

## The Order 9441

Chapter: 9441

Meanwhile, powerful energy fluctuations also emanated from other parts of the Demon Suppression Tower.

Liu Xue was the first to emerge from seclusion. Already possessing exceptional talent, with the vast resources provided by Chen Ping and the environment of the Demon Suppression Tower, she not only fully recovered from her injuries, but

her cultivation had also advanced to the peak of the third rank of the Heavenly Immortal Realm. Her aura was even more ethereal and otherworldly, subtly connected to the fortune of the rebuilt Heavenly Gate.

Following her, Yan Nantian and Shen Zhiyan also emerged from seclusion.

Yan Nantian's injuries were fully healed, and his aura was increasingly steady and profound.

Shen Zhiyan, having fully recovered, possessed an aura as deep and unfathomable as an abyss, clearly surpassing his former strength.

Seeing Chen Ping emerge from seclusion unscathed and with a breakthrough in his cultivation, everyone breathed a sigh of relief.

Liu Xue quickly stepped forward, her beautiful eyes filled with concern: "Chen Ping, are you alright? Have your injuries fully healed?"

Looking at the stunningly beautiful Liu Xue with her gentle eyes, Chen Ping felt a surge of warmth in his heart and nodded: "Don't worry, I'm completely fine, and I've even made some progress."

At this moment, Shen Zhiyan's gaze swept over Chen Ping, a hint of surprise flashing in his eyes: "Mr. Chen, it seems you've gained quite a bit from this experience, your foundation is becoming increasingly solid. However, there seems to be a trace of restlessness on you?"

Only after Shen Zhiyan's reminder did Chen Ping notice the unusual fluctuations emanating from his storage ring, carrying a hint of grievance and irritability.

With a thought, he opened his storage ring.

"Awoo..."

A crimson shadow eagerly darted out, landing at Chen Ping's feet—it was the little fire qilin that hadn't appeared for a long time.

It nuzzled affectionately against Chen Ping's trouser leg, but its bright eyes were filled with grievance and discontent, emitting low whimpers as if accusing something.

Chen Ping was taken aback at first, then suddenly understood.

Previously, the little Devouring Beast had kept the little Fire Qilin company in the spirit beast space of his storage ring. Now that the little Devouring Beast had left with the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord, who had regained his physical body, only the little Fire Qilin remained alone in the storage ring.

Given its naturally auspicious beast nature and love of company, it naturally felt incredibly lonely and stifled, unwilling to stay in that desolate storage ring any longer.

"A Fire Qilin, a divine beast..." Yan Nantian exclaimed in shock.

Shen Zhiyan carefully examined the little fire qilin, a glint of shrewdness flashing in his eyes: "Mr. Chen, this fire qilin is an ancient auspicious beast with boundless potential."

"However, it's still in its infancy, requiring a large number of demonic beasts and rare treasures to feed it in order to accelerate its growth. If you can nurture it, it will undoubtedly be a great help to you in the future."

Chen Ping couldn't help but smile wryly upon hearing this.

Feeding the fire qilin?

The resources he needed for his own cultivation were astronomical, and the dragon army was an even greater consumer of resources.

Chapter: 9442

Now that the Nine Heavens had just been established, resources were needed everywhere for pacification and development. Where would he find the extra resources to specifically feed this little guy?

He squatted down, stroked the little fire qilin's warm head, and said helplessly, "Little guy, it's not that I don't want to raise you, it's just... even a wealthy family doesn't have surplus food."

The little fire qilin seemed to understand Chen Ping's words, letting out a pitiful whimper and licking Chen Ping's palm with its little tongue.

Then it simply lay down at his feet, adopting a "I'm not going in anyway, I'll go wherever you go" attitude.

Seeing the little fire qilin's intelligent and adorable appearance, Chen Ping's heart softened. Fine, since it didn't want to stay in the storage ring, he'd keep it with him. As for resources... he'd see how it went.

"Mr. Chen, what are your plans next?"

Shen Zhiyan asked, his expression solemn.

