

Humanity 261

Chapter 261 - Xianyuan City

Choo Qing gazed across the valley towards the direction of Surreptitious Palace, her ocular power clashing with that of Surreptitious Palace's Governor, Gu Canyang, as both caught the hint of coldness in each other's eyes.

The Surreptitious Palace bordered Fenghua Courtyard, so the animosity was not minor, and both parties were set to enter the Boundless Mirage Realm this time. Regardless of prior relations, should the opportunity arise within, a battle was certain to ensue.

Currently, with the Boundless Mirage Realm yet to open, no one dared to act rashly, rendering provocations unnecessary.

Choo Qing's beautiful eyes scanned the vicinity, attempting to discern if there were any cultivators worth noting.

Soon, she noticed a man seated on the ground, his broad frame clothed in a tattered hemp garment, chest partially bare. Her eyes involuntarily narrowed; if she was not mistaken, this was the independent cultivator known as Giant Armor.

This man boasted a significant reputation among independent cultivators, even recognized by the nearby big sects. Both Surreptitious Palace and Soaring Cloud Palace had sought to recruit him, wishing to bring him into their fold.

Under normal circumstances, big sects would not recruit a Level 9 independent cultivator, but Giant Armor was an exception, highly sought after by several nearby sects.

His allure was not merely because of his simple nature but, more importantly, because as a physique cultivator, he was unlike any other known to common understanding.

It was said that since the beginning of his cultivation, Giant Armor had never killed a person.

Amongst the cultivators who roamed the Spirit Stream battlefield, it was rare to find any whose hands weren't stained with lives, yet Giant Armor's were clean.

His survival to this day without having killed anyone had one reason behind it: he had a magic cultivator companion. Reportedly, ever since they were at the Level 2 and Level 3 realms, they had acted together, with his companion taking care of eliminating enemies.

The second reason was that Giant Armor's defensive capabilities were extremely exceptional; cultivators of the same level could hardly breach his defenses, and even those one to two levels above found it difficult to injure him.

In unison, the physique and magic cultivator had advanced from junior cultivators at Level 2 and Level 3 realms and cultivated together to reach the Level 9 realm.

Both Surreptitious Palace and Soaring Cloud Palace's attempts to entice Giant Armor were unsuccessful, as the magic cultivator he was partnered with did not agree. It seemed he had always treated Giant Armor as his own cash cow, not allowing any powers to interfere.

Hence, when Choo Qing saw the figure of Giant Armor, she felt a slight headache brewing, yet was somewhat relieved that he had not joined Surreptitious Palace. It appeared he was still acting alongside his magic cultivator companion, which meant there should be no trouble as long as she didn't provoke him.

To confirm her suspicions, Choo Qing began searching for the magic cultivator's whereabouts; he was easily recognizable with his small mustache and short stature, hardly seeming like good news.

Then, her gaze brushed past Lu Ye, who stood beside Giant Armor, and her eyes swiftly returned to him. She channeled spirit force into her eyes and scrutinized him carefully, utilizing her Ocular Power.

Ensuring she wasn't mistaken, Choo Qing's eyes slowly narrowed.

How could this man be here? And considering his spirit light... he's actually at Level 8?

Choo Qing's heart skipped a beat. Just a few months ago, this man was at Level 5, and now he had ascended to Level 8 realm. Such a speed of cultivation was indeed terrifying.

She withdrew her gaze, her eyelids drooping down as she clenched her fists lightly, a surge of murderous intent swirling around her.

Across the way, Lu Ye, sensing something, looked up towards Fenghua Courtyard. For a moment, he had felt someone probing him, but with too many eyes in the crowd, he couldn't pin it down.

Amber, having feasted by the physique cultivator's side, hopped back.

The physique cultivator seemed somewhat reluctant to leave, asking in a deep voice, "What's its name?"

"Amber."

The physique cultivator nodded, "Giant Armor."

That must be his name.

Just then, a large ship-shaped Flying Spirit Artifact rapidly approached from the distance. The cultivators from Fenghua Courtyard visibly perked up upon seeing its insignia, for it belonged to Illuminating Sun Mountain.

In no time, Illuminating Sun Mountain's large ship descended, led by an attractive young cultivator; the nearly one hundred people merged with those from Fenghua Courtyard. The scene instantly filled with cheer as they exchanged lively greetings between "brother" and "sister," basking in harmonious joy. These two sets of cultivators clearly cherished a good rapport.

In contrast, the expressions of those from Surreptitious Palace were palpably grave.

Jik Yan, who had previously attempted to recruit Lu Ye, stood by a bronze-skinned man, whispering, "Senior brother, how much longer till Soaring Cloud Palace arrives?"

The bronze-skinned man was none other than the leader of Surreptitious Palace's delegation for this venture and the residing Governor of the sect's base, Gu Canyang.

"Soaring Cloud Palace might not make it in time," Gu Canyang spoke. "They need at least four to six hours to get here, and the Boundless Mirage Realm is about to open."

Jik Yan was anxious, "What do we do then? If we enter, it's one against two. Should we withdraw?"

Gu Canyang shook his head, "To dread the fight before it starts will tarnish Surreptitious Palace's reputation. How could we hold our heads high after that? The Boundless Mirage Realm has diverse environments; as long as we avoid certain places, what does it matter if we're up against two? Having more people doesn't guarantee success."

As his words trailed off, the mist within the valley suddenly surged violently.

"It's opening!" someone shouted in a low voice.

In an instant, the noisy valley became quiet, and everyone's gaze was fixated on the fog ahead.

Under the watchful eyes of the crowd, the fog tumbled and gathered in different positions, quickly forming vortexes of various sizes.

In just a moment, the surging fog suddenly froze in place, with only those vortexes slowly spinning. From within those vortexes, an indescribable aura seeped out.

"Senior Brother," Jik Yan called out.

Gu Canyang waved his hand, "Enter!"

Having decided to enter the Boundless Mirage Realm, there was no turning back at this juncture. Saying so, he took the lead and jumped toward the vortex closest to him, his figure immediately vanishing. With him leading the way, the cultivators from the Surreptitious Palace followed one after another.

Across the valley, the cultivators from Fenghua Courtyard and Illuminating Sun Mountain, having joined forces, followed their respective leaders and leapt into the same fog vortex.

At the same time, the independent cultivators around the valley also formed teams and jumped into different vortexes.

The small-mustache magic cultivator who had been with Giant Armor had already returned, apparently unsuccessful in recruiting help. Annoyed and feeling the chill of human hearts, he found it so difficult to find a suitable partner. Upon his return and seeing Giant Armor still eating ravenously, he kicked him and said, "Get up, let's go!"

"Oh."

Giant Armor stuffed the beast meat in his mouth, his cheeks bulging out as he followed the small-mustache magic cultivator and charged head-first into a vortex.

Lu Ye also jumped into a nearby vortex, originally wanting to peer through the vortex to observe the environment inside, but he saw nothing.

Riding the vortex into the mist, Lu Ye suddenly felt a force holding him in mid-air, and he immediately found himself suspended.

From around him came a cacophony of noise, and turning his head, he saw the cultivators who had jumped in through the vortex, everyone without exception, were frozen in the air.

Looking back, he saw the grey sky as if it had many holes torn through it, with cultivators continuously leaping in through those holes.

Lu Ye tried to stimulate his spirit force but was completely unable to do so.

"Damn it, it's Xianyuan City!" someone shouted.

This comment seemed to spark panic and soon led a group of people to express their dismay with colorful language.

Lu Ye turned his head and saw below a grand city come into view. The city was majestic and occupied a vast area. However, it seemed to have experienced warfare, with ruins and broken walls everywhere, even the towering walls that were dozens of meters high had collapsed in sections.

On some sections of the walls, there were huge claw marks.

It seemed as if some colossal creature had once climbed the walls using its sharp claws; on the remaining walls, large swaths of black bloodstains lingered, from which black mist emanated, giving a sense of foreboding.

Lu Ye's eyelids drooped slightly, his expression solemn.

According to the intelligence he purchased from the Heaven's Augury Mercantile Union, the Boundless Mirage Realm connected to many different small spaces, each one an ancient force's ruins. No one knew from what era these forces were or how they were destroyed.

Some parts of the Boundless Mirage Realm were not dangerous, and there were even plenty of benefits. After those forces were wiped out, many treasures were left behind, as well as storage sacks from cultivators who had entered in the past and died here.

Someone had found an ancient medicinal garden in the Boundless Mirage Realm, where each medicinal herb was worth a fortune.

Someone else had obtained a spirit treasure in the Boundless Mirage Realm, significantly increasing their power thereafter.

There were even those who received the legacy of the most powerful beings...

That's why the Boundless Mirage Realm held such great allure for cultivators, with crowds flocking to explore it whenever it appeared.

However, due to the differences in the ruins, the levels of danger also varied.

Xianyuan City, among all the small spaces connected by the Boundless Mirage Realm, was undoubtedly one of the most dangerous. The reason being that there were some perils within it that cultivators at the Spirit Stream Realm level would find difficult to withstand; encountering them would almost certainly mean death.

The most important thing was that in Xianyuan City, there were many Spiritual Bodies. It seemed these were the original cultivators of Xianyuan City, who died along with the city's downfall and then became trapped here as Spiritual Bodies. Some of these Spiritual Bodies were mindless, acting only on instincts they had in life, but some retained their spiritual intelligence from when they were alive.

Therefore, in Xianyuan City, the crises one faced were not just hostile cultivators but also Xianyuan City itself.

Lu Ye recalled all the information he had about Xianyuan City, and looking down at a massive palace in the center of the city, he silently decided that he must absolutely avoid that place.

Because that was the residence of the Xianyuan City Lord, and the Spiritual Body of the Xianyuan City Lord was inside!

The swearing around him grew louder. If the cultivators had known that the Boundless Mirage Realm connected to Xianyuan City this time, perhaps very few would have chosen to enter. Treasures are enticing, but one must be alive to enjoy them.

Although Lu Ye didn't swear, he did feel somewhat regretful because among the small spaces connected by the Boundless Mirage Realm, there was one called the Great Brahman Hall. That place contained many precious ancient texts, and although for some reason they could not be taken out, cultivators could still receive various legacies there, including the legacy of spirit runes masters.

The Great Brahman Hall was the place all cultivators most wished to enter because once inside, they would definitely gain benefits, and moreover, there were not many risks.

Chapter 262 Liu Sanbao

No matter how loudly the cultivators around him shouted and cursed, they couldn't change their predicament. They had already entered and there was no way to exit.

They could only wait for the time limit to arrive and be expelled by Xianyuan City.

Suddenly, a colossal pulling force came from ahead, and in the next instant, his body, which had been suspended in the air, involuntarily plummeted toward the ground below as Xianyuan City rapidly expanded in his field of vision.

Shouts of alarm rose from all directions.

This time, there were six to seven hundred cultivators who had entered the Boundless Mirage Realm. The spectacle of so many cultivators falling together was truly majestic.

Moreover, falling from such a height, even a physique cultivator like Giant Armor would definitely not survive. This was not a question of physical strength; the height was simply too great, and a fall from it would certainly result in a loss of human form.

All of them were trying to muster their spirit force, but the spirit force within their bodies was like stagnant water, impossible to stir, no matter how hard they tried. Those cultivators who were unaware of what was happening descended into panic, their curses growing fiercer, and some even cried out that they hadn't lived long enough and weren't ready to die yet.

Lu Ye, having purchased intelligence from Heaven's Augury Mercantile Union, was recorded in these circumstances, so he was not flustered. He simply kept trying to muster his spirit force.

Moreover, as they fell, everyone's bodies were uncontrollably drifting left and right. This situation was as if they were caught in a chaotic torrent of wind, unable to navigate, forced to drift with the flow, feeling utterly terrible.

The small-mustache cultivator and Giant Armor had initially been close to Lu Ye, but after a moment of falling, they disappeared without a trace. No one knew where they had gotten to.

Amongst the terrified screams, everyone drew nearer and nearer to the ground, until about thirty feet up, their rapidly descending figures were abruptly cushioned, and their speed plummeted.

When they were about nine feet from the ground, the force that had bound them all disappeared.

Those cultivators who were prepared immediately mustered their spirit force to escape the fate of crashing to the ground, while the unprepared ones were out of luck, each dropping down in various peculiar postures. Though this height wasn't lethal for cultivators, it was still quite an embarrassing fall.

When Lu Ye landed, he took the opportunity to roll forward and then stood up, his hand on the hilt of his sword, quietly mustering his spirit force as he looked around warily.

There was no one else around; he was the only one in the vicinity. He found himself on a street lined with buildings that looked like shops, though most of them appeared dilapidated.

In the initial entry into Xianyuan City, everyone's formation had been completely disrupted. Originally, the cultivators from the three forces had an advantage by sticking together since there's strength in numbers. But now it seemed they would need quite some time to regroup.

