

The Order 8681

Chapter: 8681

“We must leave Shepan Mountain as soon as possible. The Red Snake Fairy will catch up soon,” Chen Ping said.

The two of them supported each other as they fled out of Shepan Mountain.

As Chen Ping had predicted, the Red Snake Fairy soon learned of her men’s murder. Furious, she personally led a large group of experts in pursuit.

“Search! Even if we have to dig three feet deep, we’ll find them!”

The Red Snake Fairy’s voice echoed across Shepan Mountain, brimming with fury.

Chen Ping and Hu Mazi struggled to escape through the dense forest, their pursuers closing in on them. The Red Snake Fairy’s presence clung to them like a leech.

“This isn’t a solution. Sooner or later, we’ll be overtaken,” Hu Mazi gasped. “The Red Snake Fairy is too powerful. We’re no match for her.”

Chen Ping frowned. He knew Hu Mazi was right, but he couldn’t think of a better solution.

Just then, a swamp suddenly appeared ahead. Black bubbles rose from the swamp, emitting a pungent stench. It looked extremely dangerous.

“This is... the Rotten Bone Swamp!” Hu Mazi recognized the swamp. “Ancient texts say it’s filled with deadly poisons and traps. Once trapped, one will be corroded into a pile of bones. Even cultivators in the Earthly Immortal Realm dare not approach.”

Chen Ping watched the approaching pursuers, his eyes flashing with determination. “Let’s go this way!”

“Can we go this way?” Hu Mazi was shocked.

“If we don’t leave, we’ll die. Let’s give it a try...” Chen Ping said, and led Hu Mazi towards the swamp!

The black mud of the Rotten Bone Swamp gurgled beneath their feet, the sticky mud like countless cold hands, trying to drag anyone who stepped into it into the abyss.

Chen Ping grasped Hu Mazi’s arm with one hand, and with the other, wielded the Dragon Slaying Sword, slashing at the oncoming poisonous swamp vines. Golden sword energy streaked across the dark swamp sky.

“Watch your step!”

Chen Ping suddenly shouted, dragging Hu Mazi to the left.

The place where the two had just stood collapsed instantly, and several rows of sharp white bones surged out of the black mud. If they were half a second slower, their chests would have been pierced by now.

Hu Mazi was still panting in shock, and the wound on his chest split again under the intense exercise. Blood dripped into the mud, instantly attracting a group of black insects the size of a fingernail.

Those insects gnawed the blood at a speed visible to the naked eye, and even the surrounding mud was gnawed into small pits.

“This ghost place is too weird!”

Hu Mazi wiped the mud off his face, and his voice was crying, “The Red Snake Fairy and the others won’t chase us in, right?”

Before he finished speaking, the Red Snake Fairy’s cold scolding came from behind: “A bunch of trash! Can’t even stop two seriously injured people? Chase them! They can’t run far!”

Chen Ping looked back and saw dozens of shadowy figures standing at the edge of the swamp. The red robe of the Red Snake Fairy was particularly eye-catching in the dim light. His heart sank. He hadn't expected the other party to actually venture into the Rotten Bone Swamp.

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"Looks like we need to go deeper."

Chen Ping gritted his teeth, pulled out his two remaining anti-poison pills from his storage bag, and thrust one into Hu Mazi's mouth. "Hold it in your mouth; it'll block some of the poison."

Chen Ping was immune to all poisons, so he didn't need any anti-poison pills.

The two men trudged through the swamp, one foot deep, one foot shallow. The deeper they went, the stronger the stench of poison grew, and even the anti-poison pills couldn't fully resist it.

Chen Ping felt a sharp pain in his sea of consciousness, and his Concentration Heart Technique began to stagnate. His sixth-grade Sanxian realm cultivation could only exert 80% of its power in such harsh conditions.

Suddenly, a large cloud of pale purple bubbles emerged from the mud ahead, and a more refined toxin spread.

Hu Mazi inhaled a breath, his face instantly turning purple. He coughed and fell to his knees in the mud.

"Master Hu!"

Chen Ping hurriedly turned around to help him up, only to discover that Hu Mazi's lips had begun to fester.

Anxious, he was about to channel his spiritual energy to help when he caught a glimpse of something glimmering in the mud.