They all knew that the great threat of the Soul Devourer had not been eliminated.

Chen Ping stood up, his eyes sharpening again: "Now that I've recovered, naturally I'll go back to the Netherworld Blood Sea to settle the score with that old dog, the Soul Devourer! This time, we'll attack together; we absolutely cannot give him any more chances!"

This time, he wouldn't have any thoughts of arrogance or a one-on-one fight.

Combining everyone's strength for a thunderous strike was the right way.

Everyone nodded in agreement, their fighting spirit rekindled.

After a brief rest, Chen Ping, Liu Xue, Yan Nantian, and Shen Zhiyan—the four most powerful warriors in the Ninth Heaven—along with Lao Hei, Cen Biqing, and the little fire unicorn clinging to Chen Ping's shoulder, set off again, heading straight for the Netherworld Blood Sea!

This time, they navigated the Blood Sea with ease, directly piercing through it and descending into the Burial Soul Abyss.

However, when they stepped into this strange space again, they found it completely different from before.

The immense soul pressure belonging to the Soul Devourer, which had enveloped the entire Burial Soul Abyss, had vanished without a trace.

The dark red light in the sky seemed to have dimmed considerably. The stench of blood and resentment in the air, though still strong, lacked a central anchor, becoming scattered and disordered.

The throne built of skulls still stood, but it was empty.

The Soul Devourer was gone?

“Be careful, it might be a trap!”

Yan Nantian said in a deep voice, spreading his divine sense to carefully examine every inch of space.

Shen Zhiyan also frowned slightly, calculating with his fingers, and after a moment shook his head: "His soul essence is indeed no longer here; it seems... he really has left."

Just then, on the empty skull throne, a faint light slowly shone, condensing into a blurry phantom of the Soul Devourer.

This was not his true form, but merely a pre-set image of his divine sense.

Chapter: 9443

"Hehehe...Boy, I knew you'd bring more people, but you're too late!"

The Soul Devourer's voice, filled with resentment and mockery, echoed from the lingering image. "I've been recuperating here for several days and have recovered some of my strength."

"This Nine Heavens pond is too small; it can no longer contain this true dragon! I've already ascended to the higher Ten Heavens!"

"If you have the guts, come find me in the Ten Heavens! I await your arrival at the Ten Thousand Souls Demon Sect!"

"Of course, if you don't have the guts, then obediently cower in the Nine Heavens and wait for me to recover my peak strength and descend upon this world again, to devour you all, along with this entire world! Hahahaha!"

The arrogant and provocative laughter echoed in the Burial Soul Abyss, and the lingering image of his divine consciousness slowly dissipated.

The crowd exchanged glances, their faces grim.

Unexpectedly, this Soul Devourer was so decisive and cunning. Seeing the situation was dire, he directly abandoned his long-established lair and fled to the higher Tenth Heaven!

"The Tenth Heaven... the Myriad Souls Demon Sect..."

Chen Ping repeated the name softly, his eyes flashing.

He knew that the Tenth Heaven was far superior to the Ninth Heaven, teeming with powerful figures, numerous sects, and far more ruthless rules.

Shen Zhiyan looked at Chen Ping and said in a deep voice, "Mr. Chen, the Tenth Heaven is no small matter, far surpassing the Ninth Heaven."

"Countless powerful figures reside there, and Celestial Immortals are everywhere."

"The Myriad Souls Demon Sect doesn't sound like a benevolent place. The Soul Devourer will likely thrive there. This matter needs careful consideration..."

Liu Xue also looked worried, grasping Chen Ping's hand: "The Tenth Heaven is too dangerous. I'm worried about you going alone."

Chen Ping remained silent for a moment, his gaze sweeping over everyone, finally settling on a resolute expression.

"Senior Shen, Liu Xue, my mind is made up."

Chen Ping's voice was calm, yet carried an undeniable resolve. "That Soul Devourer is a vengeful, treacherous, and cunning fiend. He has declared that if I do not go, he will return one day, and the Nine Heavens will be plunged into chaos. This scourge must be eradicated!"

