

The Order 9891

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Gray-white energy flowed slowly around the Bone Tower, like a venomous snake waiting for its prey.

Meanwhile, in the Five Elements Mountain Range, Chen Ping abruptly opened his eyes.

Just a moment ago, the primordial star in his dantian trembled violently, its chaotic immortal power spontaneously circulating, as if sensing some extreme threat.

He looked towards the Plains of Resentful Souls, the five-colored patterns on the back of his hand slightly warm.

“That aura just now...” he murmured to himself, “Was that the true master of the Gate of Reincarnation?”

Behind him, Jin Buhuan and the others also sensed that aura that drastically altered the very fabric of the world, their faces turning pale.

“Chen Ping...that was...” Li Baichuan’s voice was hoarse.

Chen Ping took a deep breath, suppressing the trembling in his heart.

“Our time...is running out.”

He gripped the Dragon-Slaying Sword tightly, a resolute glint in his eyes.

“Order the entire alliance to prepare for battle immediately!”

“The army of the Evil Path Palace...is coming.”

“They should arrive within three days.”

The true decisive battle was imminent.

Three days was but a fleeting moment.

But for the Anti-Demon Alliance within the Five Elements Mountains, those three days felt like three centuries.

Li Baichuan brought all the demonic beasts he could muster from the Valley of Ten Thousand Beasts: three thousand Ironback Earth Dragons, five thousand Gale Wolves, eight hundred Thunderwing Golden Eagles, and hundreds of other rare demonic beasts, forming an army of nearly ten thousand.

These demonic beasts were divided into ten battle groups, each led by a top-tier beast tamer, and stationed in the valleys surrounding the Five Elements Mountain Range.

Dugu Ao personally led nine hundred sword cultivators from the Heavenly Sword Pavilion, setting up the “Nine Heavens Sword Formation” atop the five peaks of the Five Elements Mountain Range.

Nine hundred flying swords hovered in the air, their sword light weaving into a net that enveloped the entire mountain range. The sword energy soared to the heavens, unstoppable.

Jin Buhuan, meanwhile, mobilized all disciples of the Five Elements Sect, with the five elders at the core, to bury three thousand six hundred “Five Elements Origin Stones” beneath the Five Elements Mountain Range.

These primordial stones, connected to the earth’s veins, can, once activated, form a “Five Elements Sealing Heaven Barrier” covering an area of five hundred miles. Within the barrier, the Five Elements Laws are amplified a hundredfold, exerting immense suppression on cultivators who do not belong to the Five Elements.

Chen Ping stood on the central peak, overlooking this mountain range that was about to become a battlefield of carnage.

For the past three days, he had barely slept.

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The primordial star in his dantian rotated ceaselessly day and night, the chaotic immortal power and the power of the Five Elements merging and evolving, flowing through the five-colored pattern on the back of his hand.

He could feel his understanding of the Great Dao of Chaos deepening rapidly, especially after the Five Elements unified, his balanced control over the two extreme powers of "Creation" and "Return to Nothingness" had reached an unprecedented level.

But it wasn't enough.

The terrifying power of the Lord of Reincarnation's wave of his hand, capable of changing the world, loomed over his heart like a shadow.

"Report..."

Master Xuanwei arrived on his sword, landing beside Chen Ping, his expression grave. "Scouts report that the Evil Path Palace's army is approaching. The vanguard consists of three thousand Soul Hunters, personally commanded by the Soul Devouring Puppet. The central army comprises three thousand disciples of the Nine Nether Palace, with Blood Netherworld in command. The rear guard is a coalition of forces from various allied factions, numbering... over twenty thousand. Zhan E is bringing up the rear."

"Twenty thousand..." Chen Ping closed his eyes for a moment. "And what about our side?"

"Nine thousand demonic beasts from the Valley of Ten Thousand Beasts, nine hundred sword cultivators from the Heavenly Sword Pavilion, three thousand disciples from the Five Elements Sect, plus the scattered cultivators coming to their aid... a total of fifteen thousand."

Master Xuanwei's voice was low. "Although the numbers aren't that different, the enemy has six Upper Immortals, while we only have three. The difference in high-level combat power... is enormous."

