

The Order 9791

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“Slash!”

A hundred-foot-long sword aura reappeared, but this time, the sword aura was no longer golden-gray; instead, it had transformed into a hazy, chaotic gray!

Within the sword’s aura, a five-clawed golden dragon could be faintly seen roaming, its roar shaking the heavens! The surface of the sword’s aura burned with crimson-gold earth fire, incinerating all things!

This sword strike, a fusion of chaotic power, golden dragon bloodline, and earth fire, was the strongest sword strike Chen Ping had comprehended after three hundred years of seclusion!

This sword strike contained the power to cleave the heavens and earth!

With a single strike, the world lost its color!

Where the sword’s aura passed, space shattered, time stood still, and the laws of nature retreated!

The King of Ten Thousand Ghosts let out a shrill scream, cleaved in two by the sword’s aura, turning into a rain of blood!

The Bone Hell crumbled inch by inch, hundreds of bone pillars collapsed with a crash, and skeleton soldiers turned to dust!

The waters of the Yellow Springs evaporated completely, and the spatial rifts were forcibly closed, leaving not a trace!

The three forbidden divine powers shattered like bubbles!

“No...!”

The three vice hall masters simultaneously let out desperate roars, their voices filled with resentment and fear.

The sword energy continued its relentless advance, slashing towards the three!

“Pfft!”

The sea of blood that the Soul Fiend Vice Hall Master had transformed into was evaporated by a single sword strike, leaving not a single drop of blood behind!

“Pfft!”

The skeleton of the Bone Demon Vice Hall Master was shredded into dust by the sword energy, scattering in the wind!

“Pfft!”

The soul of the Soul Annihilation Vice Hall Master was annihilated by the sword energy, without even a chance for reincarnation!

Three swords, slaying three enemies!

The entire arena was deathly silent.

You could hear a pin drop.

Everyone stared blankly at the sky.

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There, Chen Ping stood, sword in hand, his white robes as pure as snow, spotless.

At his feet lay three clumps of ashes left behind by the three vice hall masters after their dissipation.

Behind him lay the routed army of the Evil Path Hall.

Sunlight pierced the blood mist, illuminating him and bathing him in a golden halo, making him appear like a god descending to earth.

After an unknown amount of time, a deafening cheer erupted from the Earthfire Pavilion, the sound soaring to the heavens!

“Young Master is mighty!”

“Young Master is invincible!”

“Long live the Earthfire Pavilion!”

The disciples wept with joy, embracing each other in celebration.

Huo Fentian, tears streaming down his face, bowed deeply to Chen Ping: “Chen Ping... no, Young Master... the entire Earthfire Pavilion owes you a life!”

Chen Ping sheathed his Dragon-Slaying Sword, slowly landing on the ground, and helped Huo Fentian up: “Father-in-law, you flatter me. This is what I should do.”

He looked at the fleeing army of the Evil Path Hall and said calmly: "Wangcai, Senior Chiyun, clean up the battlefield."

"Roar!"

Wangcai roared excitedly, transforming into a golden-red lightning bolt, chasing after the fleeing Evil Path Hall cultivators.

The Crimson Cloud Demon Lord grinned maliciously, his three heads and six arms moving in unison as he charged into the enemy ranks, as if they were nothing.

The disciples of the Earth Fire Pavilion were greatly encouraged, rushing out of the mountain gate to pursue the remaining enemies.

Half an hour later, the battle ended.

The Evil Path Palace army was completely annihilated. Except for a few lucky individuals who had seized the opportunity and escaped beforehand, the rest were all killed.

Although the Earth Fire Pavilion suffered heavy losses, it ultimately preserved its lineage.

"Young Master, what's next?"

Huo Fentian asked respectfully, his tone indicating that he already regarded Chen Ping as the true backbone of the Earth Fire Pavilion.

Chen Ping looked towards the forbidden area, a profound meaning flashing in his eyes.

"The Evil Path Hall won't let this go easily. Next time, it might be Zhan E himself."

“I must help the Ancestor rebuild his physical body as soon as possible. Only when the Ancestor regains his full strength will we have the right to fight Zhan E.”

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He paused, then looked at Huo Fentian: “Father-in-law, I’m entrusting the Earth Fire Pavilion to you. Strengthen the defenses, assess the losses, and treat the wounded. I need to go into seclusion for a while.”

