

The Order 9801

Chapter: 9801

Huo Fentian was somewhat embarrassed, but also shocked by the Ancestor's strength.

His own strength was at the peak of the ninth rank of the Heavenly Immortal Realm, yet the Ancestor had stopped him in his tracks with a single breath.

It seems the gap between the Heavenly Immortal Realm and the Upper Immortal Realm, even by one major realm, is still quite significant.

"Father-in-law, have you heard anything from the Evil Path Hall these past few days?"

Chen Ping asked.

"The Evil Path Hall has summoned all its disciples from the Eleventh Heaven back to the Twelfth Heaven these past few days," Huo Fentian said.

"What's the Evil Path Hall up to?"

Chen Ping frowned.

"Perhaps they're waiting for you to go to the Twelfth Heaven before dealing with you!"

Huo Fentian analyzed.

Chen Ping nodded; that was very likely!

“Boy, where are you going next? Directly to the Twelfth Heaven? I can go with you!”

The Earthfire Ancestor said.

Chen Ping shook his head: “Ancestor, I need to obtain the Earth Core Jade Marrow Milk first, and then I need to find someone.”

“Who?” Ancestor Earthfire asked.

“The Soul Devourer, I chased this guy all the way here from the Ninth Heaven.”

Chen Ping said.

“The Soul Devourer?” Ancestor Earthfire frowned slightly: “This demon actually came all the way to the Eleventh Heaven?”

“He seems to have been out of contact for ten thousand years. I didn’t expect him to still be alive.”

Chen Ping then recounted to Ancestor Earthfire how the Soul Devourer had been suppressed, leaving only a wisp of his soul, and had survived for ten thousand years.

The Earthfire Ancestor nodded slightly: “This demon is truly lucky. However, he’ll likely have nowhere to hide in the Eleventh Heaven, so finding him shouldn’t be too difficult.”

“But be careful not to let him reach the Twelfth Heaven. If he allies with the Evil Path Palace, things will get complicated.”

“I understand. If I encounter him again, I will definitely kill him!” Chen Ping nodded. “Please tell me the location of the Earth Core Jade Marrow Milk, Ancestor.”

“I do know the location of the Earth Core Jade Marrow Milk.”

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The Earthfire Ancestor slowly spoke, "It's in the Lava Heart, the deepest part of the Earth Core Demon Abyss. But it's fraught with danger there. Even in my prime, I wouldn't dare venture deep there lightly."

Chen Ping's expression was resolute: "No matter how dangerous it is, I will go. Senior Crimson Cloud's woman needs this to save her life; this is a promise I made to him."

Upon hearing this, a trace of gratitude flashed in Crimson Cloud Demon Lord's eyes.

"Good, loyal and righteous, truly worthy of being the son-in-law of my Earthfire Pavilion."

The Earthfire Ancestor nodded approvingly. "Ling'er, you go with Chen Ping. These years of cultivation within the pavilion are well worth the experience."

"Yes, Ancestor!" Huo Ling'er's eyes lit up, and she replied excitedly.

"Fen Tian,"

The Earthfire Ancestor then looked at Huo Fen Tian, "Send people to find the whereabouts of that Soul Devourer. Although he is a remnant soul, he is still a demon from ten thousand years ago, not to be underestimated."

"Disciple understands," Huo Fen Tian replied respectfully.

"Furthermore," the Earthfire Ancestor pondered for a moment, "mobilize all of Earthfire Pavilion's intelligence networks and closely monitor the movements of the Evil Path Hall. Their sudden withdrawal to the Twelfth Heaven must be for a purpose."

"Yes!"

After making the arrangements, the Earthfire Ancestor took out a crimson jade slip and handed it to Chen Ping: "This is a map of the Earth Core Demon Abyss, and the exact location of the Lava Heart. Some dangerous areas and precautions are marked on it; study it carefully."