Chen Ping opened his eyes, looking towards the eastern horizon.

There, the sky had already darkened.

Not that it was dark, but rather... a dense, dark mass of people, obscuring the light.

“What’s meant to come will come.” He turned, his voice echoing across the five peaks. “Everyone, do you remember why we fight?”

A brief silence followed.

“For the truth!” the disciples of the Five Elements Sect shouted in unison.

“For justice!” the swordsmen of the Heavenly Sword Pavilion pointed their swords to the sky.

“For life and death!” the demonic beasts of the Ten Thousand Beasts Valley roared to the heavens.

Chen Ping nodded, drawing his Dragon-Slaying Sword. The blade reflected the rising sun, shimmering with a golden-red light.

“Then... let’s fight!”

At noon, the army of the Evil Path Hall arrived at the outer edge of the Five Elements Mountains.

The dark, surging crowd moved like locusts, withering vegetation and extinguishing all life in their wake.

A cacophony of resentment, death, and demonic energy mingled, staining the sky a murky gray-black.

At the forefront of the army, the Soul-Devouring Puppet hovered in the air, its gray-white eyes coldly surveying the Five Elements Mountains ahead.

Behind him, three thousand Soul Hunters formed the “Soul-Capturing Array,” their greyish-white energy surging like a tide.

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To the left, Xue Youming sat atop a black chariot pulled by a nine-headed demonic dragon, flanked by three Ghost Kings and nine Netherworld Envoys. Three thousand disciples of the Nine Nether Palace formed the “Nine Netherworld Yellow Springs Array,” accompanied by howling winds and wailing ghosts.

To the right stood an allied army composed of various allied forces, a mixed bag, but also including many experts. Five reclusive old monsters, such as the Withered Bone Demon and the Blood Sea Ancestor, were prominently featured, each exuding a terrifying aura, clearly having benefited greatly from the Lord of Reincarnation’s attack.

In the center of the army, Zhan E sat high on a bone chariot, surrounded by nine elders with eerie auras.

He toyed with a greyish-white bone bead in his hand, his eyes flashing with a cold light.

“Chen Ping, you brat, come out and answer me!”

Zhan E’s voice, like rolling thunder, echoed throughout the entire Five Elements Mountain Range.

At the summit of Golden Peak, Chen Ping rose into the air, followed by the Earthfire Ancestor, Crimson Cloud Demon Lord, Li Baichuan, Dugu Ao, Jin Buhuan, and other high-ranking members of the alliance.

The two armies clashed, their killing intent soaring to the heavens.

“Zhan E, you have bewitched people with lies, devoured lives with the Gate of Reincarnation, your crimes are countless and unforgivable.”

Chen Ping’s voice was calm, yet clearly reached everyone’s ears. “Today is the day you are executed.”

“Hahaha...”

Zhan E laughed loudly, his laughter full of disdain. “You mere brat, how dare you speak of the principles of Heaven? Do you know that the Lord of Reincarnation has bestowed a miracle, and tens of thousands of my fellow Daoists have all achieved breakthroughs? This is the will of Heaven! You defy Heaven, and you are only courting your own destruction!”

He surveyed the Five Elements Mountain Range, his voice suddenly turning fierce: “Five Elements Sect, Heavenly Sword Pavilion, Ten Thousand Beast Valley, I will give you one last chance! Surrender now, hand over Chen Ping, and the Lord of Reincarnation will forgive your past transgressions, and may even grant you the opportunity for eternal life! If you remain obstinate...”

He paused, his eyes flashing with cold light: “After today, the three major sects will be wiped out!”

A brief silence followed.

Then, Jin Buhuan was the first to laugh out loud. The laughter, initially low and guttural, grew louder and louder, finally erupting into a hearty, unrestrained roar: “Hahaha, Blood Netherworld! Did you hear that? Your master is trying to recruit us! How about trying to persuade me to become a dog too?”

A flash of killing intent crossed Blood Netherworld’s dark pupils, but it quickly turned to cold indifference: “Jin Buhuan, even on the verge of death, you still indulge in empty talk. How could you possibly fathom the divine might of the Lord of Reincarnation?”