This was undoubtedly good news for independent cultivators who were on their own; they didn't have to worry about encountering groups of hostile cultivators for a short time.

"Who dares to trespass in Tianyuan City! Seize them!" A roar entered Lu Ye's ears, followed by the sound of fierce combat and the fluctuations of spirit force from a nearby street.

As Lu Ye listened intently, he saw two figures dash out from around a corner, running directly toward him. Their expressions were panicked, as if they were being chased by some fearsome beast.

Two unfortunate souls! Lu Ye cursed inwardly, hastily scanning his surroundings. He spotted a lantern hanging at the entrance of a nearby shop. Without hesitation, he activated his Move-Like-The-Wind technique, dashed over, pushed open the shop door, and ducked inside.

After shutting the door, Lu Ye peeked through the crack, only to see the two cultivators who were being chased hadn't gotten far when suddenly, dazzling spirit light ropes flew out after them. These rope-like objects did not seem to be Spiritual Artifacts but rather looked like a kind of magic and spells for binding enemies, similar to the rumored Spirit-Binding Lock.

The Spirit-Binding Lock flew straight at one of the combat cultivators, who, impressively, managed to slash at the spell in mid-flight, shattering it, and snorted coldly, "Trivial tricks!"

No sooner had he spoken than four or five Spirit-Binding Locks flew toward him, entwining around him as if they were sentient, and wrapped him up like a zongzi.

The combat cultivator cried out as he fell to the ground, struggling to break free, but the more he struggled, the tighter the Spirit-Binding Locks bound him, until he was struggling to breathe.

"No skills in fighting many against one, face me one on one if you dare!" the cultivator shouted.

Several figures silently crossed over him and pursued the other cultivator.

In just the span of a few breaths, a cry of alarm came from not far away.

Soon, the cultivator who had escaped was also bound and dragged back. The two looked at each other, silent, with tears welling up in their eyes.

Looking through the crack of the door, Lu Ye saw that, besides the two bound cultivators, there were several people clad in armor, with one of them having a long plume on his helmet.

These were the Xianyuan Guards, which could be considered as the city guard army of Xianyuan City. For some unknown reason, after the city was destroyed, the city guards had all turned into Spiritual Bodies. Even though this place was now a dilapidated city, they still adhered to their duties, protecting the city.

This was the biggest trouble in Xianyuan City and what the cultivators who came here wanted to avoid the most.

Because the Xianyuan Guards were mostly cultivators of Level 8-9, and the squad leaders could even compare to Level 7 cultivators. It was said there was also a commander over the city guards.

As for the cultivation of the Xianyuan City Lord... no one knew; none of the cultivators who had entered the City Lord's Residence ever came out alive.

The Xianyuan Guards were not to be trifled with; they usually operated in squads of about five or six, each led by a squad leader. Ordinary cultivators dared not provoke such teams.

Just looking at the two cultivators who were taken down, one could tell that their strength was not weak, one at Level 8 and the other at Level 9. Yet, when faced with a team of Xianyuan Guards, they were captured without much resistance.

"Take them to the dungeon!" the plumage-topped Xianyuan Guard squad leader ordered.

Lu Ye silently mourned. Everyone had entered Xianyuan City seeking fortunes, but they had been caught by the Xianyuan Guards shortly after entering and were now to be sent to the dungeon. Although there was no immediate threat to their lives, what they would encounter after being thrown into the dungeon was unknown.

It was said that those taken to the dungeon would suffer harsh torture, and if they could survive until being expelled by the city, they could keep their lives. But if they couldn't last, they were most likely to die here.

After issuing commands, the squad leader leaped in a few steps to the storefront where Lu Ye was. She pressed one eye against the crack in the door and locked gazes with Lu Ye at close quarters, hissing maliciously, "Having the gall to commit crimes in Xianyuan City, this is what awaits you!"

Having laid down that threat, the squad leader then took his leave.

Lu Ye watched his figure disappear, his hand resting on the hilt of his knife without relaxing his grip. He let out a soft breath; the nine hundred Spirit Stones were well spent. Had it not been for the information about Xianyuan City recorded in the jade slip, he would have had no idea how to deal with the situation and probably would have had to fight desperately against the squad of Xianyuan Guards.

According to the information in the jade slip, those buildings with lanterns hanging at the door seemed to be under the protection of some special power, which the Xianyuan Guards would not enter.

This was also the reason why Lu Ye rushed into this shop.

With a large number of cultivators breaking into Xianyuan City, chaos was bound to ensue in the city. Instead of running around like a headless fly, it was better to hide first and wait for the situation to stabilize before making plans.

Who knows how many people the Xianyuan Guards had captured...

Lu Ye turned around and quietly looked into the distance.

A zhang away, there was a plump middle-aged man dressed in wealthy merchant attire, rubbing his hands together and looking at Lu Ye with a beaming smile.

Some bad luck...

Most of the buildings with lanterns at the door were unowned and could serve as a refuge from Xianyuan Guards, but a portion of them had owners.

These Spiritual Bodies, who had died untold years ago, rarely encountered living people, and often made some strange and unusual demands. If one met the demands of these Spiritual Bodies, they could leave safely; but if not, a price had to be paid.

And those prices were often very severe... such as one's life!

All in all, Xianyuan City was a very bizarre place.

"Young Friend, meeting is destiny, care to gamble?"

This fellow must have been a gambler in his life.

Lu Ye's eyes wandered to the other's neck, contemplating whether he could kill this fellow with a single slash of his knife.

However, considering that the spirit light on his body was comparable to a 7th Heaven level, this possibility seemed slim, so he suppressed the urge to kill in his heart and decided to spare him for now; it wasn't appropriate to stir up too much commotion at the moment.

"Sure."

The plump Spiritual Body's expression turned even more affable as he invited Lu Ye, "Follow me!"

Lu Ye kept his hand on the knife and followed the plump Spiritual Body inside. There, to his surprise, was a gambling table. Seeing this setup, Lu Ye knew his previous thought was correct; this Spiritual Body had indeed been a gambler.

The plump Spiritual Body took the seat of honor and gestured with his hand, "Sit."

Lu Ye pulled back the chair in front of him and sat down with graceful ease.

"I am Liu Sanbao, what may I call you, young friend?"

"Lu Yiye!"

Upon hearing this, Liu Sanbao chuckled, "It seems we are truly fated, such a well-matched name. I see you're not heavily into gambling, probably not well-versed in it. Let's keep it simple and bet on the size with dice, how does that sound?"

"It's your place, you make the rules," Lu Ye replied casually.

"Then it's settled," Liu Sanbao said, rolling up his sleeves, ready for a serious gamble, and with a flip of his hand, he pulled out a dice cup from nowhere and tossed three dice inside, emitting a crisp sound.

Lu Ye merely glanced at the dice cup passively and remained silent.

Liu Sanbao capped the dice cup and shook it gently before slamming it onto the table, shouting, "Bet big on the left, bet small on the right. It's your turn to start, Young Friend Lu."

His face held an excited expression, clearly, it had been a long time since anyone had gambled with him.

"What can I bet?"

"Anything you like, even a strand of hair will do."

Lu Ye then took out a Spirit Stone and threw it to the right.

"Bets are locked, hands off!" Liu Sanbao cried out with excitement again, then opened the dice cup and laughed, "Four, five, six, big, Young Friend you lose."

Saying this, Liu Sanbao pocketed the Spirit Stone, closed the dice cup, and began shaking it vigorously, repeating the words he had just said.

"Bet big on the left, bet small on the right."

Lu Ye also took out another Spirit Stone and casually threw it to the right.

Chapter 263 Another Minion Spirit

After one incense stick's time, Lu Ye had lost thirty consecutive rounds.

It would have been a miracle to win, as the dice cup in Liu Sanbao's hand was clearly a Spiritual Artifact, with the outcome dependent solely on his whim.

Listening carefully, the clamor from outside had begun to subside. Feeling that the time was about right, he stood up and said, "I am inferior in skill and accept my defeat."

He turned and walked towards the exit.

Liu Sanbao just stood there, smiling as he watched him leave.

When Lu Ye reached the door and peeked through the crack, the street outside was deserted, with no one in sight. He reached for the door handle, but it wouldn't budge. There was no lock on the door, yet it seemed as if an invisible force had sealed it tight.

Spirit force surged in his eyes as the Insight Spirit Runes quickly formed.

With the enhancement of Insight, Lu Ye immediately saw the entire room was enveloped by an Array, turning the whole place into an impermeable enclosure. To leave, he would have to break the Array first.

As expected, things were not that simple.

He looked around, attempting to decipher the Array here. After spending so much time learning the Path of Spirit Runes from Madam Yun, he had some understanding of how to break Arrays.

The Array here was not complicated. Given enough time, he should be able to break it.

However, he couldn't be disturbed while doing so, and Liu Sanbao would definitely not allow him the peace to work on the Array.

Slowly, he walked back and stood firm in front of the gambling table, his fingers caressing the handle of his saber, looking at the cheerful Liu Sanbao ahead.

"Open the Array, I want to leave this place!"

Liu Sanbao shook his head with a smile, "That won't do, Young Friend Lu, our game isn't over yet."

"What constitutes as 'over'?"

"That depends on how much you have to wager. When you have nothing left to lose, naturally, the game will be over." As he said this, Liu Sanbao started laughing, "For a true gambler, anything can be a wager, including... one's life!"

"I see," Lu Ye nodded. "Then let's bet with our lives. How about you bet on whether I can... kill you!"

As the last three words fell, Lu Ye had already leaped over the gambling table, his long saber drawn from its scabbard, the spirit runes of Sharpness bolstered as he slashed fiercely towards Liu Sanbao.

Liu Sanbao's smile did not diminish, as if he had anticipated Lu Ye's choice. Facing the saber's strike, he did not dodge at all, merely patting the dice cup lightly, and a die shot straight towards Lu Ye's face.

With a clink, the Boulder Mountain Saber struck the die, and the huge impact made Lu Ye's form stagger slightly backward, slowing his forward charge.

Two more dice flew out, one to the left and the other to the right.

"Roar!" The sound of a tiger's roar resonated, and a visible blast of air surged forward.

At the same time, within Amber, Yiyi appeared, waving her hand and casting a spell toward Liu Sanbao.

The smile on Liu Sanbao's face suddenly stiffened, and his entire Spiritual Body seemed to waver slightly under Amber's roar.

The two dice flying toward Lu Ye immediately seemed to lose control, both being deflected by two slashes of his saber.

The next moment, Yiyi's spell slammed into Liu Sanbao, sending his rotund body flying backward and crashing heavily to the ground.

Liu Sanbao's dazed expression cleared, and as he looked up, he met a pair of amber-colored pupils. Those pupils held the power to captivate souls, and under their gaze, Liu Sanbao felt a panic and unease he hadn't known in many years.

"What is this..."

Amber, having returned to its original form, had opened its wide mouth, and, like it was swallowing scale armor and bloodlines, took a fierce inhale at Liu Sanbao.

The distortion of Liu Sanbao's Spiritual Body was visible to the naked eye, bulging out at the chest, as if it was about to be sucked into Amber's gaping jaws.

Lu Ye stared at this scene in astonishment. Before taking action, he hadn't realized Amber possessed this ability. He had only planned on killing Liu Sanbao to quickly escape from this place, but it was only after he started that he noticed Amber's suppression over Liu Sanbao.

This suppression was not directed at Liu Sanbao specifically but seemed targeted at Spiritual Bodies!

Since Amber had previously transformed Yiyi into a minion spirit, it had some uncanny talents in this regard. If it weren't for this fortuitous venture into Xianyuan City, Lu Ye never would have discovered this ability.

"No, please!" Liu Sanbao cried out in terror, struggling against Amber's voracious devouring. Even though there was a significant gap in their strengths, the sensation of facing a natural predator prevented him from utilizing his full capability, it was a terror and panic stemming from the depths of his psyche.

Lu Ye brought his saber down directly towards Liu Sanbao without hesitation.

Liu Sanbao's resistance immediately weakened significantly.

Lu Ye slashed down with another cut.

Liu Sanbao's resistance grew even feebler, his body folding under the irresistible suction force, being drawn into Amber's wide-open maw.

"Save me, I was wrong!" Liu Sanbao extended his hand towards Lu Ye, his face filled with pleading.

With a swish, Liu Sanbao disappeared from view, and Amber let out a hefty burp, its surface spirit light flickering.

Lu Ye and Yiyi exchanged a glance, both filled with surprise. They had expected a tough battle, but who would have known it would end in such a manner?

The suppression Amber wielded over Spiritual Bodies was simply too brutal.

"Has Amber undergone any changes?" Lu Ye asked.

It had never displayed such a talent before, mainly because it had never encountered other Spiritual Bodies and had no opportunity to reveal it.

