

Humanity 281

Chapter 281 Catching the Cat

Magic and spells, along with weapon control, flickered and bombarded from all directions, the intense battle only left the faces of the remaining Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators filled with resolve for death.

This pursuit had persisted for two days, during which both sides had clashed four times, each ending with the defeat of the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge side.

In the first two clashes, the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge side still had some ability to fight back, but as the number of cultivators decreased, they had now completely lost the capital to contend with the Haotian Alliance— the disparity in numbers was too great.

By now, fewer than thirty cultivators from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge were still alive.

Even Qi Ming from Illuminating Sun Mountain had been killed in the previous battle by the Haotian Alliance, and now these thirty were led by Choo Qing from Fenghua Courtyard, struggling to hold on.

But everyone knew that if they continued like this, they were certain to die.

If they wanted to survive, they had to break out!

They quickly did just that, after probing for a weak spot in the encirclement of the Haotian Alliance, Choo Qing led the thirty in a charge toward that direction.

This breakout was something the Haotian Alliance side couldn't stop, given that they only had just over a hundred people themselves, which made the encirclement not very tight.

One incense stick's time later, the people of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge had burst out, with only twenty left of the thirty, all of them gasping for air as they desperately raced forward.

There were no pursuers behind them, which gave the survivors a sigh of relief, but they dared not stop. Under Choo Qing's lead, they continued to run forward, aiming to get as far away from the Haotian Alliance as possible.

In the disarrayed battlefield, Jik Yan approached Lu Ye, smiling, "Mission accomplished."

Was the Haotian Alliance incapable of continuing the pursuit? Naturally, they were capable. As for how effective the pursuit was, that remained unknown— after all, their enemies weren't just standing there waiting to be killed. Most likely, it was a case of chasing and fleeing until everyone was exhausted.

Moreover, letting Choo Qing and her people go was Lu Ye's decision.

"I'll have someone keep an eye on their movements," Jik Yan added.

"Thanks," Lu Ye nodded. "Also, that white cat needs more attention from Brother Jik's side."

"No big deal," Jik Yan laughed heartily, visibly in a good mood.

After a brief rest, Lu Ye, accompanied by Giant Armor, departed.

The two of them had to go look for a cat, and that was a headache.

So far, Lu Ye had only seen that white cat once. He and Giant Armor had tried to capture it together but couldn't hold onto it; the thing was just too fast.

Lu Ye already had a plan on how to catch the cat, but whether it would work still needed to be tested. The difficulty now was in finding it.

Luckily, there were still quite a few people left in the Haotian Alliance. Lu Ye had already requested Jik Yan to have the people of the Haotian Alliance search separately. As for those remnants from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge... they could be ignored for now, probably too scared to show themselves.

Once they found the white cat and brought it back to the red-robed woman, she could lift her own restraints, and then they could deal with Choo Qing and others.

If they really couldn't find it, they'd have to continue the siege with the Haotian Alliance's forces. Either way, those from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge wouldn't dream of leaving Xianyuan City alive.

As they continued their journey, the minion spirits lost in the consecutive battles were replenished, but the white cat remained unseen.

Not until a day later, Jik Yan suddenly sent a message saying someone had spotted the white cat.

Lu Ye's spirits lifted, and he immediately led Giant Armor towards that location.

Half an hour later, Lu Ye connected with a ghost cultivator, who quietly led the way. Reaching a corner, the ghost cultivator stopped, peeked around, then drew back and whispered, "It's over there."

Lu Ye looked in that direction and indeed spotted the white cat, which was curling up on a rooftop, quietly asleep.

"Hard work," he acknowledged.

"Do you need me to make a move?" the ghost cultivator asked.

"No need; I'll handle the rest myself."

The ghost cultivator nodded and silently vanished, soon leaving no trace.

Lu Ye checked the white cat again to make sure he hadn't disturbed it, then began to set up his plan.

Shortly afterward, a squad of five Xianyuan Guards passed underneath where the white cat was resting. The cat's tail flicked, but it remained indifferent.

Soon, another squad of Xianyuan Guards passed by, this one comprised of six members.

The white cat raised its head, its eyes carrying a trace of confusion, but that was it.

When the third squad of Xianyuan Guards passed nearby, the white cat finally realized something was off. It quickly got up, looking around cautiously before starting to walk away lightly, planning to leave the area.

The Xianyuan Guards passing beneath it suddenly turned around simultaneously, several Spirit-Binding Locks shooting out at it.

"Meow!" the white cat yowled as it nimbly dodged left and right, avoiding the Spirit-Binding Locks and sprinting forward on all fours.

However, it hadn't gotten far when crying sounds emerged; the Pipa Girl, who had appeared there at some point, stood with a scholar who was writing in the air, hurling characters at the white cat.

From all directions, figures appeared one after another, swiftly encircling it tightly.

To capture the white cat, Lu Ye had mobilized all his available minion spirits, including himself in the fray, and with the enhancement of Move-Like-The-Wind Spirit Runes, his speed dramatically increased.

The white cat meowed even louder, clearly sensing something was amiss, but its movements were too agile. Over twenty Xianyuan Guards struck simultaneously, casting a dense web of Spirit-Binding Locks, which still failed to secure it.

Dashing left and then darting right, unable to escape, the circle formed by the minion spirits gradually shrank, trapping the seemingly inescapable white cat.

However, suddenly it reversed its direction towards where Giant Armor was located. The small cat transformed into a white streak, instantly charging in front of Giant Armor.

Giant Armor reached out a large hand to grab it, but caught nothing.

The white cat, just like before, jumped onto his head and sat there, turning to look at Lu Ye with a mischievous expression in its eyes.

Giant Armor got angry. He slapped his own head, but the white cat had already jumped off, landing not far behind him. Then, taking confident, jaunty steps, it continued forward slowly, while Giant Armor's head tilting from his own slap.

As it moved forward, it kept looking back to see Lu Ye's gloomy face.

Just as it was feeling excessively proud, a sudden sense of crisis overwhelmed it. The white cat's fur bristled, it meowed sharply, and then vanished. At the spot where it disappeared, the space twisted slightly, with a fleeting glimpse of a chaotic rock forest.

Lu Ye and Yiyi simultaneously dashed forward.

Yiyi raised her hand, and the Nine Worlds map, pre-positioned here, was retrieved. She infused her power into it and unfolded it before Lu Ye. He motioned to Amber to first gather the minion spirits, then took it into the Nine Worlds map.

The Nine Worlds map was the final safeguard, as well as a vulnerability left deliberately by Lu Ye. He had intentionally placed Giant Armor in that position because a previous encounter had made him aware of the white cat's high spiritual intelligence. Once encircled, it was highly likely to breakthrough towards Giant Armor.

However, he hadn't expected that this safeguard would actually be needed.

He had believed that with so many minion spirits, capturing this white cat shouldn't have been a big issue.

Giant Armor walked over to Yiyi's side, not entering the map. He needed to stay to protect Yiyi and maintain the operation of the Nine Worlds map because Yiyi couldn't be distracted, lest they face any unforeseen dangers.

Peering in, he saw many Dao Bodies on the chaotic rock terrain of the Nine Worlds map, moving and dodging continuously within the small map, and occasionally, patterns resembling Spirit-Binding Locks appeared.