He paused, then continued, "Moreover, my path extends beyond the Nine Heavens. Higher realms and stronger opponents are my goals. The Tenth Heaven—I must go!"

He looked at Shen Zhiyan and Yan Nantian: "Senior Shen, Sect Master Yan, the Nine Heavens have just been established; though they appear to be subjugated, undercurrents are surging."

“The Yama Heavenly Sect and the New Heavenly Gate both need your presence to ensure stability.”  
“The Dragon Clan army also needs time to rest and recuperate, to digest what they’ve gained. It’s more important for you to stay here than to come with me to the Tenth Heaven.”

He then looked at Liu Xue and said softly, “Xue’er, the Heavenly Gate is newly established, and everything needs rebuilding. You are the Lord of the Heavenly Gate; we cannot do without you.”

“Besides, the future of the Tenth Heaven is uncertain. I cannot let you risk your life with me. You stay in the Ninth Heaven, focus on developing the Heavenly Gate, and wait for my return.”

Finally, he looked at the eager Old Black and the concerned Cen Biqing: “Old Black, Little Green, I entrust the Dragon Clan army to you. Assist Liu Xue in guarding the Ninth Heaven, and at the same time, strive to improve your strength. Once I have a firm foothold in the Tenth Heaven, I may need your assistance.”

Chapter: 9444

Chen Ping’s arrangements were clear, logical, and well-considered.

Although everyone was worried, they knew it was the best option for the time being.

Shen Zhiyan sighed, knowing that dissuasion was useless, and could only solemnly instruct, “The Tenth Heaven is not like here. Be careful in everything, and don’t be a hero in any situation. Your own safety is paramount.”

Yan Nantian patted Chen Ping on the shoulder: “Mr. Chen, take care! The Yama Heavenly Sect will always be your support.”

Liu Xue’s beautiful eyes filled with tears, a thousand words condensed into one sentence: “You must come back safely.”

Old Hei said in a deep voice, “Mr. Chen, don’t worry, with me here, the Nine Heavens won’t be in chaos! You should establish your own territory over there as soon as possible, so we can come and enjoy the good life with you!”

Cen Biqing didn’t say much, but her cold eyes were full of earnest advice.

Chen Ping kept everyone's kindness in his heart and nodded emphatically.

Without further delay, he took a deep breath, his immortal power surging within him, and slowly moved his hands through the void.

His understanding of the laws of space far surpassed that of his peers; at this moment, he exerted his full power, drawing upon the power of the void.

“Buzz—!”

A distorted void passage, radiating unstable fluctuations, was slowly and forcibly torn open before him!

At the other end of the passage lay a chaotic and blurry world, exuding an aura even more vast and dangerous than the Ninth Heaven—the Tenth Heaven!

“Awoo!”

The little fire qilin on his shoulder seemed to sense something, letting out a low growl that was both excited and slightly tense, its tiny claws gripping Chen Ping's clothes tightly.

Chen Ping turned back one last time, taking a deep look at his companions and the world he had fought for, his eyes resolute, devoid of any lingering attachment.

“Everyone, take care!”

Before his words finished, he took a step forward, his figure disappearing into the turbulent void passage.

The little fire qilin followed closely behind.

After he entered, the void passage flickered violently a few times before slowly closing and disappearing.

Within the Burial Soul Abyss, only Shen Zhiyan and the others remained, staring silently at the spot where Chen Ping had vanished.

The moment Chen Ping stepped into the void passage, a force far more violent and chaotic than any previous spatial traversal swept over him!

This passage leading to the Tenth Heaven was extremely unstable, seemingly on the verge of collapse. The surroundings were not tranquil darkness, but filled with multicolored, yet extremely dangerous, void turbulence.

These turbulent currents, like invisible blades, frantically cut and tore at Chen Ping's protective immortal aura, emitting a teeth-grinding hissing sound.

Chapter: 9445

Chen Ping's expression was solemn. He fully circulated his immortal power, creating layer upon layer of defense around himself, while simultaneously pushing the laws of spacetime to their limit, attempting to find a relatively stable path within the turbulent currents.