“Yes!” Huo Fentian solemnly replied.

Chen Ping turned and walked towards the forbidden area.

His blue robes fluttered, his back straight, like a spine supporting the heavens and earth.

Behind him was the Earth Fire Pavilion, surviving the calamity, and countless gazes filled with awe and gratitude.

When Chen Ping returned to the forbidden area, the lava pool was still churning and boiling, but the ancient and majestic aura was even more solid than before.

The Demon Suppression Tower floated in the air, its body emitting a soft gray light.

Huo Ling’er, who was guarding outside the tower, immediately went to greet Chen Ping upon his return.

“Chen Ping, are you alright?” Huo Ling’er looked Chen Ping up and down, her eyes full of concern.

“It’s nothing.”

Chen Ping smiled slightly and gently took her hand. “Just a few noisy flies.”

Huo Ling'er breathed a sigh of relief, then her eyes flashed with admiration: "I've heard everything... You killed three peak ninth-grade Celestial Immortals with a single sword strike! It's all over the place, people are saying you're a god descended from heaven!"

Chen Ping shook his head and chuckled: "It's not that exaggerated. By the way, how is Ancestor?"

Mentioning Ancestor Earthfire, Huo Ling'er's expression became serious: "Ancestor's soul has reached its peak, and the reshaping of his physical body is at its most crucial moment. He said... it will take at most seven more days."

"Seven days..."

Chen Ping nodded. "There's enough time."

He looked at the Demon Suppression Tower and called out, "Ancestor, I'm back."

The tower trembled slightly, and Ancestor Earthfire's voice came from within: "Come in, little one."

Chen Ping stepped into the Demon Suppression Tower and entered its inner space.

The Earthfire Ancestor's soul form was now almost indistinguishable from a real person, with white hair and beard, and a benevolent face, though his body appeared slightly ethereal.

He sat cross-legged in the center of a magic array composed of various rare and precious materials. The array slowly activated, extracting the essence of the materials and merging it into his soul.

"Little fellow, I sensed the commotion outside."

The Earthfire Ancestor opened his eyes, a hint of appreciation flashing in his golden, flame-like pupils. "One sword slays three enemies, not bad, not bad."

Chen Ping sat cross-legged opposite the Ancestor: "Those three deputy hall masters are nothing special. Even if the Hall Master of the Evil Path Hall came personally, I would still have a fighting chance."

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His tone was calm, yet it contained absolute confidence.

The Earthfire Ancestor shook his head: "It's good for young people to be confident, but they must not underestimate the Evil Path Palace."

He paused, his expression turning serious: "Do you think killing three vice-palace masters has severely damaged the Evil Path Palace? Too naive."

Chen Ping frowned slightly: "Ancestor, you mean..."

"The true terror of the Evil Path Palace lies not in how many peak ninth-grade Heavenly Immortals they possess,"

The Earthfire Ancestor slowly said, "but in... their control of a supreme treasure... the Gate of Reincarnation."

"The Gate of Reincarnation?" Chen Ping heard this name for the first time.

"That's a gateway to the Land of Reincarnation."

The Earthfire Ancestor's tone was profound. "Legend has it that the Land of Reincarnation is the final resting place of all things after death; the souls of all living beings ultimately return to reincarnation. And the Gate of Reincarnation... can forcibly open a passage to the Land of Reincarnation."

Chen Ping was startled: "It can open the Land of Reincarnation? Doesn't that mean it can... resurrect the dead?"

"In a sense, yes."

The Earthfire Ancestor nodded, "But it comes at a huge price. And the resurrected person might not be the original one."

He looked at Chen Ping, his eyes deep: "Do you know why the Evil Path Hall has been slaughtering living beings and collecting souls everywhere all these years?"

Some clues flashed through Chen Ping's mind, and his expression changed slightly: "They..." "Is it using the souls of the dead... to nourish the Gate of Reincarnation?"

"That's right."

The Earthfire Ancestor sneered, "For every 100,000 souls, the Gate of Reincarnation can be opened once, summoning a dead person back from the Land of Reincarnation. The summoned person becomes a puppet of the Gate of Reincarnation, controlled by it for eternity."

"So..."

Chen Ping said in a deep voice, "Those three vice-hall masters, were they possibly already dead? Resurrected by the Evil Path Hall through the Gate of Reincarnation?"

"Very likely."