For nearly half an hour, Yiyi finally shook the Nine Worlds map, and Lu Ye appeared, his expression very dark and his face covered with several scratch marks.

The white cat was clutched by its neck in his hand, motionless, with watery eyes that seemed deeply aggrieved.

"Let's go," Lu Ye called out, leading the way towards the red-robed woman's location.

The white cat wasn't unwilling to escape, but whenever it attempted any sudden move, Lu Ye would send a surge of spirit force its way. Being eroded by that scorching power was unpleasant; after several attempts, the white cat could only resign itself to its fate.

Soon, they arrived at the courtyard where the red-robed woman was located.

Lu Ye pushed open the door and immediately saw the red figure gently swinging on a swing.

Stopping behind the red-robed woman, the white cat, which had been feigning death along the way, suddenly perked up, meowing plaintively, complaining about its plight.

Lu Ye frowned, seeing that the white cat seemed very important to the red-robed woman. His treatment of the white cat had not been friendly, and if it incited the red-robed woman's anger, things could turn unpleasant.

He tightened his grip on the white cat, and the meowing ceased immediately.

"Did you find Mochi Ball?" the red-robed woman's voice asked.

Lu Ye handed over the white cat.

"Put it down," the red-robed woman instructed.

Lu Ye complied, and the instant he released the white cat, it transformed into a white flash, sprinting outside as if addicted to running away from home. However, a red ribbon flew out with the speed of lightning, swiftly binding it.

Amidst the white cat's desperate struggles and meows, it was directly dragged back to the red-robed woman.

Lu Ye watched with secret delight; little thing, today you had your comeuppance!

After recapturing the white cat, the red-robed woman placed it on her lap, gently stroking it. The white cat resigned itself to its fate and lay down, no longer resisting.

The anticipated scenario of it complaining to the red-robed woman and seeking revenge against him did not unfold.

"You did very well," the red-robed woman said again.

As her words concluded, Lu Ye vaguely felt as if he had been liberated from an invisible restraint. He glanced at Giant Armor, who nodded slightly, evidently sharing the same experience.

Lu Ye wondered if Choo Qing and the others had also freed themselves from the red-robed woman's control. If they hadn't, matters would become interesting.

"If there's nothing else, we'll take our leave."

Having finished speaking, Lu Ye signalled to Giant Armor and the two swiftly turned and left in sync.

The red-robed woman, a special spirit body too powerful to transform into a minion spirit, had already caused enough trouble for Lu Ye. He dared not linger.

Who knew if she would send him on another quest for some Meatball or something of the sort, so better to leave quickly.

Chapter 282 - Revenge

"Wait!"

The voice came from behind, causing both Lu Ye and Giant Armor to freeze in their tracks.

"Is there anything else?" Lu Ye turned around, his fingers idly rubbing the handle of his saber.

"You helped me retrieve Mochi Ball; there's nothing much to thank you for, but you can have this."

As soon as the red-robed woman finished speaking, an object suddenly flew towards Lu Ye.

He reached out to catch it and discovered it was a palm-sized Token. The Token was ancient-looking and seemed to have been around for years, which was normal considering Xianyuan City itself was from an era long past.

The material of the Token was unclear; one side bore the character for "immortal" and the other side the character for "imperial decree," each side also featured a pattern of a ferocious beast.

"This Token..."

Lu Ye wanted to ask about its use, but suddenly, the courtyard swiftly receded from view. By the time he regained his senses, he and Giant Armor were standing before a distant gate.

This made his expression turn stern. He had been completely unaware of what had just happened, which made him feel the unfathomable strength of the red-robed woman even more.

There was no need to ask about the Token's function now; a dismissal had already been issued, and going back would probably yield no answers.

However, guessing at the Token's function, Lu Ye had some speculations in his mind, whether they were accurate remained to be verified.

Raising his hand, he touched the battlefield marking and sent a message: "Brother Jik, it's done here."

Jik Yan quickly responded, "I'll have someone lead you over, do you need help?"

"No need, this is a personal feud."

Standing still for a moment, the ghost cultivator who had previously led them to the white cat stealthily appeared nearby.

Lu Ye and Giant Armor marched towards him, and the ghost cultivator stepped forward to lead the way.

After walking for a short while, a squad of Xianyuan Guard approached from ahead. The leading ghost cultivator immediately concealed himself, and Giant Armor prepared for combat.

Since the number of minion spirits under Lu Ye's command was at full capacity, this squad of Xianyuan Guard could not be transformed, only killed.

He patted Giant Armor on the shoulder to calm him, and Lu Ye took out the Token from his storage sack, flashing it towards the few Xianyuan Guard charging at them.

The Xianyuan Guard, full of hostility, immediately halted, and the squad leader even saluted Lu Ye: "Sir!"

Lu Ye raised an eyebrow; the situation was almost as he had predicted.

He had guessed that this Token might have some influence over the spiritual bodies inside the city, otherwise, the red-robed woman wouldn't have given him such an item.

Seeing its significant effect now, he wondered what the Token represented that would make a Xianyuan squad leader address him as "Sir."

If they addressed him as Sir, could he possibly command or mobilize these Xianyuan Guard? Lu Ye suddenly had an intriguing thought.

"On a mission, follow me!"

"Sir, do you have a directive from the Great Commander? We have patrol duties and cannot abandon our posts without the Great Commander's directive."

What nonsense directive, Lu Ye hadn't even seen what the Great Commander looked like, let alone have his directive.

This showed that the Token was somewhat useful but not as much as he had imagined, at most it was just to avoid hostility from Xianyuan Guard.

In other words, holding this Token, he could now walk through the city uninhibited.

To others, this might be a splendid item, but to Lu Ye, it was not so substantial.

"In that case, continue your patrol." Lu Ye waved his hand indifferently.

"Yes!" The squad leader complied and led the few Xianyuan Guard away.

The concealed ghost cultivator reappeared, a look of surprise on his face. It had been astonishing enough that Lu Ye's beast pet could manipulate spiritual bodies, but who knew he also had a Token that made the Xianyuan Guard call him Sir.

The ghost cultivator had never seen such an extraordinary thing, and moreover, no intelligence on Xianyuan City had ever mentioned this Token.

This was an important piece of intelligence. Xianyuan City would not vanish after this one time; it would appear again, and if other cultivators could acquire this Token, they would no longer have to worry about being troubled by Xianyuan Guard.

Merely selling this piece of intelligence to Heaven's Augury Mercantile Union could be worth several hundred to a thousand Spirit Stones.

However, he quickly thought of another matter and hurriedly sent a message to Jik Yan.

After learning of the Token's existence, Jik Yan was greatly intrigued and instructed him to first assist Lu Ye in dealing with the current affair, and they could discuss other matters later.

The ghost cultivator naturally made it so.

Under his leadership, Lu Ye and Giant Armor continued towards a destination.

Whenever they encountered Xianyuan Guard along the way, Lu Ye used the Token to handle the situation.

After four hours, they finally arrived at an open area where nearly twenty people gathered, each bearing injuries.

These people were the surviving Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators who had entered Xianyuan City.

