting incoherently in its mouth, and that strange and grand Demon Sound echoed once again, only this time it was not directed at the countless cultivators within Spiritual Crane Immortal City and Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect, but towards its own wound!

In an instant,

a massive outpour of condensed Demonic Qi burst forth from the positions of the seventy-eight Demon Generals forming the Celestial Demon Array, converging towards the gigantic Demon Buddha!

In less than a hundredth of a breath's time, the Demon Buddha's Demon Body was surrounded by immeasurable Demonic Qi. Subsequently, the terrifying wound on its Demon Body began to heal

rapidly. Countless black flesh buds emerged from every part of the horrific wound, intertwining with each other, transforming into new flesh and blood of the immense Demon Buddha!

After just three percent of a breath, the previously horrifically injured, heavily damaged giant Demon Buddha had completely recovered!

Not only that,

after being nourished by the Demonic Qi passed through the Celestial Demon Array by seventy-eight Ninth-Grade Demon Artifact Level Demon Generals, the enormous Demon Buddha astonishingly sprouted six more arms. Each arm transformed in shape, becoming brimming with Demonic Qi, covered with various profound Demonic Patterns, and when swung, the speed was much faster!

Seeing this strange transformation of the gigantic Demon Buddha, the previously delighted Cyan-forehead Qilin's face immediately turned solemn, focusing intently on activating those Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Array Spirits without any delay!

However, at this time, with the Demon Buddha's power increased, it effortlessly faced the remaining eighty-some Thousand Cranes Array Spirits!

Three breaths later,

not a single Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Array Spirit could break through those twenty-four fearsome gigantic arms. Instead, eight Thousand Cranes Array Spirits were seized by the Demon Buddha's twenty-four arms, and with a slight squeeze, these eight Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Array Spirits immediately shattered, turning into endless fragments and Immortal Yuan!

Eight breaths later,

another twelve Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Array Spirits were destroyed by that enormous Demon Buddha!

At this time, only around sixty Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Array Spirits were left flying through the high heavens!

Under normal circumstances, as many as sixty-some Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Array Spirits, equivalent to over sixty Ninth-Grade Perfect Level Earth Immortals stronger than Guang Ling'Er and Guang Yu'er, should have been able to handle any opponent without issue!

Yet at this moment, with the Demon Buddha's strength elevated, it had already become nearly on par with the strongest Immortal Lord Level or Demon Lord Level adversaries. In the face of such top-tier terrifying opponents in the Immortal Realm, those sixty-some Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Array Spirits, despite their relentless leftward and rightward assaults, could not get close to the Demon Buddha's body, let alone launch a self-destructive attack at close range!

By now,

the countless cultivators and Earth Immortals within Spiritual Crane Immortal City and Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect were no longer controlled by the Demon Sound and had fully awakened.

Witnessing the battlefield above the Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Array, these countless cultivators and Earth Immortals immediately became tense. Each cultivator and Earth Immortal's heart raced as they stared intently at the gigantic Demon Buddha in the sky and the Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Array Spirits constantly attacking it!

Chapter 969 - One in a Thousand Chance (Part 2)

Every Cultivator and Earth Immortal understands at this moment that the Cyan-forehead Qilin has activated all the Array Spirits of the Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Grand Array to battle this dreadful Demon Buddha, and the outcome of this battle will affect the fate of each and every one of them!

To every Earth Immortal and Cultivator, life or death is in this battle!

However,

what makes countless Cultivators and Earth Immortals increasingly tense is that,

as time flows to the twenty-fourth breath, the Array Spirits of the Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Grand Array continuously flying in the sky have already been destroyed twenty times by the enormously terrifying Demon Buddha!

At this moment,

the Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Grand Array that shields the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect and Spiritual Crane Immortal City has only just over forty remaining, and the Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Grand Array covered with Array Patterns also is down to only about forty layers, and the Array Spirits in the sky are down to just over forty!

The Cyan-forehead Qilin's long eyebrows formed by cyan scales have already tightly furrowed.

It knows,

Even if there are still over forty Array Spirits flying in the sky, this is still an extremely formidable strength, easily able to contend with dozens of Ninth-Grade Demon Artifact Level Demon Generals, but to face this terrifying Demon Buddha summoned by the Celestial Demon Array, just over forty Array Spirits of the Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Grand Array can probably only last for just over twenty breaths before they're all destroyed!