Yiyi felt it for a moment then shook her head, "No... wait!"

Lu Ye's heart tightened.

Yiyi darted into Amber's body, and when she emerged again, she had pulled out another Spiritual Body from within Amber.

Lu Ye looked closely and marveled because this Spiritual Body was none other than Liu Sanbao, who had just been devoured by Amber.

So he wasn't eaten after all...

Anyone who had seen that scene would likely think that Liu Sanbao was eaten by Amber as if he were mere food. But now it seemed that Amber's action was not to eat the Spiritual Body but to transform it into its own minion spirit.

However, there was a significant difference between this minion spirit, Liu Sanbao, and Yiyi.

Yiyi possessed her own spiritual intelligence, while Liu Sanbao's expression was very dull, completely devoid of his previous cunning.

Moreover, Liu Sanbao's strength had decreased; originally, he was at the 7th Heaven level, but now he only seemed to be at Level 9, and it was unclear whether this was because Lu Ye had chopped him a few times earlier.

"Can you control him?" Lu Ye asked again.

Amber tilted its head in thought, spirit light flashed across its surface, and then the dull-looking Liu Sanbao began to move slowly. At first, he acted like a puppet, but soon he became more agile. He even picked up the Spiritual Artifact dice cup he had dropped earlier, ran back to the gambling table, and started shaking it, shouting loudly, "Place your bets, large on the left, small on the right, no changes once bets are placed!"

Yiyi slapped Amber on the head, "Don't learn bad things!"

Amber yowled pitifully; it wasn't controlling that behavior. It had simply given Liu Sanbao a simple command, and then Liu Sanbao started acting on his own. A gambler always stays a gambler, even if transformed into a minion spirit, one can't erase the gambling nature.

"How many minion spirits can you control?" Lu Ye asked again.

Amber yowled again, and Yiyi answered for it, "Not sure, we have to test it to find out."

An audacious idea suddenly emerged in Lu Ye's mind.

"Let's go find the Xianyuan Guards."

Lu Ye had Amber command Liu Sanbao to open the room's Array, and soon, they all left.

The chaotic situation in the city had calmed down a bit at this point. When several hundred cultivators had fallen into Xianyuan City earlier, the scene became chaotic, and quite a few dozen people had the ill fate of being captured by the Xianyuan Guards and were thrown into the dungeon.

At this moment, the Xianyuan Guards were searching the entire city for cultivators; a confrontation was inevitable upon discovery.

The cultivators began to contact their relatives and friends to form squads. In such a dreadful place, if a cultivator were discovered alone by the Xianyuan Guards, there really was no good end. Not only were those Xianyuan Guards decently cultivated, but each of them could also cast magic and spells similar to the Spirit-Binding Lock. Once a cultivator was bound by one Spirit-Binding Lock, another three or four would follow. No matter how strong you were, you had to comply obediently.

This resulted in a very strange phenomenon. Currently, whether they were from the Haotian Alliance or Ten Thousand Demons Ridge, if they ran into one another while alone, they would no longer be hostile towards each other, at most brushing past without engagement. Everyone knew that it was not beneficial to fight in such a place, better to regroup first.

Though Xianyuan City lacked exotic flowers and rare herbs to be collected due to its environment, occasionally, some nice items could be found within the buildings, provided one avoided the Xianyuan Guards.

In a certain part of the city, the sound of fierce battles continued to emanate, as a group of cultivators detected by a squad of Xianyuan Guards was locked in combat.

The situation looked grim; of the four cultivators in the group, two were already bound, leaving the remaining two fighting desperately, though it seemed they couldn't hold on much longer.

Just then, the squad leader of the Xianyuan Guards suddenly turned his head toward a direction and saw a figure revealing itself, peering in this direction.

"How audacious!" shouted the Xianyuan Guard squad leader angrily, his figure swiftly moving out to attack.

The figure turned and fled, and amidst the pursuit, they quickly disappeared from sight.

A short while later, a tiger's roar came from that direction, and then... there was nothing more.

In the alley, Lu Ye looked on with satisfaction at the dull-faced Xianyuan Guard squad leader in front of him. This squad leader's strength wasn't much different from Liu Sanbao's. After being lured here and suppressed by Amber, Lu Ye had made a few slashes, and then the squad leader was devoured by Amber and transformed into a minion spirit.

Now his strength was also equivalent to Level 9, just like Liu Sanbao.

After a while, Lu Ye and this squad leader returned to the scene of the recent fierce battle, Lu Ye in front, and the squad leader behind, seeming as if the squad leader was escorting Lu Ye.

A few Xianyuan Guards were still waiting, with four bound cultivators lying on the ground, each one looking utterly disheartened.

Seeing Lu Ye being "escorted" back, one of the guards glanced at him, thinking he was another person who suffered the same misfortune, but upon closer look, something seemed off; Lu Ye wasn't bound at all. His eyes widened in confusion for a moment.

Lu Ye kept his attention on the few Xianyuan Guards until he got closer to them. Then like wooden stakes, the guards stood motionless in their original places, and it became clear that these Xianyuan Guards were thoughtless, unlike their squad leader who at least had some spiritual intelligence to assess the situation. The ordinary Xianyuan Guards didn't have this capability; they simply followed the orders of the squad leader.

This could be judged from the fact that they didn't even spare a glance at Lu Ye.

Chapter 264 Team Expansion

Having confirmed this, Lu Ye felt greatly relieved.

He turned his head to look at several bound cultivators and silently raised his hand, flashing the battlefield marking's light on the back of his hand.

All four changed their expressions simultaneously, with one of them forcing a smile and saying, "Fellow Daoist, we are also from the Haotian Alliance, please help us."

What responded was a streak of weapon control light that passed through this person's head and flew straight out, then swept towards the other few, killing them one by one.

One of them shouted in anger before dying, "You won't die a good death."

Lu Ye didn't know whether he would meet a bad end or not, but those who had cursed him were already dead beyond dead.

If these people had truly been from the Haotian Alliance, they would certainly have shown their battlefield markings immediately. Since they had not, it confirmed that they were from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge; naturally, there was no need for pleasantries.

The four Xianyuan Guards still stood woodenly aside, acting as if they saw nothing before them.

Lu Ye gave a command to Amber, and Amber darted out to one of the Xianyuan Guards, opened its mouth wide, and sucked at him. The guard instinctively struggled, but to little effect, and was quickly swallowed by Amber.

Using the same method on the remaining three, he transformed them one by one into minion spirits.

After releasing the transformed minion spirits, Lu Ye saw that their strength hadn't changed much, similar to before. It seemed that the significant drop in strength of Liu Sanbao and the previous squad leader might have been because he had chopped them, or perhaps because the minion spirits Amber transformed couldn't exceed a certain limit.

After all, Amber's own strength wasn't considered high.

As for which reason it was, further verification was needed, but even if it was the first reason, Lu Ye had no good solution since not chopping them made it difficult for Amber to devour them, creating an unsolvable situation.

This time he had obtained five minion spirits, adding up to six with the previously acquired Liu Sanbao; Lu Ye officially had six minion spirits under his command.

Nobody had ever done this in Xianyuan City before; cultivators who entered Xianyuan City fought with Xianyuan Guards and hostile cultivators. Each time, their minds were nearly scrambled, yet the gains were minimal.

That's because the benefits Xianyuan City could provide to cultivators were minimal; the biggest attraction was a place called the Soul Cleansing Pool, which could refine a cultivator's psyche — an intangible and untouchable entity unreachable by cultivators in the Spirit Stream Realm.

However, if one's cultivation broke through to the True Origin Realm and ascended to the Divine Sea Realm, the cultivator then possessed Mental Consciousness, the origin of which was the cultivator's psyche.

Thus, if one could carry some water from the Soul Cleansing Pool out, it would be hugely attractive to anyone in the Divine Sea Realm.

There had been cultivators who by sheer luck managed to carry a few drops out, presented them to esteemed elders in their sects, and were granted many treasures in return.

However, the Soul Cleansing Pool was said to be at the core of the Xianyuan Guards, hence it was heavily guarded, and a group of junior cultivators from the Spirit Stream Realm could hardly breach into the Soul Cleansing Pool.

Lu Ye had no intention of targeting the Soul Cleansing Pool; it was impractical. What he aimed to do was simple — to allow Amber to convert as many minion spirits as possible. In this way, no matter what dangers lay ahead, he would have measures to respond. If he could transform an army of minion spirits, then even facing over a hundred cultivators from Fenghua Courtyard, Lu Ye would not be weaker.

With six minion spirits already under his command and together with Yiyi's strength, he no longer had to be so cautious in his actions.

Strolling on the streets with Amber strutting confidently, Lu Ye occasionally searched the buildings on either side, seeing if he could find anything valuable.

The result was disappointing. Although there were many buildings along the streets, they hardly contained anything useful.

Lu Ye then gave up on this idea. Xianyuan City, indeed, was not suitable for scooping up benefits. The Boundless Mirage Realm connecting such a place was truly a bit of a trap.

One incense stick's time later, they encountered a patrol squad of Xianyuan Guards, numbering only six.

Upon facing each other, the squad leader immediately pointed in Lu Ye's direction and shouted angrily, "Seize him!"

The few Xianyuan Guards immediately rushed towards him.

To the squad leader's great surprise, not only did Lu Ye not flee, but he also charged towards him. While charging, one minion spirit after another emerged from within Amber, confronting the several Xianyuan Guards.

Suddenly, both sides were embroiled in a fierce fight.

The opposing squad leader visibly paused, his expression growing angrier. "How dare you!" he exclaimed.

As he spoke, Lu Ye had already crossed the battlefield of those Xianyuan Guards and reached him. Amber, perched on his shoulder, let out a tiger's roar at the squad leader. The oppressive force made him falter, and before he could recover, a Spirit-Binding Lock was thrown at him by the Xianyuan Guard squad leader under Amber's command.

Caught off guard, the squad leader was tightly bound, and Amber rushed up to him, opening its mouth to suck fiercely.

By its side, Lu Ye's hand rested on the hilt of his blade, ready to strike.

Ultimately, Lu Ye didn't get a chance to act. After being bound by the Spirit-Binding Lock, the squad leader's ability to resist weakened significantly, and Amber managed to devour him with some effort.

The other Xianyuan Guards were still fighting continuously with their own kind, evidently following their squad leader's previous orders.

After Amber transformed the squad leader into a minion spirit and released him, as the squad leader shouted in a low voice, "Everyone stop."

The battling sides immediately ceased fighting.

What happened next was simple: Amber stepped forward and devoured them all, one by one.

The minion spirit squad grew to twelve members, including two squad leaders, nine ordinary Xianyuan Guards, and one Liu Sanbao.

Amber still hadn't reached its limit.

Lu Ye continued to search with it.

Xianyuan City was vast, but there were also many Xianyuan Guards, who patrolled in squad formation, making them easy to find.

As they walked along, they would occasionally encounter groups of cultivators. If they were from the Haotian Alliance, all was peaceful, but if they ran into those from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge, a fierce battle was inevitable.

The grouped Ten Thousand Demons Ridge teams, seeing Lu Ye alone and at Level 8, would not treat him with courtesy. However, when they truly charged at him, they were horrified to discover that they were not facing just one person but a team composed of Xianyuan Guards!

Spirit-Binding Locks were thrown, and many Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators were bound before they could even get close to Lu Ye, who then moved forward to strike them down one by one.

He had begun to like the place called Xianyuan City, a perilous land unfriendly to other cultivators, offering little reward and fraught with danger. However, for Lu Ye, this place was nothing short of a Sacred Land, where Amber's talent for transforming minion spirits played a significant role.

The number of minion spirits steadily increased until, after four hours, Amber reached its limit.

The minion spirits it could transform, apart from Yiyi, totaled thirty-one, making thirty-two including Yiyi.

This completely shattered the large-scale minion spirit army plan Lu Ye had envisioned, but even this number was substantial enough to handle most dangers within the city.

After several attempts, Lu Ye finally confirmed that the strength of minion spirits transformed by Amber could at most reach the Level 9, which was related to its own strength.

Moreover, the more minion spirits there were, the greater the burden on Amber. It might not show normally, but if the minion spirits returned after a major battle with an enemy, Amber would quickly become languid.

This was because the strength of the minion spirits derived from it, and it would consume its power during recovery.

It had been the same with Yiyi before, who had to hide inside Amber to recover whenever she was injured or had depleted her power.

Now she had freed herself from this limitation. She could cultivate on her own, relishing the joy of gradually becoming stronger. Moreover, Amber could also get stronger by consuming elixir pills, doubling the joy.

This was also the reason why both Amber and Yiyi swiftly improved their strength. Whenever one grew stronger, the other benefited as well.

