

Humanity 271

Chapter 271 Ying Ying Ying

The Xianyuan Guards nearby were overwhelmed, even Liu Sanbao displayed an expression of agony.

"Roar!" Amber, lying on Lu Ye's shoulder, let out a tiger's roar.

In a critical moment, it still depended on Amber to take action.

That roar suppressed the cries of the female spirit body, and even scared her silly, it was only then that she noticed Amber's uniqueness. Her beautiful eyes took a careful look at Amber and revealed a wary expression.

Amber had already pounced forward, and with an open mouth, she tried to suck in the female spirit body.

The female spirit body sensed the danger, plucked her pipa with a swift motion, and sent Amber flying, tumbling several times over.

Yiyi seized the opportunity to dash out and cast a magic spell at the female spirit body, Lu Ye advanced at the same time, bringing his blade down with a chop.

The female spirit body blocked the spell but couldn't block Lu Ye's strike, her body's spirit light flashed momentarily.

Seizing this chance, the surrounding minion spirits all made their move at once, numerous Spirit-Binding Locks shot towards the female spirit body tying her down, and Liu Sanbao even threw out his three dice.

The female spirit body's slender fingers hooked several strings of the pipa, with a fierce pull and tug, most of the Spirit-Binding Locks aiming at her were fixed mid-air, while the rest shattered completely.

"Ying ying ying..." The weeping started again.

"Roar!" Amber charged and roared at her again, this time the roar was even louder, and the visible wave of energy surged towards the female spirit body, causing her to display an expression of pain immediately, and the whining also ceased abruptly.

Lu Ye took advantage of the situation and brought his blade down again.

"Ying ying..."

"Roar!"

Lu Ye struck again with his blade.

"Ying..."

And another strike...

The female spirit body truly cried, hugging her pipa and shrinking her neck, looking at Lu Ye with a pitiful expression, as large tears continuously slid down.

This time's guest proved difficult to host, she didn't recite poetry, didn't respond, and she was even being roared at, chopped at...

Moments later, Amber swallowed the exasperated female spirit body and turned her into a minion spirit.

With one more valiant warrior added to his ranks, Lu Ye was in a very good mood.

He had Amber release the female spirit body, and as expected, her strength was greatly suppressed, just like Liu Sanbao, she was only at the Level 9.

The captivating luster that once shone in her eyes was no longer present. Now she stood there dazed, holding the pipa in her arms, appearing somewhat sluggish and stiff, with hints of her former frailty still visible.

This was a side effect of being transformed into a minion spirit. It could be said that once Amber transformed anyone into a minion spirit, regardless of whether they had spiritual intelligence before, they would no longer have any afterwards.

Lu Ye examined the pipa in her arms; this object seemed to be similar to Liu Sanbao's dice cup. At first, Lu Ye had thought it was a Spiritual Artifact, but later he realized it was not. Neither Liu Sanbao's dice cup nor the pipa in front of him were like that; they were more manifestations of their innate power, like themselves, neither wholly tangible nor intangible.

He checked the number of minion spirits under his command. Aside from Yiyi, the count still came to thirty-one, which included two special minion spirits, and the rest were fifteen squad leaders, with fourteen ordinary Xianyuan Guard-converted minion spirits.

With such strength, they were much more powerful than before. If Choo Qing and her people had ambushed him like they did before, and he had this group of minion spirits, not a single one of them would have escaped.

He forgot to ask the name of that female minion spirit. Oh well, he would just call her Pipa Girl, Lu Ye thought to himself.

He continued his exploration.

Two hours later, Lu Ye stood in front of a large estate with high walls, looking at the lantern hanging at the entrance, he pushed the door open and entered.

For such a residence to exist within a large city indicated that the original owner must have held a high status in Xianyuan City. As he entered, traces of small bridges and running water were faintly discernible.

Lu Ye's gaze was immediately drawn to a splash of red in a corner of the courtyard; on a swing there, a graceful figure was seated, back turned towards him.

Lu Ye immediately felt his heart soar, feeling incredibly fortunate, as he had not found any special spirit bodies like Liu Sanbao and Pipa Girl before, but in just a short while, he had stumbled upon two. It seemed that the special spirit bodies in Xianyuan City were not as rare as he thought; perhaps he had been unlucky before, or the other cultivators who had entered the city had killed them.

The swing swayed gently, and the woman sitting on it had her long red skirt trailing on the ground.

Lu Ye was about to have Amber release the minion spirits to communicate properly with the other party, when his body suddenly stiffened.

He rubbed his eyes and stared at the woman in the red skirt to make sure he wasn't seeing things. Then, hastily raising his hand, he clamped down on Amber's mouth.

Amber seemed like she wanted to yawn...

Then he slowly started to move backwards, taking care not to make any noise.

Boom...

The doors behind him suddenly swung shut with a loud noise. Lu Ye threw himself against the door but hit it solidly. The rotten door, which looked like it would crumble upon touch, stopped him in his tracks.

His spirit force surged, and fiery red spirit force streamed from Lu Ye's back. His wings beat with the intention of soaring into the sky. He planned to scale the wall and escape, but his body was as if fixed in place, unable to budge an inch. An invisible force had restrained him, and his spirit force came to a halt. The wings on his back vanished.

Cold sweat streamed down his forehead all at once as Lu Ye gazed at the woman in the red skirt and felt a sense of immense peril enveloping him.

He suddenly understood the sudden shift from excitement to fear in the hearts of the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators he had killed. Such sharp rises and falls in life were truly thrilling.

When he first saw the spirit light on the woman in the red skirt, Lu Ye had felt something was off, because he actually couldn't detect any spirit light on her surface.

He had only encountered this situation with three other individuals before.

One is Sister Shui Yuan.

The second is the sect master.

The third is Madam Yun.

Of these three, one was at the True Lake Realm, and the other two were at the Divine Sea Realm. Because the gap in their strength was too vast, Lu Ye simply couldn't see through their spirit light.

This was also the reason Lu Ye wanted to leave immediately because this red-robed woman was most likely an existence he shouldn't provoke, even with the help of a minion spirit.

Of course, lack of spirit light could also be due to the person having no power at all, like ordinary mortals who have no cultivation and thus no spirit light.

But in Xianyuan City, could any spirit body be without power?

Even if she truly had no power, converting her into a minion spirit would have been pointless for Lu Ye. But if she had power... that would be terrifying.

By the time he tried to leave, it was too late, the doors were sealed, spirit force was banned, and Lu Ye didn't even see any signs of her having made a move. From beginning to end, the red-robed woman sat quietly on the swing, gently swaying.

The intelligence from Heaven's Augury Mercantile Union was not that reliable either, at least, Lu Ye had not seen any mention of such a terrifying presence in Xianyuan City from those reports.

They should refund his money!

The faint singing suddenly began, soft as it was, it was like singing in his ear, striking directly at his soul.

Lu Ye's anxious expression calmed down because he knew that any resistance was meaningless in the face of such a formidable and unassailable presence.

The special spirit bodies in Xianyuan City each had their own obsessions and preferences from before they died. Liu Sanbao wanted to gamble, Pipa Girl wanted to recite poetry, and now the red-robed woman in front of him had suddenly started singing a ballad.

Lu Ye speculated in his heart, could it be that the red-robed woman wanted him to listen to her sing? Or perhaps to sing with her, and she would let him go if he sang well?

Since she hadn't attacked him right away, but only confined him here, it meant there was a sliver of hope for him. What came next would depend on how he would respond.

Lu Ye calmed his mind and listened carefully, in case she asked him later what she had just sung and he couldn't answer. That would be an unjust way to die.

Though he couldn't make out much, he could feel the mournful and sorrowful melody of the ballad. As for the lyrics, Lu Ye couldn't understand a single word.

Unwittingly, Lu Ye found himself engulfed in immense sadness, the faint singing seemed to tell a story of parting, a loved one gone, a millennium yet to return, leaving only the longing lover with yearning eyes.

After an unknown amount of time, the soul-piercing singing abruptly stopped.

Lu Ye was still immersed in the somber atmosphere, and even though he was aware that the red-robed woman's singing had affected him, it was hard for him to step out of that mood for a while.

The swaying swing came to a halt, and a faint voice arose, "Have you seen Mochi Ball?"

"Does the lady want to eat mochi balls?" Lu Ye sniffled, thinking to himself that this could be troublesome. He had plenty of food in his storage sack, but mostly jerky. He didn't have anything like mochi balls at all.

The red-robed woman, with her back to him, shook her head, "Mochi Ball is a cat."

"I haven't seen it."

The silence lingered for a moment, then the red-robed woman spoke up, "Could you help me bring Mochi Ball back? It's very dangerous outside, and I'm a bit worried about it."

"Alright."

"Thank you for that."

"You're welcome!"

Boom...

The tightly closed doors suddenly opened, and Lu Ye decisively leaped backward, swiftly exiting the courtyard.

Boom...

The doors closed again, and faint singing could be heard from inside.

With the Move-Like-The-Wind Spirit Runes enhancing him, Lu Ye broke into a sprint, not stopping until he was two streets away, where he finally halted to catch his breath.

Yiyi drifted out from inside the Amber, her eyes brimming with tears, clearly affected by the singing just now.

"Lu Ye, are we going to look for that cat?"

"Find the..." Lu Ye was about to say find the hell with it, but his heart skipped a beat before he could finish, and he felt a premonition of danger. Since he had promised the red-robed woman, going back on his word would surely bring no good. He quickly corrected himself, "Finding a cat is quite simple."

The sudden premonition of danger dissipated into nothingness.

This startled him, and only then did he understand why the red-robed woman had so easily let him leave.

His head ached slightly. With Xianyuan City so vast, where was he to look for a cat? Moreover, it was uncertain if there even was such a cat in the city. If not, this would be an insoluble problem.

No, he just had to look for it. As for whether he would find it... that was beyond his control.

Realizing this, Lu Ye's mind felt suddenly clear; the situation wasn't as bad as he had thought.

On second thought, Xianyuan City really was peculiar, no wonder cultivators who entered were full of grievances. Not only were there dangers at every turn, but they also had to deal with the strange requirements of these special spirit bodies. One misstep and it could cost one's life.

It was only then that Lu Ye noticed the signs of a recent skirmish nearby, and judging from the commotion over that way, there appeared to be quite a few people involved.

Having Yiyi hide away, Lu Ye activated the Breath-concealing Spirit Runes to conceal his presence and quietly approached the commotion.

Chapter 272 - 270: Unparalleled Loyalty and Righteousness

After a moment, atop the roof of a building, Lu Ye cautiously poked his head out to look down. Below appeared to be a square, where several bodies lay across the ground while quite a number of cultivators gathered around, seemingly more than thirty in total.

To gather a team of this size, it must have been primarily formed by the three powerful factions that entered this area.

From the information previously obtained from the Haotian Alliance cultivators, people from the Haotian Alliance weren't gathered here, hence, these people were very likely from the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge.

Sure enough, Lu Ye saw the figure of the woman known as Ruo Yan in the crowd, yet Choo Qing was nowhere to be found, leaving her whereabouts unknown.

The person they were attacking, Lu Ye recognized as well—it was Giant Armor, with whom he had just parted ways not too long ago.

Right then, Giant Armor was curled up on the ground, his back facing down. Each strike of magic and spells followed by the streams of weapon control hit him, causing the spirit light on his back to flash wildly. His already tattered hemp clothing had shattered, revealing his muscular and gnarly back covered in trails of blood.

Lu Ye watched, his heart pounding with fear.

During their brief encounter before, he had witnessed the terrifying robustness of Giant Armor. Even a strike enhanced with Sharpness that he delivered only left a white mark on Giant Armor's chest.

The strength of his physique was beyond imagination, and it was a wonder how someone of Level 9 cultivated such a formidable physique.

Looking over now, Lu Ye was even more aware of Giant Armor's horror, for despite so many attacks hitting him, none had killed him yet.

Such a scene was something no ordinary Level 9 physique cultivator could withstand, yet Giant Armor had managed to do so.

Of course, this was also because not everyone from the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge side was attacking, but even though it wasn't everyone, there were still seven or eight people attacking Giant Armor.

Giant Armor faced each strike without dodging, simply enduring them. His curled up body seemed to be protecting something.

Lu Ye concentrated and spotted a figure underneath him.

It was the small-mustache magic cultivator. Giant Armor's large physique shielded him underneath, taking all the hits, ensuring the small-mustache magic cultivator was unharmed.

But seeing the Blood Water flowing from beneath Giant Armor, it seemed the small-mustache magic cultivator's fate was grim...

In other words, what he was probably protecting now was likely the corpse of the small-mustache magic cultivator.

It remained unclear how they ended up being attacked and falling into such a dire situation.

Suddenly, Ruo Yan spoke, "Giant Armor, join Fenghua Courtyard, and today you shall not die!"

The group led by Ruo Yan had come specifically looking for Giant Armor. Before entering the Boundless Mirage Realm, Choo Qing had already formulated the initial two missions for this journey: one was to kill Lu Ye, and the other to kill Giant Armor.