Thinking of this,

The Cyan-forehead Qilin couldn't help but turn to Lin Xuankong, furrowing its brows and opening its mouth to say: "Young Master, Qing has disappointed you. This damned giant is indeed strong, not something Qing can contend with! Otherwise, why don't I just summon back the remaining over forty Array Spirits of the Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Grand Array, if we continue like this..."

Lin Xuankong nodded slightly upon hearing this,

As the battle progressed to this point, Lin Xuankong already understood that relying solely on the Array Spirits summoned by the Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Grand Array arranged by First-grade Immortal

Artifact is far from enough to deal with this Demon Buddha that has gathered the power of seventy-eight Ninth-Grade Demon Artifact Level Demon Generals!

Not to mention that the over a hundred Array Spirits of the Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Grand Array summoned by the Cyan-forehead Qilin are not enough,

Even if he handed another Golden Patterned Ghost Frog Pouch to the Cyan-forehead Qilin, letting it summon an additional hundred or two hundred more Array Spirits of the Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Grand Array, the situation would still be irreversible!

While pondering in his heart,

The Cyan-forehead Qilin had already made a decisive move, with a thought, those Array Spirits of the Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Grand Array flying all over the sky immediately chirped in unison and transformed into extremely rapid streams of light, directly returning to each of their respective Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Grand Arrays, disappearing into the light membranes filled with Array Patterns.

Seeing this scene, the two True Disciples of the Guangqing Immortal Sect, Guang Ling'Er and Guang Yu'Er, both couldn't help but breathe a sigh of relief.

Guang Ling'Er couldn't help but nod and say:

"Cyan Forehead, if you had made this decision earlier, it would have been better. This Celestial Demon Array can gather and merge the entire power of seventy-eight Ninth-Grade Demon Artifact Level Demon Generals. The summoned Array Spirits are incomparable to those of our Immortal Realm Human Race's ordinary Nine-Layered Array! However, it's not too late to mend what's gone wrong. Now here, with the over forty layers of Nine-Layered Array you've arranged, purely defending, even if this Demon Buddha is stronger, it will be extremely difficult to break through in a short time!"

Guang Yu'Er, on the other hand, displayed a look of deep emotion beside her,

She carefully looked at Lin Xuankong, then at the Cyan-forehead Qilin, secretly saying in her heart:

The first time she met this Third Grade Realm Lin Xuankong, how arrogant she was, almost completely dismissing him, considering the challenge with him as an assured victory in a game!

But as it turns out, this Third Grade Realm Lin Xuankong possessed such astonishing and terrifying quantities of Immortal Artifacts, just relying on these over three thousand Immortal Artifacts, she wasn't even his opponent, not to mention that this fellow had engraved Array Patterns on each Immortal Artifact, ready to set up large numbers of Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Grand Array anytime!

Her so-called True Disciple of Guangqing Immortal Sect, her so-called True Disciple of Strongest Immortal Lord, if faced with this Third Grade Realm Lin Xuankong, the opponent probably wouldn't even need to use all their strength. Just setting up two Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Grand Array, one for attack and one for defense, would directly lead to her defeat!

Alas, indeed people can't be judged by appearance, the Immortal Realm is vast and full of wonders, this Third Grade Realm Earth Immortal Lin Xuankong seems weak, yet is a terrifyingly strong figure she couldn't catch up with even if she tries hard!

This guy, definitely counts as the foremost under Strongest Immortal Lord level, among countless Human Race Cultivators in the Immortal Realm, under Strongest Immortal Lord, likely there is no one who can compare to this guy in front!

Thinking of this, this True Disciple of Guangqing Immortal Sect, Guang Yu'Er, suddenly felt a burst of heat in her cheeks, embarrassedly lowering her head, finding herself too shy to look at Lin Xuankong anymore!

At this point, Guang Ling'Er, Guang Yu'Er, countless Earth Immortals, and Cultivators were feeling slightly relaxed because the Cyan-forehead Qilin had given up active attack,

Yet the Cyan-forehead Qilin now showed a look of frustration,

It raised its head to look at the restored 'ravishing aspect' of the Demon Buddha high up in the sky, and let out a dull grunt,

"The magic sound of this fellow is extremely peculiar. If my Array Spirits of the Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Grand Array can't suppress it, allowing it to unleash that strange magic sound, I'm afraid there won't be many who can withstand it until the end in the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect and Spiritual Crane Immortal City.

It's a pity the master isn't here, otherwise, with the master personally controlling the Nine-Layered Arrays, surely able to repel this Demon Buddha and even able to block that Thirty-Six Tribulation Demon Lord Purlo!"