It was different for the minion spirits; whether it was Liu Sanbao or those squad leaders, once transformed by Amber, they lost their spiritual intelligence and could only act on Amber's commands. When their power was depleted, Amber had to provide them with the energy for recovery.

So, Amber's limit for transforming minion spirits might not be a bad thing. If there were too many, it couldn't bear the strain.

Now, when Lu Ye encountered Xianyuan Guards, he would avoid them if possible, trying not to clash with them. After all, fighting them brought no benefits, only a needless waste of energy.

Walking down the street, Lu Ye's eyelids drooped as he strolled, having felt a vague sensation of being watched from the moment he began walking, as if someone was secretly targeting him.

The one watching him must be a ghost cultivator, for only they possessed such elusive skills.

Although certain someone was watching him, Lu Ye was not the least bit anxious, for he was not alone. If the hidden enemy dared to emerge, he was ready to show them what the minion spirit squad could do.

With so many minion spirits at his command, Lu Ye no longer even needed to dirty his hands; once the spirits had bound the enemy, he just had to step forward and deliver a strike to finish the job.

The trouble now was that he could not catch a glimpse of the opponent. If outside, he could dispatch Yiyi to track down the enemy, but it wasn't possible here. Yiyi had tried before; even as a Spiritual Body in Xianyuan City, she couldn't perform ground evasion since there seemed to be a restriction underground.

Not only underground, but there was also one in the air. Within Xianyuan City, the maximum altitude for aerial travel was thirty feet. Beyond that, one simply couldn't fly any higher, which explained why no cultivator dared to fly through air here; thirty feet was too low.

Moments later, Lu Ye suddenly halted and looked ahead.

In his line of sight, a group of several people appeared, led by a tall woman in a short shirt exposing her midriff. Seeing this woman, Lu Ye's eyes slightly narrowed, and he suddenly realized that the enemy observing him in secret was not a chance encounter. She had specifically come for him!

This was because he had briefly glimpsed this woman earlier near the valley; she was from Fenghua Courtyard.

Had he been recognized earlier? So, were they here for revenge?

It made sense. On Golden Light Peak, thousands had seen his face; being recognized was not surprising.

All around, sudden surges of spirit force fluctuated, accompanied by the rustling of clothes. Lu Ye looked around to see the rooftops filled with cultivators looking ominously at him.

Chapter 265 Choo Qing

Unbeknownst to him, Lu Ye had been surrounded, by no fewer than twenty cultivators.

To gather so many people in such a short time and to set up an encirclement here indicated that the people from Fenghua Courtyard must have been searching for him from the moment they entered. Otherwise, they couldn't have been so efficient.

For any cultivator, this was a dead end.

The tall woman walking toward him was brimming with rage in her eyes, a rage mixed with a hint of pleasure.

She was about to take her great revenge, naturally she was pleased!

This elegant-looking tall woman stopped about a dozen yards in front of Lu Ye. Two other people were with her, one a plump woman whose fatness was clearly abnormal. Even with her loose clothing, the layers of fat on her stomach were unmistakable. Yet, her skin was extremely pale, making her entire person resemble a white, plump silkworm pupa.

The other woman was also female with a petite frame and a careless demeanor. She had short hair tied casually behind her head, and she carried a long saber on her shoulder—a blade that was half again as long as her entire body, creating a stark contrast with her petite stature.

"Senior Sister Choo Qing, is this the guy?" the woman with the saber sized up Lu Ye as she asked, her gaze somewhat similar to Lu Ye's when he looked at his enemies, both searching for the most fitting place to strike.

The tall woman nodded slightly.

"Not bad-looking, it's a shame to kill him like this," said the white, plump woman on the other side, also evaluating Lu Ye with narrowed eyes and a smile, "Can we spare his life?"

The tall woman coldly said, "He won't die so easily on my watch!"

The white, plump woman covered her mouth with a hand and let out a laughter like barbell clanging: "Thank you, Senior Sister Choo Qing." Then, looking back at Lu Ye, her eyes shone with an intriguing light.

"Lu Yiye! Do you recognize who I am?" the tall woman asked through gritted teeth.

Lu Ye tossed an elixir pill into his mouth and chewed slowly.

"Who are you?"

The tall woman's eyes grew cold, "Then do you remember Choo Xue from Golden Light Peak?"

"The female magic cultivator who flirted with me, then got chopped down by me?"

After all, she was the second to challenge him, leaving a deep impression. Lu Ye had even planned to cause trouble at Fenghua Courtyard's base, so how could he forget?

"My name is Choo Qing!"

Choo Xue, Choo Qing; the names clearly belonged to the same family. In fact, Choo Xue was led to Golden Light Peak by Choo Qing, who then emerged to challenge Lu Ye. One could say that Choo Xue died right under Choo Qing's watch, but with so many strong cultivators present and the Heaven's Augury Pact in place, Choo Qing, despite her intense desire to shred Lu Ye into pieces, dared not act rashly.

After the battle at Golden Light Peak, Lu Ye retreated under the cover of Feng Yuechan and Weh Ying and vanished without a trace.

Choo Qing had thought she would never have another chance for revenge, but to her surprise, she spotted Lu Ye at the edge of a valley. To avoid startling the enemy, Choo Qing merely glanced at him and stopped paying attention, waiting to settle scores with him inside the Boundless Mirage Realm.

Once inside, Choo Qing quickly gathered nearby manpower and tracked Lu Ye's movements.

Fortune favored her, and without much effort, she found Lu Ye. She immediately led a group of people to set up an ambush and trapped Lu Ye right here.

"Tell me, how do you wish to die?" Choo Qing was confident of victory, with over twenty people surrounding the place air-tight under her command. Today, there was no way for Lu Yiye to escape.

Lu Ye swallowed the elixir pill in his mouth, lowered his eyelids, and slowly raised his hand to rest on the saber hilt.

"And how do you want to die?"

As he spoke, the Move-Like-The-Wind Spirit Runes flashed briefly on his legs, and his entire body nearly became a shadow, lunging straight towards Choo Qing.

Midway, two Spiritual Artifacts had already flown out, transforming into two streaks of light, attacking the two women beside Choo Qing.

"How dare you!" Choo Qing was furious and commanded, "Take him down!"

As she had just told the white, plump woman, she didn't plan to let Lu Ye die easily. She wanted to capture Lu Yiye first, then make him suffer properly, for how else could she quell the hatred in her heart?

Whenever she thought of Choo Xue's tragic death, she found herself unable to sleep at night.

With over twenty of her own people against a lone enemy, they could crush him however they pleased. The overwhelming numerical advantage was Choo Qing's source of confidence. Not to mention, a united front of over twenty Spiritual Artifacts was not something Lu Ye could withstand.

Suddenly, shocked cries came from all directions. Just as the nearby Fenghua Courtyard cultivators were about to make their move, bright spirit light from Spirit-Binding Locks unexpectedly shot out from behind them, binding several cultivators tightly. Caught off guard, they tumbled headfirst to the ground.

...

The quick-reacting ones weren't locked, but they had no choice but to engage with enemies that suddenly appeared behind them.

"Xianyuan Guard!" someone exclaimed in shock.

Not only had more than twenty Xianyuan Guards suddenly shown up behind them, these Xianyuan Guards had actually ambushed them, which was an unprecedented encounter for them.

In the past, these more than twenty people had also encountered several Xianyuan Guard squads, but those were made up of only a few guards each, and the Xianyuan Guards acted rigidly, with only the squad leaders possessing some spiritual intelligence. Ordinary guards were all mindless beings, hardly a match for them, and were quickly disposed of.

This sudden turn of events caught them completely off guard, and their numerical advantage was instantly gone.

If they were only facing the Xianyuan Guard, they would not have been so embarrassed. Usually, the city's Xianyuan Guards mostly aimed to capture, and generally, they would not harm a cultivator's life unless the resistance was too fierce. Under normal circumstances, once bound by a Spirit-Binding Lock, the guards would not pursue a kill.

The key issue was that it wasn't just twenty-something Xianyuan Guards they were facing, but amongst them was also a strange Spiritual Body. This Spiritual Body was a chubby fellow, dressed in a rich

merchant's attire, holding a dice cup in his hand. Three glowing, glinting dice were constantly thrown, harvesting the lives of the cultivators bound by the Spirit-Binding Locks.

In the blink of an eye, three people died at the hands of this fat man.

What was originally a well-positioned ambush turned into being counter-ambushed by a group of Xianyuan Guards, a situation so bizarre it probably wouldn't be believed if told. The cultivators of Fenghua Courtyard were indeed hit hard, causing some to question their life choices.

Of course, this was all Amber's doing from the shadows.

After realizing he was being followed, Lu Ye didn't let Yiyi act alone. It was far too risky for her to move by herself within Xianyuan City where ground evasion was impossible, so he released Amber to seek out the tracker.

The feedback Yiyi gave him was somewhat surprising. Indeed, there was only one spirit practitioner following him in the shadows, but there were quite a few cultivators quietly approaching from all around...

Lu Ye knew then that these people were planning to ambush him. There was nothing more to be said. He messaged Yiyi to counter-ambush them. Minion spirits usually hid within Amber's form, unseen, and were only needed when called upon, making them perfect for this task.

His brief exchange with Choo Qing was just to buy time, waiting for Yiyi to get things in order on her side. If the people from Fenghua Courtyard really joined forces against him, even his Defense Spirit Runes wouldn't withstand their attacks.

But now, things were looking much better.

The Fenghua Courtyard cultivators were ensnared by the Xianyuan Guard, unable to spare any effort to deal with him. He just needed to face the three women from Choo Qing's side.

All three women were at Level 9, but what of it?

The ringing of metal resounded as two streams of weapon control light were sent flying by the saber-wielding woman. The woman wielded her weapon with grand, sweeping strokes, with the blade covering a radius of three yards around her. Breaking through her saber technique was necessary before closing in, and despite her impressive saber skills, her agility was equally formidable.

Although Choo Qing and the plump white woman were surprised by the turn of events, they didn't lose their composure. A control light from a weapon flew out from Choo Qing, curving towards Lu Ye's right temple.

On its way, Lu Ye struck with his saber, but the Spiritual Artifact cleverly avoided it, skimming past his blade. At the critical moment, the Boulder Mountain Saber flicked upwards, deflecting the weapon control light.

By this time, Lu Ye had closed the distance to within three yards of Choo Qing and the others. After his two weapons were deflected, he stopped caring about them. Even though he could control both weapons while in close quarters combat, it would inevitably distract him.

Diverting attention in such a life-and-death moment would only lead to a quicker demise.

Before reaching Level 7, he had envied others' weapon control methods, but upon mastering the technique, he realized it had significant drawbacks. It was only suitable for mid-range combat, and once close quarters combat began, weapon control became virtually useless.

Of course, if one could entangle the enemy while an ally assisted with weapon control, the results could be impressive.

All strategies simply aimed to kill the enemy; it depended on how they were flexibly utilized.

The Boulder Mountain Saber appeared to move slowly but struck swiftly, yet as soon as he swung, a blade flashed towards him. Forced to switch from offense to defense, Lu Ye blocked the fierce attack.

In the next instant, the clinking and clanging of Spiritual Artifacts colliding and sparks flying filled the air.

Just as Choo Qing and the plump white woman were about to come to their companion's aid, a surge of spirit force suddenly emerged behind them.

Both turned to look and were shocked to find that a squad of Xianyuan Guards had appeared behind them. In the moment they turned, a barrage of Spirit-Binding Locks descended upon them.

Amber had now transformed thirty-one minion spirits, which were divided into six squads. Five of these teams ambushed the Fenghua Courtyard cultivators, while one team was led here by Amber.

Even if Lu Ye could defeat those above his level, facing three *Level 9* cultivators at once was beyond him with his Level 8 cultivation. But with the support of a Xianyuan Guards squad, it was a different story.

The assault was too sudden, and neither Choo Qing nor the plump white woman could react in time, despite their *Level 9* status.

At a critical moment, the plump white woman swiftly stepped to one side. With agility that belied her corpulent form, she shielded Choo Qing from the oncoming locks. The grasping Spirit-Binding Locks enveloped her in an instant, tightening under the guards' control and squeezing her bulky form. Gritting her teeth and bellowing, her blood qi surged powerfully, almost taking on substance as it erupted outwards.

Choo Qing burst out from behind her, holding a cutlass in each hand. Despite her feminine frame, she bravely and recklessly charged towards a Xianyuan Guard. The light from the Spiritual Artifacts sparkled as she twirled and weaved, playing out a symphony of slaughter.

Chapter 266 Plans Can't Keep Up with Changes

The cultivators of Xianyuan Guard usually had substantial cultivation, but because they lacked spiritual intelligence, their rigid behavior prevented them from using their full strength in accordance with their cultivation.

