

The Order 9371

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Then, the restrictive power on each floor surged and began actively attacking us, the suppressed ones.

This black energy is the manifestation of the sealing power; it's devouring our strength!"

"An ancient will?"

Chen Ping's heart sank. "Is it the spirit of the Demon-Suppressing Tower? Or...something from a higher level?"

Just then, at the stairwell leading to the fourth floor, space distorted, and a sinister voice echoed: "Heh heh, little Azure Dragon girl is right.

Golden Dragon boy, you shouldn't have come again. But since you're here, leave your Golden Dragon bloodline behind!"

Before the words were finished, a black dragon breath, condensed to the point of being tangible, carrying a terrifying power capable of corroding everything and freezing the soul, suddenly erupted from the stairwell, striking Chen Ping directly in the back! The attack came with extreme suddenness and ruthlessness, its timing impeccable. It struck just as Chen Ping, focused entirely on healing Cen Biqing, was momentarily distracted!

"Watch out!"

Cen Biqing cried out in alarm.

Chen Ping reacted swiftly, shoving Cen Biqing towards a safe corner. Simultaneously, he turned, his Dragon-Slaying Sword held horizontally in front of him, instantly activating the Five Elements Shield!

Boom!

The black dragon breath slammed into the Five Elements Shield, unleashing a violent explosion! Chen Ping shuddered violently, the shield flickering, and he was propelled backward several feet by the immense force. A sweet taste rose in his throat, and he nearly vomited blood.

The dark power contained within the dragon breath was actually trying to erode his meridians through the shield!

“Who is it?”

Chen Ping’s gaze turned icy as he looked towards the stairwell.

There, black light converged, condensing into a small but jet-black dragon shadow, its scales shimmering with metallic luster, its eyes bloodshot and filled with savage fury. It wasn’t a physical entity, but rather a condensation of pure demonic energy and a dragon’s soul!

“A demonic dragon?”

Chen Ping’s pupils contracted.

This was a mutated branch of the dragon race, fallen into demonic ways, cruel and savage, taking pleasure in devouring the bloodlines of other dragons.

“Tsk tsk, as expected of the Golden Dragon bloodline, truly potent.”

The demonic dragon soul licked its lips, its greed intensifying. “I’ve been imprisoned in this dark, sunless tower for countless years, and today I can finally have some meat! If I eat you, perhaps I can break through this damned seal!”

It turned out that this demonic dragon soul was also suppressed within the Demon-Suppressing Tower. Sensing Chen Ping’s golden dragon aura, it didn’t hesitate to expend its soul essence, forcibly breaking through some of the restrictions to launch a sneak attack!

“Want to eat me? I’m afraid you don’t have the teeth!”

Chen Ping suppressed his surging blood and qi, pointing his Dragon-Slaying Sword at the demonic dragon soul, his fighting spirit rising.

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He realized that this rescue mission was far more dangerous than he had imagined!

This Demon-Suppressing Tower not only houses prisoners, but also this malevolent being!

The Demonic Dragon Soul roared, uttering no more words, transforming into a black lightning bolt and lunging at Chen Ping!

It was incredibly fast, its claws tearing through the air with a piercing shriek.

Chen Ping swung his sword to meet it, golden light clashing fiercely with black energy!

Clang! Clang! Clang! Clang!

Instantly, the roars of dragons and the howls of swords echoed throughout the third floor, golden light and black energy constantly intertwining and exploding, turning the entire space upside down.

Cen Biqing watched in horror, unable to help, only able to focus on defending against the black energy within her.

Although this Demonic Dragon Soul was merely a soul, its strength was extremely formidable, at least equivalent to a third-grade Celestial Immortal!

Moreover, it was highly experienced in combat, its moves ruthless and cunning, specifically targeting Chen Ping’s vital points and soul.