The Earthfire Ancestor nodded, "That's why the Evil Path Hall's powerful figures seem inexhaustible. You killed those three vice-hall masters today, and as long as Zhan E is willing to pay the price, he can quickly resurrect them through the Gate of Reincarnation."

Chen Ping gasped.

If that's true, then the Evil Path Hall is practically invincible!

An unkillable enemy is the most terrifying.

“Moreover...”

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The Earthfire Ancestor’s voice grew even more solemn, “I suspect that the Evil Path Hall itself... is a puppet.”

“What?” Chen Ping’s pupils constricted.

“The world the Gate of Reincarnation leads to is said to be inhabited by some ancient and powerful beings,” the Earth Fire Ancestor slowly said.

“They may be dead, or they may exist in another form. But they are unwilling to remain forever in the Land of Reincarnation, so... they need puppets, they need someone to collect the souls of the dead to nourish the Gate of Reincarnation and maintain their existence.”

“The Evil Path Hall is very likely a puppet of these beings. And Zhan E... is merely a slightly more advanced tool.”

Chen Ping fell silent.

This news was far too shocking, far exceeding his expectations.

He had originally thought the Evil Path Hall was just a powerful evil organization.

He never imagined that such an astonishing secret was hidden behind it.

“How did you know all this, Ancestor?” Chen Ping asked.

A flicker of recollection crossed the eyes of the Earthfire Ancestor: “Many years ago, I explored the deepest part of the Earth’s Core Demon Abyss. There... I saw things I shouldn’t have seen.”

“It was an ancient ruin, its walls covered with inscriptions about the Gate of Reincarnation.”

The Earthfire Ancestor's voice trembled almost imperceptibly: "At that moment, I felt an unprecedented fear. It wasn't fear of death, but fear of some existence beyond comprehension."

"I forcibly erased the inscriptions, because these things would throw people into chaos, but who knew that no sooner had I erased them than I was attacked by the Earth's Core Demon Flame."

"That battle... my physical body shattered, my soul severely damaged, only a wisp of my soul escaped."

Chen Ping listened, his heart pounding.

The Gate of Reincarnation?

The mastermind behind the Evil Path Palace?

This was completely beyond his comprehension.

"So..."

Chen Ping took a deep breath, "Our true enemy isn't the Evil Path Hall, but... the being behind the Gate of Reincarnation?"

"You could say that."

The Earthfire Ancestor nodded, "But to deal with those beings, we must first destroy the Evil Path Hall and the Gate of Reincarnation. Otherwise, they can endlessly resurrect powerful beings; we'll never be able to kill them all."

A determined glint flashed in Chen Ping's eyes: "In that case, let's destroy the Evil Path Hall first, then destroy the Gate of Reincarnation!"

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“Ambition.”

The Earthfire Ancestor praised, “But with our current strength, we are far from sufficient. The being behind the Gate of Reincarnation may have already surpassed the Upper Immortal Realm, reaching the True Immortal level or even higher.”

“True Immortal...” Chen Ping murmured.

That was a legendary realm; there might not even be one in the entire Twelve Heavens.

“Therefore, the most urgent task is to help me rebuild my physical body as soon as possible.”

The Earthfire Ancestor said, “In my prime, I touched the threshold of the third rank of the Upper Immortal Realm. If I can recover, it will at least buy you some time.”

“I understand.”

Chen Ping solemnly asked, “What does the Ancestor need me to do?”

“Continue to use the Demon-Suppressing Tower to help me condense my soul body, and at the same time...”

A glint of light flashed in the Earthfire Ancestor’s eyes, “I will pass on to you the ninth level of the *Earthfire True Scripture*—‘Earthfire Burning Heaven Technique’.” “...”

“This cultivation technique was created by me when I touched the threshold of the Upper Immortal Realm. Its power is boundless. If you can master it, you’ll at least have a fighting chance against Zhan E.”

Chen Ping’s eyes lit up: “Thank you, Ancestor!”

“No need to thank me.”

The Earth Fire Ancestor waved his hand. “We’re in the same boat now. The stronger you are, the greater our chances of survival.”

He paused, suddenly sensing something, his expression changed slightly: “Not good...”

“What is it?” Chen Ping asked.

“The Gate of Reincarnation... has been opened.”

The Earth Fire Ancestor said in a deep voice, “And... it’s quite large. That Zhan E fellow seems to be truly enraged.”