Their advantage lay in operating in squad mode, and the Spirit-Binding Lock was almost a spell every Xianyuan Guard was proficient at. Once an enemy was trapped by one Spirit-Binding Lock, the remaining ones would quickly follow. Most cultivators caught alone by them usually ended up in a bad situation.

As the Deputy Governor of Fenghua Courtyard, Choo Qing's strength was undeniable. She rushed towards the team of Xianyuan Guards, and her two daggers turned into a flurry of blades, covering one of the Xianyuan Guards. In just three breaths of time, the Spiritual Body of that Xianyuan Guard had been shattered.

However, she had also acquired several wounds on her body. While she was killing that Xianyuan Guard, the other Xianyuan Guards hadn't been idle and greeted her with their Spiritual Artifacts.

After killing a Xianyuan Guard, Choo Qing immediately withdrew and shouted, "Qiaoyun!"

The plump woman bound by the Spirit-Binding Lock roared in anger. Originally bound by four Spirit-Binding Locks, the number decreased to three once Choo Qing killed a Xianyuan Guard. As she bellowed, her already rotund body inflated even more, and her blood Qi surged violently, breaking free from the remaining Spirit-Binding Locks.

"Here I come!" Qiaoyun, clearly very upset, started charging in the direction of Choo Qing.

Just as Qiaoyun's mountainous body was about to collide with Choo Qing, Choo Qing leaped up as if her back had eyes of its own, lightly stepping on Qiaoyun's shoulder to float away. The four Xianyuan Guards chasing her weren't so lucky and were sent tumbling by Qiaoyun's impact, their spirit light flashing erratically.

"I'll hold them off!" Despite facing four opponents, Qiaoyun was not at all overpowered. Being a physique cultivator, she didn't have as many attack methods as other sects, but her means of survival were unrivaled, allowing her to face four without fearing for her life, even for a short duration.

In the midst of speaking, her chubby palm slapped toward an oncoming Xianyuan Guard, and with a thunderous bang, the Xianyuan Guard was sent flying, his spirit light dimming significantly.

"Be careful!" Choo Qing cautioned as she turned and charged towards Lu Ye.

They didn't come here to clash with the Xianyuan Guards. In Xianyuan City, the Xianyuan Guards were endless, and killing them yielded no benefits. Their goal was to kill Lu Ye, to avenge the death of Choo Xue.

Therefore, there was no need for them to get entangled with the Xianyuan Guards any longer than necessary; once Lu Ye was killed, they could retreat.

Choo Qing's feet pressed against the ground, propelling her forward swiftly. However, the scene that met her eyes caused her pupils to constrict, for the saber-wielding woman who had been fighting Lu Ye was suddenly sent flying towards her, spitting out a mouthful of blood while still in mid-air.

Choo Qing quickly caught the saber-wielding woman in her arms, the two of them rolling to the ground before hurriedly getting up.

"Uh..." The saber-wielding woman, supporting herself with her saber, spat out another mouthful of fresh blood.

"Ruo Yan!" Choo Qing called out softly.

"I'm not dead yet!" Ruo Yan coughed lightly, lifting her saber and looking ahead warily. There she saw Lu Ye, his saber angled towards the ground with fresh blood dripping from the blade, steadily approaching step by step.

His gaze was slightly downcast, his forehead hair casting a shadow that hid his expression, but his mere Level 8 cultivation was exerting an immense pressure on the two Level 9 cultivators.

"Senior sister, be careful, there's something off about this guy," Ruo Yan said, recalling her brief confrontation with Lu Ye and unable to understand how she had been defeated so swiftly.

She had thought that as a Level 9 cultivator against a Level 8, she might not be able to toy with him, but she expected to at least suppress him in combat. But once they actually crossed blades, she was shocked to find that his Level 8 techniques were incredibly tricky and unpredictable.

It seemed he possessed an ability that could make her feel as if she was suddenly bearing a great burden. The sudden crushing weight from above had almost caught her off guard, and had it not been for her sharp instincts, she wouldn't have been just injured—she would have been slain.

Choo Qing's expression grew solemn.

Looking at the youth steadily walking towards her, she once again recalled the scene at Golden Light Peak. In that bloody battlefield, this youth, with Level 5 cultivation, fought forty-three battles. Except for the first one who was also Level 5, all the others were Level 6, yet without exception, they all fell to him. At least twenty or thirty were killed by his hand.

That experience made Choo Qing realize that there truly were immeasurable individuals in this world for whom defeating opponents of higher realms was as natural as eating and drinking. So even when she saw that Lu Ye was Level 8 in the valley, Choo Qing didn't underestimate him in the slightest.

This guy, when at Level 5, could take down so many Level 6s. Now that he was at Level 8, even Level 9s were likely not his match.

Therefore, she had gathered more than twenty of her disciples to take action together, thinking it was a foolproof plan. Yet, she never expected the Xianyuan Guards to disrupt their critical moment, rendering her original plan useless.

Even Qiaoyun was currently entangled and unable to break free from several Xianyuan Guards.

But as things stood, they had to go all out. Ruo Yan was injured, but it wasn't severe. Together, the two of them shouldn't fear a single Level 8 cultivator.

"Attack!" Choo Qing ordered, charging forward first with the saber-wielding woman named Ruo Yan following. Her petite figure perfectly concealed behind Choo Qing, both having cultivated together, they had an unspoken understanding of how to cooperate in killing their enemies—often without needing verbal communication.

At the same time, Lu Ye also took a step forward, closing the distance rapidly.

Fire-red light clung to the Boulder Mountain Saber, forming an arc as it violently slashed down. Choo Qing raised one of her daggers to meet it. She intended to parry the opponent's Spiritual Artifact with her dagger, so that her other dagger could strike opportunistically.

However, at the moment when their Spiritual Artifacts clashed, she realized she had been somewhat naive, as the overwhelming power transmitted from the opponent's Spiritual Artifact almost caused her dagger to be knocked out of her hand.

Choo Qing's pupils shrank suddenly, how could a Level 8 combat cultivator possess such strength? Even Qiaoyun's power was no greater than this.

Sensing something was amiss, the other dagger she had intended to thrust out was immediately raised to block the downward slash; if she didn't, she wouldn't have been able to withstand it.

She had just managed to block this strike when the second slash came down; Choo Qing responded in panic, and by the time she had parried it, the third slash was already stabbing at her, nearly piercing her chest...

The speed was too fast!

These days, although she had constantly thought about killing Lu Ye to avenge her sister, it was only after truly engaging him that she appreciated how terrifying this young man was. His slashes were not only powerful and heavy but also incredibly fast, leaving her no time to respond.

With such saber skills, she wouldn't be able to block the fourth slash!

Indeed, when Lu Ye's fourth slash came at her fair neck, Choo Qing completely lost the chance to defend herself.

Fortunately, she was not alone; at this critical moment, a saber blade suddenly lunged out from beside her neck, intercepting the Boulder Mountain Saber just in time.

It was Ruo Yan, who had been hidden behind her, taking action.

Sparks flew as the blow that could have landed on Choo Qing was blocked. Spirit light burst from the long saber as it pressed against the Boulder Mountain Saber, nearly reaching Lu Ye's face.

Lu Ye shifted his saber to deflect the force of the blow, while at the same time tilting his head, the long saber grazing his ear, its sharp edge severing a few strands of hair.

Seizing this opportunity, Choo Qing's left-hand dagger twisted skillfully, and she reversed her grip on it, turning the dagger into a stabbing weapon aimed directly at Lu Ye's chest.

However, from a distance, a fierce surge of spirit force unexpectedly arrived; without a thought, Choo Qing slashed out, deflecting an incoming magic spell.

Following the direction of the magic and spells, she saw a delicate girl standing not far behind Lu Ye, who had cast the magic.

Nobody had noticed when she had appeared.

The girl readied another magic spell, launching it furiously while Lu Ye made his move at the same time.

The two members of Fenghua Courtyard coordinated their attacks, and Lu Ye was not fighting alone either; Yiyi had been looking for an opportunity, but neither Choo Qing nor Ruo Yan had exposed any significant flaws. Left with no choice, she had to make a move.

Such fierce combat was perilous for Yiyi, but luckily she was a magic cultivator; she only needed to stand back and cast her spells.

Choo Qing and Ruo Yan moved and dodged interchangeably. Their Spiritual Artifacts, one long and the other short, coordinated seamlessly. Within a range of one zhang, their attacks covered everything.

In the past, the two had joined forces like this, facing off against four Haotian Alliance cultivators without falling short and had even killed one of their opponents.

But at this moment, despite still coordinating perfectly, they completely lacked the control over the battle they once had because the rhythm of the fight was entirely in the enemy's hands.

The speed at which the opponent wielded their saber was absurdly fast, and in coordination with the magic cultivator, fighting two against one, he managed not to fall behind. The two women had to exert all their strength just to withstand the opponent's offensive.

But that was all, to counterattack was absolutely impossible!

As they continuously retreated, the two women's complexions grew increasingly pale; such close and dangerous exchanges could lead to death at any moment.

Moreover, for some reason, fog began to gather around them, and as time passed, the patches of fog thickened, swirling as if something was about to rush out at any moment.

Both sides fighting were aware of the bad omen, and Lu Ye became even more ruthless in his attacks.

"Qiaoyun!" As Choo Qing saw she could not withstand Lu Ye's offensive much longer, she couldn't help but call out.

"I'm here!" Along with the plump woman's response, a rumbling noise ensued as she braved the attacks from a few of the Xianyuan Guards and charged towards Lu Ye, her hefty palm striking down towards his head.

In Choo Qing's original plan, Qiaoyun only needed to entangle the Xianyuan Guards, something well within her ability as a physique cultivator. Meanwhile, Choo Qing and Ruo Yan would cooperate to slay Lu Ye as quickly as possible. Once Lu Ye was down, the other Xianyuan Guards wouldn't be a concern.

But plans could hardly keep up with changes. Choo Qing had done her best to overestimate Lu Ye, but it was only upon facing him that she realized how short-sighted she had been.

If they didn't call for help now, one of her and Ruo Yan was bound to die.

Chapter 267 Why Doesn't the Xianyuan Guard Arrest You?

Given the oppressive force demonstrated by Lu Ye at the moment, either Choo Qing or Ruo Yan is bound to die, and the other isn't far from death either.

Qiaoyun came charging sideways, her figure intercrossing with the others, shielding them upfront as a physique cultivator, where charging at the forefront is a fundamental practice.

The chubby palm, moving not too quickly, aimed a smack right at Lu Ye's head; meanwhile, Lu Ye had already counterattacked with a slice on her arm.

The slice, although enhanced with Sharpness, failed to sever Qiaoyun's arm and instead left only a bloody mark on the fatty flesh of her limb.

At the moment of contact between the saber and the flesh, Lu Ye felt as if his strike had hit a highly elastic piece of rubber. With the rapid wriggling of the flesh where Qiaoyun was sliced, the force of his blow was significantly diminished.

Qiaoyun's other palm had already come smashing down, while Lu Ye kicked out, striking her right in the stomach.

But this all-out kick not only failed to send the chubby woman flying, it instead gave Lu Ye the sensation of stepping into a marsh. An intense suction emerged from her belly, concurrently neutralizing his attack and ensnaring his foot.

Lu Ye tried to withdraw his foot but couldn't pull it free.

As Qiaoyun's palm came down, Defense Spirit Runes appeared, shattered by the impact. Lu Ye's head tilted slightly, buzzing with the blare, seeing stars flash before his eyes.

If this palm, even with the Defense blocked, held such might, Lu Ye felt his head could be smashed should it hit directly.

"Stinky boy, let big sister love you!" Qiaoyun's words dripped with sweetness, but her narrowing eyes gleamed viciously as she reached out to embrace Lu Ye.

In that instant, her blood Qi boiled, displaying an unfathomable speed.

If she managed an embrace, even if Lu Ye had exceptional means, they would be futile, and he could only wait for death, especially since his foot was still stuck in her belly, preventing his escape.

At this critical juncture, his eyes became exceptionally clear, focused intensely. Fire swirled around the Boulder Mountain Saber, which he thrust straight toward Qiaoyun's heart.

As he struck, a powerful spirit light flashed along the blade.

Double-Sharpness enforced!

The tip of the saber pierced into Qiaoyun's flesh, Lu Ye sharply feeling her flesh wriggle rapidly. Though she could neutralize his slashing, deflecting a direct stab proved more challenging.

A sharp cry sounded simultaneously as Qiaoyun's face changed. With hands poised to embrace, she instead pushed violently against Lu Ye's shoulders. The immense force pushed him backwards, making him slide several meters, his feet gouging deep marks into the ground.

Fresh blood seeped from Qiaoyun's chest, her face filled with residual fear. In that fleeting moment, she felt she had stepped through the gates of hell.

Several meters away, Lu Ye steadied himself, slightly moving his shoulder blades which felt a bit numb, but it was nothing serious. He thought it was a pity.