Upon hearing the Cyan-forehead Qilin say this, Lin Xuankong just slightly shook his head,

His figure moved, slowly floated upwards, drifting to the light membrane of the Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Grand Array, his eyes fixed on the enormous Demon Buddha, a glimmer of battle intent flashed in his eyes,

Looking back at the countless Cultivators and Earth Immortals with diverse expressions and the Cyan-forehead Qilin with a frustrated face, Lin Xuankong spoke: "Qing, no need to worry, next I will take action against the so-called Array Spirit Demon Buddha of the Celestial Demon Array!"

Upon seeing this, the Cyan-forehead Qilin's eyes instantly brightened, "Young Master, you are finally about to act personally! Hahaha, ever since we returned to the Demon-Suppressing Immortal Carriage from the Boundaryless Mountain Range, you have devoted yourself every day to the study of the Path of Array, and it's been many days since we've seen you in action personally, Young Master's talent is extraordinary, the progress during these days is sure to be significant, Qing is greatly anticipating it!"

The White-forehead Qilin beside it couldn't help but shake its head slightly, smiling as it looked at the Cyan-forehead Qilin beside it,

Its understanding of the Cyan-forehead Qilin might be deeper than the Cyan-forehead Qilin's own understanding of itself, so the White-forehead Qilin is very aware that its Little Sister Qing's admiration and reverence for Lin Xuankong has reached a 'frantic' level, nearly similar to its worship of master Immortal Lord Luoshui Yaan Mingyu!

Yet no matter how, Young Master Lin Xuankong is after all just the disciple of master Yaan Mingyu, whether it is in the Path of Array aspect or in the Immortal Path Realm aspect, there is a very noticeable gap between Young Master Lin Xuankong and master Yaan Mingyu!

If master Immortal Lord Luoshui Yaan Mingyu were here, facing a Thirty-Six Tribulation Demon Lord with a Prokaryotic Celestial Demon Array Demon Buddha, undoubtedly would have to exhaust all of their strength to deal with it!

After all, the renown of Thirty-Six Tribulation Demon Lord Purlo, had already spread across the whole Immortal Realm tens of thousands of years ago, such an old fellow surely has countless hidden powerful cards in his hand! As for the Demon Buddha summoned by seventy-six Ninth-Grade Demon Artifact Level Demon Generals, although not considered a true Demon Lord Level power, it's very close!

With such an enemy,

With such a formation,

Even the Strongest Immortal Lords ranked towards the bottom among the twenty-eight Strongest Immortal Lords of the Immortal Realm Human Race, would find it worrisome and difficult to contend with!

How could this Third Grade Realm Earth Immortal, Young Master, relying on ordinary Arrays of the Ninth Realm, manage against it? It's simply less than one percent, one-thousandth of a chance!

Nonetheless, looking at Lin Xuankong with determined eyes in the sky, the White-forehead Qilin's heart couldn't help but rise with a trace of hope!

What if? What if the Young Master has some special means? Let's hope for that!

Chapter 970 How Is This Possible

Upon hearing Lin Xuankong's words and witnessing the performance of the Cyan-forehead Qilin,

even the White-forehead Qilin, who knew Lin Xuankong quite well, thought this way, let alone everyone else!

At this moment, within the Nine-Layered Thousand Cranes Grand Array,

countless Cultivators and Earth Immortals, upon hearing Lin Xuankong's words, felt hardly any ripples in their hearts!

Although these countless Cultivators and Earth Immortals had just witnessed Lin Xuankong giving the Cyan-forehead Qilin as many as three thousand six hundred Immortal Artifacts, this incident made every Cultivator and Earth Immortal look at Lin Xuankong as if they were seeing a monster!

But three thousand six hundred first-grade Immortal Artifacts,

can only represent that this Lin Xuankong possesses extremely terrifying and unparalleled artifact refining skills!

In the eyes of these Cultivators and Earth Immortals, perhaps, given some time for Lin Xuankong to grow, or if Lin Xuankong makes breakthroughs in the Path of Artifact Refining, or given some time to refine more Immortal Artifacts, Lin Xuankong might have a chance to reverse a situation similar to the present!

But now... can a third-grade realm artifact refining master still push back this extremely terrifying Demon Buddha? Can he repel the Thirty-six Tribulation Demon Lord Purlo, who has been renowned for hundreds of thousands of years?

Absolutely impossible!

Utterly impossible!

Almost every Cultivator and Earth Immortal present had these thoughts flashing in their minds.