...

At the same time, in the Twelfth Heaven, at the headquarters of the Evil Path Palace.

The sea of blood churned, and vengeful spirits howled.

Zhan E stood in the center of the sea of blood, staring blankly ahead.

Before him stood a pitch-black stone gate, a hundred feet high.

The stone gate was ancient in style, its doors tightly shut, its surface covered with twisted runes. These runes writhed as if alive, emanating a chilling aura.

This was the Gate of Reincarnation.

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At this moment, kneeling before the Gate of Reincarnation were one hundred thousand controlled souls.

They came from various sects, young and old, men and women, all with ashen faces and eyes filled with despair.

These were all recently collected by the Evil Path Hall, and now they were all brought here as sacrifices to open the Gate of Reincarnation.

Originally, as long as these cultivators' souls remained, they were not truly dead, and had a chance to reshape their physical bodies. Even if they couldn't reshape their bodies, they could still possess another's body!

But now, they had all been captured, and their purpose was unknown!

"Begin," Zhan E said calmly.

"Yes!" a black-robed elder responded, brandishing his bone staff.

"Sacrifice...!"

The souls of 100,000 cultivators simultaneously let out a shrill scream. Their souls vanished at a visible speed, their soul power forcibly extracted, transforming into 100,000 streams of blood-red light, flowing into the Gate of Reincarnation!

"Boom...!"

The Gate of Reincarnation trembled violently, its doors slowly opening a crack.

Within the crack lay endless darkness. Within the darkness, countless twisted figures could be vaguely seen struggling and wailing.

These were the souls of the dead from the Land of Reincarnation, condemned to eternal damnation.

“With 100,000 souls as a sacrifice, we respectfully welcome the three Vice Hall Masters...back!”

Zhan E formed hand seals, chanting ancient incantations.

The incantations, like a summons from the deepest abyss, pierced through the Gate of Reincarnation and entered the endless darkness.

A moment later, three illusory figures floated out from the crack in the door.

They were none other than the three Vice Hall Masters: Soul Fiend, Bone Demon, and Soul Extinction!

However, their current state was extremely strange. Their bodies were translucent, like ghosts, their eyes empty and devoid of any spirit.

“Why haven’t you returned yet!”

Zhan E roared, biting his tongue and spitting out three mouthfuls of blood essence.

The blood essence transformed into three beams of blood-red light, shooting into the bodies of the three deputy hall masters.

“Buzz...!”

The three bodies rapidly solidified, their eyes gradually regaining their clarity.

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A few breaths later, the three opened their eyes simultaneously.

“Hall Master...”

Deputy Hall Master Po Sha spoke first, his voice hoarse, "We...are back."

Deputy Hall Masters Bone Demon and Soul Extinction also awoke one after another. The three exchanged glances, each seeing the lingering fear and relief in the other's eyes.

They were indeed dead; their souls had been completely annihilated by Chen Ping's sword.

But because their soul imprints remained within the Gate of Reincarnation, they could be summoned back.

However... this resurrection did not come without a price.

The three were noticeably weaker than before, especially the Soul Extinction Deputy Hall Master, whose presence had become blurred, as if he might vanish at any moment.

"Useless."

Zhan E coldly stared at the three. "Three peak ninth-grade Heavenly Immortals, killed by a mere second-grade Heavenly Immortal junior, and you still have the nerve to come back?"

The three immediately knelt down: "Hall Master, please forgive us! That Chen Ping... is truly bizarre! His power attribute is unlike anything we've ever seen before; it seems to be able to counteract all evil techniques!"

"Moreover, he possesses the Golden Dragon bloodline and the inheritance of the Earth Fire Ancestor's *Earth Fire True Scripture*, his combat power far exceeds his cultivation..."

"Enough!"

Zhan E interrupted them. "Failure is failure; there's no need for excuses."

He looked towards the Gate of Reincarnation, a hint of apprehension flashing in his eyes: "That Chen Ping..." "...We must capture him alive. Perhaps by sacrificing Chen Ping, we can break free from the shackles of the Gate of Reincarnation and gain eternal life."

The three deputy hall masters were stunned: "What does the hall master mean...?"

"Don't you find it strange?"

Zhan E slowly said, "The power of chaos, the golden dragon bloodline, the Earth Fire Scripture... these three powers correspond to three different supreme laws, and Chen Ping can fuse all of them."