If Qiaoyun had reacted just a bit slower, he could have activated the Cactus Spirit Runes on the Boulder Mountain Saber, making her experience what it's like to blossom inside.

Yiyi's magic and spells kept striking Qiaoyun, but this fatty woman seemed unperturbed, her blood Qi and spirit force mingling effortlessly to block every spell.

Lu Ye watched the chubby white woman with a grave expression, acknowledging that she was a difficult opponent, a physique cultivator not easily killed. One-on-one, he was confident about defeating her but it would take time, and time was exactly what he lacked.

The surrounding mist had become very dense by now, swirling ever more violently.

Behind Qiaoyun, only a squad leader of the Xianyuan Guard remained of the team originally entangling her. The rest had been killed by Choo Qing and Ruo Yan, which was why they hadn't intervened in the fight earlier; someone had to stop the Xianyuan Guard, otherwise, it would be troublesome.

Only then did Choo Qing have the chance to survey the other battlefield, and what she saw shocked her. On the street ahead, half of the Fenghua Courtyard's twenty-odd people were dead, and the remaining half was in dire straits. The fat Spiritual Body was responsible for killing, while the Xianyuan Guard trapped the enemy. Their cooperation was seamless.

She felt a chill in her heart, unable to understand how the situation had deteriorated to this extent.

To confront Lu Yiye, she had brought more than twenty people, yet somehow they were disrupted by the Xianyuan Guard.

Reluctantly accepting reality with eyes red, Choo Qing issued a command, "Retreat!"

Upon hearing her command, those from Fenghua Courtyard who were already reluctant to continue clashing with the Xianyuan Guard began to withdraw. The Xianyuan Guard pursued relentlessly, growing steadily more distant.

As she shouted that command, Lu Ye had already charged forward with his saber.

He had originally planned to seek revenge on Fenghua Courtyard; now that they had come to him, how could he let them retreat easily? Lu Ye didn't bother with the others, but these three women, especially this chubby white woman named Qiaoyun, had to be detained. Her being a physique cultivator made her particularly troublesome, and not killing her would make it difficult to kill the others. Now was his chance, thanks to Choo Qing's ill-timed order!

Moving forward with his saber, Lu Ye aimed a direct stab at Qiaoyun. Remembering his earlier loss, Qiaoyun didn't dare underestimate Lu Ye and aimed a palm strike at the blade. Her strike missed its mark as Lu Ye had already redirected his strike mid-course.

As the long saber, bursting with spirit light, approached, Qiaoyun's pupils contracted slightly. At this critical moment, Ruo Yan sprang forward, blocking the strike for her. That wasn't all; Choo Qing also emerged from another side, the squad of the Xianyuan Guard that had entangled them completely annihilated.

The three women teamed up, forcing Lu Ye to retreat repeatedly. Even with Yiyi's support, he struggled to cope. Defense Spirit Runes flickered continuously on his body, fending off the combined attack of the three women.

"Let's go!" Choo Qing shouted in a low voice. Even though they held the upper hand with three against two, she recognized that killing Lu Ye would still require some effort. Their priority wasn't to finish him but to find a place to hide as soon as possible.

Something big was about to happen in Xianyuan City, and it was not wise to linger here.

This was also the reason she had ordered the cultivator disciples to retreat just now.

Qiaoyun turned and ran, while Ruo Yan feigned a move, drove Lu Ye back, and together with Choo Qing, started to flee.

Lu Ye chased closely behind them, and before leaving, he did not forget to retrieve his two weapon controls and put them into the storage sack.

One chasing and the others fleeing, four shadows undulated continuously over the rooftops.

As Choo Qing fled, she did not look back, her expression gradually becoming terrified, solely because behind Lu Ye, more than a dozen Xianyuan Guards had actually followed them, confirmed as the same group that had ambushed them because that fat Spiritual Body was conspicuously among them.

Weren't these Xianyuan Guards supposed to be lured away by the cultivator disciples? Why were they chasing them? Choo Qing really couldn't understand.

She had originally planned to fight Lu Ye to the death if he dared to continue the chase, but now she could only snuff out the thought.

Starting a conflict with Lu Ye at this time would mean trouble for everyone involved.

However, she quickly thought that with Lu Yiye behind them, even if the Xianyuan Guards caught up, they would confront Lu Yiye first. With him blocking them, the three of them would not be in danger.

Several squad leaders of the Xianyuan Guard along with Liu Sanbao moved undoubtedly faster than the regular guards. Shortly after, Liu Sanbao raised his hand, three streaks of spirit light shot past Lu Ye towards Choo Qing. Not only did he make a move, but the squad leaders also acted together, releasing several glowing Spirit-Binding Locks in quick succession.

"Be careful, Senior Sister Choo Qing!" Ruo Yan called out softly, swinging her exaggerated long saber to block Liu Sanbao's attack.

As she fled, Qiaoyun also shifted her body to shield Choo Qing, throwing a punch behind her that almost solidified blood Qi, scattering the incoming Spirit-Binding Locks.

However, being entangled like this, even more Spirit-Binding Locks descended upon her, and Qiaoyun could only keep swinging her fists to fend off those locks.

Lu Ye quickly closed in.

"Run!" Qiaoyun bellowed, turning to meet Lu Ye. She knew she could no longer escape.

Choo Qing and Ruo Yan's eyes trembled as they suppressed the thought of coming to her aid, leaping away rapidly as their forms quickly disappeared into the distance. They didn't want to abandon their companion, but if they didn't leave now, even the two of them wouldn't be able to escape.

Fortunately, fighting against the Xianyuan Guards, as long as one didn't resist too fiercely, there usually wasn't a life-threatening risk, and they would only be imprisoned in Xianyuan City's dungeon. With Qiaoyun's physique, she should be able to hold out until they could escape.

As for that Lu Yiye, the chances were high that he wouldn't be able to escape either.

He was not a physique cultivator, and being imprisoned in the dungeon would spell trouble for him.

Watching Choo Qing and Ruo Yan disappear into the distance, Lu Ye was inclined to continue the chase, but just then, Qiaoyun's already plump body swelled in an instant, becoming like a mountain of flesh, and charged towards him heedlessly.

Such an attack, if it landed, even activating the Defense Spirit Runes would be useless.

However, he didn't dodge but instead lifted his saber to hack towards that mountain of flesh, his blade hitting Qiaoyun while the Hefty Weight Spirit Runes enhanced its force.

Qiaoyun grunted, her body shrank a bit, almost dropping to her knees, while Lu Ye was sent flying backward by the force of her charge, landing ten yards away, his saber-hand trembling slightly.

Shush shush shush...

Xianyuan Guards landed all around them, surrounding them tightly.

Yet Qiaoyun laughed, looking at Lu Ye with eyes nearly hidden by the fat, filled with smugness, "Now you can't run away!"

Lu Ye moved his wrists around, giving her an odd look, not understanding what she was so smug about.

Qiaoyun shouted, "I won't resist, don't kill me!"

"Take her down!" a Xianyuan Guard squad leader commanded.

From all directions, Spirit-Binding Locks descended on Qiaoyun's head, binding her tightly.

Qiaoyun's brows furrowed, feeling that something was amiss.

The Xianyuan Guards only targeted her and seemingly ignored Lu Yiye.

Moreover, Lu Yiye, holding his saber, walked step by step towards her, the surrounding guards expressionless as if they saw nothing.

Lu Ye stopped in front of her, the Boulder Mountain Saber slightly lifted, the blade tip aimed at Qiaoyun's chest.

Lu Ye had seen many who were not afraid of death, but this was the first time he had encountered someone so eagerly seeking it.

Qiaoyun's expression turned to horror, "Why aren't the Xianyuan Guards arresting you?"

Chapter 268 - 266: Trace-Erasing Bangle

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The Boulder Mountain Saber, with Double-Sharpness enhancement, thrust straight out, and even though Qiaoyun tried desperately to defend, the saber pierced directly through her heart.

At the brink of death, Qiaoyun suddenly seemed to understand something, and with disbelief in her eyes, she looked at Lu Ye, "You're... all on the same side!"

It made no sense for the Xianyuan Guard to only target her and not Lu Ye, and moreover, the ambush at Fenghua Courtyard earlier had been thwarted by the Xianyuan Guard. Had those Xianyuan Guards not suddenly appeared, this Lu Yiye would have been clearly dealt with by Choo Qing's arrangement right now.

Putting together all that had happened before, Qiaoyun would have to be a fool not to guess the truth of the matter.

She was terrified, an outsider cultivator had actually become entangled with the Xianyuan Guard of Xianyuan City, and this news had to be spread.

She struggled to raise her hand, trying to tap her battlefield marking.

Another glimmer of light flashed on the Boulder Mountain Saber that had pierced her heart. With the enhancement of the Cactus Spirit Runes, sharp spirit force spikes burst open inside her body.

Qiaoyun's body shuddered slightly, and the light in her eyes quickly faded.

Amber appeared from nowhere, leapt onto Lu Ye's shoulder; during the fierce battle just now, it had not shown itself, hiding in the shadows controlling its minion spirit.

Even for issuing simple commands, those minion spirits needed to be controlled.

The Xianyuan Guard around them turned into spirit light, entering inside it, leaving only Yiyi behind.

With the restraint of the Spirit-Binding Lock gone, Qiaoyun's plump body fell to the ground with a thud, as Lu Ye collected the storage sack from her waist and quickly darted forward.

At this moment, on the streets, atop the roofs, mist swirled, with an indescribable aura seeping out from within the fog.

Lu Ye had only run a few steps when suddenly, a humanoid shape dashed out from a swirling mist nearby.

This scene felt eerily familiar to Lu Ye; every time he entered the Mirage Realm to temper his saber skills, those cultivators would rush out of the fog just like this, one after another, each stronger than the last, until Lu Ye could no longer resist.

The humanoid being that emerged from the fog was completely shrouded in mist, obscuring any clear features or even distinguishable gender, identical to those encountered in the Mirage Realm.

Seeing this, Lu Ye became increasingly certain that the Breath Fruit Core he had obtained had a significant connection to the Boundless Mirage Realm; as to what exactly that connection was, he did not yet know.

Curious to test this, he turned around and slashed at the humanoid being with his saber. The opponent only exhibited Level 7 spirit force fluctuations and could not withstand the blow, instantly being cleaved in half and dissipating into fog.

But immediately thereafter, another humanoid being charged out from the surging fog, its presence slightly stronger than the previous one.

Lu Ye turned tail and ran!

It was confirmed; the humanoid beings and the rolling fog were identical to the situation within the Mirage Realm entered through the Breath Fruit Core. They couldn't be extinguished by killing them; they were an incessantly reemerging, unstoppable force.

He dashed into a nearby building, quickly shut the door, but the fog ignored the barrier of the door and pursued him. Lu Ye cursed under his breath, thinking that indeed only those houses with lanterns hanging outside the doors could provide refuge—the information purchased from the Heaven's Augury Mercantile Union was not wrong.

He swung his saber again, shattering the humanoid entity in his path and burst out onto the street, rushing forward.

On either side of the street, at intervals, mists tumbled, and as Lu Ye passed by, humanoid beings would emerge from the fog to relentlessly pursue him.

The number of pursuers behind him kept increasing, gradually converging into a not insignificant force.

This way of fleeing wouldn't do, as it would alarm other humanoid beings within the fog along the way; the number of pursuers would only increase. Even with a number of Xianyuan Guards as his aids, he definitely could not hold them off.

"Yiyi!"

Lu Ye called out, extending his hand to her at the same time.

Yiyi understood instantly and handed over the storage sacks she had collected from the battlefield to Lu Ye, and then threw herself into Amber's body.

Lu Ye then took out a wooden bracelet from his own storage sack. This was clearly a Spiritual Artifact, into which he channeled spirit force.

Turning a corner, Lu Ye, who was sprinting, suddenly stopped in his tracks. He slipped the bracelet on his wrist, and in a flash, circular ripples emanated from the bracelet. The ripples washed over Lu Ye's body, and something miraculous happened—Lu Ye rapidly distorted and then vanished from sight.

The humanoid entities chasing him quickly arrived at the spot, but Lu Ye was no longer in sight. These beings, emerging from the fog, buzzed around aimlessly for a while, and then gradually dispersed.

Lu Ye didn't move, not just because he didn't dare to move, but he also tried his best to control his breathing, even suppressing the circulation of his spirit force to the limit, fearing that he would give away any flaw.

The Spiritual Artifact in his hand had been given to him by Madam Yun.

When she found out that Lu Ye was going into the inner circle to train, Madam Yun gave him two items. One was the Nine Worlds map, which could be used to kill or trap enemies. The other was this trace-erasing bangle in his hand, for self-protection.