Chen Ping took the jade slip and probed it with his divine sense; immediately, a flood of information rushed into his mind.

The Earth Core Demon Abyss is located in the far south of the Flame Domain, a bottomless, enormous fissure.

Beneath the fissure lies churning magma and terrifying Earth Core Demon Flames.

The deeper one goes, the higher the temperature and the greater the pressure, and various ferocious beasts adapted to this environment appear.

The Lava Heart, located at the very bottom of the Demon Abyss, is a lava lake with a diameter of a hundred zhang.

In the center of the lake lies a piece of ten-thousand-year-old cold jade, upon which the Earth Core Jade Marrow Milk has condensed. "Earth Core Demon Flame..."

Chen Ping frowned slightly. "That's something even Upper Immortal Realm experts fear."

"Indeed."

The Earthfire Ancestor nodded. "The Earth Core Demon Flame is extremely hot and contains poisonous Earth Core Fire, capable of eroding immortal power and corroding the divine soul. However... you possess Chaos Immortal Power and the Golden Dragon Bloodline, so you should be able to withstand some of it. Furthermore, with the control over flames granted by the *Earthfire True Scripture*, there might still be a chance."

"I understand."

Chen Ping put away the jade slip. "Let's not delay, let's set off now."

"Wait."

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The Earthfire Ancestor called after him, taking out a crimson-gold token. "This is the Earthfire Token of the Earthfire Pavilion. Holding this token allows you to mobilize all the resources of the Earthfire Pavilion in the Flame Domain. If you encounter danger, you can also use this token to seek help from nearby forces."

Chen Ping took the token and solemnly put it away: "Thank you, Ancestor."

"Go, return as soon as possible." The Earthfire Ancestor waved his hand.

Chen Ping, Huo Ling'er, and the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord left the Earthfire Pavilion and headed south.

...

Three days later, at the edge of the Earth Core Demon Abyss.

Standing at the edge of the Abyss and looking down, one could see a colossal rift, a thousand feet wide and seemingly bottomless, stretching across the earth.

Within the rift, crimson magma flowed slowly, emitting terrifying heat and a pungent sulfurous odor.

Further inside, dark red demonic flames could be faintly seen churning, flames unlike ordinary fire, exuding a chillingly malevolent aura.

"Such a terrifying temperature..."

Huo Ling'er wiped the sweat from her brow. "The temperature here is even higher than the Heart of Earth Fire."

The Crimson Cloud Demon Lord frowned as well. "The Earth Core Demon Flame... truly an extremely evil thing. Even my demonic arts are becoming restless."

Chen Ping unfolded the map given to him by the Earth Fire Ancestor and studied it carefully: "According to the map, the Demon Abyss is divided into three layers. The outer layer has a lower temperature and only some low-level fire beasts;

The middle layer has a higher temperature and fire beasts at the Celestial Immortal level appear;

The deep layer is the truly dangerous area, containing not only the Earth Core Demon Flame but also various strange traps and formations."

He pointed to a red dot on the map: "Our destination is here, the Heart of Lava. We need to pass through the outer and middle layers, enter the deep layer, and then find this hidden passage."

"Then let's set off," said the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord.

The three of them leaped into the Demon Abyss.

As soon as they entered, the terrifyingly high temperature hit them.

Chen Ping circulated his Chaos Immortal Power, forming a hazy gray protective shield around his body to insulate against the intense heat.

Huo Ling'er also unleashed the "Earth Fire True Scripture," enveloping her in a crimson flame shield.

The Crimson Cloud Demon Lord, meanwhile, churned his demonic energy, forming a black shield.

The three descended slowly.

Although the temperature on the outer layer of the Demon Abyss was high, it was still bearable for them.

Occasionally, some low-level fire beasts attacked, but these were easily dealt with.

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Half a day later, the three reached the middle layer.

The temperature here suddenly rose, and the color of the magma changed from crimson to dark red.