The Dragon-Slaying Sword was gripped in his hand, ready to cleave open a fatal spatial rift at any moment.

However, the solidity and chaos of the tenth-level barrier far exceeded his expectations.

A deep purple spatial storm, like a giant dragon, formed without warning, carrying an aura of annihilation, and crashed down upon him!

"Not good!"

Chen Ping's pupils constricted sharply. He pushed his power to the limit, and the Dragon-Slaying Sword erupted with a dazzling sword light, slashing fiercely at the storm!

“Boom—!”

A violent collision erupted within the passage. Chen Ping felt an indescribable force surge through him, a sweet taste rose in his throat, and blood spilled from the corner of his mouth again.

He struggled with all his might to stabilize himself, but the passage became even more unstable due to the impact, and the surrounding space shattered inch by inch like a mirror!

“Crack... Bang!”

Finally, in a dizzying, out-of-control sensation, Chen Ping’s protective immortal aura shattered completely, and he was thrown violently out of the collapsing void passage by an irresistible force!

It felt like a long time had passed, yet it also felt like only a moment.

“Bang!!”

With a dull thud, Chen Ping’s body crashed to the ground like a meteorite, carving a deep crater into the hard rock.

The violent shock made his vision go black; his internal organs felt displaced, and his bones groaned from the unbearable strain.

He lay at the bottom of the crater, coughing violently, each cough bringing up crimson froth.

After a long while, the dizziness and excruciating pain subsided slightly.

He struggled to lift his head and looked around.

What came into view was a completely unfamiliar scene.

The sky was a deep azure, appearing exceptionally high and distant. The air was thick with an almost impenetrable spiritual energy, mixed with the fragrance of various plants and trees, and... a faint, savage, and fierce aura.

He stood atop a towering mountain peak, looking down upon a vast, undulating forest stretching as far as the eye could see.

Ancient trees towered, vines entwined, and various exotic flowers and herbs vied for attention, all radiating extraordinary energy fluctuations.

The aura of laws here was completely different from that of the Ninth Heaven—far more profound, ancient, and active.

The spatial structure was also astonishingly stable. Chen Ping felt that tearing through space here would be several times more difficult than in the Ninth Heaven.

“Is this... the Tenth Heaven?”

Chen Ping felt a sense of uncertainty and wariness.

He struggled to climb out of the deep pit, but this aggravated his internal and external injuries, causing him to groan again.

Subconsciously, he instinctively tried to call out the voice of his mentor and friend in his sea of consciousness: “Senior, Senior Chi Yun, where are we...”

His words trailed off.

His sea of consciousness was empty.

Besides the quietly floating Great Luo Golden Scripture and the Demon-Suppressing Tower, there was no longer that familiar, slightly demonic soul fire.

An indescribable sense of loss overwhelmed Chen Ping like a tidal wave. Throughout history, no matter the dangers or difficulties he faced, the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord had always been there to offer him reminders or help at crucial moments; that silent companionship had long become a habit.

Now, with the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord having regained his physical form and gone to find his Spirit Moon Fairy, the empty sea of consciousness made Chen Ping truly feel for the first time what it meant to be utterly alone.

Chapter: 9446

He took a deep breath, forcibly suppressing the lingering doubt in his heart.

The path he chose was his own; no matter how difficult, he had to keep going!

“Awooo...”

A weak cry pulled him back to reality.

He saw the little fire qilin poking its head out from the edge of the pit. It seemed that because of its small size, it had been protected by the aftershocks of Chen Ping’s immortal power; its injuries weren’t serious, only a little disoriented.

At this moment, it was licking the bloodstains on Chen Ping’s face with its tiny tongue, its large eyes filled with worry.

Chen Ping felt a warmth in his heart and stroked its little head: “Little guy, I’m alright.”

However, this tenderness didn’t last long.

A sudden gust of foul wind swept in from his side and behind! Accompanied by a low, violent roar!

Although Chen Ping was seriously injured, his fighting instincts remained; he whirled around!