The Nine Worlds map was a spirit treasure. Considering that Lu Ye's cultivation was not enough, Madam Yun sealed 90 percent of this spirit treasure's power, so that it could barely be activated.

The trace-erasing bangle was not a spirit treasure. Its grade was somewhat difficult to determine, but it was undeniable that it was an extremely special and useful Spiritual Artifact.

It could make Lu Ye invisible, as he was at this moment.

...

Madam Yun had crafted this treasure using an extremely rare spirit wood core, with Concealment Spirit Runes as the core and a few other spirit runes as supplementary, its immense value was beyond estimation.

The Nine Worlds map slew and trapped enemies, the trace-erasing bangle was used for evasion and self-protection; from this, it was clear that Madam Yun was truly worried about Lu Ye's safety, genuinely hoping he would survive and inherit her legacy in the future.

Concealment was not uncommon; ghost cultivators with profound cultivation could hide their forms, a result of connecting with the Netherworld, but aside from ghost cultivators, it was difficult for other factions of cultivators to have such means unless they used precious Spirit Talismans.

There was a kind of Spirit Talisman called the concealment talisman, but not only was it expensive, it was also scarce, even the Heaven's Augury treasure vault didn't stock it.

Of course, there were ways to counter such concealment techniques. Cultivators all had their own perception, the stronger the cultivator, the keener the perception. Ghost cultivators indeed excelled in stealth and assassination, but as long as one's perception was powerful enough, it was possible to detect those who had concealed their presence.

The trace-erasing bangle bestowed by Madam Yun was extraordinary, the only downside being that once Lu Ye activated this Spiritual Artifact's effect, he couldn't move.

Therefore, Lu Ye had never used this item before, and he would not have resorted to it this time either had he not been left with no choice.

If someone were to cast a large-scale magic spell at his location now, he would certainly be exposed.

Luckily, this time he was dealing with human-shaped beings that emerged from the mist, who, like the standard Xianyuan Guards, were mindless entities.

Only after the pursuers dispersed did Lu Ye reveal himself and dash towards the front.

Along the way, he attracted more pursuers, and the Xianyuan Guards that used to be seen everywhere were now nowhere to be found, it seemed even they were avoiding these human-shaped entities from the mist.

After running a distance, Lu Ye repeated his old trick, concealing his figure to shake off the pursuers and then continued moving forward.

After several attempts, he finally caught sight of a hanging lantern.

In two or three strides, he reached the building, pushed open the door, and strode inside.

He had just shut the door when a huge shadow loomed over him, a monstrous threat bearing down from above.

Lu Ye swung his saber, clanging as if striking iron, with sparks flying everywhere. When he looked up, he saw a broad figure standing before him. A palm as big as a fan was swinging down at him. Although the palm fell slowly, it stirred up a wind pressure, indicating the power behind the blow.

Lu Ye's eye twitched, feeling incredibly unlucky. The physique cultivators he encountered today were all abnormal; the woman named Qiaoyun with her layers of fat was bad enough, her flesh impenetrable to his blade, but this one was even more extreme. Lu Ye's saber slash, despite being enhanced with Sharpness, had not struck iron but had hit the man's chest, leaving only a white mark.

If Qiaoyun had reduced the attack with her layers of fat, then the man in front of him simply took the hit head-on, without any rationale to speak of.

As the palm swung down, Amber crouched on Lu Ye's shoulder cried out 'awoo'.

The palm suddenly came to a halt above Lu Ye's head, the wind pressure ruffling his hair, and the Boulder Mountain Saber in his hand was also frozen in front of the man's eyes.

The towering man glanced at Amber, then at Lu Ye, and withdrew his hand, scratching his head.

A spell suddenly attacked from the side. Lu Ye was about to dodge when the man standing before him swatted downward. The basin-sized fireball was dispersed with a single slap by the man, who didn't even seem to be using any blood Qi or spirit force, which meant he had achieved this feat purely with his physique.

The strength of such a physique was truly horrifying.

"Giant Armor!" an angry voice rang out.

"I know you," the towering man replied in an honest tone.

Lu Ye glanced to the side and saw a small-mustache cultivator.

Their eyes met, and the small-mustache let out a cry, "Ah! It's you guys? I thought it was someone from the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge, my mistake, my mistake, apologies for that."

Though he spoke thusly, there was not the slightest hint of apology in his demeanor.

Lu Ye had a feeling that if Giant Armor hadn't held back suddenly, that small-mustache magic cultivator wouldn't have cared whether he was from Haotian Alliance or Ten Thousand Demons Ridge; he would have likely killed first and asked questions later.

Killing cultivators from the same faction also earned merits.

The air was tinged with the faint smell of blood, indicating people had died here.

After glancing indifferently at the small-mustache, Lu Ye sheathed his saber.

The small-mustache approached with a smile, "Fellow Daoist, we really must be fated to meet again here."

"Hmm."

Lu Ye responded indifferently and looked around before finding a corner to go to and sit down cross-legged.

Giant Armor moved over, looking worriedly at Amber, his eyes wide open like lanterns.

Indeed, the remaining Xianyuan Guards were drawing on Amber's power to recover themselves, which left Amber looking somewhat languished and in need of nourishment.

Chapter 269 - 267: Lu Yiye is Doomed to Die

Lu Ye couldn't figure out why Giant Armor and Amber seemed to hit it off so well; it was the same back in the valley. They had just met for the first time, yet they were very close.

As for the small-mustache magic cultivator, Lu Ye didn't like him very much, but Giant Armor's honest nature made it difficult for anyone to dislike him.

He threw a few elixir pills into his mouth and swallowed them whole, then fed a few to Amber as well.

He switched his Cultivation Technique, and a humming sound came from his belly.

"This Xianyuan City is really dangerous." The small-mustache magic cultivator walked to the door and peered outside through the crack, "With both the Xianyuan Guard and the mist, who knows how many people will die this time."

He turned around, looked at Lu Ye with a smile, and said, "Fellow Daoist, have you encountered an enemy?"

At this moment, Lu Ye looked somewhat wretched, mainly because the previous fight with those people from Fenghua Courtyard had exhausted him, and he also had some minor injuries.

"Being a solo Level 8 cultivator here is a bit inadequate. Would you consider joining forces with me? I guarantee you won't be at a loss."

"No need."

The small-mustache chuckled, "Don't be hasty in refusing, Fellow Daoist. There's no harm in considering it first."

Although he said it with a smile, there was a hint of threat in his words, and now he was blocking the door. It seemed like he was there to check the situation outside, but only he knew his true intentions.

This small-mustache was surely up to no good.

In the valley, Lu Ye had turned down his attempt to form an alliance simply because they were not acquainted. Afterward, this man tried to recruit others, but by the time the Boundless Mirage Realm opened, he had not managed to recruit a single person.

This showed that the man's reputation wasn't good. Perhaps he had a history of bad deeds, which is why no one wanted to cooperate with him.

Furthermore, when Lu Ye rushed in earlier, he clashed with Giant Armor in a hurry. However, as soon as Giant Armor saw Amber, he immediately stopped. On the other hand, the small-mustache still hurled a big Fireball at him.

He later said it was a misunderstanding, but was it really? Cultivators have keen eyesight, especially since he was a Level 9 magic cultivator. Even if he didn't see Lu Ye's face clearly at first, he should have recognized him afterward, but he still launched a big Fireball.

This undoubtedly suggested some problems.

Could it be that the guy wanted to kill and loot? Lu Ye secretly speculated.

"Hahaha, let me know once you've considered it," he laughed.

Just as Lu Ye was thinking this, the small-mustache magic cultivator's smile suddenly became much warmer. He walked away from the door and called out to Giant Armor, "Stop playing with someone else's beast pet, Giant Armor, come back in!"

"Oh." Giant Armor responded dully, lifting his thick fingers off Amber's head and following the small-mustache magic cultivator into another room.

Sitting cross-legged, the small-mustache's expression wavered with uncertainty and doubt about what kind of person Lu Ye really was.

He had almost decided to make a move just a moment ago. This wasn't his first time killing someone from the same alliance. To him, an independent cultivator with no affiliations, both the Haotian Alliance and Ten Thousand Demons Ridge were illusions; only what he possessed was real.

Having climbed up from the very bottom, he had long seen through the true nature of the cultivation world, which was survival of the fittest.

The reason he had not made a move was partly because of Giant Armor's intriguing attitude towards Amber, and secondly because he suddenly noticed the many storage sacks hanging on Lu Ye's waist.

Normally, a cultivator carries only one storage sack. Having two or three was also common, with various items neatly organized for easy access and use.

The young man had perhaps more than a dozen storage sacks at his waist! This was highly unusual, and what's more, those many storage sacks had fresh blood on them.

This was the fundamental reason why the small-mustache changed his mind. As an independent cultivator who had fought his way through life, he knew a principle - never judge someone's strength based on their cultivation level alone.

In this world, some people are not highly cultivated but vastly powerful. There are also some Spiritual Artifacts that can conceal spirit force fluctuations and hide one's cultivation level.

Unsure of Lu Ye's background, he dared not rashly make a move. Overturning the ship in a gutter was something he had always tried to avoid.

But whatever the case, that Level 8 youngster was not someone to be trifled with. He didn't believe it was just luck that the young man picked up so many storage sacks. There were no such coincidences in the world.

The dozen or so storage sacks indeed tempted him. After a thought, he lifted his hand to touch his battlefield marking and sent a message to Giant Armor.

Unaware of anything, Giant Armor simply focused on indulging in his food.

The small-mustache poked Giant Armor and then pointed to the back of his hand. Giant Armor then realized and looked down to check, shaking his head afterward.

The small-mustache glared. What did shaking his head mean?

He had just asked Giant Armor why he liked someone else's beast pet so much, and here he was shaking his head? This big guy was hopelessly stupid.

"How about we steal it if you like it?" the small-mustache communicated again.

"Not good," Giant Armor responded vocally, without using a message, and shook his head again.

The small-mustache was so frustrated he felt a pain in his liver. If not for Giant Armor being so useful, he would have kicked him away long ago.

After being glared at fiercely by the small-mustache for a while, Giant Armor realized that he might have done something wrong again. He scratched his head, bowed, and continued to eat, his expression soon becoming carefree again.

Separated by a wall, Lu Ye continued to recover while unlocking the restriction locks on the storage sacks. Having so many storage sacks hanging on his waist was quite uncomfortable.

As for the malice that the small-mustache magic cultivator might have just revealed, Lu Ye didn't take it too seriously. If the other party really dared to make a move against him, that would be a death wish.

It took less than two hours to crack open a dozen storage sacks, destroying one in the process. Mainly, Lu Ye didn't want to waste too much time, and he became a bit too hasty while breaking the restrictions.

After transferring out the useful items, he discarded the empty storage sacks. He didn't find anything that caught his attention.

Generally speaking, one couldn't expect to find any great treasures in a cultivator's storage sack. Most cultivators have a backing, and their real treasures are kept at their sect residences or in other safe places. What they carry with them are typically for recovery and combat.

It was just that Lu Ye was currently without a fixed abode, and with the fondness of his elders, he carried quite a few treasures on his person.

Amber ate a few elixir pills, which allowed it to recover slightly, but it still appeared weak. Lu Ye took out the Scale Armor and let it absorb a breath from it.

Then, he sent a message to Yiyi to inquire about the situation of the minion spirits.

He learned that most of the minion spirits died in the previous battle, leaving only fourteen remaining.

It seemed he would need to replenish the minion spirits later. During the ambush at Fenghua Courtyard, the minion spirits had played a huge role. Without them, Lu Ye would have had to flee under those circumstances.

Strong as he was, he couldn't possibly take on so many cultivators by himself.

But with the minion spirits supporting him, Fenghua Courtyard suffered heavy losses. However, they certainly wouldn't take it lying down and were likely to seek revenge on him.

Replenishing the minion spirits wouldn't be difficult. Xianyuan Guards were everywhere here; he just needed to wait for the fog outside to clear before he could act.

Once he replenished the minion spirits, he would take the offensive, strike before Fenghua Courtyard fully regrouped, find that Choo Qing, and kill her!

His goal suddenly became clear, and Lu Ye's somewhat stifled mood lifted substantially.

Meanwhile, in another building, several injured cultivators from Fenghua Courtyard gathered together.

Choo Qing's eyes brimmed with hatred, while Ruo Yan sobbed softly.

Qiaoyun was dead!

She died shortly after they retreated!

Everything had gone completely different from what they had anticipated. They thought that Qiaoyun would be taken to a dungeon by the Xianyuan Guards after capture, even Lu Yiye wouldn't have escaped. But Qiaoyun was dead!

Qiaoyun was the strongest physique cultivator of Fenghua Courtyard, not in terms of cultivation, but in physical strength at the same level. Due to her unique constitution, Qiaoyun's physique was comparable to those who had converted to practicing Heaven Rank techniques. If it hadn't been for her appearance, which was rather offensive to the eye, the position of Governor would have been rightfully hers.