The air was thick with potent fire poison; inhaling too much would damage one's meridians.

"Be careful, something's coming!" Chen Ping suddenly exclaimed alertly.

As soon as he finished speaking, three enormous creatures suddenly leaped out of the magma ahead!

It was a three-headed monster resembling lizards but with wings, its body covered in crimson scales, spewing dark red flames from its mouth.

Each one possessed the aura of a fifth-grade Celestial Immortal!

"Crimson Flame Flying Lizards!" Huo Ling'er exclaimed, "They are social beasts, usually appearing in groups of dozens or even hundreds!"

Sure enough, as these three Crimson Flame Flying Lizards appeared, dozens more emerged from the surrounding lava, completely surrounding the three.

"Roar—!"

The lead Crimson Flame Flying Lizard let out a piercing screech, and all the lizards simultaneously spewed flames!

Dozens of dark red flames intertwined to form a large net, enveloping the three!

“Ling’er, protect yourself. Senior Chi Yun, let’s finish this quickly,” Chen Ping said calmly.

Before his words even finished, the Dragon Slayer Sword was already drawn.

“Dragon Slayer – Breaking Army!”

A golden-gray sword aura swept across, tearing a gap in the net of flames. Chen Ping moved with his sword, instantly appearing before a Crimson Flame Flying Lizard and slashing down!

“Pfft!”

The lizard’s head rolled off, its massive body plunging into the lava.

The Crimson Cloud Demon Lord was not to be outdone; with three heads and six arms moving simultaneously, six demonic weapons were unleashed at once, instantly smashing two flying lizards into a bloody pulp.

Huo Ling’er, meanwhile, formed hand seals, casting the fire control technique from the *Earth Fire True Scripture*. Crimson-gold Earth Fire True Flame condensed in her palms, transforming into dozens of fire snakes that coiled around the surrounding flying lizards.

Earth Fire True Flame was far superior to ordinary flames; the flames spewed by the flying lizards, upon touching it, retreated like subjects before a king. The fire snakes seized the opportunity to burrow into the flying lizards’ bodies, burning them from the inside out.

In a short time, dozens of Crimson Flame Flying Lizards were wiped out.

“Not bad, Ling’er’s Earth Fire True Flame is becoming increasingly refined,” Chen Ping praised.

Huo Ling'er blushed slightly: "I'm still far inferior to Chen Ping."

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"Let's continue," said the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord.

The three continued their descent.

Deep within the middle layer of the Earth's Core Demon Abyss, the temperature had risen to an alarming level.

The surrounding rock walls were no longer simply dark red, but had taken on a near-molten, translucent state, like the slowly writhing entrails of a giant beast.

The sulfurous odor permeating the air was so intense it was almost tangible; each breath felt like swallowing flames.

The faint, lingering smell of decay further unsettled the mind, as if countless eyes were watching from the shadows.

Chen Ping and his companions had just dealt with the seventh wave of Fire Poison Spiders.

Each of these spiders was the size of a millstone, entirely crimson, with its carapace covered in eerie black patterns.

The spider silk they spat was not only incredibly tough but also contained potent fire poison; once touched, one's immortal power would be rapidly eroded. Even Chen Ping struggled to clear them all away.

Now, the three rested briefly on a relatively flat, black platform formed from cooled lava.

Huo Ling'er sat cross-legged, took out a cool, blue pill, and swallowed it, her pale complexion improving slightly.

She wiped the beads of sweat constantly seeping from her forehead; the sweat almost evaporated in the intense heat.

“Chen Ping, ever since then, I’ve felt... like something is watching us.”

“That feeling... sticky, very uncomfortable,” Huo Ling’er said.

The Crimson Cloud Demon Lord didn’t sit down, but warily surveyed his surroundings, three pairs of eyes scanning every corner that might harbor danger.

His heavy demonic body seemed somewhat sluggish in the intense heat. Hearing this, he nodded, his voice low: “I feel the same way.”