It was a snow-white lotus, growing on a black rock emerging from the mud.

A faint white light lingered around the lotus, shielding it from the surrounding poisonous auras. Even the black insects that gnawed at his flesh dared not approach.

“Is that... the Purifying Green Lotus?”

Chen Ping’s mind flashed back to ancient texts. This rare flower was said to purify all poisons and was miraculously effective in helping cultivators achieve breakthroughs.

Without giving it time to ponder, he carried Hu Mazi on his back and waded through the mud, carefully plucking the green lotus.

The green lotus felt warm to the touch, and the moment it touched the surrounding poisonous auras quickly dissipated as if they had found their nemesis.

Chen Ping tore off half of the green lotus petal and stuffed it into Hu Mazi’s mouth, chewing and swallowing the other half himself.

A cool breeze flowed down his throat and into his dantian, instantly energizing his previously stagnant spiritual energy.

Chen Ping felt the stinging sensation in his sea of consciousness disappear, and every pore in his body greedily absorbed the pure energy emanating from the green lotus.

Even more pleasantly, the bottleneck of the sixth-grade Loose Immortal Realm that had troubled him for so long was actually beginning to loosen!

“Boom...”

A muffled thunderous roar echoed within Chen Ping’s body, and the barrier of the sixth-grade Loose Immortal Realm appeared like a dam struck by a flood, cracks appearing one after another.

He quickly sat down cross-legged, channeling this sudden surge of energy to surge through his realm.

Hu Mazi, also recovering from the effects of the green lotus, looked at the golden aura surrounding Chen Ping, his eyes filled with shock: "This... Is this a breakthrough?"

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Just then, the Red Snake Fairy arrived with her pursuers. Seeing Chen Ping breaking through the realm, she showed a ferocious smile on her face: "God really helps me! Today, let the two of you die in this rotten bone swamp!"

Several red whip shadows lashed at Chen Ping like poisonous snakes. Hu Mazi rushed over without thinking and blocked Chen Ping with his body.

Just when the whip shadow was about to hit him, Chen Ping suddenly opened his eyes, and the momentum of the seventh level of the scattered fairyland burst out like a tsunami!

"Get out!"

Chen Ping shouted angrily, and the golden sword energy formed a circular barrier, shattering all the whip shadows of the Red Snake Fairy.

He flashed and appeared in front of the Red Snake Fairy. The Dragon Slaying Sword pierced her heart with the power of breaking through the void.

The Red Snake Fairy was shocked. She didn't expect Chen Ping to break through the realm in such an environment, and his strength improved so quickly.

In a hurry, she could only use her life magic weapon, the Red Snake Shield, to resist, but she was shocked by the sword energy and retreated again and again, with blood flowing from the corner of her mouth.

"You... How could your realm be advancing so quickly?" The Red Snake Fairy was both shocked and furious.

Who could break through a realm so quickly?

Even breaking through a minor realm requires time and sufficient safe space.

Chen Ping, in such an environment, had broken through in the blink of an eye. It was outrageous.

Chen Ping didn't answer, but simply looked at her coldly.

His seventh-rank Loose Immortal Realm strength gave him a surge of confidence. His spiritual energy flowed freely, and the energy of the Pure World Azure Lotus continued to nourish his meridians.

He could sense that his current strength was enough to rival a fourth-rank Earth Immortal Realm cultivator.

"This is a tough call! Retreat!"

Knowing the situation was hopeless, the Red Snake Fairy immediately ordered a retreat.

She gave Chen Ping a reluctant look, then turned and disappeared into the depths of the swamp with her men.

Watching the pursuers leave, Chen Ping finally breathed a sigh of relief and sat down on the black rock.

Hu Mazi hurried forward to support him: "Are you okay?"

"Nothing."

Chen Ping smiled and shook his head, feeling the surging power in his body, "Thanks to this Pure World Green Lotus, it not only detoxifies, but also helps me break through the realm."

He stood up and looked deeper into the swamp: "It's not advisable to stay here for long, let's get through the Rotten Bone Swamp as soon as possible."

After a short rest, the two continued on their way. With the energy blessing of the Pure World Green Lotus, they moved much faster in the swamp.

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On the way, they encountered several dangerous traps and poisons, but they were all saved under the crushing power of Chen Ping.