A gigantic ape, over three zhang tall, covered in jet-black, stiff fur, its muscles bulging like craggy rocks, appeared.

It glared with scarlet eyes, opened its blood-red maw, and brandished its massive claws, powerful enough to split mountains and shatter rocks, lunging fiercely at Chen Ping, who had just managed to get up and was in extremely poor condition!

This gigantic ape exuded ferocity, possessing strength equivalent to approximately a third-grade Celestial Immortal!

It was clearly the overlord of this area, viewing Chen Ping's fall as an invasion and prey!

“Watch out!”

Chen Ping tried to draw his sword, but the surging of his internal energy slowed his movements for a moment!

Just at this critical moment!

“Roar—!!”

The little fire qilin that had been perched on Chen Ping's shoulder let out a roar, completely disproportionate to its size, filled with majesty and fury!

Its tiny body instantly erupted with a dazzling crimson light, like a miniature sun, leaping from Chen Ping's shoulder to meet the massive giant ape head-on!

It opened its mouth and spewed out a condensed crimson flame, small yet containing pure Qilin True Fire, scorching towards the giant ape's face!

The giant ape clearly hadn't expected this little creature to dare attack first. Its fur was singed by the flame, and in pain, it roared, its attack slowing slightly, its giant claw changing direction to strike the little fire Qilin!

"Bang!"

Although the little fire Qilin was agile, the difference in strength was too great. Swept by the gale-force wind generated by the giant claw, it let out a mournful cry.

Chapter: 9447

Its small body flew backward like a kite with a broken string, crashing into a large tree and falling to the ground. Its aura immediately weakened, and the beautiful crimson scales on its body dimmed considerably.

"Fire Qilin!"

Chen Ping's eyes widened in fury! The little fire-breathing Qilin was injured protecting him!

A surge of rage instantly dispelled the excruciating pain and weakness in his body!

His companion's injury ignited the ferocity within him!

"You beast! You're courting death!"

Chen Ping roared, ignoring his injuries, forcefully channeling the remaining immortal power within him!

The Dragon-Slaying Sword sensed its master's rage, humming, its cold sword light gleaming once more!

“Five Elements Sword Domain, open!”

Although its range was only a few feet, the five-colored sword domain instantly expanded, enveloping the giant ape!

Sword energy crisscrossed, its power greatly reduced, yet still sharp!

The giant ape was trapped within the sword domain, its movements momentarily halting. Feeling the sword energy cutting through its skin, a hint of surprise flashed in its scarlet eyes, but more so, ferocity!

It roared, swinging its massive claws, attempting to tear this hateful domain apart with brute force!

“Time Slowdown!”

Despite the piercing pain in his soul, Chen Ping activated the Time Law once more!

The giant ape’s movements visibly slowed for a moment!

Now!

“Die!”

Chen Ping moved with his sword, becoming one with it, transforming into a streak of light tearing through the sky!

The Dragon-Slaying Sword, carrying his unwavering will and icy killing intent, pierced with unparalleled precision towards the giant ape’s relatively vulnerable throat!

“Pfft!”

Blood spurted out!

The giant ape's massive body stiffened abruptly. It looked down in disbelief at the cold sword piercing its throat, letting out a hissing sound. The ferocity and crimson in its eyes quickly faded, replaced by fear and despair.

Finally, its mountain-like body crashed to the ground, shaking the earth.

Chapter: 9448

Chen Ping, leaning on his sword, knelt on one knee, panting heavily, cold sweat beading on his forehead. This single strike had almost drained the little strength he had just recovered, and his injuries seemed to have worsened.

Ignoring his own condition, he rushed to the little fire qilin, carefully lifting it and channeling a surge of pure immortal energy into it.

Fortunately, the qilin, being an auspicious beast, possessed remarkable vitality. Though only injured, it quickly recovered under the nourishment of Chen Ping's immortal energy, affectionately nuzzling his palm, though its spirit remained somewhat weak.

Looking at the giant ape at his feet, Chen Ping's heart stirred.