"If we sacrifice Chen Ping, perhaps the one within the Gate of Reincarnation will gain eternal life, and then we can achieve eternal life together."

"What?" The three were shocked.

A fanaticism flashed in their eyes simultaneously.

Eternal life!

This was the realm that all cultivators dreamed of!

"Pass down the order,"

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Zhan E said in a deep voice, "Don't go to the Eleventh Heaven for the time being. Chen Ping will come to you on his own!"

“Immediately order everyone in the Evil Path Hall to speed up the collection of divine souls. I want to resurrect all the Heavenly Venerables and Ancestors of the Evil Path Hall!”

“Yes!” the three responded in unison.

Zhan E looked at the Gate of Reincarnation, a complex emotion flashing in his eyes.

What kind of being is that behind the gate...?

Can he truly grant eternal life?

Or... is this so-called eternal life just another form of imprisonment?

He didn't know.

But he had no way out.

From the moment he first opened the Gate of Reincarnation and made a deal with that being, he had embarked on a path of no return.

Either succeed and gain eternal life.

Or fail and be annihilated.

There is no third way.

...

The Forbidden Grounds of the Earth Fire Pavilion.

Chen Ping suddenly opened his eyes, a flicker of fear in them.

“What’s wrong?” Huo Ling’er asked with concern.

“Nothing.”

Chen Ping shook his head, suppressing his unease. “I just have a bad feeling.”

He looked at the Demon Suppression Tower: “Ancestor, the opening of the Gate of Reincarnation... will there be any signs?”

The voice of the Earth Fire Ancestor came from within the tower: “When the Gate of Reincarnation opens, all living beings within a radius of ten thousand miles will feel palpitations and unease, as if something terrible is about to happen.”

“Moreover... those who are resurrected will carry the aura of reincarnation. That aura has a natural suppressive effect on living beings.”

Chen Ping’s heart skipped a beat.

That momentary palpitation just now... could it be a sign that the Gate of Reincarnation has opened?

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Those three deputy hall masters... were they really “resurrected”?

“Ancestor, how much time do we have?” Chen Ping asked in a deep voice.

“Three days at most.”

The Earth Fire Ancestor said, “In three days, my physical body will be complete. At that time, my strength will have recovered to the first rank of the Upper Immortal Realm. Although not as strong as in my prime, it should be enough to hold off Zhan E.”

“Three days...” Chen Ping took a deep breath, “Then three days it is.”

He looked at Huo Ling’er: “Ling’er, in these three days, I will do my utmost to help the Ancestor rebuild his physical body. The defense of the Earth Fire Pavilion is entrusted to you and your father-in-law.”

Huo Ling’er nodded emphatically: “Don’t worry, we will hold it.”

Chen Ping then looked at the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord: “Senior, please protect me. No one can disturb us in these three days.”

“Don’t worry, kid.” The Crimson Cloud Demon Lord grinned, “With me here, not even a fly can get in.”

Chen Ping nodded, said no more, and stepped into the Demon Suppression Tower.

Time flows a hundred times faster inside the tower; three days outside is three hundred days inside.

Within these three hundred days, he must master the ninth level of the *Earthfire True Scripture* and simultaneously help the Ancestor rebuild his physical body.

Time was of the essence, and there was no time to lose.

In these three days, Chen Ping’s strength broke through to the third rank of the Heavenly Immortal Realm, and the Earthfire Ancestor’s physical body was fully restored.

Seeing Chen Ping and the Earthfire Ancestor emerge from the Demon-Suppressing Tower, everyone was overjoyed!

Especially Huo Ling'er; now that the Earthfire Pavilion had the Ancestor in charge, they were practically invincible in the Eleventh Heaven.

Chen Ping put away the Demon-Suppressing Tower, and the group left the forbidden area for the Earthfire Pavilion!

Huo Fentian was also recuperating with everyone else.

The battle with the Evil Path Hall had inflicted considerable losses on the Earthfire Pavilion.

"Ancestor, you...you've really recovered?"

Seeing the Earthfire Ancestor, Huo Fentian excitedly rushed forward, about to hug him.

But the Earthfire Ancestor blew a breath on him, and Huo Fentian's movements instantly stopped.

"We're all men, if you're excited, just be excited, no need for all this hugging and kissing."

The Earthfire Ancestor said calmly.