Qiaoyun was indeed a rare talent for Fenghua Courtyard as the courtyard was in dire need of physique cultivators, and each one was incredibly precious.

With Qiaoyun around, the courtyard's defenses were as solid as gold, and each time a conflict arose with the Haotian Alliance, she was the first to rush in, taking on a great deal of pressure.

The loss of Qiaoyun was absolutely an unbearable pain for Fenghua Courtyard.

"Stop crying," Choo Qing snapped harshly.

Ruo Yan's sobbing ceased abruptly.

"As cultivators, life and death are normal. You and I may also face this one day. Instead of crying, it's better to think about how to survive well."

Ruo Yan suppressed the grief in her heart and sniffed.

Choo Qing patted her on the shoulder, "That Lu Yiye will certainly face death as well. Our mission this time is at least partially accomplished, not entirely in vain. Once the fog lifts, we'll go retrieve Qiaoyun's body, cut off Lu Yiye's head, and bring it back to honor the spirits of our fallen brothers and sisters."

"Yes," Ruo Yan nodded heavily.

Choo Qing turned away, with tears silently rolling down.

In another building, Jik Yan of the Surreptitious Palace was holding his forehead, plagued with a splitting headache.

No other reason but that Gu Canyang was captured by the Xianyuan Guard and was now detained in the dungeon.

It was Gu Canyang's sheer bad luck. He had just fallen into Xianyuan City and hadn't yet regained his composure when a troop of Xianyuan Guards surrounded him. Despite resisting with all his might, he was outnumbered and was captured on the spot.

According to a fellow disciple who saw it from afar, Senior Brother Gu looked utterly desperate at that moment...

If it had been anyone else, it wouldn't have mattered as much, but the key point was that Gu Canyang was the Governor from the Surreptitious Palace, and moreover, he wasn't a physique cultivator. Being thrown into the dungeon, he was most likely doomed.

The Surreptitious Palace was effectively headless at the moment, even though Jik Yan had stepped up promptly to maintain order, his prestige obviously couldn't compare to that of Gu Canyang.

All he could do now was gather as many people as he could and wait for the fog to disperse, to see if there was any chance of rescuing Gu Canyang from the dungeon.

But he also knew the chance was slim because the dungeon was a heavily guarded area of the Xianyuan Guards. Others had tried breaking into the prison before, but no one had ever succeeded in penetrating its interior.

The problems the Surreptitious Palace faced were not confined to this; they also had to deal with hostility from both Illuminating Sun Mountain and Fenghua Courtyard. If they learned about the palace's plans, they would surely interfere.

The Surreptitious Palace was no match when facing two opponents at once.

Jik Yan was deeply troubled. Senior Brother Gu, how could you be so unlucky?

Chapter 270 I Will Chop People

In the room, the small-mustache cultivator occasionally ran to the doorway, peering through the crack to check the outside, apparently wanting to see if the mystical fog had lifted.

Lu Ye ignored him, busying himself with recovery, consulting a jade slip he had purchased from the Heaven's Augury Mercantile Union. It recorded that the duration of the fog varied, short as two hours or as long as a day or two, with no certainty.

Half a day later, after the small-mustache cultivator had checked several times, he suddenly shouted, "Giant Armor."

The broad-shouldered Giant Armor, wearing a torn hemp robe with his chest partly exposed, stepped out from inside.

The small-mustache cultivator cupped his fists towards Lu Ye and said, "Fellow Daoist, we will take our leave first. Until next time."

He had refrained and endured before, but ultimately hadn't dared to attack Lu Ye.

After speaking, he left the room with Giant Armor, and the tall and short figures quickly disappeared.

Once they were gone, Lu Ye stood up, walked to the doorway to look outside, and finding the fog had dispersed, left as well.

He needed to replenish the minion spirits under Amber's command and meanwhile, look for any trace of Choo Qing and others.

Lu Ye also contemplated whether he could replace all minion spirits with those of squad leaders' or Liu Sanbao-like special minion spirits. Ordinary Xianyuan Guards converted into minion spirits fought too rigidly, hardly displaying their true strength. Squad leaders were much better, and Liu Sanbao was even more flexible.

After being converted into minion spirits, they truly lacked their own thoughts, but only needed orders from Amber to execute them flawlessly, much more useful than ordinary Xianyuan Guards.

However, minion spirits like Liu Sanbao were rare, so the focus should be on those of squad leaders' level.

After the fog cleared, the Xianyuan Guards and the hidden cultivators became active. As Lu Ye passed by, he could easily sense nearby combat disturbances.

It took no time at all before he encountered a squad of Xianyuan Guards. Before the squad could act, he preemptively struck, and moments later, the squad was subdued, increasing the number of his minion spirits.

Although he decided to replace all minion spirits with either squad leaders or ones like Liu Sanbao, such matters could proceed slowly; it was critical to ensure the quantity of minion spirits first.

Along the way, he occasionally saw buildings with lanterns hanging, and Lu Ye searched them eagerly, hoping to find a presence similar to Liu Sanbao, but unfortunately found nothing.

It appeared, special spirit bodies like Liu Sanbao were also scarce in Xianyuan City.

Two hours later, after replenishing the minion spirits, Lu Ye had Amber release one to follow him, wanting to test something.

Shortly after, a squad of Xianyuan Guards approached. Following that, the minion spirit immediately activated a Spirit-Binding Lock, binding Lu Ye and continuing forward.

As they drew closer and then passed by, those oncoming Xianyuan Guards didn't spare him a glance.

It really worked!

Lu Ye's eyebrows rose.

The reason for this experiment was that once his plans were complete, he no longer needed to engage in pointless conflicts with the Xianyuan Guards; killing them was of no benefit and merely wasted energy.

Now, by using his own minion spirits to create a false appearance of capture, he could deceive the Xianyuan Guards and avoid combat many times.

However, that wasn't possible yet; he had to wait until all the minion spirits were replaced with squad leaders.

Just as he was contemplating this, several cultivators suddenly burst out from a nearby building. A young man in his early twenties, leading them, sized up Lu Ye and said, "Fellow Daoist, please show your battlefield marking."

Lu Ye glanced at them and activated the battlefield marking on his hand, which immediately emitted a blue light.

"Kill him!" The cultivator waved his hand, and his companions immediately assumed an attacking stance.

Then they were all shocked to see the Spirit-Binding Lock that had bound Lu Ye retract. A series of spectral-like spiritual bodies drifted out from Amber perched on Lu Ye's shoulder. Before they could comprehend what was happening, they were tightly bound by numerous Spirit-Binding Locks.

Lu Ye flexed his neck, walked up to the man, and slowly drew the Boulder Mountain Saber from his waist.

The man, petrified, looked at Lu Ye incredulously, "How can you control the Xianyuan Guards?"

Seeing Lu Ye captured by the Xianyuan Guards had prompted them to intercept. Naturally, if he were one of them, they would rescue him to strengthen their forces, but if he were an enemy, that was a different matter altogether.

They had never imagined that someone in this world could control Xianyuan Guards!

"Do you know where Choo Qing from Fenghua Courtyard is?"

"I don't know."

"Then you are of no use." The saber sliced down, blood splattering.

Lu Ye then approached the second man and asked the same question.

"I know."

"Swear by Heaven's Augury!"

"I... I don't know."

...

A moment later, several corpses were strewn across the ground, and Lu Ye had collected their storage sacks.

These men were probably not from Fenghua Courtyard, since there were no women among them, they might be independent cultivators from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge or people from Illuminating Sun Mountain, naturally unaware of Choo Qing's whereabouts.

Coming back to it, pretending to be captured by the Xianyuan Guard was truly a useful tactic, not only could it deceive other Xianyuan Guards, but it also allowed for fishing opportunities. Lu Ye had even thought about continuing this approach.

Considering that being bound by the Spirit-Binding Lock wasn't convenient for dealing with sudden crises, he dismissed the idea.

He continued moving forward, taking down squad leaders of the Xianyuan Guard he encountered and replacing the ordinary minion spirits with them. Occasionally, he also came across other groups of cultivators, inevitably leading to some battles. But with over thirty minion spirits under his command, those cultivators were no match for him. Although they thought they were only facing one enemy, thirty suddenly appeared, turning their surprise into horror.

The storage sacks he collected were indeed becoming more numerous.

He had also encountered people from the Haotian Alliance. From them, Lu Ye learned that the cultivators from Illuminating Sun Mountain and Fenghua Courtyard were gathering, clearly intending to take the opportunity to eliminate all Haotian Alliance cultivators who had entered the area.

This time, there were hundreds more cultivators from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge than from the Haotian Alliance, with the majority coming from Illuminating Sun Mountain.

Thus, the situation was quite tough for the Surreptitious Palace, and the independent cultivators from the Haotian Alliance side, under pressure, were all gathering towards the Surreptitious Palace.

It could be foreseen that, before long, there would be a clash between the two groups of cultivators. The outcome of this clash would determine the life and death of the cultivators of the two camps. Should the forces of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge gain the upper hand in this clash, they would certainly seek to annihilate the Haotian Alliance's members completely.

The Haotian Alliance was supposed to have two forces enter this area as well, but unfortunately, the ones from Soaring Cloud Palace were still on their way when the Boundless Mirage Realm was already underway, preventing their entry.

The Haotian Alliance cultivators, seeing Lu Ye alone, naturally persuaded him to move together with them.

Lu Ye declined, joining with other Haotian Alliance members might be safe, but waiting for the preparations of the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge side would be too late. Although he appeared to be alone, he actually had over thirty minion spirits under him, enough to handle unless he encountered too many enemies.

Being alone granted him more freedom, and he could also take the opportunity to weaken the forces of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge, having already killed a considerable number of their cultivators along the way.

Moreover, his plan to replace all minion spirits with squad leaders was not yet complete.

In front of a three-story building, Lu Ye stopped. There were more than one lantern hanging in front of the building, but rather a row of them, and it was unclear what they signified. There was also a crumbling plaque above the main door, the characters on which were no longer readable, except for the last character that still showed some traces, barely recognizable.

Lu Ye pushed the door and entered, a musty scent hitting him as he did.

The room's original layout was indiscernible; it now appeared very chaotic, with an old staircase leading up to the second floor.

After searching the first floor and finding nothing, Lu Ye proceeded to the second floor.

Upon entering the second floor, Lu Ye's eyes lit up, for there was a special spirit body here.

These special spirit bodies hidden within Xianyuan City, up until then, Lu Ye had only encountered Liu Sanbao, who performed admirably in combat, showing capabilities several times stronger than those squad leaders.

The spirit body before him was a woman, with fine features and a gentle and fragile expression. She was dressed somewhat provocatively, holding a pipa in her arms.

Lu Ye didn't think she looked easy to bully just because she appeared frail, for near the female spirit body, three corpses lay. It was unknown what unfortunate souls they were, but given their expressions before death, they clearly had suffered greatly, as blood had oozed from their seven orifices, solidifying on their pained faces.

Noticing the movement, the frail woman shyly looked up at Lu Ye, her eyes seemingly covered with a layer of mist, captivatingly beautiful. She softly opened her lips, her tone as gentle as water, "Do you recite poetry, guest?"

These special spirit bodies hiding in Xianyuan City each had their own obsessions or preferences from their past life. Liu Sanbao was a gambler, so when Lu Ye entered his house, he wanted to gamble with Lu Ye, betting his life and the game wouldn't end until he did, usually resulting in Liu Sanbao winning.

This female spirit body's obsession was somewhat strange, immediately asking Lu Ye if he could recite poetry.

"No."

"Then, can you respond in poetry?"

"No, I can't."

"Then what can you do, guest?"

"I can chop people!"

Lu Ye raised his hand and drew out the Boulder Mountain Saber.

The spirit light around her body was even denser than Liu Sanbao's, possibly indicating an 8th Heaven level or even Level 9 spirit body, truly showing that Xianyuan City was full of hidden dragons and crouching tigers.

The female spirit body glanced at the Boulder Mountain Saber and did not get angry due to Lu Ye's rudeness, but merely smiled gently.

However, she soon couldn't smile anymore, as from Amber, one Xianyuan Guard after another floated out, quickly filling the room to the brim.

"Ying ying ying..." the female spirit body took the initiative to attack, her smile turning into a crying face, with tears flowing from her eyes, looking heartbreakingly sad.

An invisible force swept across the second floor, making the Xianyuan Guards' spirit light flash wildly, even Lu Ye felt his head sink.

Lu Ye's mind sharpened. This was a sonic attack, able to utilize sound for its strike. He had only heard of it but had never seen it before. He wanted to raise his saber, but under the woman's crying, he found himself somewhat unable to control his arms.