“Divine might?”

Li Baichuan scoffed, “He’s nothing but a coward hiding behind the door! Let him come out and fight me for real!”

Dugu Ao remained silent, only slowly drawing his iron sword from his waist.

The sword was drawn three inches, and its aura soared into the sky!

“It seems... you’re determined to die.”

Zhan E slowly rose, his greyish-white eyes gleaming with murderous intent. “Since that’s the case... then kill!”

“Kill!!!”

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A deafening roar of battle tore through the sky!

The great battle erupted!

The first to move was the Valley of Ten Thousand Beasts.

Li Baichuan roared to the sky, his voice like a lion’s: “Disciples of the Valley of Ten Thousand Beasts, heed my command! Charge, beast tide! Break through their vanguard!”

“Roar!!!”

Earth-shattering roars erupted from the valleys surrounding the Five Elements Mountains!

Nine thousand demonic beasts surged forth from all directions like a burst dam, sweeping towards the vanguard of the Evil Path Hall, the three thousand Soul Hunters!

Iron-backed Earth Dragons charged at the forefront. Their massive bodies, like small mountains, were covered in thick rocky armor. Their charge shook the earth, shattering the Soul Hunters’ formation.

The swift wolf pack transformed into azure whirlwinds, darting across the battlefield, their claws tearing through soul armor, their fangs snapping throats.

A flock of thunderwing golden eagles swooped down from the sky, golden lightning raining down like a storm, each bolt capable of piercing the defenses of several Soul Hunters.

The charge of the demonic beast army instantly tore several gaps in the battlefield!

But the Soul Hunters, being the elite of the Evil Path Hall, quickly regained their footing after the initial chaos.

Three thousand Soul Hunters simultaneously waved their Soul-Capturing Banners, the piercing sonic roars of souls sweeping towards the beast tide like invisible blades!

“Awooo!”

Many demonic beasts, affected by the soul roars, their eyes turning bloodshot, began to tear at each other!

Seeing this, Li Baichuan roared, “Lion King!”

The three-headed Flaming Lion King beside him roared to the sky, its three heads simultaneously spewing flames, ice, and lightning. The three powers merged in the air, transforming into a three-colored beam of light that slammed into the Soul Hunter formation!

“Boom!!!”

Where the beam of light passed, the Soul-Sealing Banners shattered, and dozens of Soul Hunters were instantly vaporized!

But the Soul-Devouring Puppet moved.

Its grey-white eyes locked onto the three-headed Flaming Lion King, and with a flick of its grey-white spear, it transformed into a blur, thrusting straight at the Lion King’s brow!

“Your opponent is me!”

Li Baichuan leaped into the air, a massive beast-bone battle axe, as large as a door panel, appearing in his hand. He cleaved the axe against the spear!

“Clang!!!”

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The battle axe and spear collided, unleashing a deafening roar.

Li Baichuan’s tiger’s mouth split open, blood gushing forth, and he was sent flying backward, crashing into half a mountainside.

But he immediately sprang to his feet, wiping the blood from his mouth, his eyes blazing with even greater fighting spirit: “Peak First Grade Immortal Realm... truly formidable!”

He charged again, engaging the Soul-Devouring Puppet in fierce combat.

The battle between the beast tide and the Soul Hunters reached its climax.

Meanwhile, the Heavenly Sword Pavilion moved.

Dugu Ao soared into the air, his iron sword fully drawn.

“Heavenly Sword Pavilion disciples, heed my command! Nine Heavens Sword Formation, slay the demon!”

“Yes, sir!”

Nine hundred sword cultivators responded in unison, their flying swords simultaneously pointing towards the sky!

“Buzz!!!”

The Nine Heavens Sword Formation was fully activated!

Nine hundred flying swords intertwined in the air, forming a sword net covering a hundred miles. Within the net, countless sword energies transformed into a tangible rain of swords, pouring down upon the Nine Nether Palace’s ranks!

“A mere trick.”

Xue Youming sneered, raising his hand and waving it. “Nine Netherworld Yellow Springs Formation, activate!”