Choo Qing and Ruo Yan's figures were unmistakably among them.

They actually hadn't chosen to hide.

"They were hiding before, now for some reason they've come out again, Fellow Daoist Yiye, be careful of deceit," the ghost cultivator warned.

Under normal circumstances, this group of wasters would naturally hide if they could, never daring to show themselves easily, but though Xianyuan City was not small, it had its limits; they could hide temporarily but not forever. If the Haotian Alliance truly sought to hunt them down, they would not be able to remain hidden, and it was probably this realization that led them to move from their hiding place to this open area.

This kind of place was not suitable for an ambush, nor was it easy to be ambushed in.

"Let's go, it seems they are waiting for us."

Lu Ye called out to Giant Armor, his hand on the hilt of his sword, and step by step, they advanced forward. Giant Armor closely followed at his side. As they drew nearer, many spiritual bodies floated out from within Amber. Giant Armor's eyes also slowly turned crimson, intently staring at the woman named Ruo Yan. The ghost cultivator had the intention to step forward to help, but remembering Jik Yan's earlier instructions, he did not follow.

As the two of them and numerous spiritual bodies approached, the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge side gradually began to stir. Within the crowd, Choo Qing opened her eyes and slowly stood up, quietly looking ahead.

Standing thirty zhang away from the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge people, Lu Ye and Choo Qing made eye contact.

"It is indeed the two of you who came!" Choo Qing spoke.

Lu Ye remained silent.

"Did you find the cat?" Choo Qing asked again.

When Lu Ye had returned the white cat to the red-robed woman, the bindings on him and Giant Armor had been released, and at the same moment, the invisible bindings inside Choo Qing and the others were also released.

It was also in that instant that Choo Qing faintly sensed something amiss.

Because some things were too coincidental.

Of the twenty surviving Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators, seventy percent were from their Fenghua Courtyard, with only a few being independent cultivators. Initially, when they had fled here, Choo Qing hadn't thought too much about it and thought that it was just that their own cultivators had better luck, especially her and Ruo Yan; in the previous battles, they rarely had attacks directed at them.

But what if it wasn't merely due to luck?

Perhaps someone wanted them to live temporarily to personally seek revenge?

If that was the case, then everything made sense.

Within the entire Haotian Alliance camp, the only one who would do so was Lu Ye, and he also had the means to do so.

Now that the bindings on the red-robed woman were released, there was nothing more to prevent a mutual slaughter.

So she made a decisive decision, leading the others from their hiding place to here, because only in this way could they possibly take Lu Ye or Giant Armor down with them before dying. If they continued to hide, they would only be cornered by the Haotian Alliance members, and at that time, their deaths would be utterly meaningless.

Choo Qing looked like she wanted to say more, but Lu Ye had no more patience to listen.

"Begin!"

At the command, numerous minion spirits simultaneously launched attacks, the wailing and pipa sounds leading off, followed by the Spirit-Binding Locks being thrown, a few special spiritual bodies displaying their Divine Skills, among them the Butcher, who had gained no merits in the previous battles, immediately charging forward with the bone-stripping saber alongside Giant Armor.

The ready and waiting Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators naturally wouldn't sit still and wait for death, immediately counterattacking.

Just with the minion spirits under Lu Ye's command, they were not something these Ten Thousand Demons Ridge people could deal with, not to mention that now there was also Giant Armor helping.

Being a robust physique cultivator at the front, Giant Armor could attract far too many attacks. He had refined the defensive spirit artifact given to him by Lu Ye, placing it before him, transforming it into a shield-like protection. Taking large strides, nothing in front could withstand his charge.

The booming sounds were incessant, accompanied by screams and shouts.

When Giant Armor crashed into the crowd and the Butcher raised his bone-stripping saber, defeat had already become the inevitable end for these Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators.

A long saber suddenly attacked from the side towards Giant Armor, aiming straight for his temple. Giant Armor ducked his head sharply, turned around, and threw a punch in that direction. His furious attack smashed a Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivator to dust, and then Giant Armor saw the owner of the saber; disregarding everything, he stepped forward to attack the owner of the saber.

As the battle raged on chaotically, Choo Qing wasn't targeted by any attack, but she dared not make any rash move, simply because Lu Ye's gaze was fixed on her.

Lu Ye raised his hand, slowly drawing the Boulder Mountain Saber, its tip pointing diagonally to the ground.

"If you can withstand my three strikes, I will spare your life!"

The word 'die' dropped, and in that instant, Lu Ye had transformed into a blur. Choo Qing's sense of danger soared to its peak in that moment, nearly instinctively raising her twin swords.

A blaze of red spirit force flowed before her, the descending strike chopping down on the twin swords.

Sparks flew, and the crisp clang resonated. Choo Qing felt an overwhelming force coming from above; even using all her strength, she barely managed to resist this extremely swift and fierce strike, her body continuously forced downward under that pressure. The long saber slowly pressed down, its sharp blade cutting through the cloth at her shoulder, revealing the treasure armor underneath.

She clenched her teeth, her arms fiercely exerted force, her spirit force wildly surged, just as she was about to muster her full strength to withstand this strike, a flash of light suddenly passed over the Boulder Mountain Saber.

Hefty Weight Spirit Runes.

A buzz sounded, and even the air seemed to twist.

It was as if a massive mountain had descended from the sky, pressing down on Choo Qing's shoulders. Her already lowered body could no longer hold up, and she crashed to her knees on the ground. Pain marred Choo Qing's face as she faintly felt her leg bones splinter.

Chapter 283 The Dungeon

As a ghost cultivator, facing an opponent head-on in battle was never Choo Qing's strong suit. If it hadn't been absolutely necessary, she wouldn't have revealed herself right from the start.

She had previously joined forces with Qiaoyun and Ruo Yan to besiege Lu Ye and knew full well the youth's strength and terror. So, when he said she would be spared if she could block his three strikes, Choo Qing didn't think he was boasting— he truly had the capability to do so.

However, she never imagined that she wouldn't even be able to block his first strike.

That strike involved no particular technique; it was purely a crushing force formed from sheer speed and power...

The terrifying pressure suddenly disappeared, but instead of feeling joy, Choo Qing was horrified, with fiery red Liu Guang flowing once again before her eyes.

The strike, coming from below, lifted and smashed into her twin swords. The shock caused her palms to split and her arms to go numb, while both cutlasses were sent flying from her hands.

Kneeling on the ground, powerless without her Spiritual Artifacts, Choo Qing looked up just in time to see the youth thrusting his saber straight at her heart.

This was the third strike!

If she blocked this strike, would he truly let her go?

The thought uncontrollably flashed through her mind.

She suddenly found herself ridiculous. When she had discovered the youth in the valley, she thought she had found an opportunity to avenge Choo Xue. Yet, their ambush not only failed to kill him but also caused severe losses to their side. Subsequent clashes resulted in countless deaths and injuries to the Fenghua Courtyard.

And now, at the brink of life and death, she was still hoping for mercy from the enemy?

Turns out she wasn't as fearless and unwavering as she had imagined. Faced with death, she still wanted to survive.

A dagger appeared out of thin air in her hand. She did not try to dodge the strike because she couldn't. But this was her chance. She had her treasure armor to protect her, and the enemy's strike wouldn't kill her. As long as she was alive, it would spell the end for her opponent.