“And this aura... I feel like I’ve encountered it somewhere before, cold, greedy, like a venomous snake lurking in the shadows.”

Chen Ping remained silent. He stood at the edge of the platform, gazing down at the churning, dark red river of lava, his brow furrowed.

After breaking through to the third rank of the Celestial Immortal Realm, his divine sense underwent a qualitative change. Not only could it cover a wider area, but his perception of energy and aura became much sharper and more refined.

At this moment, he quietly circulated his Chaotic Immortal Power, his divine sense spreading outwards in all directions like countless invisible tentacles.

It penetrated every inch of the rock wall, every crack, sensing the subtle fluctuations masked by the intense heat and chaotic energy.

The roar of the flowing lava, the subtle cracking sounds of rocks expanding under the heat, the occasional roars of unknown ferocious beasts emanating from the depths...

Countless sounds and energy fluctuations were filtered and analyzed by him.

Suddenly, his divine sense detected something unusual.

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About three hundred feet to his left, behind a seemingly ordinary rock wall, an extremely subtle yet vast and chilling energy was slowly awakening.

He was intimately familiar with the nature of that energy; it carried a hatred and greed that originated from the depths of his soul.

“There really is something...” Chen Ping abruptly opened his eyes.

A sharp, razor-sharp glint flashed in his deep eyes, seemingly capable of piercing even thick layers of rock.

“And...it’s an old acquaintance of ours.”

As soon as he finished speaking, as if to confirm his words,

“Crack...crack crack...”

The rock wall he had locked onto with his divine sense suddenly emitted an eerie sound.

The originally hard, dark red rock, covered in signs of melting, now seemed to come alive, unnaturally writhing and undulating!

The patterns on the rock surface twisted and rearranged, the color deepening, rapidly outlining the contours of facial features.

In a few breaths, a huge, twisted, and ferocious human face grew onto the rock wall!

That face almost occupied half of the cliff face, its eye sockets two bottomless black holes.

Two eerie green flames suddenly burst forth with a “poof,” flickering like will-o’-the-wisps.

A bizarre, exaggerated grin spread across its mouth, revealing jagged teeth, also composed of rock.

It was the signature face of the Soul Devourer!

“Hehehe...”

A piercing laugh, like the scraping of rusty metal or countless grains of sandpaper scraping against one’s ears, emanated from its massive maw.

The laughter echoed in the narrow abyss, adding to its sinister and terrifying atmosphere.

“Chen Ping... what a coincidence!”

“I didn’t expect we’d meet again so soon.”

“It seems even the Heavenly Dao is favoring me, delivering this great gift to my lips.”

Huo Ling’er and the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord instantly felt their hair stand on end, immediately shifting from a state of rest to maximum alert.

Huo Ling’er drew her crimson longsword, its blade ignited with scorching earth fire.

The Crimson Cloud Demon Lord roared, his demonic body swelling, and his ferocious three-headed, six-armed form reappeared.

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The demonic weapons in his six hands hummed, their demonic energy surging.

Only Chen Ping remained standing, not even drawing his sword.

He merely tilted his head slightly, calmly gazing at the enormous ghostly face on the rock wall with a scrutinizing, even slightly mocking, gaze.

His eyes didn't seem to be looking at a demon lord who had struck fear into the hearts of ten thousand years ago; rather, they seemed to be watching a clumsy actor's performance.

"Soul Devourer," Chen Ping spoke, his voice low, yet clearly piercing through the piercing laughter.

With an icy chill, he said, "Your life is indeed a bit tougher than a cockroach's."

"You fled from the Ninth Heaven like a stray dog to the Tenth Heaven, and then fled here in a panic."

"What, this hellish place of the Earth's Core, where the sun never rises and only lava and poisonous fire exist, is quite fitting for your status as a ten-thousand-year-old wandering ghost?"