Three thousand disciples of the Nine Nether Palace simultaneously formed hand seals, unleashing a chilling, ghostly aura that coalesced into a massive black palace phantom in the air.

The palace gates swung open, releasing an endless stream of vengeful spirits and ghosts that clashed with the rain of swords!

“Sizzle, sizzle, sizzle...”

The rain of swords and the vengeful spirits clashed fiercely, creating a continuous barrage of explosions in the sky.

A flash of sword light appeared in Dugu Ao’s eyes, and his figure vanished abruptly.

When he reappeared, he was already ten feet in front of Xue Youming’s chariot!

“Xue Youming, take my sword!”

The iron sword slashed horizontally, devoid of any frills, only pure, unadulterated sword intent—the pinnacle of “man and sword as one”!

A trace of solemnity flashed in Xue Youming’s dark pupils as he finally rose.

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He extended a withered, bony finger and lightly tapped the air.

“Nine Netherworlds Finger – Yellow Springs Finger.”

One finger against one sword.

Space seemed to freeze at that moment.

The instant the iron sword tip clashed with the fingertip, there was no sound, no impact, only a thin, hair-like black line silently appearing at the point of impact—the mark of space being completely torn apart!

Three breaths later.

“Boom!!!”

A terrifying shockwave erupted from the two of them!

Dugu Ao was sent flying a hundred feet backward, his iron sword trembling, a tiny crack appearing on its blade.

Blood trickled from the corner of his mouth, but his eyes burned with fighting spirit: “Fourth-grade Upper Immortal Realm... is this all you’ve got!”

Xue Youming coldly stared at Dugu Ao, his eyes filled with shock. He hadn't expected Dugu Ao to be able to withstand his attack.

After receiving guidance from Chen Ping, Dugu Ao's sword intent had also risen sharply. Although not as strong as Xue Youming's, he could still withstand a blow!

"Sword cultivators... are indeed troublesome," Xue Youming said.

But before he could finish speaking, Dugu Ao attacked again!

The two clashed fiercely in the sky, sword light and demonic energy colliding violently, each impact shattering a piece of the heavens.

Dugu Ao used all his ultimate techniques from the outset, burning his life essence.

He knew that if he didn't fight desperately, he wouldn't be able to withstand even a few moves from Xue Youming.

On the ground, the battle within the Five Elements Sect was equally intense.

Jin Buhuan sat in the center of the Five Elements Mountain Range, the five elders guarding the five peaks, and three thousand disciples each holding their positions.

"Five Elements Sealing Heaven Barrier, activate!"

Jin Buhuan formed hand seals and shouted in a deep voice.

"Activate!" the five elders responded simultaneously.

The three thousand six hundred Five Elements Origin Stones buried underground lit up simultaneously!

Gold, wood, water, fire, and earth—five-colored pillars of light shot up from the peaks of the five mountains, weaving together in the air to form a massive five-colored light shield, enveloping the entire Five Elements Mountain Range. Within the barrier, the Five Elements Laws were amplified to their extreme.

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Among the Evil Path Palace's allied forces, those cultivators not belonging to the Five Elements system immediately felt unwell; their demonic energy flowed sluggishly, their soul power was suppressed, and even flight became difficult.

However, the Five Elements Sect disciples thrived, their Five Elements spells becoming exponentially more powerful!

"Metal lineage disciples, form the 'Geng Metal Sword Formation'!" the Metal lineage elder shouted.

Three hundred Metal lineage disciples simultaneously unleashed their natal flying swords, which converged in the air, transforming into a hundred-zhang-long Geng Metal giant sword, slashing towards the allied forces!

"Wood lineage disciples, 'Azure Wood Cage'!" the Wood lineage elder formed a hand seal.

Countless thick azure vines sprouted from the ground, binding the allied cultivators like living creatures; once entangled, their life force was frantically drained by the vines.

The Water, Fire, and Earth lineages also unleashed their respective ultimate techniques.

In an instant, the outer perimeter of the Five Elements Mountains transformed into a Five Elements Hell, inflicting heavy casualties on the allied forces.

"Hmph, a mere Five Elements Barrier, yet dares to act so arrogantly?"

Zhan E finally made his move.