The dagger in her hand flashed with spirit light as she took advantage of the momentum to slash at Lu Ye's neck.

The dagger froze at the side of Lu Ye's neck, and Choo Qing felt as if she lost all strength in her body, unable to move an inch, her pupils dilating in shock.

She slowly lowered her head to see the slightly thick, not-so-sharp saber piercing through her treasure armor, impaling her body.

The instant the long saber entered her flesh, countless sharp spikes abruptly emerged, lacerating her insides.

"Who doesn't want to live?" Lu Ye spoke indifferently, slowly withdrawing his Boulder Mountain Saber.

Choo Qing's body fell to the ground, the light quickly fading from her eyes.

Indeed, who doesn't want to live? On Golden Light Peak, that Level 5 realm youth also merely wanted to survive, yet so many people wanted him dead. Perhaps they had never met before nor had any personal grudges... So what exactly was this endless cycle of grudge for?

"ROAR!" A furious roar from Giant Armor came from one side.

Lu Ye shook the fresh blood off his Boulder Mountain Saber and looked up to see Giant Armor enduring attacks from Ruo Yan, forcing her into a desperate situation step by step. It was unclear where he had tossed the defensive spirit artifact he was previously holding. Giant Armor's blood Qi was boiling, the

bloody red Qi intertwining with the earthen yellow spirit force, making it difficult for Ruo Yan's sharp blade to inflict significant damage—an at most superficial wound.

Ruo Yan must have been struck by a punch from Giant Armor since the left side of her shoulder was collapsed, her entire arm hanging limply.

She was desperately resisting, but to no avail.

When Giant Armor grabbed her long saber, completely ignoring the laceration on his hand, and viciously dragged her in front of him, everything was over.

Giant Armor's foot kicked the petite body of Ruo Yan, sending her flying through the air. Mid-flight, blood mixed with chunks of her organs sprayed from her mouth.

Upon hitting the ground, Ruo Yan no longer had the strength to move; Giant Armor's kick had essentially taken half her life, leaving her body riddled with broken bones.

Watching Giant Armor fight was a raw display of ferocity, a gut-wrenching spectacle.

Giant Armor flung the long saber from his hand and strode forward, bent down, and grabbed Ruo Yan's head with his large hand, lifting the faintly breathing Ruo Yan in the air. Staring at her, his nostrils blasting hot gusts of air, he resembled a ferocious beast ready to devour its prey.

Ruo Yan's lips quivered, as if she wanted to say something, but the gurgling blood only allowed her to make burbling noises.

Giant Armor held her head and smashed it fiercely against the ground, blood splattering everywhere.

"ROAR!" He bellowed skywards.

Vengeance was served!

When Jik Yan led a group of people from the Surreptitious Palace to the scene, the battle had already ended. The death of the group led by Choo Qing marked the complete annihilation of the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge faction.

There might still be a few that managed to escape, but they no longer mattered. If they were encountered, they would be dealt with easily; as for deliberately seeking them out... there was little point.

Lu Ye sat on a step, busy unlocking the restrictions on a storage sack, with Giant Armor sitting beside him, sharing dried meat with Amber.

Jik Yan approached, looking like he wanted to say something but hesitated.

"Does Brother Jik have something to say?" Lu Ye asked proactively.

"Indeed, there is a favour I would ask of you," Jik Yan nodded. "You see, this time our Surreptitious Palace was actually led by our Brother Gu Canyang..."

Gradually, Lu Ye came to understand what was being asked of him.

Gu Canyang, as the Governor of the Surreptitious Palace, had both strength and prestige, but was simply ill-fated when he was captured by the Xianyuan Guard upon entering Xianyuan City.

Generally, when such incidents occurred, one could only accept the misfortune. Previously, there had been attempts to rescue those captured cultivators, but the end results proved it was not feasible.

Because the dungeon seemed to be a critical area of Xianyuan City, it was heavily guarded by the Xianyuan Guard, including many commanders. It was not something cultivators of the Spirit Stream Realm could handle, regardless of their numbers.

Originally, the Surreptitious Palace had no intention of rescuing anyone, but after Lu Ye received a Token from the red-robed woman, they saw a glimmer of hope.

Lu Ye then understood why the Haotian Alliance and the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge were equally matched in numbers, but were at a disadvantage during the confrontation. It turned out that Jik Yan was not the Governor of the Surreptitious Palace; he was just a stand-in during the crisis, and naturally, his command abilities left much to be desired.

As for rescuing someone from the dungeon, Lu Ye had never considered this before since those who were thrown into the dungeon had little to do with him. However, after listening to Jik Yan, he vaguely felt that the plan might be workable.

Having gone through great pains to help the red-robed woman capture Mochi Ball and only receiving a seemingly useless Token in return was hardly justifiable.

If that Token could grant entry into the dungeon, that would change everything.

He took out the Token from his storage sack and tossed it to Jik Yan.

Jik Yan caught it, his face full of joy as he thanked Lu Ye profusely.

He immediately led a group of the Surreptitious Palace's cultivators toward the dungeon, ready to hurry and rescue Gu Canyang.

However, less than two hours later, the people from the Surreptitious Palace returned disheveled and with a few less in number.

Lu Ye looked at them with a puzzled face, unsure of what happened to them.

Jik Yan said with a woeful expression, "Brother Yiye, it seems we may still need you to take action personally."

"Is the Token not working?"

If the Token didn't work, then him taking action personally wouldn't work either.

"It's not a problem with the Token. Earlier, I sent my disciples with the Token to the dungeon. However, the Xianyuan Guard claimed they were misusing the Token and a few disciples were immediately caught. If it weren't for the disciple holding the Token who reacted quickly and threw it back, we might have lost the Token as well."

Lu Ye then understood why there were fewer people from the Surreptitious Palace. They had been caught by the Xianyuan Guard.

Fortunately, the people from the Surreptitious Palace also probed some information. The Token was indeed useful; the problem was that the person holding it was not suitable, causing the Xianyuan Guard to think they had stolen the Token.

Jik Yan had also confirmed this on the way back. Previously, when Lu Ye encountered the Xianyuan Guard, a flash of the Token was enough to prevent the patrolling guards from overstepping. But now, when he sent someone with the Token to approach those patrolling guards, it was useless and they attacked anyway.

After much deliberation, Jik Yan concluded that only Lu Ye taking action personally might resolve the issue, which is why he came back to find him.

Lu Ye had not expected this turn of events. Now it seemed that when the red-robed woman handed him the Token, it was because she recognized him; only he or Giant Armor could use it, others could not activate the Token's effect.

"Then I'll make a trip myself, but I can't guarantee it will work," said Lu Ye as he rose to his feet.

Jik Yan was moved to tears, "Whether it succeeds or not, the Surreptitious Palace will always remember the great kindness of Fellow Daoist Yiye."

"Let's go," Lu Ye beckoned with his hand. He didn't know where the dungeon was, nor had he ever been there.

Jik Yan immediately took the lead.

Half an hour later, they arrived at a corner of the city, facing a building with a large "Prison" plaque hanging above it, which must be the location of Xianyuan City's dungeon.

Dozens of Xianyuan Guards stood outside the dungeon, and squads patrolled nearby, showing that the defensive forces were extremely strong.

Lu Ye watched for a while, knowing that this wasn't a place one could force their way into with brute strength. These were just the guards he could see on the outside; who knew how many Xianyuan Guards were inside the dungeon.

"I'm going," Lu Ye said and then stepped forward, with Amber squatting on his shoulder, her mouth biting the Token.

Giant Armor followed, and Lu Ye turned his head to look at him.

"Together," Giant Armor said.

Fellow Daoist Yiye, if the situation is unmanageable, don't force it," Jik Yan's voice came from behind.

They strode toward the front of the dungeon, and the Xianyuan Guards standing there merely glanced at Lu Ye and did not bother with him any further.

Seeing this, an always-anxious Jik Yan finally breathed a sigh of relief; as he expected, the Token only worked for Lu Ye and Giant Armor, others holding it would instead provoke the Xianyuan Guard's pursuit.

They went straight to the dungeon entrance, where suddenly a Xianyuan Guard stepped forward to block their way.

Giant Armor's flesh began to wriggle, and Lu Ye's hand touched the handle of his saber because the guard seemed very strong. Judging by the spirit light on the guard's body, he was much stronger than Feng Yuechan; he was probably a Spiritual Body from the Cloud River Realm.

If it came to a fight, the two of them together would not stand a chance against this person.

Chapter 284 Thanks to Fenghua Courtyard

This Xianyuan Guard from the Cloud River Realm must be at least at the level of a commander, Lu Ye thought to himself.

"Lord Inspector, what brings you here?" The Xianyuan Guard glanced at the Token in Amber's mouth and asked.

Lu Ye had figured out the status that the Token represented, but the word "Inspector" was intriguing, leaving him uncertain about what exactly he was supposed to inspect.

"I heard some people were captured?" Lu Ye inquired.

The Xianyuan Guard nodded, "Those people trespassed into Xianyuan City, showed no respect for laws, and disrupted the peace of the citizens. The Xianyuan Guard simply followed the City Lord's rules in dealing with them."

In the entire Xianyuan City, without a single living person, how could the peace be disrupted...

Lu Ye knew that these Xianyuan Guards, while somewhat spiritually intelligent, had unclear consciousnesses; otherwise, they would not have so readily acknowledged him as the "Lord Inspector."

He did not bother to argue with the Guard and said indifferently, "I am here on that person's orders to take someone."

"That person?" The Xianyuan Guard Commander was suspicious at first, then seemed to realize something, his brow furrowed, "The dungeons are a crucial area for the Xianyuan Guard. Even if the Lord Inspector wants to take someone, he would still need that person's written order to do so."

Lu Ye did not know who "that person" the Guard was referring to, but he was just bluffing using the red-robed woman's authority. In his mind, since she casually gave him a Token that represented the Inspector's status, her position within the city must be substantial.

Now, going to the red-robed woman for a written order was out of the question, so he exerted a bit of spirit force, gripped the handle of his knife with a little more strength, and said expressionlessly, "I haven't seen any written order, just a verbal command from that person. If the Xianyuan Guard refuses to release the prisoners, that's fine too, but you'll have to explain it to that person yourself."

The expression on the face of the Xianyuan Guard before him was one of conflict, obviously in a difficult position. This confirmed to Lu Ye that the red-robed woman truly represented significant clout.

"Well then, since it is that person's request, the City Lord is unlikely to refuse. Follow me," the Xianyuan Guard Commander spoke and turned to press his hand against the heavy door ahead.

With a flash of spirit light across the door, complicated and arcane patterns flowed by, followed by the door slowly opening.

Not far away, Jik Yan, who had been watching the situation, let out a deep breath of relief when he saw Lu Ye appear ready to fight just a moment ago. Worried to death, he had been prepared to have the Surreptitious Palace send reinforcements.

It was Lu Ye who had asked for help in the rescue mission to the dungeon, and if there was any danger, the Surreptitious Palace could not stand by and do nothing.

Fortunately, all had gone smoothly.

Once inside the dungeon, the door behind them closed with a loud boom, causing Lu Ye's heart to tighten.

If a fight broke out, there would be nowhere to run.

Fortunately, the Xianyuan Guard leading the way showed no signs of hostility, leading Lu Ye and Giant Armor further down.

The entrance of the dungeon was a spiral staircase that went down dozens of feet.

After walking for quite some time, he arrived in the dark and dank dungeon. Gazing around, the only light sources were a few flickering torches along the corridor walls.

Shouts and curses came from different cells, along with anguished roars of defiance.

With a sweep of his gaze, Lu Ye quickly spotted a somewhat familiar face pressed against the iron bars, looking at him with a bewildered and overjoyed expression.

If he was not mistaken, this person was one of the Surreptitious Palace cultivators, one of those who had come with Jik Yan, and now found himself imprisoned.

"This person," Lu Ye said, pointing at the Surreptitious Palace cultivator.

The Xianyuan Guard Commander gestured, and a prison guard-like Spiritual Body immediately appeared, carrying a large bunch of keys at his waist.

"Bring the person out."

The prison guard hastily complied, unlocking the cell door as the Surreptitious Palace cultivator quickly walked out. Lu Ye gave him a meaningful glance, signaling for him to stand by his side, and they continued on.

The Xianyuan Guard Commander and the prison guard followed closely behind.

As they passed by a cell, Lu Ye peered inside and immediately saw a gaunt face press up against the bars, first in shock and then in ecstasy, shouting, "Fellow Daoist, save me!"

Lu Ye glanced back at the Surreptitious Palace cultivator by his side, who shook his head to indicate he didn't recognize the person.

Lu Ye then raised the back of his hand to reveal the Battlefield Marking.

The cultivator's expression changed, attempting a strained smile, "I'm also from the Haotian Alliance, please save me!"

Lu Ye couldn't be bothered with him and carried on.

The imprisoned cultivators, hearing the commotion, all stood at their doorways, straining to look. As they encountered each one, Lu Ye had the Surreptitious Palace cultivator identify them. Those recognized were saved, while strangers were identified by their markings to ascertain allegiances. If they were from the Haotian Alliance, they would be rescued; as for those from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge... their fate was of no concern.

Yet, Lu Ye grew more cautious, finding this dungeon somewhat peculiar.

Those who were imprisoned showed no obvious injuries, clearly, they hadn't suffered harsh treatment and were merely being detained here.

But aside from the few who had just been brought in from the Surreptitious Palace, the others were all emaciated; their complexions pallid, the severe cases barely able to stand, now being carried on Giant Armor's shoulders.

They all exuded a rotting stench!

Lu Ye felt even more so that since entering the dungeon, something inexplicable was slowly being drained from his body, making him feel increasingly lethargic and weary.

He didn't know what exactly was being drained from him, but it was not wise to linger.

He immediately hastened the search.

One after another, the cultivators from the Haotian Alliance were rescued, and the expression on the face of the Xianyuan Guard commander following behind Lu Ye slowly turned ugly, because the number of people Lu Ye had freed was too many.

"Senior Brother Gu!" A shout came through, as the cultivators from the Surreptitious Palace finally found Gu Canyang, who had been imprisoned here.