To kill Lu Ye was certainly to avenge Choo Xue, and as for killing Giant Armor... his renowned prowess and extremely strong physique meant that if they didn't find a way to kill him, and he ended up being recruited by the Surreptitious Palace, it would spell trouble.

Not only people from Fenghua Courtyard were searching for Giant Armor, but individuals from Illuminating Sun Mountain were as well, and in the subsequent time, they were destined to join forces against the Surreptitious Palace's side. Thus, it became crucial to eliminate some potential threats early.

Giant Armor was their main target.

Once Ruo Yan and her team spotted traces of Giant Armor and the small-mustache magic cultivator, a fierce battle ensued—first the small-mustache magic cultivator fell, and Giant Armor did not succumb immediately.

Although Ruo Yan had long heard of Giant Armor's capabilities, witnessing his formidable physique still left her somewhat shocked. She had thought that Qiaoyun was among the top tier among Level 9 physique cultivators, but Giant Armor was evidently far superior.

This gave Ruo Yan the idea to recruit him.

Since Fenghua Courtyard already had few physique cultivators, and their strongest—Qiaoyun—was already dead. Recruiting Giant Armor would be a significant achievement. After communicating and receiving approval from Choo Qing,

at that very moment Choo Qing was leading another group on their way to meet up with Ruo Yan's team soon.

Fenghua Courtyard's attitude toward Giant Armor was clear—if they could recruit him, that would be ideal; if not, they were ready to kill him!

What they could not possess, they would destroy.

"Giant Armor, don't be stubborn, you know well how Sima Yang has treated you, joining Fenghua Courtyard would ensure no more mistreatment!"

Sima Yang—that was the small-mustache magic cultivator's name.

Was it possible that such a uniquely talented physique cultivator like Giant Armor had never been recruited? Of course, he had. Ever since he had shown his talents, several nearby sects and forces had tried to recruit him to take him in as their disciple. After all, one cultivator like him was worth ten others.

But would Sima Yang agree to that? The two of them had never allied themselves with any sect, because choosing to do so would mean obeying someone else's orders, which Sima Yang could never accept.

Rumors had it that Giant Armor had not spared a single life under his command—though unbelievable, this was true. In every battle, Giant Armor would charge to the forefront with Sima Yang supporting from behind. After crippling and disabling the enemies, Sima Yang would step forward to reap lives, gaining merits and various benefits from their foes.

Long ago, Sima Yang had realized a problem: the cultivation speed of Giant Armor greatly exceeded his own. If he did not resort to such measures, Giant Armor's cultivation could eventually surpass him, making it impossible for them to act together.

Giant Armor did not kill, hence he lacked merit, without which he couldn't exchange for a Heaven Rank technique, and his cultivation would constantly be stuck at the ordinary Level 9.

Meanwhile, Sima Yang could slowly catch up in his cultivation while accumulating enough merit to exchange for a superior Heaven Rank technique.

As long as the two could escape from the Boundless Mirage Realm this time, Sima Yang could acquire his desired Heaven Rank technique. Later, he could find a way to procure a Heaven Rank technique for Giant Armor as well, ensuring that they remained good partners and brothers, fighting side by side in the Spirit Stream battlefield!

This was not a secret among nearby cultivators. Some had even secretly informed Giant Armor about this, but he had never cared because he had been following Sima Yang since he was very weak.

This was the reason why Sima Yang previously tried to rope others into cooperation but found no willing parties.

With such a notorious reputation, who would want to cooperate with such a person only to possibly be betrayed later?

Selfishness and greed had inevitably planted hidden dangers. Sima Yang probably hadn't expected that the Boundless Mirage Realm was actually connected to a perilous place like Xianyuan City, and that Fenghua Courtyard and Illuminating Sun Mountain unexpectedly aimed to eliminate him and Giant Armor first. Normally, these two forces should have targeted the Surreptitious Palace, but once they started fighting, he could take advantage of the situation alongside Giant Armor as he was best at this.

Once their whereabouts were exposed, there was no good outcome to expect.

At that time, Lu Ye was encircled and attacked. Had he not had enough minion spirits under his command, he too would likely have perished on the spot.

To attack Sima Yang and Giant Armor, the Fenghua Courtyard assembled a force of thirty to forty people and lost several of their own, not because Sima Yang was particularly formidable, but because Giant Armor was extremely powerful.

The first time Lu Ye saw Giant Armor, he noticed that his spirit light was as lucid as his own, because Giant Armor's cultivation had been stuck at the Level 9 for two to three years. During these years, he hadn't consumed a single elixir pill, naturally making his internal spirit force pure and refined.

On the other side, Ruo Yan's persuasion proved futile as she had already lost her patience. She slightly raised a hand, ready to order Giant Armor's execution on the spot.

An enemy you can't persuade is naturally someone you wouldn't keep around.

As she prepared to give the order, Ruo Yan's hand suddenly paused. Her eyes glared in a certain direction, where a familiar figure stood atop a rooftop, gazing down upon her.

Ruo Yan's eyes narrowed, a strong sense of hatred emanating from them as she exclaimed, "You really aren't dead!"

Previously, when Qiaoyun died, she and Choo Qing speculated that Lu Ye must not have met a good end either; however, when the mist dispersed and they went to collect Qiaoyun's body, they found no trace of Lu Ye's corpse.

At that time, Choo Qing suspected that Lu Ye might not be dead.

The two of them each led a squad, splitting up to act, one to search for Giant Armor, and the other to trace Lu Ye's whereabouts, determined to thoroughly eliminate them.

Currently, as Giant Armor was cornered, that Lu Yiye also boldly emerged, openly standing there as if challenging her.

Ruo Yan, furious, only laughed, recalling that last time, their ambush by the Fenghua Courtyard failed due to the interference of the Xianyuan Guard. Surely there wouldn't be another interruption by the Xianyuan Guard this time.

While she was contemplating this, suddenly a crying sound came from nearby. Simultaneously, Xianyuan Guards emerged from all around, their Spirit-Binding Locks flying from their hands, aiming directly above their heads.

The crying of the Pipa Girl was a highly unique form of sonic attack. If it hadn't been for Amber's suppression, Lu Ye and his minion spirits really wouldn't have had an effective counter to her before.

After being transformed into a minion spirit, the Pipa Girl's cultivation had plummeted to that of just Level 9. Her crying's power was greatly diminished, but when this eerie sonic attack sounded, it still caused many Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators to suffer dizziness and disorientation.

As the Pipa was gently strummed, ding-dong sounds resonated, accompanied by her continuous crying, making the atmosphere suddenly sinister and chilling.

Quite a few Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators felt dizzy and light-headed as if intoxicated.

The Spirit-Binding Locks had already descended from above, immediately capturing many Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators. A single Spirit-Binding Lock might not have strong binding power, but if two or three were combined, they weren't so easily escaped.

Beside the Pipa Girl, Liu Sanbao launched three streams of Liu Guang, coordinating with the Xianyuan Guards to strike down enemies.

Furthermore, two rays of weapon control light also darted out beside Lu Ye, intertwining and circulating like a gyroscope. Everywhere they passed, they raised a storm of blood and violence.

There were also magic and spells released by Yiyi.

In the blink of an eye, the situation changed drastically, leaving seven or eight dead on the side of the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge, with more than a dozen others bound by the Spirit-Binding Locks.

"Guard your minds!" Ruo Yan's eyes reddened, her spirit force boiling as she broke free from a Spirit-Binding Lock binding her and pointed a finger, sending a weapon flying towards the nearest squad leader of the Xianyuan Guard.

The cultivators from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge who caught on also hastily took action, each deploying their own moves.

Screams rose and fell as several more were killed.

As the fierce battle raged, no one noticed Amber jumping down from Lu Ye's shoulder, taking light steps to approach the fallen Giant Armor.

Chapter 273 - 271: Massacre

Lu Ye divided his attention, keeping an eye on Amber's movements. Amber's decision to approach Giant Armor had not been his instruction, but an autonomous action taken by Amber.

He didn't know what Amber intended to do.

All he saw was Amber reaching Giant Armor's side, nudging him with her head, and letting out several whimpers.

Giant Armor, who had been maintaining the same posture, moved slightly and slowly got to his feet, revealing shocking scars that crisscrossed his back.

From within Giant Armor, a wildly surging blood Qi energy burst forth, mixed with his thick, steady earth-yellow spirit force. A fierce red light flickered in Giant Armor's eyes, and in that moment, his broad and robust body exuded an overwhelming sense of oppression.

Suddenly, he lowered his body slightly, his head hanging down slightly, and his disheveled hair concealing his face, assuming an attack pose aimed at the cultivators of Fenghua Courtyard.

In that instant, all the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators experienced a chilling fear, as if a feral beast had broken out of its cage and fixed its sights on them.

Boom...

A visible wave of Qi energy exploded under Giant Armor's feet as he recklessly charged forward, with the crimson blood Qi and earth-yellow spirit force merging around him, enveloping his entire figure within a visible aura.

His speed wasn't particularly fast, but his unstoppable approach gave the impression that even if there was a mountain ahead, he could crash through it head-on.

"Stop him quickly!" The cultivators of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge were in chaos.

The Xianyuan Guards were attacking them, special Spiritual Bodies were attacking them, Lu Ye and Yiyi were attacking them, and now Giant Armor was charging at them too.

The side that once held an absolute advantage was now being beaten to the point of helplessness.

They wanted to cry!

Wave after wave of weapon control and magic and spells bombarded Giant Armor but failed to slow him down, as the aura of blood Qi and Spiritual Energy around his body shielded him.

No one had ever seen Giant Armor like this before, not even Sima Yang, lying defeated on the ground.

Like a collapsing mountain, Giant Armor, with his fierce stance, crashed into the ranks of the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators.

The one standing in front at the brunt of the charge appeared to be a physique cultivator, judging by the rich blood Qi energy emanating from him, and this cultivator was also of Level 9 cultivation.

The moment of collision caused the Level 9 physique cultivator's eyes to bulge, and he was sent flying like a broken sack, with the sound of snapping bones coming from his body.

Both being physique cultivators at Level 9, the difference between him and Giant Armor was like that between heaven and earth.

Fortunately, his slight interference slowed down Giant Armor, attracting more attacks that dimmed the glow around his body.

Although Giant Armor was simple-minded, he was not stupid; knowing he couldn't withstand more attacks, he reached forward and grabbed.

The thrown physique cultivator's eyes bulged again, feeling someone had grabbed his ankle, and then... he was swung around.

Standing on the roof, munching on an elixir pill while using his storage sack for weapon control against the enemy, Lu Ye's eyelids twitched.

Having roamed the Spirit Stream battlefield for so long and experienced countless large and small battles, he was no longer the youth unaware of the cultivation world, yet he had never seen anything like Giant Armor's current actions.

The Level 9 physique cultivator was gripped in his hand and swung around like a weapon, creating a three-meter radius around him where no Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivator dared to approach.

It must be said that when an honest person loses their temper, the result is truly terrifying!

After swinging furiously for a while, Giant Armor suddenly felt his hand lighten and looked down, only to see that he was only holding a lower leg now—the Level 9 physique cultivator he had been holding was already crushed to pieces.

With a fierce throw of the leg onto the ground, Giant Armor roared like a wounded beast and charged at the nearest enemy.

Giant Armor, who had never killed a man in his cultivation life, was now slaughtering mercilessly!

In just a few moments, the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge side suffered heavy casualties. Of the over thirty people surrounding Giant Armor, less than half remained, and many of them were bound by the Spirit-Binding Lock, being continuously killed.

The weapon control artifact, Liu Guang, flew back to Lu Ye, its stored Spiritual Energy completely depleted and needing replenishment for further use.

Lu Ye placed it back into his storage sack, his gaze fixating on Ruo Yan below, as he slowly drew out the Boulder Mountain Saber.

Just as he was about to charge into the fray, his gaze lifted toward the distant street, where he saw a surge of cultivators suddenly appear, rapidly advancing towards them.

The leader was tall and slender, with her midriff exposed—who else could it be but Choo Qing?

There were at least forty cultivators following behind Choo Qing.

"Prepare to retreat!" Lu Ye instructed Yiyi.

If it had only been Ruo Yan's remnant forces, Lu Ye might have been able to wipe them out entirely, but with Choo Qing bringing a group over, they could no longer linger.

The minion spirits had suffered significant losses, with nearly all the ordinary Xianyuan Guards turned minion spirits wiped out, and even many of the squad leader level spirits gone—Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators were not just beating bags.

With his current strength alone, he was not yet strong enough to contend with the enemy and needed to replenish his force of minion spirits before making any further plans.

He glanced at the Giant Armor still charging below, leapt down with Move-Like-The-Wind bolstering his speed, and quickly killed his way into the fray. His saber came slicing down, catching a Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivator off guard and felling him to the ground.

A violent force struck from the side. Lu Ye raised his Boulder Mountain Saber to block, the blade ringing out a straining chime as the force of the impact sent him soaring off the ground.