Chen Ping used his sword intent, the power of the Five Elements, and time-slowing techniques to their fullest extent, barely managing to contend with it. However, since the opponent was a spirit, physical attacks were far less effective, and its demonic dragon breath posed a significant threat to Chen Ping's soul.

"Boy, this won't do! Its core is that demonic dragon soul crystal, located between its brows! Find a way to attack there!" the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord warned.

Chen Ping also noticed this. He deliberately created an opening, and the demonic dragon soul fell for it, its claw reaching for Chen Ping's wide-open chest.

"Now!"

Chen Ping's eyes flashed with a sharp light, and the Law of Time activated!

The demonic dragon soul's movements instantly slowed by a fraction of a second!

At the same time, the Great Luo Golden Scripture in Chen Ping's sea of consciousness seemed to sense the demonic soul's threat, trembling slightly and emitting a vast, pure Yang aura!

"Soul Impact, Slash!"

Chen Ping seized the opportunity, merging the pure Yang aura emanating from the Great Luo Golden Scripture into his own consciousness, transforming it into an invisible golden sword, which followed the demonic dragon soul's claw, piercing straight for the soul crystal between its brows!

"Ah—!"

The Demonic Dragon Soul let out a piercing scream! The pure Yang energy was extremely damaging to its kind!

The soul crystal between its brows flickered violently, the black energy dissipated, and its entire soul body became somewhat transparent.

“Strike while the iron is hot!”

Chen Ping showed no mercy, unleashing the strongest sword intent from the Dragon-Slaying Sword, a “Golden Dragon Rifts the Sky” strike aimed squarely at the Demonic Dragon Soul’s neck!

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Swoosh—!

This time, the sword intent directly tore the soul body apart!

The Demonic Dragon Soul let out a mournful howl of despair, its soul body completely collapsing, transforming into pure soul energy. Most of it was absorbed by the Demon-Suppressing Tower, with only a small portion automatically absorbed by the dragon crystal on Chen Ping’s chest.

The battle ended, and Chen Ping was also greatly exhausted, panting heavily.

He looked at the stairs leading to the fourth floor; the light from the protective barrier there seemed to have weakened somewhat due to the impact and death of the Demonic Dragon Soul.

“Mr. Chen, are you alright?”

Cen Biqing asked with concern.

“It’s alright.”

Chen Ping paused to catch his breath, then walked to the stairs. “Let’s go up and find Old Hei!”

Stepping onto the fourth floor, the scene before him made Chen Ping gasp.

The fourth floor was much more spacious than the lower floors, but at this moment it resembled a battlefield of carnage!

Old Hei was in an extremely abnormal state.

His eyes were bloodshot, and his body was shrouded in black demonic energy of the same origin as the previous demonic dragon soul, frantically attacking the surrounding void.

His scales were damaged in many places, flowing with black blood, and his aura was violent and unstable.

In the center of the space, the “treasures” that had previously radiated precious light had vanished, replaced by chains burning with black flames extending from the void.

These chains, like venomous snakes, constantly lashed and coiled around Old Hei. Each strike intensified the demonic energy on his body, causing him to roar in pain.

“Old Hei! Wake up!”

Cen Biqing shouted anxiously upon seeing this. However, the berserk Old Black wouldn't listen to a word, instead fixing his bloodshot eyes on Chen Ping and Cen Biqing!

“Roar! I'll kill you! I'll devour you!”

Old Black roared, charging forward like a mad bull, enveloped in overwhelming demonic energy!

His strength was already formidable, but now, possessed by demonic power, his power surged even further, seemingly reaching the Celestial Immortal realm!

“He's been corrupted by the demonic energy and these chains!” Chen Ping instantly realized.

This fourth floor was nothing but a trap, amplifying inner evil and luring people into demonic possession! Those so-called “treasures” were just bait!

Old Black’s mind was relatively simple, making him easier to exploit!