Ordering the prison guard to open the cell door, several disciples from the Surreptitious Palace rushed in and lifted the barely able to stand Gu Canyang out.

"Lord Inspector, isn't this enough?" the commander of the Xianyuan Guard asked with a hint of displeasure in his voice.

"It's enough."

The place where Gu Canyang was imprisoned was the innermost part of the dungeon, not because of his strength, but because Gu Canyang was among the first batch to be captured and was thus thrown into the deepest part.

All those who needed to be saved had been rescued.

Under Lu Ye's lead, nearly thirty figures proceeded grandly towards the exit, though most of them looked haggard, and Giant Armor even carried two people in his hands and tucked another two under his arms, while others supported each other.

Behind them, calls for help and curses from the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators could be heard as the dungeon gate closed with a thunderous boom.

Following the spiral staircase up out of the dungeon and reaching the ground, a group of cultivators felt their eyes welling up with hot tears, inevitably giving rise to a feeling of being human in this world.

Although they did not know what exactly Lu Ye had done to have the power to lead them out of the dungeon, they also knew to keep their silence.

If there were any questions, it would not be too late to ask after they had escaped danger.

Lu Ye gave Giant Armor a meaningful glance, signaling him to lead the people away first, while he cupped his fists to the commander of the Xianyuan Guard and said, "Thank you."

The commander snorted coldly, clearly unwilling to engage with him further.

Getting no response, Lu Ye was not annoyed; he turned around and left gracefully.

Back at the place where he had parted ways with Jik Yan and the others earlier, Jik Yan immediately greeted him, naturally expressing gratitude once again.

Lu Ye waved his hand, pointing out that this time he hadn't really sacrificed much, at most he had taken a risk.

If he truly had no ability to save them, it would have been fine, but since he had the capability and so many from the Haotian Alliance were detained, not trying to save them would have left him uneasy. When his identity had been exposed before, many from the Haotian Alliance had relayed each other to protect him.

Now that the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge people in the city had been purged and those still alive were mostly imprisoned in the dungeon, there might still be a few fish that slipped through the net outside, but they were certainly hiding somewhere, not daring to show themselves.

There wasn't much danger left in the city; all they needed was to be cautious when dealing with the patrolling Xianyuan Guards.

The people from the Surreptitious Palace found a large courtyard in the city to settle down in, awaiting the closing of Xianyuan City. Those who had just been rescued were all placed there, and Jik Yan brought a group of people to wait here, both to thank Lu Ye and to invite him to join them.

"I still have some things to take care of. I'll come to find Brother Jik once I'm done," Lu Ye said.

Jik Yan naturally nodded in agreement, "Then we shall await the news from Fellow Daoist Yiye."

As he said this, he led his companions away.

After they left, Lu Ye looked at Giant Armor again. Since Sima Yang's death, he had been following Lu Ye closely, almost never leaving his side.

This was partly due to Amber and partly due to the words Lu Ye had initially said to him.

Everyone had grievances with the Fenghua Courtyard, so it was naturally better to join forces.

Now that all the people from the Fenghua Courtyard were dead, Giant Armor's vengeance had been avenged.

"What are your plans for the future?" Lu Ye asked casually as he walked forward.

Giant Armor followed silently, not uttering a word.

Ever since he started his cultivation, he had always followed Sima Yang. He never considered what to do or where to go tomorrow; he simply went wherever Sima Yang went.

Now that Sima Yang was dead, he suddenly felt somewhat lost.

"If you don't have any plans, stick with me for the time being," Lu Ye offered.

"Alright!" Giant Armor responded eagerly.

Lu Ye's mood instantly improved. A man like Giant Armor was talent that every sect and clan desperately sought after. Even though he was already at Level 9, those sects would be willing to make exceptions to take him in.

It was only because of Sima Yang's meddling that they did not join any sect, but now things were different.

With Sima Yang dead, as long as Giant Armor continued to accompany Lu Ye, he would one day belong to the Righteous Blood Sect.

Although the Righteous Blood Sect had now taken in some disciples and established a foothold in the outer circle, there were very few they could truly be proud of.

Lu Ye had not anticipated that on this trip to Xianyuan City he would pick up such a formidable physique cultivator. Even though he knew it was wrong to think this way, he couldn't help feeling... grateful to Sima Yang, grateful to Fenghua Courtyard.

Lu Ye estimated that even if he were to suggest taking Giant Armor as a disciple right now, he would not refuse. But there was no rush for such matters. It was better to take things slow and, at the very least, cultivate a sense of belonging to the sect. Otherwise, even if Giant Armor were taken into the sect, there wouldn't be much meaning to it.

Now, without the sect, it wasn't the time to discuss a sense of belonging, but he could cultivate a sense of recognition with himself.

Facing someone like Sima Yang, Giant Armor had been extremely loyal. As long as Lu Ye treated him a bit better, was there any reason Giant Armor wouldn't recognize him?

Chapter 285 Plans Fall Through

Moreover, there was the bond of Amber between Lu Ye and Giant Armor.

Lu Ye hadn't figured out how Amber was connected with Giant Armor since they were merely strangers who met by chance but seemed to be intimately close.

"How many merit points do you have now?" Lu Ye suddenly remembered something.

Giant Armor, with his Level 9 cultivation, had opened one hundred and eighty orifices. When a cultivator had opened orifices to this extent, it was time to find a Heaven Rank technique suitable for oneself.

There were very few sources of Heaven Rank techniques, and the biggest source was to exchange for them from the Heaven's Augury treasure vault using merit points. However, due to the restrictions of Heaven's Augury, the Heaven Rank techniques obtained could only be used by the individual and couldn't be transmitted to others. Therefore, it was impossible to learn a Heaven Rank technique from someone else.

A Heaven Rank technique was the key for a cultivator to break through to the Cloud River Realm. Without a Heaven Rank technique, subsequent spiritual orifices couldn't be opened, and one would not be able to advance to the Cloud River.

Hence, for those cultivators who were eligible to advance to the Cloud River Realm, a Heaven Rank technique was essential. These techniques weren't cheap, and many cultivators had been accumulating merit points ever since they began their cultivation journey. Even upon reaching Level 9, they might not have saved enough. In the Spirit Stream battlefield, there were numerous cases of cultivators who were stuck at Level 9 due to the lack of a Heaven Rank technique, especially so for independent cultivators.

When following Sima Yang, Giant Armor didn't kill a single person. Without killing enemies, where would the merit points come from?

"Thirty-five," Giant Armor replied dully.

Although Lu Ye had some guesses, he still found it incredible when he heard the number.

A Level 9 cultivator, having only thirty-five merit points, was most likely attributed to killing a few cultivators from Fenghua Courtyard.

In other words, Giant Armor truly had no merit points while he was with Sima Yang.

Lu Ye didn't know how long Giant Armor's cultivation had been stuck at Level 9, but it certainly hadn't been a short time. He needed to get him a Heaven Rank technique quickly. Relying solely on killing enemies wouldn't accumulate enough merit points in a short period, but there were other ways to earn merit points, which would have to wait until they left Xianyuan City.

They continued forward and soon arrived at the central area of Xianyuan City.