He was new to this place, completely unfamiliar with it, and his injuries still healing; he desperately needed a guide and a means of transportation.

This giant ape was quite powerful and should be very familiar with this area.

He attempted to communicate with it using his divine sense, conveying his intention to subdue it.

However, though the giant ape was on the verge of death, its eyes still held a defiant arrogance, and a low, threatening growl escaped its throat, clearly indicating its unyielding spirit.

Chen Ping frowned slightly, then a golden glint flashed in his eyes.

He no longer suppressed the divine dragon power within him, originating from the blood of the dragon emperor. A vast, ancient, and supreme dragon's might, like the awakening of a slumbering emperor, slowly emanated from his body!

This pressure wasn't directed at the physical body, but directly affected the soul and the very essence of one's bloodline!

For demonic beasts, it was especially intimidating!

The once arrogant giant ape trembled violently the moment it sensed this dragon's might!

It was an absolute crushing defeat on a life level, the instinctive fear of a lower being facing a higher emperor!

The ferocity in its eyes vanished completely, replaced by boundless awe and submission. It struggled to lower its head, emitting mournful whimpers as a sign of surrender.

Chen Ping dispelled his dragon aura, walked to the giant ape's head, placed his hand on its forehead, and transmitted the command through divine sense: "Submit to me, take me away from this forest, and I will spare your life."

The giant ape offered no further resistance, obediently lowering its head in acceptance.

Chen Ping breathed a sigh of relief, sealing the wound in the giant ape's throat, saving its life.

He mounted the giant ape's broad, platform-like back, placing the little fire qilin in front of him.

"Let's go!"

The giant ape growled, stood up, and began its heavy trek through the vast, boundless primeval forest.

Sitting on the giant ape's back, Chen Ping finally had the opportunity to carefully observe this unknown land.

The forest was unbelievably ancient; some ancient trees were so thick that dozens of people would need to encircle them, their canopies blocking out the sun.

The forest was dimly lit, the air thick with the damp scent of decaying leaves and a rich aura of wood spirits, yet countless dangerous omens lurked within.

Chapter: 9449

Sure enough, they hadn't gone far when a venomous crocodile, its body covered in slime and scales, suddenly leaped out from the swamp, its massive jaws, filled with fangs, snapping at the giant ape's foreleg.

This venomous crocodile was roughly at the first rank of the Celestial Immortal realm, and its venom was extremely potent.

Without Chen Ping's command, the giant ape beneath him roared, raised its other massive foot, and stomped down with immense force!

"Bang!"

The earth shook, and the venomous crocodile was instantly crushed into a bloody pulp.

With a wave of his hand, Chen Ping used his immortal power to seize the relatively pure essence of flesh and blood from the Poisonous Scale Crocodile and an inner core containing poison and water elemental power, offering it to the little fire qilin's mouth.

The little fire qilin's eyes lit up, it cried out joyfully, and opened its mouth to devour and absorb the energy.

The luster on its scales seemed to have been restored slightly, and its spirits were much more invigorated.

This was just the beginning.

This vast forest of demonic beasts was fraught with danger.

They encountered packs of Bloodfang Wolves with sharp fangs, which Chen Ping swept away with a barrage of sword strikes. The wolf king's inner core and essence blood became nourishment for the little fire qilin.

They disturbed a nest of ghost-faced bees capable of spraying paralyzing stingers. Chen Ping used fire magic to create a vacuum, collected royal jelly, and fed it to the little fire qilin as well.

They also encountered a phantom leopard skilled in stealth and soul attacks, extremely troublesome. Chen Ping went to great lengths, using a trace of the Demon-Suppressing Tower's aura to intimidate it before finally killing it. The essence of its soul power greatly benefited the little fire qilin.

Along the way, Chen Ping, like a top-tier hunter, used his rich combat experience and powerful application of laws to command the giant ape, slaying one powerful demonic beast after another.

The inner cores, essence blood, and soul fragments of these demonic beasts became the best food to feed the little fire qilin.

The little fire qilin grew at a visible rate.