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Faced with the frenzied Old Black charging at him, Chen Ping couldn’t kill him; he could only passively defend and parry.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Old Black’s fists crashed down like meteorites, each strike containing the power to shatter mountains and split the earth.

Chen Ping, relying on his exquisite movement and sword intent, maneuvered around the enemy. The Dragon-Slaying Sword clashed with Old Hei’s fist, producing a deafening metallic clang.

Chen Ping’s blood surged from the impact, and his hands split open.

Killing Old Hei would be easy for Chen Ping, but controlling him without harming him was a different story.

Chen Ping, hesitant and timid, retreated repeatedly.

“Mr. Chen, this won’t do! We must awaken him!”

Cen Biqing attempted to soothe him with the Azure Dragon’s Voice, but the sound waves were easily repelled by the demonic energy surrounding Old Hei.

“I know!”

Chen Ping struggled to defend himself while observing.

He discovered that the black flame chains were the key!

They weren't just attacking Old Hei; they were also continuously injecting demonic energy into his body!

“These chains must be severed first!”

Chen Ping's eyes sharpened. He abruptly unleashed all the sword intent within him, transforming himself into a drawn sword!

“Slash!”

An extremely condensed, thread-like sword aura, seemingly capable of cleaving yin and yang, shot out. Its target wasn't Old Hei, but the black chains connecting his body!

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Where the sword aura passed, several chains snapped instantly! The broken chains emitted a sharp hiss, dissipating into black mist.

With the chains broken, Old Hei's body shuddered violently. The crimson in his eyes faded slightly, and his movements faltered for a moment.

“Now!”

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Seizing the opportunity, Chen Ping swiftly moved closer, placing his palm on Old Hei's forehead. The pure, regal golden dragon primordial energy surged unreservedly into Old Hei's sea of consciousness!

"Old Black! Wake up! You are a noble black dragon, how can you be controlled by demonic thoughts!"

The golden dragon energy melted snow like the blazing sun, rapidly purifying the demonic energy in Old Black's sea of consciousness. Old Black let out a painful roar, his body trembling violently, but the crimson in his eyes was quickly receding.

A moment later, Old Black's massive body shuddered violently, vomiting a large mouthful of foul-smelling black blood. The madness in his eyes finally vanished completely, and clarity returned.

"Mr...Mr. Chen...I..." Old Black looked at Chen Ping and his disheveled state, his face filled with lingering fear and guilt.

"It's alright."

Chen Ping withdrew his hand, his face somewhat pale. The continuous high-intensity battle and exhaustion had left him feeling somewhat strained.

Having rescued Old Black, Chen Ping didn't dare delay and immediately went to the stairs leading to the fifth floor.

The protective barrier here was incredibly thick, the runes flowing on it like living tadpoles, emitting a chilling spatial repulsion force.

"That pseudo-dragon clan member on the fifth floor is incredibly cunning; he ambushed us last time," Chen Ping said in a deep voice.

"Let's attack together!"

Old Hei, having recovered, was filled with fighting spirit.

Chen Ping, Cen Biqing, and Old Hei stood in a triangular formation.

Chen Ping circulated his Five Elements Origin and sword intent, Cen Biqing activated the Azure Dragon Power, and Old Hei unleashed the Black Dragon's brute force.

"Attack!"

The three attacked simultaneously! A five-colored sword aura, a blue dragon breath, and a black shockwave slammed into the barrier's protective light screen on the fifth floor!

Boom—!

The entire Demon Suppression Tower shook violently! The barrier's protective light screen flickered wildly, its runes flashing and cracking, yet it stubbornly remained unbroken!

"Not enough!"

Chen Ping gritted his teeth.

He could feel that this barrier was connected to the core of the entire tower, its power flowing continuously.

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"Boy, use your blood!" the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord suddenly shouted. "Your Golden Dragon bloodline is the supreme among all dragons, possessing a natural suppressive power against this tower specifically designed to suppress dragons! Use your blood as a catalyst, force a resonance!"

Upon hearing this, Chen Ping unhesitatingly slashed his palm with his Dragon-Slaying Sword, spilling golden blood imbued with the pure essence of the Golden Dragon onto the barrier's protective light screen!

Sizzle—!

The blood, upon contact with the light screen, reacted like cold water dripping into hot oil, instantly boiling!

The runes on the light screen seemed to have encountered their nemesis; their light dimmed rapidly, and the sturdy barrier became as unstable as ripples on water.

“Now! Combine your strength, break!”

Chen Ping roared, and the three of them unleashed their strongest attack once more, concentrating their strikes on the blood-stained area!

Crack!

A sound like shattering glass rang out! The barrier’s protective light screen on the fifth floor was finally forcibly blasted open!

“Go!”

Chen Ping took the lead, rushing into the fifth floor. Cen Biqing and Lao Hei followed closely behind.

The fifth floor was not a simple hall, but a constantly shifting, layered spatial maze!

Countless smooth, mirror-like walls stood, moved, disappeared, and reappeared, reflecting countless images of Chen Ping and his companions, making it dizzying and disorienting.

Distorted light and chaotic spatial fluctuations permeated the space.

“Hehe, hehe... Here we go again? And with two helpers?”

The childlike voice came from all directions, its source impossible to pinpoint.

“You cowardly coward, show yourself!”

Lao Hei roared, punching a wall.

Boom!

The wall shattered, but new walls immediately sprang up behind it, seemingly endless.

“Useless, Lao Hei.”

Chen Ping’s Heavenly Eye scanned the maze, trying to decipher its patterns, but the spatial laws it contained were extremely profound, difficult to unravel in a short time.

“This is my territory! You can play around as long as you want, until you die!”

The voice was full of mockery.

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Suddenly, countless distorted beams of light shot out simultaneously from the mirrored walls around them. These beams contained chaotic and disintegrating power, striking the three from all sorts of tricky angles!

The three immediately stood back to back, each using their own methods to defend themselves. Chen Ping’s sword intent surged, annihilating the beams;

Cen Biqing’s dragon breath swirled around her, forming a shield; Old Hei, with his thick skin and tough flesh, withstood the attacks.

But the beams of light were endless, and as the maze shifted, the attacks became increasingly dense, and the angles increasingly bizarre.

“We can’t just passively take this beating!”

Chen Ping’s mind raced, recalling the spatial insights he had gained in the fourth-floor alternate dimension, and the essence of the Demon-Suppressing Tower—it was formed from the natal demon core of a demon race grand lord, its core being the laws of space!

“I understand!”

A flash of realization struck Chen Ping. “This maze isn’t invincible! It has a core node! Find it, and we can break the deadlock!”

He stopped blindly attacking the walls and instead combined his divine sense with his Heavenly Eye, focusing all his energy on perceiving the flow of spatial energy throughout the maze.

He abandoned visual interference, relying solely on spatial perception to “see.”

A moment later, he suddenly opened his eyes, his Dragon-Slaying Sword pointing to a seemingly ordinary, constantly moving corner of the maze!

“There! Attack that point!”

Although Cen Biqing and Lao Hei didn’t understand, they trusted Chen Ping implicitly and immediately changed direction, attacking the point Chen Ping pointed to with all their might!

Boom!

The combined attack of the three of them precisely struck the spatial node!

The entire spatial maze shuddered violently, all the moving walls instantly stopped, then shattered and vanished like phantoms!

The true appearance of the fifth floor was revealed—a not-so-spacious stone chamber.

In the center of the stone chamber squatted a boy dressed in a floral shirt, with a topknot, who looked no more than seven or eight years old.

But the boy's eyes were filled with a world-weariness and cunning. His face was pale, and a trickle of blood escaped from the corner of his mouth; clearly, the destruction of the spatial maze had caused him a backlash.

“You...how could you possibly find my spatial node?”

The boy, a cultivator of the pseudo-dragon lineage, stared at Chen Ping in disbelief.

“Your understanding of spatial principles is still far from sufficient,” Chen Ping said coldly, pointing his Dragon-Slaying Sword at him. “Now, can we talk properly? Or do you want to follow in the footsteps of that demonic dragon soul?”

Sensing the sharp sword intent and pure golden dragon pressure emanating from Chen Ping, the pseudo-dragon boy's arrogance vanished instantly, replaced by fear.

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He could sense that this golden dragon's son was completely different from the one he had seen last time; his strength and methods had undergone a dramatic transformation.

Under Chen Ping's military intimidation and the natural pressure of his golden dragon bloodline, the pseudo-dragon child—who called himself “Thousand Faces”—finally quieted down and revealed what he knew.

According to him, the Demon-Suppressing Tower has nine levels. The lower three levels mostly imprison ordinary dragons or sub-dragons who have committed offenses;

The middle three levels imprison some stronger dragons or those with special bloodlines, as well as pseudo-dragons like himself who excel at transformation and disguise;

The upper three levels are incredibly mysterious, and even he knows very little about them, only that they imprison ancient dragons who have truly angered ancient powerful beings, or those burdened with immense karma, perhaps even... the most sinful kings among the dragons!

The sudden strengthening of the tower's restrictions and their attack on the imprisoned likely originated from the upper three levels, with some ancient being awakening a portion of its consciousness and orchestrating everything.

Its purpose seems to be to absorb the power of all the imprisoned dragons to break through the final seal!

"Break the seal?"

Chen Ping frowned. "What would happen if it broke free?"

"I don't know."

Qianmian shook his head, a flicker of fear in his eyes. "But it would definitely be a disaster. Nothing imprisoned on the upper three levels is simple. And its current method of frantically absorbing power is inherently destructive."

Chen Ping sensed the gravity of the situation.

He not only had to rescue Cen Biqing and Lao Hei, but he also had to stop the being on the upper three levels!

Otherwise, if it escaped, the consequences would be unimaginable.

"Can you open the restrictions leading to the sixth floor and above?" Chen Ping asked Qianmian.

Qianmian's face fell. "I can't. The restrictions between the middle three levels and the upper three levels are the strongest in the tower, directly controlled by the tower's core. Unless you can approach or even control the tower's core, no one can go up."

"Where is the tower's core?"

"I don't know. Legend says the tower's core is inside the tower, but its location is unpredictable; it could be on any level, or it could be in a separate mezzanine."

Chen Ping pondered for a moment, then decided to try communicating with the tower's core first. He concentrated his mind, spreading his pure golden dragon bloodline aura and friendly intentions like ripples throughout the entire tower.

"Demon-Suppressing Tower! I am Chen Ping, son of the Golden Dragon. Sensing the disturbance within the tower, I have come to quell it! Please show yourself!"

His voice, imbued with dragon might and sincerity, echoed within the tower.

Initially, there was no response. But after a while, the entire Demon-Suppressing Tower suddenly trembled violently!

Immediately afterwards, a cold, vast, and emotionless will descended like a tidal wave, enveloping the entire fifth floor!

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"Golden Dragon...bloodline...intruder...disrupting...order...deserves to be punished!"

This will was intermittent, filled with chaos and violence, but the power it contained was terrifying, far surpassing any opponent Chen Ping had encountered before!

Boom!

In the center of the fifth floor, space distorted, and a gigantic, semi-transparent figure, formed from countless runes and spatial power, slowly emerged.

It had no fixed form, sometimes resembling a dragon, sometimes a tower, radiating a terrifying aura that suppressed everything!

This was the spirit of the Demon-Suppressing Tower!

Or rather, a tower spirit influenced, even partially controlled, by the ancient being on the upper three floors!

The tower spirit appeared and, without a word, launched an attack!

It swung its giant claw, composed of runes, with the power to tear through space, slamming it down towards Chen Ping! Simultaneously, the entire space on the fifth floor began to compress inward, threatening to crush Chen Ping and the others!

“Attack together!”

Chen Ping roared, knowing there was no turning back now. Only by defeating this corrupted tower spirit could they possibly reach the core of the tower and rescue everyone!

The battle instantly intensified!

The corrupted tower spirit was incredibly powerful; it mobilized the entire power of the Demon-Suppressing Tower!

Spatial confinement, rune suppression, energy surges... a variety of methods emerged, each with immense power.

Chen Ping, Cen Biqing, Lao Hei, and even Qianmian were forced to join the battle. The four of them, working together, barely managed to withstand the tower spirit's relentless onslaught.

Chen Ping pushed his sword intent, the power of the Five Elements, and the laws of time to their limits. Each swing of the Dragon-Slaying Sword left a wound on the tower spirit, but the tower spirit, composed of energy and runes, regenerated extremely quickly.

Lao Hei, with his formidable physique, stood at the front, absorbing most of the direct attacks. His scales flew off, and he was covered in blood, yet he didn't retreat an inch.

Cen Biqing's Azure Dragon power excelled at control and purification, constantly disrupting the tower spirit's energy flow and slowing its attacks.

Qianmian, on the other hand, used the transformation ability of a pseudo-dragon, sometimes transforming into a sturdy shield, sometimes unleashing deceptive attacks to restrain the tower spirit.

However, the tower spirit's power seemed inexhaustible. The four gradually felt overwhelmed and were forced to retreat steadily.

Chen Ping also sustained several wounds, his clothes stained crimson with blood. "No! We'll all die here if this continues!"

Old Hei roared, spitting blood.

Chen Ping's eyes were resolute. He knew he had to take a risk!

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He recalled Shen Zhiyan's words about the origin of the Demon-Suppressing Tower—this tower was formed from the life-bound demon core of a great demon!

And the dragon race, in a sense, also belonged to the demon race, even being the royal family of the demon race!

His own golden dragon bloodline was the noblest royal blood of the dragon race!

“Perhaps... I can use my bloodline essence to forcibly communicate with the tower’s original core and suppress this corrupted tower spirit!”

This was an extremely risky idea!

If he failed, his bloodline would be damaged, and he would be doomed!

But at this moment, there was no better choice!

“Hold it off for ten breaths!”

Chen Ping shouted to the three.

“Okay!”

Cen Biqing, Old Hei, and Qianmian didn’t hesitate at all, unleashing their full potential, tightly binding the tower spirit, buying time for Chen Ping.

Chen Ping slammed the Dragon-Slaying Sword into the ground, his hands forming a hand seal, forcing out a drop of the purest, nine-colored golden dragon blood from his heart!

The moment this drop of blood appeared, the entire dragon aura within the tower stirred!

He enveloped the blood with his divine sense, transforming it into a bloodline rune imbued with the majesty of a dragon emperor and boundless life force, chanting in ancient dragon language:

“With my imperial blood as the guide, I summon your primordial spirit! Demon-Suppressing Tower, you are the protector of the dragon race, how can you allow evil thoughts to defile you! Awaken now!”

The bloodline rune shot towards the tower spirit’s brow like a meteor—the core of the tower’s will!

The corrupted tower spirit seemed to sense a tremendous threat, letting out a terrified roar, desperately trying to resist, but was held back by Cen Biqing and the other two!

Poof!

The bloodline rune successfully entered the tower spirit’s brow!

Boom—!!!

The entire Demon-Suppressing Tower erupted with unprecedented brilliance!

An ancient, vast, and boundless will, yet carrying a hint of gentleness, slowly awakened, like a dragon slumbering for millennia!

The corrupted tower spirit let out a shrill scream, its black and violent aura rapidly dissipating as if purified.