Before this, whether it was cultivators from the Haotian Alliance or Ten Thousand Demons Ridge, they all tried their best to avoid this place because it was close to the Xianyuan City Lord's Residence.

The power of that red-robed woman was already unfathomable, and no one knew what kind of cultivators the City Lord had.

Xianyuan City had been opened many times, but no cultivator had ever seen the City Lord. It was said that those who had seen him were already dead.

The reason Lu Ye came here was not to meet the City Lord.

He was here to see if he could gain some advantages.

Originally, he hadn't thought about this, but after he used the Token to rescue Gu Canyang and many cultivators from the Haotian Alliance from the dungeons, he realized that the Token given by the red-robed woman was somewhat useful.

What was the biggest advantage in Xianyuan City?

It was the legendary Soul Cleansing Pool! Anyone with a hint of knowledge about Xianyuan City knew this piece of information.

Lu Ye was thinking, if he could use his Token to enter the Soul Cleansing Pool, his fortune would be made this time.

The function of the Soul Cleansing Pool was aimed at the psyche, which was intangible and invisible, and at the Spirit Stream Realm one would not be able to interact with it. But not being able to interact did not mean it didn't exist.

Everyone had their own psyche.

If he could gain some benefits from the Soul Cleansing Pool, it would surely be greatly beneficial to his growth.

And the Soul Cleansing Pool was inside the City Lord's Residence, so Lu Ye, even knowing how elusive and terrifying the City Lord's cultivation was, had to bite the bullet and give it a try.

What if his idea was feasible?

In front of the City Lord's Residence, two lines of Xianyuan Guards stood guard, and these weren't ordinary guards—each of them was at the Commander level, and the spirit light on their bodies wasn't any less intense than that of the Commander guarding the dungeon.

When Lu Ye arrived at the entrance of the City Lord's Residence with Giant Armor, pairs of eyes stared over, putting immediate pressure on him like a mountain.

One of the Xianyuan Guards even barked sharply, "The City Lord's Residence is off-limits to the irrelevant! Keep your distance!"

Lu Ye took off the Token he was biting in his mouth, raised it with one hand, and said solemnly, "I come on the order of that Senior."

He was about to bluff again, using the red-robed woman's influence.

Unexpectedly, the Xianyuan Guard was unmoved and coldly said, "Leave at once or face death without exception."

From his demeanor, if it weren't for the Token in Lu Ye's hand, he might have already attacked.

Lu Ye wanted to try again, but a group of Xianyuan Guards suddenly drew their weapons, a killing intent began to fill the air, and they shouted in unison, "Leave!"

Giant Armor, that simpleton, clenched his fists, his blood Qi began to boil, but Lu Ye pulled him back, turned around, and fled at full speed.

It wasn't until they had dashed through two streets that Lu Ye stopped, realizing his plan had fallen through.

The situation was clear; even with the red-robed woman's Token, he couldn't enter the City Lord's Residence. And since the Soul Cleansing Pool was inside, with no access to the Residence, there was no talking about the Soul Cleansing Pool.

There was a slight regret, but it was also within expectations.

The most significant advantage of Xianyuan City, if it were so easy to obtain, then cultivators who had entered the city in the past would have already gained a lot, and it would not be so precious.

"Let's go."

Lu Ye summoned Giant Armor and contacted Jik Yan while they moved forward.

There was no need to think about the Soul Cleansing Pool, and nearly all the people from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge had been killed. There weren't many benefits within Xianyuan City itself, so there was no need to waste time searching. All that was left was to wait.

Soon, Jik Yan sent a message, directing Lu Ye to the right place.

Four hours later, Lu Ye arrived at a large courtyard, where Jik Yan was waiting at the doorway.

Seeing Lu Ye's return, Jik Yan was naturally warmly welcoming, and he did not ask what Lu Ye had been doing.

This courtyard was very large, originally belonging to a noteworthy family, with multiple gates leading in and out. Under Jik Yan's arrangement, Lu Ye and Giant Armor were housed in an independent courtyard for rest, and the Surreptitious Palace, grateful for Lu Ye's previous favors, sent over prepared meals daily.

Lu Ye did not know how much longer Xianyuan City would remain open. Calculating the time, it had been open for less than seven or eight days, so it seemed he still had some time to wait.

He was not in a hurry. It was rare to have such a peaceful environment; the spiritual energy in Xianyuan City was dense, which was perfect for cultivation to enhance his own strength.

While cultivating, he also studied the books he brought from Madam Yun, learning about the Path of Spirit Runes, without neglecting either activity. At most, constructing spirit runes consumed some spirit force, which slowed down the pace of his cultivation.

Madam Yun provided him with these books because he had expressed interest in array destruction to her. To break an array, one needs to understand how to set up an array, which involves the use of spirit runes.

Staying reclusive inside, he was not disturbed by anyone.

It was not until two days later that visitors arrived. They were the Haotian Alliance cultivators Lu Ye had rescued from the dungeon, led by Gu Canyang, who was accompanied by Jik Yan.

These people had come specifically to express their gratitude.

In the past, cultivators imprisoned in the dungeons of Xianyuan City rarely survived. If not for Lu Ye's rescue, these cultivators would have most likely died there. Only those who had been in the dungeon could understand its peculiarity.

Such life-saving grace naturally left the cultivators profoundly grateful.

After some discussion, most of the cultivators left, but Gu Canyang and Jik Yan stayed behind.

Gu Canyang proposed to form an Alliance Pact with Lu Ye, which Lu Ye readily agreed to since it was one of his goals for coming to the inner circle.

The two immediately established an Alliance Pact with the authority of their respective Governor's roles. Even though such a pact was limited to the Spirit Stream battlefield, it was sufficient.

Gu Canyang then extended an invitation to Lu Ye, asking him to visit the Surreptitious Palace after the matters of Xianyuan City were concluded, and Lu Ye agreed to that as well.

After some more casual conversation, including mention of the dungeon, Gu Canyang, still shaken, recounted that upon entering the dungeon, a person would gradually feel like they were waiting to die. The dungeon constantly sapped the vitality of the imprisoned, which explains why Gu Canyang appeared so listless and drained after being rescued.

He hadn't sustained any injuries, but the loss of vitality was severe. Even returning home would require a good period of recuperation before recovery.

After hearing his explanation, Lu Ye finally understood the strange feeling he'd had in the dungeon.

Since he wasn't there for long, his experience wasn't as profound as Gu Canyang's.

Now he understood why previously, very few cultivators survived imprisonment in the dungeons. With their vitality continuously being drained, a serious depletion would undoubtedly lead to death.

Only those with robust physiques and abundant vitality could last longer in the dungeon, such as Giant Armor. If he had been captured, he likely would have had no major issues lasting until the closing of Xianyuan City.

After chatting a little more, Gu Canyang finally took his leave.

Lu Ye escorted him out of the courtyard and was heading back inside to continue his cultivation when he suddenly turned his head to look aside.

There sat Giant Armor, cross-legged and motionless, deep in cultivation.

If one were to sense carefully, they could even feel the traces of the spiritual energy flowing into his body.

Giant Armor's talent for cultivation was undoubtedly high; otherwise, it wouldn't have caused such a stir.