Its size had increased slightly, its crimson scales becoming even more vibrant and dazzling, shimmering with a subtle light. The Qilin True Fire it breathed out was increasingly condensed and scorching, its aura already approaching the level of a Human Immortal.

It seemed to enjoy the process of fighting and devouring, its cooperation with Chen Ping becoming increasingly seamless, often providing early warnings or assisting in attacks.

Chen Ping himself, amidst this intense battle and constant internal energy cultivation, was slowly recovering from his injuries. His control over his power became more refined, and his adaptability to the new environment was gradually increasing.

Like a young dragon venturing into the wilderness, he began to use his claws and teeth to carve a path to survival for himself and his companions in this forest where danger and opportunity coexisted.

The giant ape carried Chen Ping and the little fire Qilin, traveling for an unknown amount of time through the dense, primeval jungle.

The surrounding trees grew increasingly tall and thick, the dense spiritual energy almost condensing into a tangible mist, but this also meant that the level of hidden danger was constantly rising.

Chen Ping remained highly vigilant, his divine sense spreading like an invisible spiderweb, sensing every rustle and movement.

Suddenly, the giant ape beneath him let out a low, excited roar, its pace quickening noticeably, even bordering on urgency, as it charged forward in one direction.

Chapter: 9450

Its thick arms parted layers upon layers of massive, wall-like vines and ferns, as if rushing towards a specific target.

Chen Ping's heart stirred. Had the giant ape discovered some rare treasure?

He patted the ape's rough neck, signaling it to calm down, while simultaneously becoming even more alert.

The little fire qilin also seemed to sense something, awakening from its slumber, perching on Chen Ping's shoulder, its nostrils flaring slightly, its crimson eyes gleaming with curiosity.

Passing through the last natural barrier of thorns, the scenery before them opened up dramatically.

It was a small basin nestled in the heart of a valley, where sunlight filtered through the sparse canopy of trees. In the center of the basin, the soil was an eerie dark red, as if soaked in blood. And atop that dark red soil grew several strangely shaped plants!

These plants were entirely blood-red, translucent, like carvings of the finest red jade. Their canopies formed perfect cloud shapes, layered upon layer, emitting an intensely rich life essence and a unique, bloody fragrance.

Just smelling that aroma made Chen Ping feel his blood and qi surge slightly, even accelerating the healing of his injuries.

“This is... a Blood Spirit Mushroom? And at least ten thousand years old!”

Chen Ping’s eyes instantly lit up with surprise.

The Blood Spirit Mushroom was a top-tier natural treasure, extremely rare even in the Nine Heavens, used to temper the physical body, replenish blood and qi, and even repair soul injuries. He never expected to encounter several in this unfamiliar forest!

For him and the little fire qilin, who were still recovering from serious injuries, this was like a godsend! He couldn’t help but look at this seemingly clumsy giant ape with newfound respect; he hadn’t expected it to be so intelligent, able to find such a treasure trove.

However, just as Chen Ping leaped off the ape’s back, preparing to pick the tempting Blood Spirit Mushrooms,

“Roar—!!!”

A roar, even more ferocious, filled with boundless rage and killing intent, exploded like thunder from the dense forest on the other side of the basin!

Immediately afterward, a giant ape, equally enormous but with dark gold fur and an even more ferocious and violent aura, crashed through the trees like a moving mountain, bursting forth!

This newly appeared dark gold giant ape was even more imposing than the one Chen Ping had tamed, its eyes bloodshot.

It stared intently at Chen Ping and his mount, especially when it saw the Blood Spirit Mushrooms; the fury in its eyes almost burst forth!

“Roar!!!”

The black-haired giant ape beneath Chen Ping was equally defiant, rearing up and pounding its powerful chest with its thick forelimbs, producing a thunderous roar like war drums.

Its crimson eyes glared back at its opponent, a terrifying killing intent emanating from its body.

The two colossal creatures faced off across the air, their violent auras clashing, stirring up withered branches and fallen leaves into small whirlwinds.

At this point, how could Chen Ping not understand?

This wasn't his giant ape kindly leading him on a treasure hunt.