He stepped out of the bone chariot, his hands forming a strange hand seal in front of his chest.

“Reincarnation – Law Breaker!”

Grayish-white reincarnation energy surged from his body, condensing in the air into a gigantic grayish-white palm, which slammed down fiercely towards the Five Elements Barrier!

Where the palm passed, the Five Elements Laws were forcibly distorted and disintegrated!

“Not good!” Jin Buhuan’s expression changed, and he activated the barrier with all his might.

The five-colored light shield trembled violently, spiderweb-like cracks appearing on its surface.

“Sect Master Jin, I’ve come to your aid!”

The Earth Fire Ancestor rose into the air, his hands outstretched, and a crimson-gold fire lotus bloomed in his palms.

“Earthfire True Flame – Heaven-Burning!”

Endless earthfire true flames erupted from the fire lotus, transforming into nine crimson-gold fire dragons, meeting the gray-white palm head-on!

The flames and the Qi of Reincarnation clashed fiercely, the sky half crimson-gold and half gray-white, a bizarre yet magnificent sight.

“Earthfire Ancestor...you’ve grown old.”

Zhan E sneered, his other hand forming a seal and striking out, “Reincarnation – Soul Devouring!”

A second gray-white palm formed, lunging straight at the Earthfire Ancestor!

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The Earthfire Ancestor grunted, his body swaying slightly, but he gritted his teeth and persevered, the fire lotus shining even brighter.

The two were locked in a stalemate in mid-air, the Qi of Reincarnation and the earthfire true flames colliding wildly, each clash shattering the mountains below.

And what was Chen Ping doing at this moment?

He didn’t immediately join the battle, but instead closed his eyes and concentrated, standing atop the golden peak, as if waiting for something.

The five-colored patterns on the back of his hand were slightly warm, and the primordial stars in his dantian spun faster and faster.

He was sensing—sensing the energy flow of the entire battlefield, sensing the changes in the aura of every powerful figure, sensing... the turning point of the battle.

“Now.”

Chen Ping suddenly opened his eyes, five colors swirling within them before finally settling into a chaotic gray.

He saw it.

Although the Soul-Devouring Puppet suppressed Li Baichuan, its rigid combat instincts made its moves inflexible, with extremely subtle energy precursors before each attack.

Xue Youming and Dugu Ao were locked in fierce combat, but the Nine Nether Demonic Art was insidious and unpredictable. While Dugu Ao's Pure Yang Sword Intent could counter it, it couldn't last long; he could only withstand ten more moves at most.

The Earth Fire Ancestor and Zhan E were locked in a battle of attrition. Although the Earth Fire True Flame was powerful, Zhan E's Cycle Qi was inexhaustible; a prolonged battle would inevitably lead to defeat.

Although the Five Elements Barrier had temporarily held off the allied forces, it was beginning to crumble under the combined attacks of the withered bone demon, the blood sea patriarch, and other ancient monsters.

The entire battle, seemingly deadlocked, was in reality a precarious situation for the allied side.

A breakthrough was imperative.

And the key to breaking the deadlock... lay with the Soul-Devouring Puppet.

Chen Ping moved.

He took a step forward, his figure transforming into a hazy gray streak of light, rushing straight towards the battle between the Soul-Devouring Puppet and Li Baichuan!

"Young friend Chen Ping, be careful!"

Li Baichuan exclaimed in alarm.

The Soul-Devouring Puppet's gray-white eyes suddenly turned to Chen Ping, its spear trembling, abandoning Li Baichuan, and thrusting straight for Chen Ping's brow!

This spear strike was fast, accurate, and ruthless, devoid of any fancy moves, pure killing technique.

But this was the very spear Chen Ping was waiting for.

“Chaos Evolution – Five Elements Return to Nothingness.”

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He spoke softly, his Dragon-Slaying Sword remaining sheathed. Instead, his hands formed an incredibly complex hand seal before his chest.

Five colors—metal, wood, water, fire, and earth—surged from his body, converging and merging within the hand seal, ultimately transforming into a hazy gray bead.

It was the Five Elements Return to One Bead!

The instant the bead appeared, the Soul-Devouring Puppet’s thrusting spear abruptly halted!

The spear tip was only three inches from Chen Ping’s brow, yet it could advance no further, for the cyclical energy flowing within the spear was being frantically devoured and assimilated by the Five Elements Return to One Bead!

“Your power... originates from reincarnation.”

Chen Ping calmly gazed into the Soul-Devouring Puppet’s empty, gray-white eyes, “But reincarnation... also originates from chaos.”

He raised his hand, his five fingers forming a loose fist.

The Five Elements Unity Pearl exploded with a deafening roar, transforming into five-colored streams of energy that bound the Soul-Devouring Puppet’s limbs, neck, and abdomen like chains!

“Chaos...Separation.”

As the four words were uttered, the reincarnation patterns on the Soul-Devouring Puppet's gray-white scales began to flicker violently, as if struggling and wailing.

Then, a scene that left everyone dumbfounded appeared.

A phantom light screen slowly unfolded between the Soul-Devouring Puppet's brows.

Within the light screen, the entire process of the Soul-Devouring Lord being thrown into the Gate of Reincarnation and refined into a puppet by three gray-white humanoid figures was displayed!

The cruel scenes of soul refining, consciousness stripping, and body reconstruction were clearly shown before everyone!

"No...Don't look!"

Zhan E's expression changed drastically. He tried to stop it, but was held back tightly by the Earth Fire Ancestor.

The light screen continued to play.

After the refining was completed, the Soul-Devouring Puppet was thrown into the Reincarnation Pool for "nourishment," where countless similar puppets floated and sank. Finally, he was handed over to Zhan E, becoming a mindless killing machine driven only by battle instinct.

The entire process contained no "immortality," no "resurrection," only the most cruel stripping and transformation.

As the scene finished playing, the gray-white vortex in the Soul-Devouring Puppet's eyes spun violently, and a faint...pain appeared?

It was a fragment of memory sealed deep within its soul, briefly awakened under the stimulation of chaotic power.

But only for a moment, before being suppressed again by the rules of reincarnation.

But that moment was enough.

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On the battlefield, all the cultivators who had pledged allegiance to the Evil Path Hall witnessed this scene.

After a brief silence.

“That...that’s the Soul-Devouring Lord?!”

“He’s been turned into a puppet?!”

“So-called immortality...is turning us into this kind of thing?!”

Panic began to spread.

Those who had initially been fanatical allies now had doubt, fear, and even...anger in their eyes.

“He’s lying to us!” someone hissed. “The Gate of Reincarnation can’t grant immortality! It’s a trap!”

“We’ve been deceived!”

The chaos spread rapidly through the allied forces like a plague.

“Hold your ground! Hold your ground!” the Withered Bone Demon roared, but it was too late.

Many cultivators began to flee, some even turning their weapons on the Soul Hunters beside them.

The allied forces were thrown into disarray!

“Now!” Chen Ping shouted, “Counterattack!”

“Counterattack!!!”

The morale of the allied forces soared!

Li Baichuan seized the opportunity. The Three-Headed Flaming Lion King spewed out a three-colored beam of light, temporarily repelling the Soul Devouring Puppet. He then turned and charged into the Soul Hunter ranks, his beast-bone battle axe scattering blood and flesh wherever it passed.

Dugu Ao’s sword intent surged again, his iron sword transforming into thousands of sword shadows, forcing Xue Youming to retreat repeatedly.

Jin Buhuan unleashed the full power of his Five Elements Barrier, its five-colored light shining brightly, enveloping the fleeing allied cultivators. Five Elements spells rained down like a storm.

Earthfire Ancestor, risking injury, unleashed his fire lotus, blasting Zhan E back a hundred feet. Then, the nine fire dragons merged into a thousand-foot-long fire dragon, ravaging the allied forces.

As for Chen Ping...

He didn’t pursue the Soul-Devouring Puppet, but turned to look at another battlefield high in the sky.

There, the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord was locked in fierce combat with the “Chi Ghost King,” one of the three Ghost Kings of the Nine Nether Palace.

Although the Crimson Cloud Demon Lord was brave, fighting against a Celestial Realm expert was already showing signs of fatigue.