After several hours, Chen Ping and Hu Mazi finally saw the exit of the Rotten Bone Swamp.

It was a dense forest. Unlike the gloomy and terrifying swamp, it was sunny and full of vitality.

"We are out!" Hu Mazi shouted excitedly and ran towards the forest.

Chen Ping also breathed a sigh of relief and was about to follow when he noticed something glittering in the mud at the edge of the Rotten Bone Swamp.

Curious, he walked over and discovered it was a palm-sized black token, engraved with a strange skull pattern.

"Is this... the token of the Evil Path Hall?"

Chen Ping frowned. He had seen similar tokens in the Third Heaven. Could someone from the Evil Path Hall have been here as well?

He put the token away, a sense of unease rising in his heart.

He wondered if the Hu family's demise was related to the Evil Path Hall, and the matter seemed more complicated than he had imagined.

"Chen Ping, hurry!"

Hu Mazi urged from within the forest.

"Coming!"

Chen Ping responded and turned to walk into the forest, knowing that the journey ahead would be even more difficult.

Chen Ping and Hu Mazi rested in the forest for several days, using the remaining energy from the Pure World Green Lotus to recuperate.

Chen Ping's seventh-grade Loose Immortal Realm had been completely stabilized, and Hu Mazi's injuries had nearly healed.

That day, the two were preparing to leave the forest and head deep into Jiupan Mountain to gather information when they were stopped by a group of uninvited guests.

Leading them was a one-eyed cultivator with a hideous scar across his face, exuding the aura of a third-grade Earth Immortal Realm cultivator.

He was followed by a dozen cultivators, each with a powerful aura, clearly the elite of a major sect.

"Are you Chen Ping and Hu Mazi?"

The one-eyed cultivator asked coldly, his eyes gleaming with greed.

Chen Ping frowned slightly. "We're strangers to you, sir. Why are you blocking my path?"

"We're strangers?"

The one-eyed monk scoffed. "Everyone in Jiupan Mountain knows that capturing you two would earn you a double bounty from both the Black Demon Palace and the Red Snake Sect. Especially you, Chen Ping. I've heard you have quite a few treasures, and today is the perfect opportunity for me to take them."

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Chen Ping's heart sank. He hadn't expected news of them to spread so quickly.

It seemed the Red Snake Fairy and the Black Demon Palace had jointly issued a hunt, intent on putting them to death.

"You're the only ones?" Chen Ping sneered, the Dragon Slaying Sword trembling in his hand, as if it couldn't wait to drink blood.

"Arrogant!" the one-eyed monk roared. "Come on! Live or die!"

More than a dozen monks immediately rushed forward, their various magical weapons gleaming with light, obscuring the sunlight.

Chen Ping protected Hu Mazi behind him and unsheathed his Dragon Slaying Sword. The golden sword energy surged, instantly slicing the two cultivators charging in front in half.

"Seventh-rank Loose Immortal Realm cultivator? How is that possible!"

The one-eyed cultivator exclaimed in shock, his face filled with disbelief.

He had been informed that Chen Ping was only at the sixth rank of the Loose Immortal Realm, which was why he had dared to lead his men to ambush him. He hadn't expected that in just a few days, his opponent's strength had increased, even surpassing his level.

Hu Mazi also produced several talismans and engaged in a battle with several cultivators of lower cultivation.

Although he was only at the first rank of the Earth Immortal Realm, his extensive combat experience allowed him to hold his own for a while.

Hu Mazi's strength was also slowly recovering and increasing. Once he fully awakened, these cultivators would be annihilated with a single blow.

Chen Ping's opponents were the one-eyed cultivator and three other third-rank Earth Immortal Realm cultivators.

He wielded the Dragon Slaying Sword with masterful precision, his golden sword energy pouring down like a violent storm, forcing the four men to retreat.

"That's too tough! Retreat!"

The one-eyed monk, sensing the situation, decisively ordered a retreat.

He knew the four Third-Rank Earth Immortals were no match for him, and there was no way they could stop Chen Ping.

They might all perish in this place soon.

Seeing the men trying to escape, how could Chen Ping let them go?

He flashed, catching up with the one-eyed monk like a ghost, slashing with the Dragon Slaying Sword.