Even the Sect Leader Li of the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect, who always hoped for Lin Xuankong to grow stronger, now also felt puzzled as to how Lin Xuankong would act, showing a face full of doubt. Of course, he hoped Lin Xuankong could now demonstrate tremendous power and reverse the situation, but Sect Leader Li of the Spiritual Crane Immortal Sect knew that this was merely his wishful thinking, with no possibility at all!

The two True Disciples from the Guangqing Immortal Sect, Guang Ling'Er and Guang Yu'Er, hearing the conversation between Lin Xuankong and the Cyan-forehead Qilin, also shook their heads secretly.

After witnessing Lin Xuankong's three thousand six hundred Immortal Artifacts, these two True Disciples from the Guangqing Immortal Sect certainly no longer doubted Lin Xuankong's strength and understood very well that if they were to compete with Lin Xuankong in terms of strength, they would be absolutely unqualified. Even the thought of the scheduled competition made them feel utterly ashamed!

Yet, as astonishing as Lin Xuankong's strength may be,

and as admirable Lin Xuankong's artifact refining techniques may seem,

Guang Ling'Er and Guang Yu'Er were still very certain that Lin Xuankong, even if he could replicate himself a hundred times, wouldn't be capable of dealing with the terrifying Demon Buddha summoned by the Celestial Demon Array!

Pondering over the wording slightly,

the True Disciple from the Guangqing Immortal Sect, Guang Yu'Er, looked at Lin Xuankong hesitantly and said, "Fellow Daoist Lin's strength truly impresses Yu'Er, and Fellow Daoist Lin's Path of Artifact Refining amazes Yu'Er to the heavens. Since the recorded history of the Immortal Realm, perhaps no artifact refining master could compare with Fellow Daoist Lin!

However, the Demon Buddha summoned by this Celestial Demon Array before us is indeed not something the Array Spirit of the Nine-layered Array can handle!

Even if Fellow Daoist Lin has a few first-grade Immortal Artifacts left in hand, it should still be impossible to deal with this Demon Buddha summoned by the Celestial Demon Array, so why not hold off for now,

and let's think together if we can counter this Demon Buddha's eerie Demon Sound; that should be what we are to do now, what do you think, Fellow Daoist Lin?"

At this moment, this rather proud True Disciple from the Guangqing Immortal Sect, although expressing opposition to Lin Xuankong's decision to make a move, was entirely different from the previous condescending and dismissive attitude towards Lin Xuankong!

This Guang Yu'Er spoke with much courtesy now, even adopting a consultative tone, completely devoid of the former arrogance!

But Lin Xuankong remained unmoved, giving Guang Yu'Er a slight shake of his head, then turned to look at the gigantic Demon Buddha in the sky, while his right hand slowly rested upon a Golden Patterned Ghost Frog Pouch at his waist.

At this moment, the 'Treasure Appearance' Demon Buddha, those enormous eyes, had already fallen upon Lin Xuankong,

staring at Lin Xuankong's eyes filled with fighting spirit, this gigantic Demon Buddha suddenly opened a mouth wide enough to easily accommodate hundreds of mountain peaks, emitting a sound enveloped in eerie magic power that seemed as if seventy-eight Demons were speaking simultaneously,

"Mu Shiba,

when the Holy Son Gang Bone of our Profound Yin Holy Sect sent us seventy-eight Saint Generals,

he had already decreed,

whether dead or alive, you must be taken to return to the Holy Land of the Holy Sect, alive to see the person, dead to see the corpse!

We see in you a talent for artifact refining; possessing thousands of Immortal Artifacts, we are reluctant to destroy your path of artifact refining! After all, from ancient times to today, to grant others thousands of Immortal Artifacts with a wave is perhaps achieved by you alone!

We seventy-eight Saint Generals advise you, why not just kneel and surrender, open the light membrane of the Nine-layered Thousand Cranes Grand Array, and in that way, we will naturally spare your life, treat you with courtesy, and take you back to the Holy Land of the Profound Yin Holy Sect, allowing you to become a figure second only to the Demon Lord! How about this suggestion?"

Hearing these unusually grand and mystical voices, Lin Xuankong's right hand had already reached into a Golden Patterned Ghost Frog Pouch at his waist, showing no intention of replying to the terrifyingly large and eerie Demon Buddha's words.

Seeing Lin Xuankong act thus, the immensely large Demon Buddha's eyes turned slightly before it suddenly spoke again: