

## **The Order 9761**

Chapter: 9761

“Enough.”

A calm yet authoritative voice rang out.

Everyone froze, because this voice... didn't come from anyone present!

The voice came from the lava pool.

To everyone's astonishment, the lava pool boiled again, crimson lava shooting into the sky and condensing into a fiery humanoid figure.

It was none other than the Earth Fire Ancestor!

“Ancestor?!”

Huo Fentian and the elders were dumbfounded, then overjoyed, “Ancestor, you're still alive?!”

The Earth Fire Pavilion had a portrait inheritance; all the past pavilion masters and elders recognized the Earth Fire Ancestor's appearance.

Although it was merely a humanoid form formed from flames, the aura, the oppressive power, the unique fluctuations of the fire law... there was no mistaking it!

“Just a wisp of a remnant soul.”

The Earthfire Ancestor said calmly, his golden, flame-like eyes sweeping across the entire area, finally settling on the projections of the four elders of the Evil Path Hall. "A few projections of juniors dare to run wild in my Earthfire Pavilion?"

Before his words finished, the Earthfire Ancestor simply waved his hand.

"Boom...!"

The fire law throughout the cave seemed to come alive, transforming into four crimson-gold chains of flame, instantly binding the four projections!

"What is this?!"

"Chains of law?! How is this possible?!"

Zhan E and the others were terrified, struggling desperately, but to no avail.

Their projections, bound by the chains of flame, rapidly became illusory and dim.

"Destroy."

The Earthfire Ancestor uttered a single word.

The four chains of flame tightened abruptly!

"No...!"

The four projections simultaneously let out a shrill scream, then shattered like bubbles, dissipating into the air.

Chapter: 9762

Even the four crimson pillars of light crumbled inch by inch.

It all happened in the blink of an eye.

The four projections, which had just been so aggressive, threatening to annihilate the Earth Fire Pavilion, were just...gone?

Yan Lie stood there, stunned, his face ashen.

Huo Fentian and the elders were also speechless with shock.

They knew their ancestor was powerful, but they never expected that a mere wisp of a remnant soul could so easily annihilate the projections of four powerful figures!

This was simply...a miracle!

“Ancestor’s divine might!”

Huo Fentian was the first to react, his voice trembling with excitement, “Disciple Huo Fentian pays respects to the Ancestor!”

“Pay respects to the Ancestor!” the elders knelt in unison.

Huo Ling’er also quickly knelt down, secretly glancing at Chen Ping, her eyes filled with doubt—how did Chen Ping know the ancestor was here? What connection did they have?

The fiery body of the Earthfire Ancestor rippled slightly: “Rise, all of you. I am but a remnant soul, unworthy of such a grand gesture.”

He looked at Yan Lie, his eyes icy: “As for this traitor...”

Yan Lie was terrified, repeatedly kowtowing: "Ancestor, spare me! Ancestor, spare me! This disciple knows his mistake! It was all the Evil Path Hall's fault! I beg you, Ancestor, give me a chance to repent!"

"Repent?" The Earthfire Ancestor sneered, "You colluded with the Evil Path Hall, causing the deaths of dozens of Earthfire Pavilion disciples, and even plotted to murder the Pavilion Master and overthrow the Earthfire Pavilion. Such crimes deserve more than ten deaths."

He looked at Huo Fentian: "Fentian, according to the Pavilion rules, what is the punishment for a traitor?"

Huo Fentian's eyes flashed with murderous intent: "Ancestor, those who betray the Pavilion are to have their souls extracted and refined, never to be reincarnated!"

"Then proceed according to the Pavilion rules," the Earthfire Ancestor said calmly.

"No!!!" Yan Lie roared in despair, turning to flee. But would Huo Fentian give him a chance?

A crimson flame instantly engulfed him, and Yan Lie was burned to ashes before he could even scream.

Huo Fentian grabbed with one hand, and a phantom soul flew out from the ashes—Yan Lie's remnant soul, sealed in a crimson jade bottle.

"Extracting and refining the soul, as a warning to others," Huo Fentian said coldly.

Having dealt with the traitor, the Earth Fire Ancestor's gaze turned to Chen Ping.

Huo Fentian's heart tightened, and he hurriedly said, "Ancestor, although this young friend Chen Ping trespassed into the forbidden area, he was there to heal his injuries, and... he exposed the traitor Yan Lie, which can be considered a merit. Please, Ancestor, show leniency."

Chapter: 9763

He wanted to protect Chen Ping.

After all, Chen Ping had saved Huo Ling'er and Elder Yan Xin, and now he had exposed Yan Lie; his merits outweighed his demerits.

The Earthfire Ancestor looked at Chen Ping, a hint of a smile flashing in his eyes: "Little fellow, what do you say?"

Chen Ping smiled slightly: "Whatever you say, it's up to you."

"Up to you?"

The Earthfire Ancestor teased, "Then I'll severely punish you for trespassing into the forbidden area, how about that?"

Huo Ling'er panicked: "Ancestor! I brought Chen Ping in! Punish me!"

"Ling'er!" Huo Fentian hissed.

"Father, I brought Chen Ping in without permission, so punish me!" Huo Ling'er shouted!

"Do you know that outsiders are not allowed to enter the forbidden area?"

The Earthfire Ancestor said.

"I know, but...but..."

Huo Ling'er looked at Chen Ping, then took a deep breath and said, "Ancestor, what if I said...Chen Ping isn't an outsider?"

"Not an outsider?" Huo Fentian frowned, "What do you mean?"

Chen Ping was also stunned.

Huo Ling'er took a deep breath, looked at Chen Ping, and a hint of tenderness and apology flashed in her eyes.

She knew that what she was about to say might change many things.

"Chen Ping and I... have already consummated our marriage," Huo Ling'er said slowly. "He is my man."

"Boom...!"

These words exploded in everyone's ears like a bolt from the blue!

Huo Fentian was dumbfounded.

The elders were speechless.

Chen Ping's mind went completely blank. When had he and Huo Ling'er consummated their marriage?

How could he not know?

Chapter: 9764

Wasn't this just falsely accusing him?

But Chen Ping quickly realized that Huo Ling'er was saving him!

Moreover... Huo Ling'er's words were tantamount to announcing their relationship in public.

Huo Fentian's expression shifted uncertainly.

He looked at his daughter's shy appearance, then at Chen Ping's calm eyes, and he believed it to be seven or eight parts true.

To be fair, although Chen Ping's origins are mysterious, he is exceptionally talented, possesses the bloodline of a golden dragon, is powerful, and values loyalty and righteousness.

If he truly became his son-in-law, it would definitely be a good thing for the Earth Fire Pavilion.

But... this kid is too direct!

They've only known each other for a short time, and he's already taken advantage of his daughter?

"Ahem..."

Huo Fentian coughed twice, "Chen Ping, when did you and Ling'er... happen?"

Chen Ping hesitated for a moment, then began to fabricate a story.

"In the Crimson Flame Canyon, Ling'er was in danger, and I was healing her..."

This was half true and half false.

In the Crimson Flame Canyon, he did indeed heal Huo Ling'er, but at that time he only transferred immortal energy; there was no physical intimacy.

But to outsiders, this was already ambiguous enough.

Huo Fentian's face flushed red, and he glared at Huo Ling'er—this girl, how could she be so unreserved!

Huo Ling'er lowered her head even further, wishing she could disappear into the ground.

The Earth Fire Ancestor suddenly burst into laughter: "Good! Good! Good! Fentian, your son-in-law is quite good! Golden Dragon bloodline, possessing great treasures, limitless potential. He is worthy of my Earth Fire Pavilion's princess!"

His words were tantamount to finalizing the matter.

What could Huo Fentian say?

The Ancestor had approved; how could he object?

Besides... thinking about it carefully, Chen Ping was indeed a rare talent.

With his assistance, the future of the Earth Fire Pavilion was promising.

Chapter: 9765

"Since the Ancestor has said so..."

Huo Fentian sighed, looking at Chen Ping with a complex expression, "Chen Ping, your matter with Ling'er will be discussed later. But your unauthorized entry into the forbidden area is ultimately against the rules. Considering your merit in exposing the traitor, you can be spared the death penalty, but you will not escape punishment."

“I accept the punishment,” Chen Ping said.

“Alright, since you accept the punishment, then I will...”

“Wait, I’ll decide Chen Ping’s punishment!” said the Earthfire Ancestor!

Huo Fentian was stunned, not expecting the Ancestor to speak personally.

He bowed respectfully: “Ancestor, please tell me, how should Chen Ping be punished?”

The Earthfire Ancestor’s fiery body rippled slightly, his golden flame-like eyes scanning back and forth between Chen Ping and Huo Ling’er, finally revealing a meaningful smile:

“Since Ling’er says Chen Ping is her man, then let the two of them marry immediately and become Daoist partners. In this way, Chen Ping will no longer be an outsider, but the son-in-law of my Earthfire Pavilion. The crime of trespassing into the forbidden area will naturally be forgiven.”

“What?!”

“Married?!”

“Immediately?!”

A series of exclamations rang out in the cave.

Huo Fentian was dumbfounded.

The elders exchanged bewildered glances.

Huo Ling’er’s pretty face instantly flushed crimson, like a ripe apple, so embarrassed she almost fainted.

Chen Ping was also stunned; he never expected the Earth Fire Ancestor's punishment to be like this.

"Ancestor...this..."

Huo Fentian opened his mouth, wanting to say something.

"What? My words no longer carry weight?"

The Earth Fire Ancestor's voice deepened, and the temperature throughout the cave suddenly rose, the lava pool even boiling.

Huo Fentian hurriedly bowed: "This disciple dares not! But...how can a marriage be so hasty? Besides, Ling'er is the princess of the Earth Fire Pavilion; the wedding should be grand, inviting guests from all sides..."

"Why bother with formalities?"

The Earth Fire Ancestor interrupted him, "With the Evil Path Palace's army pressing in, where is there time for a grand wedding? Marry immediately and settle this matter. We can hold a celebration later after defeating the Evil Path Palace."

Chapter: 9766

He looked at Chen Ping: "Little fellow, are you willing?"

Chen Ping's mind raced. The Earth Fire Ancestor's move, seemingly absurd, was actually brilliant.

Firstly, it cleared Chen Ping of his crime of trespassing into the forbidden area, making him a son-in-law and thus not an outsider.

Secondly, it completely bound Chen Ping to the Earth Fire Pavilion's cause. With this relationship, Chen Ping would have to wholeheartedly help the Earth Fire Pavilion fight against the Evil Path Hall.

Thirdly, Chen Ping possessed the bloodline of the Golden Dragon and was exceptionally talented. If he could become the Earth Fire Pavilion's son-in-law, it would greatly benefit the pavilion's future development and could even help him rebuild his physical body.

And for himself...

Chen Ping looked at Huo Ling'er.

Huo Ling'er was looking down, her fingers nervously twisting the hem of her clothes, her pretty face flushed crimson.

Although she was shy, there was no resistance in her eyes; instead, there was a hint of expectation.

To be fair, Huo Ling'er was stunningly beautiful, of noble birth, kind and brave, and deeply devoted to him.

Such a woman, if he could become her Daoist partner, would be an absolute blessing.

However... Chen Ping had other women in his heart, and too many unfinished business.

But then he thought again, he and Huo Ling'er already had mutual feelings, and Huo Ling'er had just publicly declared him her man, binding her reputation to his own.

If he refused now, it would not only hurt Huo Ling'er's feelings but also cause her to lose face in the Earth Fire Pavilion.

More importantly, he needed the Earth Fire Pavilion's power to fight against the Evil Dao Hall, and he needed the Earth Fire Ancestor to point out the location of the Earth Core Jade Marrow Milk...

"I am willing," Chen Ping took a deep breath and said slowly.

His voice was soft, yet it clearly reached everyone's ears.

Huo Ling'er's body trembled, and she abruptly raised her head, her eyes flashing with surprise and disbelief.

"However,"

Chen Ping continued, "Although Ling'er and I are deeply in love, this marriage must be with Ling'er's consent. If she is unwilling, I will not force her."

All eyes turned to Huo Ling'er.

Huo Ling'er bit her lip, looking at Chen Ping, her eyes shimmering with tears.

She took a deep breath, mustering her courage: "I...I do."

Her voice was as soft as a mosquito's buzz, but in the silent cave, it was as clear as thunder.

Chapter: 9767

The Earth Fire Ancestor laughed heartily: "Good! Since that's the case, then let's get married immediately! Fentian, you will officiate!"

Huo Fentian smiled bitterly, but he dared not disobey his ancestor's command.

He glanced at his daughter, then at Chen Ping, and finally sighed, "Very well, since the Ancestor has given the order, and you two are mutually in love, then... let them marry."

He turned to an elder and said, "Pass down the order: the entire Earthfire Pavilion must prepare. The princess and Chen Ping will hold their wedding immediately. It needn't be too grand, but the proper rites must be observed."

“Yes!” The elder obeyed and left.

The Earthfire Ancestor nodded in satisfaction, “Very good. After the wedding, Chen Ping will go into seclusion in the forbidden area to help me restore my physical body. Once I have reconstructed my body, I will personally hold a celebration for you.”

He looked at Chen Ping, a deep meaning flashing in his eyes, “Little fellow, treat Ling’er well. I watched her grow up; if I dare to betray her... hmph.”

Chen Ping solemnly clasped his hands, “Ancestor, rest assured, Chen Ping will not betray Ling’er.”

“Good! Everyone disperse, prepare for the wedding.”

The Earthfire Ancestor’s fiery body slowly dissipated, merging back into the lava pool.

The crowd withdrew from the forbidden area.

Huo Fentian looked at Chen Ping and Huo Ling’er standing side by side, his feelings complicated.

He patted Chen Ping on the shoulder: “Kid, treat my daughter well. If you dare bully her, I won’t forgive you.”

“Don’t worry, Father-in-law,” Chen Ping quickly replied.

Huo Fentian’s lips twitched, but he finally sighed and turned to leave.

Soon, only Chen Ping, Huo Ling’er, and the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord remained in the cave.

The atmosphere became somewhat awkward.

The Crimson Cloud Demon Lord tactfully stepped aside, saying, "I'll go for a walk outside. You two chat."

After the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord left, Huo Ling'er blushed and looked at Chen Ping, whispering, "Chen Ping... I'm sorry... I didn't mean to say that. I just wanted to save you..."

"I know."

Chen Ping said gently, "I should thank you. If it weren't for you, I probably wouldn't have been able to get through this ordeal today."

"But... but..."

Huo Ling'er bit her lip, "Now that the Ancestor wants us to marry, are you... are you really willing? If you're not willing, I can go and talk to the Ancestor..."

"I am willing."

Chapter: 9768

Chen Ping interrupted her, taking her hand, "Ling'er, you are a good girl. It is my blessing to become your Daoist partner."

He paused, then said sincerely, "But... I carry too much on my shoulders, and there are other women too. There may be many dangers ahead. Following me, you might suffer."

Tears welled in Huo Ling'er's eyes, but she shook her head firmly, "I'm not afraid. As long as I can be with you, I'm not afraid of any hardship."

"I don't care how many women you have, I'll be one of them."

She nestled into Chen Ping's arms, her voice soft yet firm, "Chen Ping, I know you may have many things to do. But I will wait for you, I will face them with you. No matter what the future holds, I will not regret my choice today."

A warm feeling surged in Chen Ping's heart, and he hugged Huo Ling'er tightly.

At this moment, he truly accepted this brave and sincere girl.

After embracing for a moment, Huo Ling'er blushed and pushed him away, "I... I have to go prepare for the wedding. Although it's rushed, it's a major life event after all..."

"I'll go with you," Chen Ping smiled.

"Okay!"

...

The entire Earth Fire Pavilion was bustling with activity because of the sudden wedding.

Although time was short, it was, after all, a princess's wedding, and all the proper rituals had to be observed.

Red silk hung throughout the hall, and the character for "double happiness" adorned every door and window.

The disciples of the Earthfire Pavilion were surprised, but mostly offered their blessings.

After all, Chen Ping had saved the princess, exposed a traitor, and possessed great strength; he was worthy of the princess.

The wedding was held at noon.

The main hall of the Earthfire Pavilion was brightly decorated. Although no foreign guests were invited, all the elders, deacons, and core disciples of the Earthfire Pavilion were present.

Chen Ping, dressed in a crimson wedding robe, exuded a majestic air.

Huo Ling'er, adorned in a phoenix coronet and wedding gown, was breathtakingly beautiful.

Under the guidance of Huo Fentian, the two bowed to heaven and earth, to their parents, and to each other as husband and wife.

The ceremony was complete.

Simple yet solemn.

"To the bridal chamber!" the master of ceremonies shouted.

Amidst the blessings of the disciples, Chen Ping and Huo Ling'er were led into the newly decorated bridal chamber. Inside the bridal chamber, red candles flickered, filling the room with a joyous atmosphere.

Chapter: 9769

Huo Ling'er sat on the edge of the bed, her palms sweating with nervousness.

Chen Ping walked to her side and gently lifted the red veil.

In the candlelight, Huo Ling'er's face was breathtakingly beautiful, radiantly gorgeous.

"Ling'er..." Chen Ping called softly.

"Mmm..." Huo Ling'er's voice was barely a whisper.

Chen Ping sat down beside her and took her hand. "Ling'er, there's something I need to tell you."

Huo Ling'er's heart tightened. "What?"

"Before our marriage, I did have someone else in my heart."

Chen Ping said honestly, "She's someone I... knew, someone who saved my life. I promised to save her; it was my promise to her."

Huo Ling'er's eyes dimmed, but she quickly regained her composure. "I know. How could someone as outstanding as you not have a past? I don't care about your past; I only care about our future."

She looked at Chen Ping, her eyes filled with deep affection. "Chen Ping, I will save her with you. After we save her, we'll live a good life together, okay?"

Chen Ping was moved and embraced her. "Okay."

That night, in their wedding night, the passion was fleeting.

Huo Ling'er endured the ordeal every woman must face.

Pain and pleasure intertwined.

...

Meanwhile, in the Twelfth Heaven, at the headquarters of the Evil Path Palace.

This was a black palace suspended above an endless sea of blood, surrounded by countless vengeful spirits and ghosts emitting mournful howls.

Deep within the palace, on a throne built of bones, sat a man in black robes.

The man's face was sinister, his eyes deep-set, his pupils a strange blood-red.

He was enveloped in a dense aura of bloodlust, like a demon god emerging from a mountain of corpses and a sea of blood.

It was none other than Zhan E, the Lord of the Evil Path Palace!

“Bang!”

Zhan E slammed his palm on the armrest of the throne, instantly reducing it to dust.

Chapter: 9770

“Useless! A bunch of useless trash!”

He roared, his voice like a chilling wind from the depths of hell, causing the temperature in the entire palace to plummet. “My projection was actually annihilated by a wisp of remnant soul! My Evil Path Palace has been utterly disgraced!”

Below, a dozen elders of the Evil Path Palace knelt, each one trembling with fear, not daring to raise their heads.

Elder Blood Soul was among them, his injuries still raw and his face pale, but he could only kneel there, barely managing to stay upright.

“Palace Master, please calm your anger.”

A white-haired elder forced a smile and said, “According to intelligence, that remnant soul is the Earthfire Ancestor, the founder of the Earthfire Pavilion. His cultivation is unfathomable; at his peak, he probably touched the threshold of the third rank of Upper Immortal. Even if only a remnant soul remains, it's not something an ordinary projection can contend with.”

“Besides, that place is his territory. We’re already at a disadvantage, and being projections, we’re naturally no match.”

“If the Palace Master were to personally come, he could definitely annihilate the Earthfire Pavilion.”

“Earthfire Ancestor?” A cold glint flashed in Zhan E’s eyes. “I will definitely kill that old bastard.”

He pondered for a moment, then said coldly, “Send down the order: gather the elite forces, led personally by the three Vice Palace Masters, to the Eleventh Heaven, raze the Earthfire Pavilion to the ground, and capture Chen Ping alive!”

“Yes!” The elders obeyed.

“Furthermore,” Zhan E added, “tell the three vice hall masters that I want the remnant soul of the Earth Fire Ancestor alive. If I can devour his remnant soul, I might be able to break through the final bottleneck and enter the third rank of the Upper Immortal Realm!”

“Yes, sir!”

“As for Chen Ping...”

A greedy glint flashed in Zhan E’s eyes, “Golden Dragon bloodline, possessing great treasures...this boy holds a great secret. He must be captured alive; I will interrogate him personally!”

“Yes!”

“Go and prepare. The army must depart within three days!”

The elders hurriedly departed.

In the main hall, only Zhan E remained.

He slowly rose, walked outside the hall, and looked down at the churning sea of blood below.

“Ancestor Earthfire... Chen Ping...” he murmured to himself, his eyes flashing with bloodlust.  
“Interesting. The Eleventh Heaven is about to get lively.”

“However, no matter how lively it gets, it will all ultimately become a stepping stone for my Evil Path Palace. When I break through to the third rank of the Upper Immortal Realm, that will be the time for the Evil Path Palace to unify the Twelve Heavens!”

“Hehehe...”

A sinister laugh echoed above the sea of blood, followed by the shrieks of countless vengeful spirits, as if the end of the world had arrived.