The one-eyed monk screamed in agony as his arm was severed, blood spurting out.

The other monks, terrified by the sight, dared not linger and fled in all directions.

Chen Ping didn't kill them all, knowing it was best not to make too many enemies now.

"What a shame they escaped," Hu Mazi said with some regret.

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"The monk may escape, but the temple cannot."

Chen Ping's eyes were icy. "They'll definitely report back, and our situation will become even more difficult."

Just as Chen Ping had predicted, within half a day, they were ambushed by three waves of cultivators.

These cultivators came from different factions, clearly all after the bounty.

Chen Ping and Hu Mazi fought and retreated. Although Chen Ping's increased strength enabled them to escape danger each time, it also consumed a significant amount of spiritual energy, leaving them exhausted.

"This isn't a solution,"

Hu Mazi panted. "There are too many forces in Jiupan Mountain. If this continues, we'll be exhausted sooner or later."

Chen Ping was also pondering a countermeasure.

He knew he had to find a place to hide temporarily, otherwise he would be unable to continue his investigation into the Hu family's demise.

Just then, a vast valley appeared ahead.

Mist shrouded the valley's entrance, faintly revealing the remains of ancient buildings.

"Is that... Luoxian Valley?"

Hu Mazi's eyes flashed with surprise. "It's said that it was a battlefield for ancient cultivators, riddled with restrictions and traps. Even the major forces of Jiupan Mountain dare not venture there."

Chen Ping's eyes lit up. "This is exactly the place we need!"

The two men exchanged glances and, without hesitation, charged into Luoxian Valley.

The pursuers behind them halted upon seeing them enter Luoxian Valley, and no one dared to pursue them.

The air around them suddenly grew heavy.

The remains of ancient buildings loomed in the mist, and the ground was littered with rusted weapons and bones, exuding a sinister and eerie atmosphere.

"This place is truly extraordinary."

Chen Ping carefully surveyed his surroundings. "We must proceed with caution and avoid provoking any restrictions."

Hu Mazi nodded, gripping his long sword tightly.

He could sense a terrifying power hidden within this valley, poised to awaken at any moment.

The two men trudged forward through Luoxian Valley, avoiding obvious traps and restrictions.

On the way, they discovered the skeletons of ancient cultivators. Judging from their appearance, they knew a devastating battle had taken place here.

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“Chen Ping, what’s that?” Hu Mazi suddenly asked, pointing to a dilapidated stone tablet ahead.

Chen Ping approached and saw only faint inscriptions on the tablet.

He scrutinized it for a long time before he could barely make out a few words: “Fifth Heaven... Passage... Open...”

“Fifth Heaven Passage?” Chen Ping’s heart raced with fear. Could it be that this Luoxian Valley actually concealed a passage to the Fifth Heaven? Just then, a violent energy surge erupted from the distance, evidently signaling someone had intruded into Fallen Immortal Valley.

Chen Ping’s expression changed, and he pulled Hu Mazi behind a large rock.

A group of cultivators cautiously approached, led by none other than the Black Demon Palace’s Youyue Witch and the Red Snake Fairy.

They were followed by dozens of Earthly Immortal Realm cultivators, clearly a combined power of two powerful factions.

“How dare they enter?” Hu Mazi whispered in surprise.

Chen Ping frowned. "It seems they've stopped at nothing to kill us."

He noticed that both Youyue Witch and the Red Snake Fairy held jade pendants in their hands. These jade pendants emitted a faint glow, seemingly capable of resisting the restrictions within Fallen Immortal Valley.

"Sister Youyue, are you sure they've entered Fallen Immortal Valley?"

The Red Snake Fairy asked uneasily, clearly wary of the surroundings.

The Phantom Moon Witch sneered, "My tracking talisman can't be wrong. As long as I kill that little bastard Chen Ping and the remnants of the Hu clan, I'll receive a reward from the Fifth Heaven master. What's the point of this little risk?"

A glint of greed flashed in the Red Snake Fairy's eyes. "I hope what you say is true."

The troops of the two major forces continued to advance deeper into Falling Immortal Valley, quickly disappearing into the mist.

Chen Ping and Hu Mazi emerged from behind the rocks, both with solemn expressions on their faces.

"It looks like we're in big trouble," Chen Ping said gravely. "They actually know about the Fifth Heaven, and seem to have the support of a powerful figure there."

Hu Mazi's expression darkened. "So, the demise of my Hu clan is very likely related to the forces of the Fifth Heaven?"

Chen Ping nodded. "It's becoming increasingly likely. We must uncover the truth as soon as possible, otherwise not only us, but the entire Fourth Heaven will be in danger."

Not wanting to waste any time, the two continued their journey deeper into Falling Immortal Valley. They knew the journey ahead would be even more difficult, but for the sake of the Hu family's injustice and the hidden truths, they had to continue.

Deep in Luoxian Valley, the fog grew thicker, severely restricting even their spiritual senses.

Chen Ping and Hu Mazi advanced cautiously, constantly alert to their surroundings.

Suddenly, footsteps echoed through the fog ahead.

Chen Ping immediately signaled Hu Mazi to stop, and the two of them, holding their breath, hid behind an ancient tree.

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A group of cultivators approached, led by a burly man exuding the aura of a fourth-grade Earth Immortal.

The cultivators following him each possessed a powerful aura, clearly representing a powerful faction.

"Boss, we've been searching for so long, and haven't seen a single soul. Could the intelligence be wrong?" a tall, thin cultivator asked.

The burly man snorted coldly, "Impossible! The Black Demon Palace and the Red Snake Sect have both confirmed that Chen Ping is in Luoxian Valley. If we capture him, we'll earn the favor of the Fifth Heaven Realm master, and then all of Jiupan Mountain will be ours!"

The other cultivators suddenly flashed with excitement, and their search intensified.

Chen Ping and Hu Mazi hid behind an ancient tree, barely daring to breathe.

They hadn't expected so many forces to pursue them, and it seemed their goal wasn't just the bounty, but also the Fifth Heaven Realm's favor.

"What should we do?" Hu Mazi asked nervously.

Chen Ping frowned, knowing that with their current strength, they couldn't possibly fight so many powerful warriors at once.

Just then, the burly man seemed to sense something and approached their hiding place, "Who's there? Come out!"

Chen Ping and Hu Mazi's hearts tensed, realizing they had been exposed.

Chen Ping's eyes darkened, and he was about to make a desperate stand when the ground suddenly shook violently.

In the distance, a massive mountain collapsed with a thud, and a terrifying aura erupted from the ground.

The entire Luoxian Valley shook, and ancient restrictions were activated, sending dazzling rays of light shooting into the sky.

"Oh no! We've triggered the core restriction of Luoxian Valley!" The burly man's face changed drastically. "Retreat!"

The group of cultivators panicked and fled, but several were swallowed by the sudden appearance of spatial rifts.

The forces of the Phantom Moon Witch and the Scarlet Snake Fairy were also affected, and many perished.

Chen Ping and Hu Mazi were also stunned by this sudden change.

They hadn't expected the restrictions of Luoxian Valley to be so terrifying.

"Hurry!" Chen Ping reacted and pulled Hu Mazi deeper into the valley.

He knew this was their only chance.

The two struggled forward in the chaos, as spatial rifts continued to appear around them, and the remains of ancient buildings collapsed one after another.

They nearly got sucked into the rift several times, but Chen Ping's quick reaction narrowed their escape.

After running for an unknown amount of time, the tremors around them finally subsided.

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Chen Ping and Hu Mazi collapsed on the ground, gasping for breath.

"We...we survived?" Hu Mazi exclaimed in disbelief.

Chen Ping nodded and looked around, realizing they had arrived in an unfamiliar place.

There were no clouds or ancient ruins, only a massive altar, its perimeter engraved with mysterious runes.

"What...is this place?" Hu Mazi surveyed the altar curiously.

Chen Ping walked over to the altar, carefully examining the runes.

Suddenly, his gaze was drawn to a stone tablet in the center of the altar. Inscribed on the tablet was the path to the Fifth Heaven!

“So that’s how it is...”

Chen Ping suddenly realized, “There is indeed a passage to the Fifth Heaven in Luoxian Valley, but the method to open it is to activate the core restriction here.

No wonder those forces dared to risk entering Luoxian Valley. Their target isn’t us at all, but the passage to the Fifth Heaven!”

Hu Mazi also understood, his expression turning extremely grim. “So, we were used as bait from the very beginning?”