When he landed, Lu Ye's arm that held the saber had gone numb.

The blow just now had been delivered by the Giant Armor. His eyes were blood-red with rage, barely differentiating between friend and foe. However, upon seeing Lu Ye, a slight change flickered in the blood-red pupils of the Giant Armor.

"A lot of people are coming over. If you want revenge, follow me!" Lu Ye said and then took off running.

The Giant Armor paid him no mind and continued charging at nearby Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators.

"Roar!" Just then, Amber roared at him, then turned to chase after Lu Ye and hopped onto his shoulder.

The multitude of minion spirits swiftly retreated, leaving behind a mess and corpses.

They hadn't run far when a rumbling sound came from behind. Lu Ye looked back to see the Giant Armor following them.

Luckily, even though the Giant Armor had initially ignored Lu Ye's command to follow, he obediently came along after Amber roared at him.

Of course, this had something to do with the fact the Giant Armor saw Choo Qing leading a group of people charging towards him. He might have been slow, but he wasn't stupid. He knew that no matter how strong his body was, staying there would only mean certain death.

Moments after the two had retreated, Choo Qing arrived at the battlefield with a group of cultivators in tow. She glanced around and her pupils contracted, "What happened?"

She had come to meet up with Ruo Yan after receiving a message, since Ruo Yan had located the Giant Armor and supposedly trapped him.

But upon arriving, she found that her side had suffered grievous losses. Out of the thirty people that had followed Ruo Yan, only just over ten were left standing, the rest had become corpses.

Looking at the remnants on the battlefield, it was clear the battle had been extremely brutal, with the ground littered with broken body parts and large spatters of blood, as though someone had been lifted and heavily slammed to the ground.

It was difficult to imagine what kind of combat had taken place here.

Ruo Yan's face was filled with horror, and her body trembled slightly. Indeed, the Giant Armor's berserk rampage had truly frightened her.

But the Giant Armor's rampage wasn't the main point. No matter how strong the Giant Armor was, he was only one person. The real issue were Lu Yiye and the numerous Xianyuan Guards.

Without Lu Yiye and the Xianyuan Guards causing chaos, the Giant Armor would already be dead by now.

"Senior Sister Choo Qing, Lu Yiye isn't dead, and it seems like he can command the Xianyuan Guards to slay enemies," Ruo Yan nervously stated.

Choo Qing frowned at her, wondering if her junior sister had been scared out of her wits. Commanding the Xianyuan Guards to slay enemies seemed too far-fetched.

"It's true," Ruo Yan hurriedly explained, briefly recounting the recent events. She had gradually come to realize this after noticing something off about the Xianyuan Guards that appeared—just like the last time, they solely pursued Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators, completely ignoring Lu Yiye. And when Lu Yiye retreated, the Xianyuan Guards also withdrew.

Choo Qing began to feel that things were not as simple as they seemed. Associating this with their previous ambush on Lu Ye, which ended up disrupted by the Xianyuan Guards, if Lu Yiye truly could command the Xianyuan Guards, then all the mysteries would be solved.

It wasn't the Xianyuan Guards who had disrupted the fight last time; it was an ambush set by Lu Yiye, which was why those Xianyuan Guards only targeted people from Fenghua Courtyard.

But...could there really be such a method? If so, didn't that mean Lu Yiye could command the entire army of Xianyuan Guards within Xianyuan City at will?

No, that couldn't be right. If he had that ability, he wouldn't have run away just now.

"Pursue them quickly!" Realizing the gravity of the situation, Choo Qing made a decisive call.

If Lu Yiye was running away, it meant that even if he could command the Xianyuan Guards to fight, he no longer had the forces to confront her side. The Giant Armor was also severely injured, so there was no better time to pursue than now.

They had to take this opportunity to eliminate both Lu Yiye and the Giant Armor. Only then could Fenghua Courtyard free up their hands to join forces with Illuminating Sun Mountain and focus on surrounding the cultivators from Surreptitious Palace.

Certainly, to have achieved the position of Deputy Governor, Choo Qing had some skills. Even without knowing exactly how Lu Ye could command the Xianyuan Guards, she deduced Lu Ye's current predicament.

A group hurriedly cleaned up the battlefield and then, under the leadership of Choo Qing and Ruo Yan, quickly pursued their foes.

Midway, Choo Qing even sent out a message to gather Fenghua Courtyard's forces, and soon enough, the scattered cultivators converged on their location.

The enemy's tracks were conspicuously clear, with massive bloody footprints on the ground, left by the Giant Armor.

Following these footprints, there was little worry of losing track of the enemy.

At this moment, Lu Ye had already run several streets away, with the Giant Armor following close behind. The large man was not in good condition, his breath was weak, his body covered in dense wounds, blood-drenching him completely, some his own, some his enemy's.

No matter how strong his physique was, it was impossible to come out unscathed facing that level of assault.

Not only did the injuries affect him, the Giant Armor was also enveloped by a profound sadness. It seemed that Sima Yang's death had dealt him a not insignificant blow.

Lu Ye didn't know what sort of relationship he had with Sima Yang, but he didn't have a very good impression of the small-mustache magic cultivator, and without any real connection, dead was dead.

Chapter 274 - 272: What the Hell is a Mochi Ball?

When he had withdrawn just now, he had specifically gone to inform Giant Armor mainly because he was unwilling to watch him being besieged to death by the people of Fenghua Courtyard; the enemy of one's enemy is a friend, after all, so he helped where he could.

Unlike Sima Yang, Lu Ye had a rather good impression of Giant Armor.

"Death is irrevocable, and I have grievances with those people over there, so we could cooperate," Lu Ye comforted.

Giant Armor hung his head and did not respond, and it was unclear whether he had taken in the words.

After a brief moment of catching his breath, fluctuations of spirit force came from not far away. Lu Ye looked up and saw a Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivator on a rooftop nearby, looking this way. Their eyes met, and the man shouted, "Lu Yiye is over here!"

No sooner had the words fallen than a Fire Dragon Technique was already hurling toward that man, the searing power distorting the air around.

The man's expression changed, and he dodged in a flash, but under Lu Ye's control, the fire dragon also turned direction and heavily struck the man, who let out a miserable scream as he was blasted down.

"Let's go!"

Lu Ye started running with Giant Armor tightly following behind. Not far behind them, the fluctuations of spirit force rose and fell, clearly indicating that the people from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge were in pursuit.

As they continued to flee, they just couldn't shake off the pursuers behind them, and from the sounds coming from behind, it seemed that more and more enemies were joining the chase.

If Lu Ye had been alone, he could have easily shaken off the pursuers with Move-Like-The-Wind enhancing him; chasing him would have been a dream for these people.

But with Giant Armor there, it was a different story. Giant Armor's speed was not slow but not particularly fast either. Moreover, Giant Armor was seriously injured and it would be best to find a place for him to take a healing pill.

But with so many pursuers close behind, no place was safe without shaking them off first.

After considering all options, it seemed there was only one place they could go.

A moment later, Lu Ye led Giant Armor around several streets and rushed to the front of a courtyard. They had just arrived when the pursuing Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators and the figures of Choo Qing and Ruo Yan appeared, sprinting swiftly.

Error is a more bitter sight when meeting an enemy!

Then, they saw Lu Ye tidy up his clothes and gently push open the big gate of the courtyard, stepping inside.

"Surround them!" Choo Qing ordered sharply. In this brief moment, the number of her followers had grown to seventy or eighty, almost all that remained of the Fenghua Courtyard cultivators, including some independent cultivators from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge, though they were few in number.

With so many followers, even if Lu Yiye really could command the Xianyuan Guard, their side still had the strength to fight, especially since she hadn't seen any trace of the Xianyuan Guard just now.

Swish swish swish, a group of cultivators nimbly leaped onto the high wall, completely sealing the courtyard airtight.

Choo Qing and Ruo Yan led twenty people through the main gate, brimming with killing intent.

Looking into the courtyard, they saw a swing with a woman in a red robe turned away from them. The previously arrogant and unassailable Lu Yiye was now respectfully standing near the red-robed woman, talking to her.

Having a special spirit body in Xianyuan City was something known to Fenghua Courtyard; they had encountered several before but had ended up besieging them. Mostly, these special spirits often posed extremely strange demands that they found difficult to satisfy.

Unable to comply, they had no choice but to fight.

So, seeing the red-robed woman, Choo Qing knew she was a special spirit body. She glanced briefly, initially unconcerned, but soon sensed something wrong because she couldn't see the spirit light of the other party.

Ruo Yan, standing beside her, did not possess her keen observational skills. Glaring with fiery eyes, she bit out at Lu Ye, "Lu Yiye, your time of death has arrived!"

Over there, Lu Ye was softly speaking to the red-robed woman. Hearing this, he raised his hand and pointed at Ruo Yan and the others: "It's them, they've been chasing me, preventing me from finding Mochi Ball."

The gently swaying swing stopped, and at that moment, Lu Ye's hairs stood on end; Giant Armor let out a low growl in his throat and pulled Lu Ye behind himself, shielding him.

Looking at the broad back before him, Lu Ye was slightly stunned.

"Fall back!" Choo Qing also sensed the danger and quickly shouted.

Boom...

The courtyard gate closed.

At the same time, screams rang out, and the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators perched on the wall, one after another, fell down like dumplings.

Falling from several meters wouldn't kill a person, but it was very disgraceful.

The not-so-large courtyard was suddenly crammed with dozens of people.

Choo Qing's expression was so grave it almost dripped water, because she experienced what Lu Ye had felt earlier - her spirit force was restricted within her body, unable to move. Even more despairing for her was the realization that Lu Yiye and this eerie red-robed woman appeared to be in cahoots!

Looking up, she saw Lu Ye looking her way, their eyes met, and a somewhat triumphant expression appeared on his face, even making faces at her for a while.

Choo Qing felt even worse.

In her years of cultivation, she had encountered many dangers, but none as hopeless as this. As soon as the anomaly occurred in the courtyard, she knew she had provoked a formidable existence far beyond their reckoning.

The power of the red-robed woman was profoundly beyond imagination, definitely not something they, at the Spirit Stream Realm, could contend with.

Was it because of her that Lu Yiye could command the Xianyuan Guard?

No wonder this guy had fled here...

It has to be said, Choo Qing thought she was doomed.

Lu Ye could control the Xianyuan Guard and it had nothing to do with the red-robed woman, he came here just carrying Giant Armor with nowhere to hide, letting him discard the Giant Armor, yet he couldn't quite bring himself to do it.

The current situation undoubtedly satisfied him, if the red-robed woman could in a fit of anger kill all these dozens of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators, that would be even better.

"Have you seen Mochi Ball?"

The red-robed woman spoke up.

Lu Ye's look of satisfaction disappeared, and he frowned, things seem to be somewhat different from what he had expected.

Choo Qing also frowned, the imagined slaughter hadn't come, and this gave her a glimmer of hope for survival, recalling the various oddities of the special spirit bodies they encountered earlier, and the words Lu Ye had said before, this guy also mentioned Mochi Ball, Choo Qing carefully replied, "No."

"Can you help me look for Mochi Ball?"

The red-robed woman spoke again.

Lu Ye sighed inwardly, knowing his plan had fallen through, he had originally thought of using others to kill, but now it seemed that the red-robed woman wasn't quite up to the task.

Or rather, slaughter was not what she wanted; she was only interested in finding the cat named Mochi Ball, the more people looking for the cat, the better.

"I can." Choo Qing responded.

Then she felt the spirit force resume flowing inside her body, the omnipresent pressure around also vanished, she took a deep breath, knowing there was no immediate danger anymore.

After a moment's thought, Choo Qing whispered a few words to Ruo Yan, who then led most of the people out of the courtyard, heavily surrounding it, just waiting for Lu Ye to come out so they could catch him off guard.

Choo Qing stayed back with a few people, closely monitoring Lu Ye's movements.

Lu Ye naturally saw her intentions and, under these circumstances, he didn't have a good way to resolve it; with his strength, he indeed had a chance to take out Choo Qing and her people here, but from the attitude of the red-robed woman earlier, clashing in this courtyard clearly wasn't wise.

No one knew what consequences there might be if a battle really broke out here.

Perhaps he could probe the attitude of the red-robed woman a bit further?

Just as he thought this, Choo Qing actually walked directly towards him.

Lu Ye lightly released then gripped the handle of his knife, his intent to kill slowly rising, confident that if she came within fifteen feet, he could take her life with three strikes.

However, just as Lu Ye's intent to kill arose, he felt a prickling sensation at his back, the origin of this sensation was needless to say, definitely from the red-robed woman.

The stronger his intent to kill, the more intense the prickling sensation became, until it felt indeed as if thousands of needles were pricking him.

Choo Qing's steps also became laborious, sweat began to form on her forehead, and she slowly stopped.

She too, like Lu Ye, was testing the attitude of the red-robed woman.

The next moment, Lu Ye let go of the hand holding the knife hilt and withdrew his murderous intent, instantly feeling himself lighten.

Then, under the horrified gaze of Choo Qing, he quickly approached her.

"What are you doing?" Choo Qing couldn't help but back away, like a delicate young lady encountering a bully, retreating all the way to the far gate, with no room left to retreat.

Lu Ye, expressionless, lifted a hand and placed it on her head, vigorously rubbing it, turning her hair all messy.

"Make sure to search thoroughly for Mochi Ball, Mochi Ball is very important, if you can't find it, there will be no dinner tonight!"

A few Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators stared at this scene with their mouths agape, their expressions weird to the extreme.

When Lu Ye had approached Choo Qing, they had thought about stopping him, but whenever they thought of moving, they were enveloped with a great sense of crisis, preventing them from acting rashly.

Lu Ye turned and left, leaving Choo Qing standing there with hair as messy as a bird's nest, her expression dazed.

She hadn't been attacked by Lu Ye, nor had she been injured, but the scene just now was even more distressing than if she had been killed, her sworn enemy was right in front of her, not only could she not take revenge, she was even paternally reprimanded!

Mochi Ball! What the hell is Mochi Ball!

She suppressed the anger and surging intent to kill in her heart, taking several deep breaths, only then did she feel revived.

Elsewhere, Lu Ye walked to the center of the courtyard, where Giant Armor was sitting cross-legged; he had already left the red-robed woman's side a moment ago. He was tough, but he didn't feel secure near the red-robed woman, right now his eyes bloodshot as he stared at Choo Qing.

Just staring, with no trace of murderous intent.

Lu Ye hadn't told him the mysteries of this courtyard, but in fact, he had understood it earlier than Lu Ye, as someone with simple thoughts and a clear soul often possesses an animal-like keen intuition, he may not have understood the intricacies, but he knew what to do that was beneficial for him.

Taking out a few elixir pills, Lu Ye threw them into his mouth and swallowed, then sat down next to Giant Armor on a piece of broken rock, taking out two bottles of elixir pills for him, one bottle of Spirit-Nurturing Pill and one bottle of healing pill.

Giant Armor didn't have a storage sack, this was something Lu Ye noticed the first time he saw him, without a storage sack, naturally, he didn't have elixir pills to consume.

He didn't refuse Lu Ye's kindness, reaching out his hand to take them, opened the bottle, and without caring how many elixir pills were inside, he tilted his head and swallowed them all.

Then opening the second bottle, he swallowed it all in one go.

Chapter 275 - 273: I Have Someone Backing Me Up

Lu Ye had never seen anyone consume elixir pills like this; although he had the Talent Tree that could burn away the pill poison, he still didn't dare to eat so many at once.

It could only be said that Giant Armor really was endowed with exceptional talent.

Footsteps approached, and Lu Ye turned to see Choo Qing walking toward him.

The woman stood before him, her hair a mess, raising a fist and gently thumping it against his chest.

Lu Ye's eyelids twitched.

Choo Qing suddenly realized, "So that's how it is!"

She was not a fool, after getting angry for a while, she faintly grasped the subtlety of the situation. Simply put, as long as there was no intent to kill inside this small courtyard, there would be no problem. When Lu Ye rubbed her head, he didn't show any intent to kill, so the red-robed woman didn't intervene.

But this made her feel humiliated, so she ran over to give Lu Ye a taste of his own medicine.

She was not yet satisfied, raising her fist to hammer Lu Ye's chest again, this time with greater force, causing a thud to resound from Lu Ye's chest.

Lu Ye turned his head to look at the red-robed woman, who was swinging leisurely on a swing, appearing serene and carefree.

Choo Qing's little fists kept falling, gritting her teeth, "I don't believe you can hide in here forever, dare to step out and I will make sure you have no place for your corpse."

Being at a disadvantage and not fighting back was not an option for Lu Ye, so he lifted his hand to pat Choo Qing on the head, rubbing it while retaliating, "Choo Xue died at my hands."

Choo Qing's expression immediately changed, and her body couldn't help but tremble. The surge of murderous intent made her almost want to disregard everything and make a move, but the sense of crisis in her heart made her realize the reality; she knew that if she dared to act, before she could kill Lu Yiye, she herself would be dead first.

The red-robed woman's cultivation was ridiculously high.

Forcibly suppressing the murderous thoughts in her heart, Choo Qing's eyes reddened, yet she managed a smile, forced cheer having taken over, and continued, "Don't worry, it won't be easy for you to die."

Fenghua Courtyard has dozens of people, each will stab you with a sword, chop you with a blade, you will die a miserable death."

"Qiaoyun died at my hands!"

As Choo Qing pounded Lu Ye's chest, her fist paused slightly, then she increased the frequency of her hammering.

"If you beg for mercy now, I might consider making it quick for you. What do you think, want to consider it?"

"You too will die at my hands."

As Lu Ye spoke, he frowned; although the woman wasn't showing any killing intent, it still hurt a bit when she pounded on him. It wouldn't be right for him to hit her in the chest in return, as she was a woman after all. Killing her was one thing, but hammering her chest would be indecent. Merely rubbing her head felt like a loss!

With this thought, Lu Ye swiftly jumped back.

"Giant Armor, it's your turn to entertain her."

The Giant Armor, who had been sitting cross-legged on the ground, slowly rose to his feet, standing before a stunned Choo Qing, his imposing presence nearly suffocating her.

She looked up to see Giant Armor towering a whole head taller than her.

"It's not..." Choo Qing's expression turned frantic.

Giant Armor extended a hand as large as a fan and placed it on Choo Qing's head, roughly rubbing it.

Choo Qing raised her hand, but even with her arm fully extended, she couldn't reach Giant Armor's chest.

What was supposed to be a tension-filled scene suddenly became comical.

"Aren't you two going to look for Mochi Ball? What are you doing here?" A faint voice came from the side, the swinging swing had stopped without notice.

Lu Ye, who was caught up in the spectacle, Giant Armor who was rubbing Choo Qing's head, Choo Qing who was suffering from the rough treatment, and even the few Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators who had been looking on dumbfounded, every single one of them immediately stood up straight in the presence of the red-robed woman.

"Don't just stand there, go!"

"Yes!" The group answered in unison, then hastily rushed towards the gate.

Choo Qing left first with a few from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge, with Lu Ye and Giant Armor following behind.

The situation suddenly took a turn for the worse, and Lu Ye hadn't expected the red-robed woman to actually drive people away; this was very disadvantageous for him and Giant Armor.

With the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge people lying in wait outside and without the protection of the red-robed woman, the moment they left the courtyard gate, he and Giant Armor would definitely be in trouble.

But since the red-robed woman had spoken, staying any longer would only make things worse.

In the current situation, a breakout was the only option. He was somewhat confident he could escape, but Giant Armor was sure to die.

"I'll go first!"

As Lu Ye was contemplating, a large hand patted his shoulder, causing him to stagger slightly. Immediately after, Giant Armor passed him, stepping out without any fear.

Lu Ye followed, with Amber crouching on his shoulder.

The doors to the courtyard closed with a bang behind them.

Lu Ye looked around and saw dozens of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators already surrounding the area tightly. Eyes from every direction gazed at them, each filled with a vicious gleam.

Spirit force began to fluctuate, magic cultivators activated their spells, and combat cultivators readied their Spiritual Artifacts.

Giant Armor bent down, his blood qi beginning to boil, assuming the stance of charging into battle, while Lu Ye drew the Boulder Mountain Saber from his waist.

"Kill!" Choo Qing commanded.

A series of muffled groans suddenly arose. The magic cultivators who had been charging up their spells became pale, their spirit force thrown into disarray. The spells they were about to cast all faltered, and not just them—even the combat and ghost cultivators controlling Spiritual Artifacts were similarly affected, resulting in numerous artifacts clinking and clattering to the ground.

Lu Ye and Giant Armor, having charged only two steps forward, halted in unison.

Choo Qing's expression turned ugly as she hurriedly calmed the chaotic spirit force within her.

Lu Ye sheathed the Boulder Mountain Saber and also struggled to suppress the rampaging spirit force inside him. That moment just now had nearly scared him to death.

Inside the small courtyard, with the red-robed woman present, they were unable to harbor killing thoughts towards one another, and unexpectedly, it was the same once they left the courtyard.

Perhaps in the eyes of the red-robed woman, whether it was Lu Ye, Giant Armor, or Choo Qing and the others, they were all supposed to help her find the cat. Since it was a search for the cat, then they should focus on that task. Infighting did not align with her interests.

Realizing this, Lu Ye's heart relaxed. It seemed they were temporarily safe.

After a good while, he slowly exhaled, the turmoil in his spirit force finally settling. Looking at Choo Qing not far ahead, he raised his thumb and pointed backward.

I've got backup!

Then he strode forward, together with Giant Armor, forcefully carving a path through the encirclement of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators, their presence undeniably dominant.

Choo Qing's face was etched with unwillingness, but what could that change? Almost everyone had suffered a setback just now, and she truly didn't dare to initiate another fight here. Fighting here was no different from doing so within the small courtyard.

Having broken out of the encirclement, Lu Ye immediately sped up, dashing forward.

Giant Armor was not dumb and quickly followed.

"Pursue!" With a wave of her hand, Choo Qing led seventy to eighty Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators in relentless pursuit.

The situation had returned to what it was before, but this time Lu Ye and Giant Armor couldn't seek refuge in the small courtyard again. The red-robed woman had clearly shown her displeasure with their dawdling attitude. If they dared to return, they'd likely face unfavorable consequences.

While the situation seemed unchanged, there were subtle shifts occurring.

Lu Ye now just wanted to figure out one thing—if things were really as he speculated, that would be interesting.

During the chase, they had run through several streets.

It was only upon reaching a round plaza that Lu Ye finally stopped, and though Giant Armor didn't know why he had ceased fleeing, he stopped as well.

In just a few breaths, Choo Qing led a group of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators to their location.

"Encircle them!" Choo Qing commanded.

The Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators immediately formed a circle, surrounding Lu Ye and Giant Armor. The reason for not engaging was that despite the distance from the small courtyard, the invisible restraint from the red-robed woman had not lifted.

During the pursuit, Choo Qing had harbored killing intentions towards Lu Ye several times but felt as if needles were pricking her back, a sensation that lasted until now.

It made her infuriated. Her enemy was right in front of her, yet she couldn't move a hand to kill him; it was torture.

It seemed that to lift the restraint, they needed to find Mochi Ball, but what exactly was Mochi Ball? Choo Qing regretted not having asked before.

One thing was certain, it couldn't be something edible; a spiritual body didn't need food.

Actually, solving the issue was simple. Those who had entered the small courtyard couldn't harbor killing intent towards Lu Ye and Giant Armor, but others could. Hence, they just needed to find assistants who hadn't been in the courtyard.

During the pursuit, she had already contacted Illuminating Sun Mountain, hoping to get some reinforcements to help kill Lu Ye.

However, she learned that they were already in battle with Surreptitious Palace. Counting the independent cultivators joining both sides, about three hundred people were fighting fiercely, making it impossible to spare anyone. They even hoped that she would bring the Fenghua Courtyard team to aid them.

Fenghua Courtyard was originally planning on joining forces with Illuminating Sun Mountain to deal with Surreptitious Palace, but they ran into Lu Ye halfway and had been sidetracked until now.

For Choo Qing to give up on Lu Ye now and go to support Illuminating Sun Mountain was unthinkable. If she left, finding Lu Ye again later would be difficult.

Thus, she could only wait, wait for the battle between Illuminating Sun Mountain and Surreptitious Palace to subside before borrowing help from there.

Both parties had already reached an agreement: Illuminating Sun Mountain would take care of Lu Ye and Giant Armor, then they would regroup and sweep the Haotian Alliance forces.

This was undoubtedly a situation benefiting both sides.

So all Choo Qing and her companions needed to do was follow Lu Ye and make sure he didn't escape, as he was merely a grasshopper after autumn, unable to leap for much longer.

Just as she was thinking this, an unexpected change occurred. From the beast pet crouching on Lu Ye's shoulder, one spiritual body after another floated out. In the blink of an eye, there were more than a dozen spiritual bodies standing around him, most of them resembling Xianyuan Guards, among which were two special spirit bodies.

Choo Qing was stunned. Could this man really command the Xianyuan Guard?

The first to cry out was Yiyi, accompanied by the plucking of Amber's pipa. The Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators didn't even have time to realize what was happening before a feeling of head-heaviness and foot-lightness overcame them, leaving them bewildered.

Several Spirit-Binding Locks took advantage of this disarray to capture seven or eight cultivators. Liu Sanbao's dice turned into streaks of Liu Guang as they flew out. Yiyi's spells exploded, and life began to wither.

By the time the group from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge regained their senses, those captured cultivators had already perished.

Chapter 276 - 274: The Punishment of the Red-Robed Woman

Previously, Lu Ye had not been fleeing continuously; even while on the run, he made some attempts—for instance, harboring thoughts of killing Choo Qing. The result proved that the red-robed woman indeed had profound cultivation. Without her having done anything to him, and since they had joined the same team searching for the cat, they were companions, and he simply had no way to act against Choo Qing and the others.

He could not act, but Yiyi could!

Perhaps this was because Yiyi was hiding inside Amber, or maybe it was because Yiyi itself was a Spiritual Body.

If Yiyi could act, then naturally, the minion spirits could too.

Therefore, the situation just now seemed like he and Giant Armor were surrounded, but in reality, Lu Ye was preparing to counterattack. Otherwise, he would not have stopped here.

Choo Qing could get others to attack Lu Ye, but Lu Ye did not need to look for help. He had a group of assistants right by his side, all concealed within Amber.

The previous battle had drastically reduced the number of minion spirits, but those who remained were the elite. Not to mention Liu Sanbao and Pipa Girl, who were two special minion spirits, the others were all squad leader level.

Their counterattack was indeed effective.

The cultivators from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge instinctively began to counterattack. The dozen or so remaining minion spirits, although elite, couldn't withstand the torment of so many cultivators. Probably just one round of attack would be enough to annihilate all minion spirits, including Yiyi.

Just when the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators made their move, Amber suddenly sucked in towards the direction of the minion spirits, and all the minion spirits turned into points of light and were ingested into its belly.

Simultaneously, Lu Ye leaped high, proactively meeting a magic spell that was attacking him. It was a Golden Arc Slash, cast by a Level 9 magic cultivator, and it was not weak.

He wanted to make an attempt.

But as soon as he leaped up, he realized that what he was doing seemed superfluous because Giant Armor suddenly held Amber in his arms, then hunched his body and exposed his back, as the magic spells and weapon control originally targeting Amber and the minion spirits bombarded him instead.

"Don't!" Choo Qing seemed to realize something and screamed in horror.

Cultivators who were quick on the uptake promptly controlled their own magic and spells, skimming past Giant Armor's body and not hitting him; those who reacted slowly lacked this ability.

At least a dozen spells and weapon controls bombarded Giant Armor, making his back emit a clanging sound.

Meanwhile, the Golden Arc Slash also struck Lu Ye's chest, but was blocked by Defense Spirit Runes.

Lu Ye was knocked down, his feet hitting the ground, sliding back several yards before stabilizing his figure.

He straightened up, flicked his chest, and looked toward the Level 9 magic cultivator who had made the attack.

The other person's expression gradually turned to horror...

The expressions of those dozen cultivators who had attacked Giant Armor likewise began to show horror.

Spirit force suddenly became chaotic, then violent, accompanied by a series of sizzling sounds as if balloons were being punctured and the noise of deflation was heard.

"Senior Sister Choo Qing, save me!"

The Level 9 magic cultivator being stared at by Lu Ye trembled as he reached out toward Choo Qing.

"Ah!" Screams echoed, incessant. Every one of those dozen people emitted sizzling sounds of air bursts from their bodies.

Lu Ye's expression was solemn, his guess had been confirmed. But as fellow searchers for the cat, the consequences of attacking one another were more severe than he had anticipated.

Even if he had never heard that unique sound of a balloon leaking air before, he knew what it was.

It was the sound of a spiritual orifice being broken!

Seeing the excruciating expressions on those people's faces, it was clear that not just one spiritual orifice was broken, but one after another, continuously being shattered.

This was the punishment from the red-robed woman.

Everyone felt a chill to the bone as they watched helplessly those people's cultivation levels fall along with the breaking of their spiritual orifices, from Level 9 to Level 8, then to Level 7... and then they exploded to death.

Amber, protected in Giant Armor's arms, jumped out. Without needing Lu Ye's orders, it opened its mouth and spat out all those minion spirits again.

Choo Qing's eyes violently trembled, she shouted firmly, "Run!"

The sobbing sounds began anew. Although this time the effects weren't as good as before due to Ten Thousand Demons Ridge's side being prepared, it still affected them slightly. The Spirit-Binding Locks flew out, followed by Liu Sanbao's dice and Yiyi's spells.

The situation turned dire in an instant. The several dozen people who had been surrounding Lu Ye and Giant Armor fled for their lives as if a flood or a wild beast was on their heels.

Choo Qing, running at the front, was almost biting her silver teeth to pieces.

The current situation was very disadvantageous to them. Because of the red-robed woman's constraints, they couldn't attack Lu Ye and Giant Armor, but Lu Ye could command the Xianyuan Guard to ruthlessly kill them. This feeling of being beaten without the ability to fight back was utterly terrible.

If it were just that, it would be bearable. Merely a dozen Spiritual Bodies; the several dozen people of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge could easily wipe them out at any time. However, those Spiritual Bodies could be ingested by Lu Ye's beast pet. If they accidentally harmed Lu Ye and Giant Armor in the attack, they would receive punishment from the red-robed woman.

The consequences were too dreadful; no one was willing to try it lightly.

Fight, they couldn't. Stay, and they would be beaten. Their only option was to flee.

The several dozen cultivators ran ahead, with minion spirits chasing and periodically launching Spirit-Binding Locks, while Lu Ye and Giant Armor followed leisurely behind.

Along the way, more unlucky Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators were bound by Spirit-Binding Locks and then killed.

The ranks dwindled from around seventy or eighty people, losing about half their number in just a short period of time. At this rate, Senior Sister Choo Qing's group would struggle to avoid a fatal outcome given enough time.

Following close by Lu Ye's side, Giant Armor seemed utterly perplexed by how the situation had developed, yet this was the kind of chaos he relished.

Ring-a-ling...

Suddenly, a crisp ringing sound came from not too far away, bringing with it a sense of clarity as if a stream of cool water had flowed through the listeners' hearts and minds.

Lu Ye looked toward the source of the sound and saw a small and agile figure sprinting across a nearby rooftop.

It was indeed a white cat, with soft and glossy fur, wearing a small bell around its neck. The ringing originated from it.

A real cat?

The red-robed woman had asked him to find the cat earlier, but he thought it was just her obsession, so he didn't take it seriously. However, now it seemed there really was a white cat named Mochi Ball in the city.

It appeared to be attracted to the commotion here, running on the rooftops nearby, following the crowd and watching the excitement as it went.

Lu Ye was unsure of what he would gain from returning the cat to the red-robed woman, as neither Liu Sanbao's nor Pipa Girl's obsessions had been fulfilled.

But it was worth trying; there could be an unexpected benefit.

With this thought, Lu Ye, his legs bolstered by Move-Like-The-Wind Spirit Runes, stomped on the ground, propelling himself towards the scampering white cat. As he closed in, he reached out to grab it.

Yet, his attempt came up empty. The cat was so agile that just as Lu Ye was about to catch it, it suddenly picked up speed and darted ahead.

Lu Ye landed on the rooftop but did not stop chasing after the white cat.

As the white cat fled, its speed didn't seem fast, but it was incredibly agile. Each time Lu Ye reached out to grab it, the cat narrowly escaped.

This gave Lu Ye the impression that the cat was toying with him.

Frowning, Lu Ye slapped his storage sack, and two controlled weapons flew out, weaving through the air as they were hurled at the white cat.

The cat's movements became even more agile, making small leaps and dodges, narrowly evading the weapons.

"Giant Armor!" Lu Ye called out to his companion below.

Hearing the call, Giant Armor leapt upwards. He had seen the white cat earlier and had been waiting for his chance. After Lu Ye's shout, he leaped onto the roof, cutting off the cat's escape route. He opened his wide chest with a come-hither stance as if beckoning the little one towards him.

The white cat charged towards him, but Giant Armor's large, fan-like hand failed to grasp it. The cat even stepped on his hand, performed a nimble flip over, and landed on top of Giant Armor's head.

Lu Ye and Giant Armor both froze, as if struck by an immobilization curse, rooted to the spot.

Atop Giant Armor's head, the white cat mewed, licked its paw, which made Giant Armor roll his eyes upward, look at Lu Ye, and then slowly bring his large hands towards the top of his head.

Lu Ye shook his head, advising caution, then nodded.

The next moment, Giant Armor exerted his strength, clapping his hands together with force.

Boom...

An explosion of air burst forth, and a visible shockwave swept in all directions. Had it landed, even a Spiritual Body like the white cat would have been obliterated, but the cat already lightly touched down elsewhere, its eyes filled with a vivid look of disdain.

Giant Armor lunged at it like a dog diving for its meal, accompanied by the crash of breaking tiles as he smashed through the rooftop, falling down into the building. Nearby, the white cat even peered curiously into the hole to check the commotion below.

Lu Ye took the opportunity to rapidly chase after the cat, reaching out to grab it.

However, just as he was about to succeed, the white cat darted aside, its eyes full of contempt.

Lu Ye looked up at the cat, thought for a moment, then jumped down from the rooftop.

It was clear now that the creature was simply mocking him and Giant Armor; with his abilities, he had no chance of catching it.

Having realized this, Lu Ye was unwilling to waste more time; his priority was to continue the pursuit of Senior Sister Choo Qing and her group.

Giant Armor climbed out of the room he had fallen into and looked at Lu Ye for guidance. Lu Ye shook his head.

While the two of them had been trying to catch the white cat, Amber had not been idle. She was leading the minion spirits in a relentless hunt ahead. Lu Ye and Giant Armor resumed their journey, occasionally coming across a body or two slain by the minion spirits.

The persistent sound of the bell kept echoing, indicating that the white cat was still following them on the rooftops nearby, blatantly taunting them.

Lu Ye chose to ignore it, as if he didn't see it.

Before long, chaotic and intense fluctuations of spirit force were felt up ahead, suggesting a large number of cultivators were engaged in battle there.

Yiyi returned with Amber. Upon inquiry by Lu Ye, he learned there indeed was a large group of cultivators fighting ahead, likely the forces of Surreptitious Palace clashing with those from Illuminating Sun Mountain.

Meanwhile, Senior Sister Choo Qing and those being pursued had already joined forces with Illuminating Sun Mountain's fighters.

Seeing that they could not intervene, Yiyi retreated with Amber.

Chapter 277 - 275: Saving People

Choo Qing was expected to seek out the people of Illuminating Sun Mountain, after all, they were being pursued and unable to retaliate, and surviving was their only option.

However, according to Yiyi, things were not going well on the side of the Surreptitious Palace; they were at a disadvantage in their confrontation with Illuminating Sun Mountain.

This puzzled Lu Ye, as he had been continually entangling the people of Fenghua Courtyard and had killed many of them. Logically, the Surreptitious Palace only needed to deal with Illuminating Sun Mountain, since the manpower and strength of the two sides were roughly equal. Why then was Illuminating Sun Mountain gaining the upper hand?

Previously, in the valley, Jik Yan from the Surreptitious Palace had tried to win him over, but he had refused. At that time, he felt it was better to operate alone rather than cooperate with unfamiliar people and follow others' orders.

Indeed, this had proven to be true; if he had been moving with the people from the Surreptitious Palace, he wouldn't have gained as much as he had now.

The situation was now unfavorable for the Surreptitious Palace, and once the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge managed to crush the Surreptitious Palace, the cultivators from the Haotian Alliance in Xianyuan City would have no way out.

Thus, after a brief hesitation, Lu Ye decided to meet and converge with the people from the Surreptitious Palace.

The time for fighting alone had passed.

One incense stick's time later, Lu Ye and Giant Armor broke into the battle zone where the two major forces were clashing, covering over a dozen streets. Each house was potentially filled with dangers, unknown if enemies lurked within, ready to kill any cultivator passing nearby.

On a long street, several Haotian Alliance cultivators were retreating while fighting; blood dyed the ground red where they passed, and the bodies of their fallen comrades lay stretched across the path.

The Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators chasing them outnumbered and outmatched them. They had sent out calls for help, but their own side was already in a disadvantage and everyone was being attacked, so who could come to their rescue?

Fierce to the end, even knowing their chances were slim, they refused to give up without a fight, waiting for an opportunity to take the enemy down with them. However, their pursuers, having learned from past mistakes, were cautious, keeping their distance and slowly depleting their spirit force with weapon control and magic and spells, clearly planning to exhaust them before making the kill.

Realizing their enemies' strategy, the cultivators dared not delay any further. After exchanging looks, they charged forward at the command of their leader.

Light flashed, and blood sprayed. As they charged, two were struck down, and soon after, another two fell. Finally, a Level 8 combat cultivator reached the enemy lines, his Spiritual Artifact blazing brilliantly as he smashed it toward the nearest Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivator.

But before his attack could land, a magic spell hit him in the chest, sending him flying.

He hit the ground, his breath hanging by a thread.

"Overestimating yourself!" the leading cultivator of the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge scoffed coldly, gripping his Spiritual Artifact to finish off the combat cultivator's life.

He had just taken a step when he suddenly stopped, frowning, "What's that sound?"

A rumbling noise quickly approached from the side, and a giant figure burst fiercely through a big hole in a nearby house.

Seeing this person, the leading Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivator cried out in shock, "Giant Armor!"

He obviously recognized Giant Armor.

Following the fluctuations of spirit force to this location, Giant Armor looked around, still unclear of the situation, when he was immediately surrounded and attacked by a group of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators.

Bowing his head, he adopted a charging posture, stamped his foot, and blasted forward. Attacks struck him, causing his body to shimmer with light.

As the distance closed quickly, the group of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators scattered, their tight formation blown apart; one of them failed to dodge in time and was struck by Giant Armor, his bones breaking as he was flung away.

Before the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators could regroup, whimpers and the light plucking of a pipa rang out, followed by Xianyuan Guards appearing on the rooftops around them, casting Spirit-Binding Locks down on them.

Weapon control's light crisscrossed, reaping their lives. In just a short moment, the group of seven or eight Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators was drastically reduced.

Lu Ye withdrew his weapon control and leapt down from the rooftop, followed by a group of minion spirits, and approached the heavily wounded Haotian Alliance cultivator to check on his injuries.

After a moment, Lu Ye sighed inwardly; the man was beyond saving, his injuries too severe.

At this moment, the Level 8 combat cultivator seemed to rally, his complexion gaining a touch of color. He looked around in astonishment at the minion spirits and then at Lu Ye and Giant Armor, hope igniting in his previously dim eyes. He reached out and grabbed Lu Ye's arm, "Go save others!"

"I know."

Lu Ye nodded gently.

The hand grabbing Lu Ye's arm fell, and the life force rapidly faded from the combat cultivator's body.

As Yiyi cleaned up the battlefield, Giant Armor came over with a Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivator who had lost the strength to resist, holding him up before Lu Ye.

Lu Ye looked at him, puzzled.

"You kill," Giant Armor said with a buzzing voice.

"Do it yourself," Lu Ye replied, thinking Giant Armor was allowing him to claim the merit.

Little did he know that when Giant Armor was with Sima Yang, every battle involved Giant Armor charging at the forefront, beating the enemy down until they were crippled, only for Sima Yang to come in and reap the merit at the end.

Giant Armor scratched his head. Although he had killed some people from Fenghua Courtyard in his rage before, at that time, he was completely controlled by the anger in his heart and had no impression of it afterward. Killing was somewhat too alien for him.

But after all, he was a Level 9 cultivator. It wasn't that he didn't want to kill enemies before; it was Sima Yang who wouldn't let him kill.

After thinking it over, he dropped the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivator he was holding onto the ground, then lifted his big foot and, under the horrified gaze of the other, stomped down on his head.

It was like a watermelon being crushed, the scene bloody.

Lu Ye glanced at him, said nothing, and called out, "Let's go."

Following the source of the spirit force fluctuations, they moved forward, rescuing two batches of Haotian Alliance cultivators along the way, all of whom had been scattered by the killings.

Guided by them, after one incense stick's time, Lu Ye finally reached the main battlefield where the two great forces clashed.

The nearby houses had all been destroyed, everywhere one could see ruins and the corpses of cultivators from both sides.

On one side, led by Surreptitious Palace, were only about a hundred cultivators left; on the other side, led by Illuminating Sun Mountain, there were more than one hundred and fifty men. The two sides were

confronting each other from afar, the glow of weapon control and magic and spells interweaving brilliantly.

Being outnumbered by half, the Haotian Alliance side was clearly at a disadvantage, being constantly pressured to retreat backward, and from time to time, cries of anguish could be heard. With the constant injuries and deaths of Haotian Alliance cultivators, the advantage of the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge side grew larger.

This situation could be said to have brought the Haotian Alliance close to collapse.

But everyone was resisting, no one fled, because they all knew that fleeing at this time would only worsen the situation. Sticking together offered at least some power to resist. If they dispersed and fled, although they might survive momentarily, they would ultimately be defeated one by one by Ten Thousand Demons Ridge.

Even so, the Haotian Alliance side was just delaying the time of their death.

The offensive from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge was extremely fierce and sharp; they attempted several times to break through the formation but failed to penetrate the defense of the Haotian Alliance.

They were not unaware that at this time, they should be steady and firm. Under such circumstances, the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge side just needed to hold their ground and they could slowly wear down their enemy, given the undeniable disparity in numbers.

That was what they had been doing before.

But ever since the people from Fenghua Courtyard had joined them and brought news, the offensive of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge had become more fierce; they wanted to break the Haotian Alliance's lines as quickly as possible to prevent any changes.

Yet, the unexpected happened. As both sides fought fiercely, a wailing cry sounded, an invisible impact spreading in all directions, causing many Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators' attacks to pause slightly.

The previously suppressed Haotian Alliance cultivators suddenly felt a great reduction in pressure and took the opportunity to counterattack.

At the same time, numerous minion spirits appeared, and Spirit-Binding Locks were thrown.

Taken by surprise, the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge side suffered great losses, and nearly ten people were captured and then killed on the spot.

On the Haotian Alliance side, many cultivators looked toward the source of the sound, all of them filled with surprise and joy.

Because they saw a tall figure there.

"It's Giant Armor!"

"Sima Yang, that bastard, finally showed up. It looks like he isn't that foolish after all!"

Shouts of surprise spread, as Giant Armor's arrival seemed to stabilize the hearts of the Haotian Alliance cultivators substantially, which was understandable. Giant Armor was well-known, and the strength of his physique was known to nearby cultivators. At such a critical moment, having such a powerful physique cultivator suddenly on their side naturally could stabilize morale.

Not to mention, with Giant Armor there, it wouldn't be so simple for Ten Thousand Demons Ridge to break through the formation anymore.

However, what puzzled them more was how Giant Armor came to be standing with a group of Spiritual Bodies, which looked like they were assisting their own side, as they were attacking people from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge.

Moreover, the one who was using the Fire Dragon Technique alongside Giant Armor didn't seem to be Sima Yang...

In the crowd, Jik Yan breathed a sigh of relief.

Before this, he had tried multiple times to pull Sima Yang and Giant Armor to his side, but without success. Sima Yang was someone who looked for profit and couldn't be persuaded without sufficient benefits. But now, with Gu Canyang locked up in the dungeons of Xianyuan City, without him in charge, how could Jik Yan promise Sima Yang any benefits?

It seemed now that Sima Yang was sensible enough to know to come and support them.

He also saw the Spiritual Bodies beside Giant Armor. Although puzzled, now was not the time to investigate. Since those Spiritual Bodies were attacking Ten Thousand Demons Ridge, they were allies of their side.

On the other side, in the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge camp, a young man with a stern expression looked toward the location of the minion spirits and watched Lu Ye, who was using the Fire Dragon Technique. This person was Qi Ming, the governor of Illuminating Sun Mountain.

"Is this that Lu Yiye of Righteous Blood Sect?" Qi Ming frowned.

"Yes," Choo Qing responded through clenched teeth.

"Were so many of you killed by him and scattered?" Qi Ming's tone was somewhat dissatisfied.

Chapter 278 - 276 Counterattack

When Choo Qing led people to find him earlier, he thought they could join forces with the members of Fenghua Courtyard to take down the Surreptitious Palace in one fell swoop, but to his surprise, Choo Qing brought fewer than thirty people!

Given that there were nearly a hundred people from Fenghua Courtyard involved this time, even if some were unlucky enough to be captured by the Xianyuan Guard and thrown into the dungeons, the loss of personnel should not be massive.

But with only a bit more than thirty people left from the original hundred, what could they do? At most, they could merely add a touch of gloss.

Qi Ming had already sent a message to Choo Qing, instructing her to lead people to join him and deal with the Surreptitious Palace first. Once they took care of the Surreptitious Palace, the remaining independent Haotian Alliance cultivators were bound to be an easy target, scattered and powerless.

However, Choo Qing insisted on seeking trouble with Lu Yiye. If she had successfully dealt with him, it would have been fine, but not only did she fail to handle him, Fenghua Courtyard's forces suffered heavy losses, with so many people killed that fewer than thirty remained.

Although the dead weren't from Illuminating Sun Mountain, this undoubtedly had a significant impact on Qi Ming's original plan, naturally causing Qi Ming to feel discontent.

If not for his good private relationship with Choo Qing from before, he would definitely have cursed her for being a big-chested airhead.

Choo Qing of course heard the implication in Qi Ming's words and felt aggrieved, but she had no way to retort.

When she arrived here, she had already explained the situation to Qi Ming. Fenghua Courtyard's great loss at the hands of Lu Ye could be attributed entirely to that red-robed woman. If she hadn't insisted Fenghua Courtyard's people look for the so-called "Mochi Ball," they wouldn't be in such an embarrassing plight.

But regardless of the reasons, with such an outcome, she had to bear some responsibility.

"We have to resolve those Spiritual Bodies first, they are troublesome opponents," Choo Qing proposed.

Fenghua Courtyard had suffered enough at the hands of these Spiritual Bodies. The Xianyuan Guards didn't have many effective means to kill the enemy; they mostly used the Spirit-Binding Lock, but this magic and spells had an exceptionally strong effect in capturing and binding the enemy. In such large-scale battles, once bound by a Spirit-Binding Lock, the victim would soon be overwhelmed by the onslaught of weapon control and magic and spells flashes.

"I know," Qi Ming responded impatiently, and upon his command, dozens of people shifted their target towards Lu Ye's side, as the flashes of magic and spells and weapon control swept towards them.

Giant Armor boldly stepped forward, using his physical body to block the numerous attacks, and at the same time, Lu Ye was also operating his two controlled weapons, intercepting the enemy's attacks as much as possible.

His weapons were fast, so even though there were only two of them, their effect in intercepting was quite impressive. Assisted by Giant Armor, the threat posed by the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge to the minion spirits was significantly reduced.

As this side drew the attention of many Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators, the pressure on the Haotian Alliance cultivators nearby decreased greatly. Following the shouts and commands, the intensity of their counterattack suddenly increased, and the situation, previously at a disadvantage, began to show signs of stabilizing.

This greatly boosted the morale of the Haotian Alliance side.

The wailing of the minion spirits grew increasingly distracting. The minion spirits continuously strove to restrain the enemy. The Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators bound by them were lucky if they could free themselves quickly; the less fortunate were swiftly slain.

As one Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivator after another perished, the situation truly began to stabilize!

Realizing the significant role Lu Ye was playing on their side, under Jik Yan's direction, a squad of more than a dozen cultivators moved towards Lu Ye and Giant Armor to share the burden, allowing the minion spirits to launch attacks without any concerns—especially near Pipa Girl, who was closely guarded by three cultivators.

Because both Jik Yan and Qi Ming had realized the massive role Pipa Girl played on the battlefield, with the other Xianyuan Guards having simplistic attack methods—even Liu Sanbao could only use his controlled weapon to kill—but the broad range of Pipa Girl's wailing and the tinkling of her instrument had a huge impact, swaying the battle's outcome like a mighty killing weapon.

This led to her becoming a prime target for the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge.

While everyone was fighting fiercely, an almost invisible figure moved stealthily towards Lu Ye's side without a sound.

The figure did not move quickly, and if one looked carefully, one could faintly make out the outline of his body. But right now, in the thick of battle, who had the excess attention to scout around, let alone expect that an enemy would so daringly infiltrate the back of their lines?

Only a ghost cultivator with the skill to appear and disappear unpredictably could achieve this.

This ghost cultivator had concealed all his aura, even the Spiritual Artifact in his hand did not display its edge. He had his eyes fixed on Amber perched on Lu Ye's shoulder, slowly closing in.

With information provided by Choo Qing, Qi Ming's side had already figured out that the root of Lu Ye's ability to command the Xianyuan Guard lay in this beast pet. Therefore, killing this beast pet would mean that the controlled Xianyuan Guard would no longer pose a threat.

This ghost cultivator had been lurking nearby, originally targeting Jik Yan, but he never found an opportune moment. Now, under Qi Ming's orders, his target had shifted to Amber.

Ten zhang, five zhang, three zhang—completely unguarded, the ghost cultivator suddenly struck.

However, just when the ghost cultivator was about to strike Amber, his vision blurred, all the noise vanished, and somehow, he found himself in a chaotic rock forest.

Lu Ye quickly turned around to look, Yiyi also hastily retreated a few steps from in front of him, lifted her hand to summon the hidden Nine Worlds map from the ground into her hand, and looked down. To her astonishment, there was an additional figure in the map's rocky forest terrain.

She quickly channeled her spirit force to stabilize the Nine Worlds map and nodded at Lu Ye. Lu Ye put Amber down from his shoulder, and Yiyi flung the Nine Worlds map over her head towards Lu Ye.

In just ten breaths, she shook the map again, and Lu Ye appeared alongside a corpse.

This was a Level 9 ghost cultivator. It had to be said, the ghost cultivator's ability to hide and go unnoticed was truly remarkable; Lu Ye hadn't been aware of it previously. Had he not set up the Nine Worlds map behind him in advance, he might really have been caught off guard.

He solemnly reminded himself to be extra cautious when dealing with ghost cultivators in the future; otherwise, one might sneak up on him without notice—particularly amid such chaos.

Of course, this was also because of the chaotic state of the current scene.

Just as the ghost cultivator perished, Qi Ming vaguely sensed something amiss, checking his own battlefield marking and confirming that the highly anticipated ghost cultivator he had pinned his hopes on was indeed dead, his expression immediately darkened.

That was his subordinate Level 9 ghost cultivator, exceedingly skilled in concealment, yet now, inexplicably, he was dead without a clear cause!

Looking back at the battlefield, the Haotian Alliance cultivators, who had been completely suppressed, not only had the means to hold their ground against their opponents, but they even had spare strength to counterattack.

Ever since Lu Yiye appeared with a group of Spiritual Bodies, more than thirty cultivators from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge had been killed. Although they still outnumbered the Haotian Alliance, they could no longer form the overwhelming suppression they had initially, and the influence of those wailing Spiritual Bodies meant that, despite their greater numbers, they held no significant advantage.

If the fight continued this way, no one would come out ahead.

Qi Ming was slightly conflicted for a moment, but seeing the situation turning increasingly unfavorable, he had no choice but to order a retreat.

When the people of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge wanted to leave, naturally, the Haotian Alliance would not easily agree, chasing and fighting in retaliation for a while, both sides sustaining injuries, until Jik Yan called a cease-fire.

Thus, the great battle came to an end – almost every member of the Haotian Alliance was wounded. The losses on Lu Ye's side were not small either; Liu Sanbao and Pipa Girl were unscathed, but of the dozens of squad leader-level Xianyuan Guards, only three remained. The others had their Spiritual Bodies shattered during the recent skirmish.

There was no other way; amidst such chaos, even though he and Giant Armor tried their best to protect their minion spirits, oversights were inevitable, especially since Ten Thousand Demons Ridge had launched a fierce attack against them.

If it hadn't been for Giant Armor taking the lead, all the minion spirits might have perished.

Jik Yan, accompanied by several cultivators from the Surreptitious Palace, hastened towards them and cupped his fists from a distance, "Many thanks, Fellow Daoist, for breaking the siege."

"As fellow members of the Haotian Alliance, it was my duty," Lu Ye responded with a salute.

By now Jik Yan had also recognized Lu Ye. After all, he had tried to recruit Lu Ye in the valley before, but unfortunately, he was rejected at that time.

"I haven't asked for your honorable name yet?"

"Righteous Blood Sect, Lu Ye!"

"Righteous Blood Sect?" Jik Yan's eyebrows raised, "The Righteous Blood Sect from Bingzhou?"

The cultivators who came with him also seemed surprised, evidently having heard of the Righteous Blood Sect's reputation.

"Indeed!"

Jik Yan looked Lu Ye up and down, still uncertain, "About half a year ago, on the outer circle of Golden Light Peak, a Righteous Blood Sect cultivator named Lu Yiye battled against the many big sects of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge. Was that..."

"That was me."

At this, Jik Yan exclaimed, "So it's Fellow Daoist Yiye! I've long heard about your esteemed name. Senior Brother Gu even told us that Fellow Daoist Yiye's actions greatly boosted the morale of our Haotian Alliance. It's a pity he wasn't present that day to witness your esteemed prowess with his own eyes. To think we would meet here... Senior Brother Gu..."

At this point, Jik Yan seemed to remember something, he stopped mid-sentence and smiled slightly, "Seeing Fellow Daoist today, indeed does justice to your reputation."

"You flatter me."

Jik Yan gestured with his hand, "This place isn't suitable for conversation, please come this way, Fellow Daoist."

Soon after, in a dilapidated courtyard, Jik Yan led Lu Ye to settle down. There were quite a few injured cultivators receiving treatment here, as large-scale operations involving over a hundred people typically had healing cultivators accompany them. This was true not only for the Surreptitious Palace but also for the other two parties involved.

However, since there were inherently few healing cultivators to begin with, even fewer had come, resulting in the handful present being extremely busy. Those with minor injuries tended to their wounds on their own, and only those with severe injuries were brought here for treatment.

"Fellow Daoist Yiye, how did Giant Armor come to be by your side, and where is Sima Yang?" Jik Yan glanced at Giant Armor, who followed in and was covered in blood, his heart forming some speculations, yet not daring to confirm them.

"Sima Yang is dead. I encountered Giant Armor on my way and we decided to travel together."

"Sima Yang is dead?"

Lu Ye thought he detected a hint of surprise, even pleasure in Jik Yan's tone, but wondered if it was just his imagination.

"It's a pity. Although Sima Yang was an independent cultivator, he did have some skills. My Surreptitious Palace once tried to recruit him but couldn't succeed. I didn't expect he would die here."

While saying this, he called out, "Junior Sister Lin, Junior Sister Lin!"

A female cultivator with a square scarf on her head and blood-stained clothes ran in, "Senior Brother Jik."

Jik Yan pointed to Giant Armor beside him, "Please take good care of Brother Giant Armor's wounds. His contribution to our victory in this battle was significant."

"Yes," the female cultivator complied, gesturing to Giant Armor, "Follow me."

Giant Armor turned and followed her out.

Chapter 279 - 277 A Gentleman Uses His Words, Not His Fists

Watching Giant Armor leave, Jik Yan withdrew his gaze, his expression serious as he said, "Brother Yiye, currently our sect headquarters' situation is not too good. If Brother Yiye is willing, could you stay and join us in facing the enemy?"

Lu Ye said, "I came here with that intention."

Although Jik Yan knew that Lu Ye, upon arrival, likely would not leave, receiving such a response still set his mind at ease.

"That is very good." He then asked, "Brother Yiye, during your exploration outside, did you encounter anyone from Fenghua Courtyard?"

"I've encountered some."

Not only had he encountered them, but he had also clashed with them quite a few times.

"This time, there's something strange about the people from Fenghua Courtyard." Jik Yan frowned, voicing his concerns, "In the previous battle, our sect was able to hold out for so long under the assault from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge mainly because the people from Fenghua Courtyard did not come. Although some showed up later, the number was not large, and where the main force of Fenghua Courtyard was busy with was unknown. If they had come earlier, our sect would definitely have been unable to withstand them."

He did not take pride in the previous battle's victory, for he knew where their disadvantage lay: their numbers were fewer than those from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge. Although the forces from Illuminating Sun Mountain had been repelled this time, as long as they joined forces with the main squad from Fenghua Courtyard, it would not take long for them to return, and then it would be highly probable that this side would not be able to hold them off.

"As for Fenghua Courtyard..." Lu Ye interrupted, "Brother Jik needn't worry too much; there should only be so many of them left."

"Hmm?" Jik Yan looked at Lu Ye, puzzled.

"The rest are dead." Lu Ye mentally calculated the numbers; in the initial ambush led by Choo Qing, Fenghua Courtyard had lost a dozen people. Later, some of Fenghua Courtyard's people mistakenly wounded Giant Armor, resulting in a dozen deaths on the spot. He had then led the minion spirits in pursuit for half a day, costing Fenghua Courtyard another thirty or more lives. Adding it all up, that was nearly sixty people gone.

About a hundred people from Fenghua Courtyard had entered this time, and there might have been some unlucky ones who were captured by the Xianyuan Guard, now detained in the dungeons.

So at this point, there should only be the batch that Choo Qing led remaining of the people from Fenghua Courtyard.

Jik Yan really wanted to ask how they died, but he soon realized that if Lu Ye spoke so confidently, he clearly had a hand in it.

"Was this Brother Yiye's doing?"

"Somewhat," Lu Ye replied.

Jik Yan was astounded by Lu Ye; with his own power... even if including Giant Armor, it was only two people, yet they had managed to reduce Fenghua Courtyard's forces down to just thirty people, an incredible feat.

Only then did he realize that his previous worries had been unnecessary; it was not that the people from Fenghua Courtyard hadn't come to join forces with Illuminating Sun Mountain, but that they had already joined. What he had seen was all there was.

"Was it those Spiritual Bodies?" Jik Yan immediately thought of something. The reason he was being so courteous to Lu Ye was partly due to the name of the Righteous Blood Sect and secondly because he had just seen those Spiritual Bodies fighting alongside Lu Ye.

Especially the Spiritual Body that cried and played the Pipa erratically; it was fair to say that without her, the battle would not have ended so easily.

"Right," Lu Ye nodded, not denying it.

Since he had already decided to fight side by side with the Surreptitious Palace, there was no need to conceal some matters. At the very least, he had to let the cultivators on his side know what capabilities he had so that they could cooperate better.

"Brother Yiye's methods are truly unfathomable," Jik Yan exclaimed with admiration.

Lu Ye changed the subject, "What does Brother Jik plan to do next?"

Jik Yan said, "We shall first recuperate. Now that Brother Yiye and Brother Giant Armor have joined, the people from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge probably won't dare to cause trouble."

"Has Brother Jik not considered counterattacking?"

Jik Yan said, "Of course, we have to fight back. Xianyuan City is large, but it cannot accommodate two tigers. Moreover, if I am not mistaken, Ten Thousand Demons Ridge will definitely not let the matter rest; although their arrangements have been disrupted by Brother Yiye, and they have suffered losses, they are not yet crippled. Once they regroup their forces, they will inevitably come back. My thought is, instead of passively defending, it's better to take the initiative to attack. We rest for today, and tomorrow we will go and fight them. What do you think of this, Brother Yiye?"

"I have no objections."

Indeed, what Jik Yan thought was exactly what he had in mind. However, at the moment, he was on his own, and the Haotian Alliance was dominated by the Surreptitious Palace; without a stance from that side, things would have been difficult.

Having ascertained Jik Yan's attitude, Lu Ye was reassured.

"Brother Jik, do you know where nearby I can find those kinds of special spirit bodies?"

If they were to fight against Ten Thousand Demons Ridge, then naturally, he would need to quickly supplement his minion spirits, especially special spirit bodies like Liu Sanbao and Pipa Girl, which were beneficial in abundance.

He only had two special spirit bodies under his command at the moment, but both Liu Sanbao and Pipa Girl were able to perform far beyond any other minion spirits. No need to mention Pipa Girl; in large-scale battles, her crying and pipa playing could cause a certain degree of mental disruption to the enemy, invisibly restraining their power.

Liu Sanbao's performance was not as eye-catching as Pipa Girl's, but that was because Pipa Girl overshadowed him. His three dice were extremely lethal, and the role he could play far exceeded any Level 9 cultivator.

Previously, searching for these kinds of special spirit bodies on his own had yielded only a small chance of success, but now that he had joined forces with the people from Surreptitious Palace, he could certainly make some inquiries.

Jik Yan's expression shifted slightly upon hearing this, quickly realizing something, and he spoke, "If it's special spirit bodies you're after, I do know of one not far from here. If Brother Yiye is in a hurry, I'll have someone lead you there."

"Then I'll trouble you."

Jik Yan immediately sent a message to call for a Level 8 combat cultivator and instructed him briefly; the combat cultivator nodded and led the way.

This combat cultivator obviously knew of Lu Ye's identity and had seen Lu Ye and the minion spirits' tactics from a distance during the great battle. However, some matters were not to be asked casually, so he kept his questions to himself and simply chatted with Lu Ye, mentioning various information about the special spirit body, which Lu Ye committed to memory.

...

Lu Ye couldn't help feeling a bit disappointed for not encountering any Xianyuan Guards on the road.

After passing through several streets, he quickly arrived in front of a building with lanterns hanging at the entrance.

Lu Ye looked up to see the dilapidated signboard at the entrance, its words no longer decipherable.

The Level 8 combat cultivator stopped in his tracks and cleared his throat, "Fellow Daoist Yiye, I won't accompany you inside."

Lu Ye nodded and pushed the door open to enter.

As soon as he stepped in, the door slammed shut behind him. Lu Ye surveyed the area ahead and saw a literary-looking Spiritual Body, head down, furiously scribbling away at something. Whatever he was writing, he didn't even notice someone had entered.

Lu Ye walked straight up to sit opposite the scholar and waited quietly.

A whole hour later, the scholar finally finished a sheet of paper, picked it up with a beaming smile, looked it over, appraised it, and arrogantly exclaimed, "Truly, this is a peerless masterpiece."

He looked up at Lu Ye with a presumptuous familiarity, "You've come at the right time, help me appraise this piece."

Saying this, he extended the paper towards Lu Ye.

Lu Ye didn't accept it and instead gently caressed Amber's fur, which lay on his lap, watching the scholar silently.

According to the combat cultivator, this scholarly Spiritual Body wasn't dangerous, unlike Liu Sanbao who would end up betting one's life while gambling. This one simply wrote an article for visitors and was satisfied with just a word of praise.

That was also why the combat cultivator didn't come inside; he had seen the scholar's writing before, which was complete nonsense. Praising it would go against his conscience and indeed caused him some pain.

Lu Ye was unsure of the scholar's capabilities, but the spirit light emanating from his body was indeed denser than Liu Sanbao's.

His fingers stopped on Amber's head, tapping gently twice. Streams of Spiritual Bodies suddenly floated out, encircling the scholar.

The scholar looked around, picked up his writing brush, and held it in front of his chest in a timid yet fierce stance, "Gentlemen prefer to use their words, not their fists."

"Agreed!"

Lu Ye promptly consented.

Then Amber lifted its head and let out a tiger's roar straight at him.

After a moment, the door opened, and the waiting combat cultivator sighed with relief when he saw Lu Ye walk out unscathed; he had felt the commotion inside just moments before.

"Brother Yiye, Senior Brother Jik just sent a message, he found out about two more places from some other independent cultivators."

"Do you know where they are?"

"I have a rough idea."

"Then lead the way."

On their journey, the Level 8 combat cultivator finally got a glimpse of how Lu Ye commanded Spiritual Bodies. They encountered Xianyuan Guards; Lu Ye, thrilled, pounced on them. Then one after another, Spiritual Bodies floated out from his beast pet, quickly taking down a squad of Xianyuan Guards. The beast pet consumed the guards one by one.

This left the combat cultivator in wonder; he was no stranger to extraordinary sights, but he had never seen a demon beast with such a unique ability, capable of devouring Spiritual Bodies and then commanding them.

Two hours later, the two arrived at the second location. This time, the Level 8 combat cultivator entered with Lu Ye, perhaps wanting to broaden his knowledge. He then witnessed a group of Xianyuan Guards emerge, Spirit-Binding Locks flying towards them. Lu Ye jumped into action, slashing a few times, and his beast pet followed suit.

The entire process was executed with expert precision, provoking thought.

Another two hours passed, and they arrived at the third location.

Shortly thereafter, the two walked out side by side.

"Is there any more?" asked Lu Ye, still seeming eager for more.

"No more," the Level 8 combat cultivator shook his head, still somewhat bewildered.

"Then let's look for some Xianyuan Guards."

Special spirit bodies were hard to come by, unlike the Xianyuan Guards, of which there were quite a few. Although their numbers had diminished compared to the beginning, it was still possible to encounter them by traveling around a bit more.

Not until a few hours later did Lu Ye manage to replenish his minion spirits.

There weren't many of the squad leader level, only seven, but the special spirit bodies numbered five in total, including Liu Sanbao and Pipa Girl from the beginning, and now there was an additional scholar, a fortune-telling blind man, and a butcher.

The lineup was indeed a bit odd.

But that wasn't surprising after some thought; these special spirit bodies were originally cultivators from Xianyuan City. When Xianyuan City was destroyed, they, for various reasons, transformed into Spiritual Bodies and remained. Naturally, they included all sorts of people from different walks of life.

Returning to their own base with the Level 8 combat cultivator, Jik Yan greeted him with an effusive warmth, clearly having received some news from his sect mates.

Chapter 280 - Offense and Defense

The preparations for Haotian Alliance's counterattack were already in place, and Jik Yan had sent people to scout the landing spots of the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge side, and now there was some progress.

After another half-day of rest, actions would commence.

Initially, he was somewhat uncertain, even though Lu Ye and Giant Armor had joined, the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge side still held a slight numerical advantage, and it was uncertain who would suffer in a real fight.

But now he knew that under Lu Ye's command there were more than thirty spiritual bodies, including five special spiritual bodies, which had evened out the numerical disparity between the two sides.

Moreover, even if these spiritual bodies were lost, they could be replenished, which was quite clever.

In essence, as long as Lu Ye did not die, there would be a continuous supply of manpower available; even if they lost this time, it would not matter, for there would be a chance next time, gradually wearing down the enemy's strength until Ten Thousand Demons Ridge couldn't hold on any longer.

Originally with Gu Canyang being imprisoned by the Xianyuan Guard and the headless Surreptitious Palace, combined with the alliance of Illuminating Sun Mountain and Fenghua Courtyard, Jik Yan had been prepared to sacrifice himself; he had never expected the situation to slowly develop into such a welcome surprise.

He could imagine that after this incident, his status within the sect would definitely see a tremendous rise, and various rewards would be inevitable.

The only regret he had was for Gu Canyang; he had no idea how Senior Brother Gu was faring in the dungeon.

Half a day later, the news of the counterattack against Ten Thousand Demons Ridge had been communicated, and those independent cultivators were all calling on friends and gathering those independent cultivators who had not assembled before.

The number had increased by thirty or so, and although there were definitely some independent cultivators hiding somewhere, there was nothing that could be done if they chose not to show themselves.

Those independent cultivators probably felt that Surreptitious Palace was an unworthy rival, thus preferring to keep themselves safe.

This side was gathering independent cultivators, and certainly, the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge side was gathering more, as in the hearts of those cultivators, Ten Thousand Demons Ridge had the upper hand; it was unknown how they would feel after the next battle ended.

Lu Ye found a place to sit in meditation to recover, while working on breaking the restriction lock on the storage sack; Amber also needed to recover, as the minion spirits had consumed too much power, which seemed to have thinned it considerably, much to Yiyi's distress.

Giant Armor, having received meticulous healing, came over to Lu Ye, sat down next to him bare-chested, and remained silent.

Lu Ye turned his head and raised an eyebrow.

After the previous battles, Giant Armor's body was covered with wounds, with flesh rolled at many wound sites, looking quite horrifying; but now those injuries were almost invisible.

Solely relying on healing by a healing cultivator wouldn't have restored the wounds this quickly; this guy's natural recovery abilities were absurdly strong.

Taking out a large piece of beast meat from the storage sack, he handed it over to Giant Armor, who took it and started eating heartily.

Two hours later, Lu Ye had broken all the restriction locks on the storage sacks, taken out the useful items, and after picking and choosing, put some items into one storage sack and handed it to Giant Armor, "This is for you."

This simpleton had followed Sima Yang without even owning a storage sack; it was a wonder how he had managed all these years.

Previously, when Lu Ye was chatting with that Level 8 combat cultivator, he had discussed Giant Armor and learned some information.

Many people knew that Sima Yang treated Giant Armor like a cash cow, so both independent cultivators and sect disciples in the vicinity had a poor perception of Sima Yang; taking advantage of an honest person like that was indeed heartless.

Some had privately advised Giant Armor, but he never paid any heed and continued to follow Sima Yang; it seemed that for him, having something to eat was all that mattered in this world, nothing else desired.

Facing such a foolish Giant Armor, those sympathetic independent cultivators were also helpless.

It was said that Giant Armor was not a native of the Nine Provinces; he was born on the Spirit Stream battlefield, and the reason he could embark on the path of cultivation was due to Sima Yang's teachings. In his early years, with only Level 2 or 3 of the Spirit Stream, Sima Yang met Giant Armor in a wilderness, saw his exceptional talent, taught him some cultivation methods, and thus for all these years, he had been unwaveringly loyal to Sima Yang.

Holding that storage sack, Giant Armor was visibly startled for a moment, then turned his head to look at Lu Ye.

Lu Ye patted his waist.

Giant Armor grinned foolishly, showing his big white teeth, then mimicking Lu Ye's actions, tied the storage sack around his own waist.

"There's a defensive spirit artifact inside, you can refine it for use!" Lu Ye reminded him.

Giant Armor's physique was indeed astonishingly strong; an ordinary Level 9 physique cultivator, with Lu Ye's current strength, could be dispatched without much effort, and Qiaoyun from Fenghua Courtyard was considered one of the best among Level 9 physique cultivators, yet Lu Ye had some trouble when he eliminated her.

However, compared with Giant Armor, Qiaoyun seemed somewhat minor.

Lu Ye faintly suspected that Giant Armor might possess an extremely special physique.

However strong the physique, one could still be injured; previously, Giant Armor had many injuries, and with a defensive spirit artifact, he would better withstand being surrounded and attacked.

Half a day quickly passed.

Following Jik Yan's command, over a hundred cultivators formed into more than a dozen squads and began to move.

On rooftops, down streets, figures leapt and advanced, silently and stealthily approaching the assembly area of the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators.

Two hours later, they reached their destination.

At the same time, a Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivator responsible for the alert noticed the traces of the Haotian Alliance group and quickly signaled a warning.

It wasn't that the Haotian Alliance hid themselves imperfectly, but mainly because moving over a hundred people together made it difficult to stay hidden.

After one incense stick's time, the two sides clashed from afar, with magic and spells and weapon control techniques colliding in mid-air, causing intense fluctuations of spirit force.

Several ghost cultivators secretly concealed their forms and infiltrated the opponent's camp, looking for suitable targets to assassinate.

From time to time, short screams abruptly ceased.

Observing the situation, Jik Yan quietly wiped off some cold sweat. Before the battle, they had called over thirty independent cultivators, thinking it would even out the numerical disadvantage against the enemy, but after really clashing, he realized that the number of people from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge had also increased.

If it hadn't been for the several dozen Spiritual Bodies under Lu Ye's command, this battle would indeed have been tough.

In the midst of the chaos, he turned to look towards Lu Ye, and seeing those Spiritual Bodies demonstrating their prowess, his heart settled.

From the intelligence obtained by that Level 8 combat cultivator, he already knew that it wasn't Lu Ye himself who could manipulate the Spiritual Bodies, but the beast pet he brought along.

These Spiritual Bodies were definitely a force that could influence the battle, so Jik Yan valued them greatly. Before the battle had even begun, he had already reassigned a group of people with the sole task of protecting Lu Ye and his beast pet.

At this moment, besides the Giant Armor, three burly physique cultivators stood in front of Lu Ye and Amber, and five magic cultivators stood behind them, constantly casting spells to intercept the attacks coming from the opposite side. Moreover, both Lu Ye and the Giant Armor were not just standing there; they were also resisting the spells and controlled weapons flying at them.

Because Big White's group was present, Lu Ye had instructed the Giant Armor before the battle started that he must not act rashly, even if enemies approached him, to avoid falling into any traps. A sudden death on the spot staged by Choo Qing would be too costly.

The tragic state of those dozen or so who had accidentally injured the Giant Armor was vividly before his eyes.

On the battlefield, Lu Ye's side was the most active. The Xianyuan Guards continually released Spirit-Binding Locks, and the five special spiritual bodies each showed their unique skills. The Pipa Girl sobbed as she played her pipa, Liu Sanbao used his weapon to kill the enemy, and that scholar held a foot-long brush, writing in the air with his own spirit force. Each character he wrote emitted light and fell into the Ten Thousand Demons camp. The fortune-teller constantly tossed his ancient coins for divination. He did not seem to kill any enemies, but whenever his coins aligned in a straight line, someone on the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge side would scream in misfortune.

Only Butcher stood quietly to one side, holding his bone-stripping saber, never leaving Amber's side.

According to the feedback from Amber, this Butcher was probably a combat cultivator, so he couldn't play a role in this type of battle for now.

However, if they could break the enemy's defenses and engage in close combat, then it would be Butcher's turn.

This kind of attack-defense battle was not inherently dangerous because both spells and controlled weapons had trajectories that could be tracked. As long as one's eyesight and reactions were good enough, there was always space to dodge.

This was also why the Haotian Alliance had been able to hold out under the onslaught of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge previously.

But now, with Lu Ye bringing a large group of minion spirits along, it was different. The Pipa Girl's disruption of the enemy's minds was too deadly, coupled with the Xianyuan Guards' Spirit-Binding Locks, a moment's negligence in the chaos could be fatal.

After one hour of battle, more than forty cultivators from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge had fallen, and their morale was low.

Although the Haotian Alliance also suffered losses, the casualties did not amount to even one third of those on the side of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge. The numerical discrepancy was completely erased, and the Haotian Alliance grew more vigorous as the battle went on.

Another hour later, the defense line of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge completely collapsed, and they retreated in a scattered fashion.

Jik Yan did not order a pursuit but instead had his men regroup on the spot and clean up the battlefield.

The reason for not pursuing the enemy was, firstly, because everyone was greatly exhausted after the big battle, and secondly, they feared that the desperate Ten Thousand Demons Ridge might do something unpredictable.

Now that the situation was greatly in their favor, all they needed to do was to solidify their position and slowly expand the advantage.

While the cultivators were regrouping, Lu Ye popped a few elixir pills into his mouth, fed a few more to Amber, and even let it inhale some blood Qi from the Scale Armor to help it recover as quickly as possible.

After half a day, most people had recovered.

Lu Ye opened his eyes just in time to see Giant Armor staring at him intently.

"?" Lu Ye was puzzled.

"Revenge!" Giant Armor said succinctly.

Understanding his intent, Lu Ye hesitated for a moment, then nodded, "I'll arrange it."

Clearly, Giant Armor wanted to take revenge personally, but he also knew that with the constraints imposed by the red-robed woman, he couldn't attack anyone from Fenghua Courtyard. So, if he wanted to take revenge personally, those constraints had to be lifted first.

A moment later, the reorganized Haotian Alliance cultivators, led by the Surreptitious Palace, continued to move forward.

Lu Ye went up to Jik Yan, spoke a few words with him, and Jik Yan nodded.

Although Xianyuan City was large, hiding a hundred people was still challenging, especially since Jik Yan had already had his ghost cultivators follow the retreating Ten Thousand Demons during their withdrawal to track the enemy's movements. Therefore, Jik Yan was well aware of their current location.