"It seems your taste, like your appearance, is utterly unappealing."

"Sharp-tongued little beast!" The face on the rock wall suddenly twisted.

The eerie green flames flickered violently, revealing their owner's inner rage.

“If I weren’t still severely injured and my strength less than one-tenth, I could have reduced you to ashes and extracted your soul back in the Ninth Heaven!”

“How dare you spout such nonsense here today!”

“Still severely injured?” Chen Ping’s lips curled into an undisguised sneer.

The smile was full of contempt: “I see you’ve been hiding in this Abyss of the Earth’s Core for quite some time now, absorbing the fiery poison and yin energy here. You must have recovered quite a bit of your strength, haven’t you?”

“Indeed, this place is scorching hot lava, permeated with fiery poison. It’s perfect for something as sinister and filthy as you, something that can’t stand the light, to eke out a living. It’s quite a feng shui treasure land.”

The Soul Devourer’s giant face fell silent for a moment.

The two orbs of eerie green ghost fire stared intently at Chen Ping, as if they wanted to devour him alive.

Then, the giant face made of rock slowly stretched into an even more bizarre, even more chilling smile.

“Clever...you guessed right.” The Soul Devourer’s voice became sinister and dangerous.

“The Earth Core Demon Flame, supremely yang and intensely hot, is unparalleled in its domineering power, truly the nemesis of you self-proclaimed righteous cultivators.”

“But all things carry yin and embrace yang. In the core of this supremely yang land, the purest ‘yin energy’ will be born.”

“This energy is an unparalleled tonic for nourishing the soul, especially for someone like me whose soul has been damaged.”

“I have been lying in hibernation here for three months, absorbing it day and night... Now, I have recovered seventy percent of my strength.”

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His words were filled with undisguised pride and the satisfaction of impending revenge: “Chen Ping, tell me, isn’t this the cycle of heaven, retribution is inevitable?”

“You chased me to the ends of the earth, leaving me nowhere to run, yet you personally delivered me to this treasure land.”

“Today is the day I will repay you, with interest!”

Before he finished speaking...

“Boom!!!”

The rock wall bearing the giant face suddenly exploded!

It wasn’t ordinary shattering; it was as if a colossal creature had burst forth from within.

Countless fragments of rock, imbued with scorching energy, rained down like a storm, striking the surrounding rock walls with a crackling sound and sending sparks flying.

Amidst the billowing smoke and lava steam, a chilling figure slowly emerged.

Standing approximately two zhang tall, its entire body was covered in grotesque black and red scales, seemingly formed from congealed lava and blood.

A pair of curved, dark red horns sprouted from its head, with faint, dark red energy patterns flowing across them.

Behind it, six broad, fleshy wings slowly unfurled; the wing membranes were neither skin nor flesh, but rather a mixture of some kind of energy and matter.

A faint blackish-red flame burned at the edges.

His face was clearer and more distorted than the illusion on the rock wall.

Those signature eerie green eyes were now like two bottomless, chilling pools of ghostly depths.

The mere sight of it sent chills down one's spine, leaving one's body stiff.

A terrifying, solid, and seemingly weightless pressure from the Upper Immortal realm swept across the entire area like a tsunami!

"First Grade Upper Immortal!" the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord gasped.

The demonic light on his demonic body dimmed by three points, his voice filled with disbelief and horror: "This old demon... he actually recovered to the Upper Immortal realm!"

Huo Ling'er groaned, feeling as if a boulder was pressing on her chest, making it difficult to breathe.

Her hand gripping the sword trembled slightly, her pretty face drained of color.

Instinctively, she used all her strength to tighten her grip on Chen Ping's hand beside her, as if it were her only support.

Faced with this terrifying pressure, enough to make even a peak Heavenly Immortal cultivator lose their composure, Chen Ping stood as unmoved as a mountain.

The hazy, seemingly thin, chaotic immortal energy surrounding him flowed silently, like the most flexible yet strongest barrier.

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It subtly disintegrated and vanished the overwhelming pressure.

He even had the leisure to gently squeeze Huo Ling'er's cold hand, conveying a sense of reassurance.

Then, he raised his head, his gaze calmly meeting the Soul Devourer's eerie green eyes burning with resentment and killing intent.

The mocking smile on his lips remained unchanged.

"First Grade Upper Immortal?" Chen Ping's voice was still flat, revealing no emotional fluctuation.

"No wonder your arrogance is worse than athlete's foot."

"However..."

He paused, his contempt almost overflowing: "You think that just because you've recovered to the Upper Immortal Realm, you can put on airs in front of me?"

"Soul Devourer, have you been underground for too long? Has your brain been damaged by magma?"

“Or is it that your Upper Immortal Realm cultivation was inflated like a balloon by absorbing the toxic gas of the earth’s fire—all show and no substance?”

“Insolence!!!”

The Soul Devourer was enraged, his roar like the wailing of a thousand wronged souls, echoing throughout the abyss!

When had he ever suffered such humiliation?

Especially from a junior whose cultivation was far inferior to his!

“Chen Ping! Today, I will show you the difference between immortals and mortals, and what absolute power is!”

“I will tear you apart piece by piece, extract your soul, and roast it in demonic flames for ten thousand years, so that you may wish you were dead!”

His six wings suddenly flapped!

“Boom!”

Black and red demonic energy spread like an explosion, and the terrifying pressure of the Upper Immortal realm surged once more.

The materialized pressure made the air groan under its unbearable weight.

The previously calm lava river below instantly surged into towering waves.

The rock walls on both sides cracked and splintered, countless spiderweb-like fissures appearing on their surfaces.

Huo Ling'er and the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord could no longer withstand it, forced back several steps by this aura.

Their blood churned within them, almost causing them to vomit blood.

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Meanwhile, Chen Ping, at the very center of the pressure, his blue robes fluttered wildly, his black hair danced wildly in the raging air currents, yet his figure remained as steady as a rock.

He didn't even frown, only the chaotic immortal energy flowing around him increased slightly.

"That's it?"

Chen Ping even tilted his head, asking with an almost innocent curiosity.

His contempt was unmistakable: "The pressure of a first-grade Upper Immortal? It feels... weaker than the wind from the stove in the Earth Fire Pavilion's kitchen."

"Soul Devourer, you didn't buy your Upper Immortal realm, did you? How many Soul Coins did you spend?"

"You little beast... you've thoroughly enraged me!" The Soul Devourer's eerie green eyes almost spit fire.

His reason was almost completely consumed by rage.

He had never seen such a reckless, provocative opponent!

Before he finished speaking, his six wings flapped violently, and his figure vanished from his spot in an instant!

Not high-speed movement, but near teleportation!

The Upper Immortal's rudimentary control over the laws of space allowed him to almost ignore the distance between them.

A flash of black and red light, and the Soul Devourer's massive body, covered in ferocious scales, appeared less than three feet in front of Chen Ping!

For cultivators of their level, this distance was practically face-to-face!

"Soul Devouring Demon Claw!"

A claw larger than Chen Ping himself tore through the air, accompanied by a piercing ghostly howl, aimed directly at Chen Ping's face!

Even before the claw arrived, the dense aura of death and the power of soul corrosion already assaulted him.

It seemed poised to crush his life force and soul along with it!

The black and red demonic light swirling around the claw tip subtly distorted the surrounding space.

This was a full-force claw strike from a first-grade Upper Immortal, unleashed in fury!

Its power was enough to instantly kill any peak Heavenly Immortal, scattering their soul!

"Chen Ping!" Huo Ling'er's heart leaped into her throat, and she cried out in alarm.

However, Chen Ping's reaction once again exceeded everyone's expectations.

He showed no panic, no dodge, not even a defensive stance.