Chen Ping nodded. “Very likely. The Phantom Moon Witch and the Scarlet Snake Fairy must have known how to open the passage long ago. They deliberately issued a killing order to lure the major forces into Luoxian Valley and use our blood to activate the core restriction.”

At that moment, the runes surrounding the altar suddenly lit up, and a massive spatial rift slowly opened above the altar, emitting the unique aura of the Fifth Heaven.

“The passage... The passage is open!” Hu Mazi said excitedly.

Chen Ping frowned. He sensed several powerful auras rapidly approaching.

Clearly, the Phantom Moon Witch and the Scarlet Snake Fairy had also arrived.

“Let’s go!”

Chen Ping acted decisively, pulling Hu Mazi along and leaping into the spatial rift.

He knew that only by reaching the Fifth Heaven could they escape their pursuers and uncover the truth behind the Hu family's demise.

The moment they entered the spatial rift, the Phantom Moon Witch and the Scarlet Snake Fairy arrived.

Seeing the passage open, both of them beamed with ecstasy, and without hesitation, they leaped in.

The spatial rift slowly closed, and Luoxian Valley returned to its peaceful state, as if nothing had happened.

Only the scattered bones and broken ruins spoke of what had happened here.

In the Fifth Heaven, above a mountain range called Black Wind Ridge, space distorted, and Chen Ping and Hu Mazi tumbled out in a panic.

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"Cough, cough..."

The two men fell heavily to the ground, coughing uncontrollably.

The spiritual energy of the Fifth Heaven was several times richer than that of the Fourth Heaven, making it difficult for them to adjust.

"Is this the Fifth Heaven?" Hu Mazi surveyed the surroundings curiously.

The mountains of Black Wind Ridge were even more majestic than those of the Fourth Heaven. The sky was a faint purple, and the air was thick with rich spiritual energy.

Chen Ping nodded, feeling his spiritual power rapidly recovering under the nourishment of the Fifth Heaven's spiritual energy. "Yes, this is the Fifth Heaven. But we must leave here as soon as possible. Who knows if the Phantom Moon Witch and the others will catch up?"

As the two men stood up, they suddenly felt a powerful aura locking onto them.

Chen Ping's face changed, and he pulled Hu Mazi away, attempting to flee, but was stopped by a golden light.

A tall, middle-aged cultivator appeared before them. He stood at least two meters tall, with a broad build and a scar across his face. He exuded the terrifying aura of a fifth-level Earthly Immortal.

"Are you from the Fourth Heaven?"

The middle-aged cultivator asked coldly, his eyes gleaming with a malicious glint.

Chen Ping's heart sank. He hadn't expected to encounter a formidable opponent so soon after reaching the Fifth Heaven.

He gripped the Dragon Slaying Sword tightly in his hand and eyed the other man warily: "Who are you? Why are you blocking my path?"

The middle-aged cultivator scoffed: "No one in Black Wind Ridge has ever dared to speak to me like that.

I am the Lord of Black Wind Ridge, Taoist Black Bear. You two look unfamiliar. I bet you're just newcomers from the Fourth Heaven. It just so happens that I'm short of two servants, so I've chosen you."

"And you, a cultivator from the Loose Immortal Realm, have reached the Fifth Heaven. You must have some extraordinary qualities. Be my servant, and no one will dare bully you."

Taoist Black Bear declared with a boastful air.

Hu Mazi roared, "You're dreaming! We're not pushovers!"

"Be your servant?" Chen Ping snorted. "Even if you become my servant, I'd still despise your lack of strength. A mere Fifth-Rank Earth Immortal Realm cultivator is nothing!"

Chen Ping wasn't bragging. On that ladder to heaven, the people he rescued, Nan Batian, Li Chunfeng, Shen Zhiyan, Musha, and others, were all far more powerful than this Black Bear Taoist!

These people had all agreed to serve Chen Ping for hundreds of years.

"Oh? So boastful?" Black Bear Taoist smiled grimly. "Then don't blame me for being rude!"

He flashed, and his massive fist slammed down at Chen Ping with a whistling sound that tore through the air.

The aura of a Fifth-Rank Earth Immortal Realm cultivator descended upon him like a mountain, making Chen Ping's breathing difficult.