Indeed, this was the case. Giant Armor was born on the Spirit Stream battlefield, discovered by Sima Yang who led him on the path of cultivation. At that time, Sima Yang was already at Spirit Stream Level 3, but after following him and cultivating, Giant Armor caught up quickly and even surpassed Sima Yang.

Without high cultivation talent, he couldn't have reached that extent.

Perhaps sensing Lu Ye's gaze, Giant Armor opened his eyes and looked at him with a puzzled expression, unsure why Lu Ye was staring at him.

"You've opened a hundred and eighty orifices but lack a Heaven Rank technique. Is there any benefit to cultivating like this?" Lu Ye asked.

Logically, Giant Armor didn't need to cultivate anymore since he didn't have a way to open additional spiritual orifices. No matter how much he cultivated, the spirit force in his body would not increase, at most keeping his orifices always filled, which was meaningless.

However, over the past two days, Lu Ye noticed that Giant Armor was diligent in his cultivation. Besides eating, sleeping, or playing with Amber, he spent most of his time sitting still, without moving.

Seeing his ability to endure solitude further convinced Lu Ye that he needed to secure a Heaven Rank technique for Giant Armor soon.

Chapter 286 Giant Armor's Demonic Pill

Giant Armor's great talent must not be wasted.

Hearing Lu Ye's question, Giant Armor grinned foolishly and pointed at his abdomen, humming, "Store it up!"

"What do you mean?"

Giant Armor scratched his head, not quite sure how to explain, so he chose not to. Instead, he punched himself in the abdomen and then spat out an object.

It was a round, earthy yellow bead.

This bizarre scene left Lu Ye dumbfounded.

Inside Giant Armor's stomach was an inexplicable round bead!

"What is this?"

Giant Armor casually tossed the bead over, and Lu Ye hurriedly caught it and examined it closely. A term he had once heard from Second Senior Sister suddenly popped into his head.

Demonic pill!

It was said that when demon beasts reached the Cloud River Realm, a demonic pill would form inside their bodies—the source of their power, highly valuable. Many demonic pills could be used in Alchemy, Artifact Refining, or even to set up formations.

The thing in his hand resembled a demonic pill.

Was Giant Armor a demon beast?

But Giant Armor was clearly a person, not even a demon cultivator, for he lacked the characteristics of one. If this wasn't a demonic pill, then what was it?

Upon closer inspection, one could see that the surface of the bead was not smooth, but had small rhombohedral protrusions forming a thin film that entirely enveloped the bead.

Lu Ye couldn't figure out what it was, but when he slightly stimulated his spirit force, his face changed drastically the next moment.

Within the bead, he detected a vast and pure force of spirit energy being stored. If such spirit energy were to burst out suddenly, the consequences were unimaginable.

Lu Ye quickly retracted his spirit force, to avoid any accidents.

It was certain that this bead was extremely important to Giant Armor, but he had directly thrown it to him, showing his trust, which touched Lu Ye slightly.

Recalling what Giant Armor had said earlier, Lu Ye suddenly realized, "Can you store the spirit force you gain from cultivation inside this?"

"Hmm," Giant Armor nodded.

"Can it be used when needed?"

"Hmm."

Lu Ye exhaled lightly, inwardly exclaiming at the significance.

He had seen objects that could store spirit energy before; a spirit runes technique called spirit energy storage could do so, and any Spiritual Artifact used for weapon control must have a spirit energy storage restriction, otherwise, continuous control wouldn't be possible.

However, the tremendous amount of spirit energy stored in this bead inside Giant Armor's stomach was incomparable to any spirit energy storage restriction.

No wonder Giant Armor had been cultivating continuously without a Heaven Rank technique. With this bead, the spirit energy he cultivated wouldn't go to waste and could be entirely stored within it.

When needed, the spirit energy could be released from the bead.

In other words, in terms of sustaining spirit energy, Giant Armor surpassed all cultivators at the Spirit Stream Realm, even those at Level 9 who had converted to Heaven Rank techniques.

Giant Armor's cultivation had been stuck for two or three years now; it was hard to imagine how vast the spirit energy stored inside the bead had become over such a long time.

Thinking about this, Lu Ye realized another thing: Giant Armor's cultivation progress might be blocked due to the lack of a Heaven Rank technique, but his cultivation advancement wouldn't stop. With the right technique, he could rapidly open new spiritual orifices using the spirit energy stored within himself, thus advancing to a new realm.

Looking at Giant Armor, Lu Ye's emotions fluctuated, wondering where the hell Sima Yang had found Giant Armor from.

Such talent should not be missed by the Righteous Blood Sect.

After toying with it for a while longer, unable to decipher the bead's mystery, Lu Ye handed it back.

This bead was no demonic pill, yet its value, compared to regular demonic pills, was far greater. If someone with intentions saw it, there's no telling what they might plot.

"Don't casually show this to others in the future. Didn't Sima Yang ever tell you that?"

"He did," Giant Armor responded. He opened his mouth and swallowed the bead back down, seemingly reminded of the deceased Sima Yang, and was engulfed by a wave of sadness, bowing his head.

Lu Ye took out a large piece of beast meat.

Giant Armor took it, and his sadness vanished instantly...

A day later, in the small courtyard, Lu Ye's hands covered the ground, his spirit force ceaselessly stimulated. Patches of spirit light kept flickering, and intricate and complex patterns appeared intermittently where the spirit light converged.

As he continued, the patterns kept expanding and spreading, covering an area several meters around.

After a moment, all the spirit light suddenly disappeared as if it had never existed, but with careful perception, one could detect an anomaly in the spirit force within that area.

"Lu Ye, is this a formation?" Yiyi, who had been standing by and watching, recognized what it was.

"Yes." Lu Ye stood up, took out a thick tome from his storage sack, looked through it, and nodded in satisfaction. After a long period of study, he had finally reaped some rewards. Now he understood a bit about array setup and was able to set up some simple formations using his own spirit force.

Of course, such formations were not very useful because they lacked a stable carrier, such as array banners or array bases, which made them easy to destroy.

However, all things progress from easy to difficult. Today's success represented Lu Ye's entry into the path of array cultivation.

"Giant Armor." Lu Ye called out.

"Ah." Giant Armor, who was watching the excitement, turned his head to look over.

"Step on it and try, but don't activate your spirit force."

Although the formation had been set up, it was fragile. If Giant Armor activated even a bit of his spirit force, he would break the formation.

This was the same principle as when Lu Ye initially built the Spirit Energy Gathering Spirit Runes in his own spiritual orifice; the directly constructed runes would collapse under the impact of spirit force.

Later, he found a way to modify the Spirit Energy Gathering Spirit Runes into a small funnel, which then stabilized.

"Oh." Giant Armor obeyed, taking a step forward.

"Slow down!" Lu Ye quickly shouted, fearing his formation would collapse the moment that foot hit it.

Giant Armor's raised foot hovered in mid-air and landed very slowly. He also cautiously watched Lu Ye's reaction and only moved his other foot after seeing Lu Ye nod.

It was clearly a bit difficult for him; after taking a few steps, he almost had a cramp.

After a good moment, he reached the center of the formation. Instantly, the already invisible formation patterns lit up, spirit force surged within the area covered by the formation, and a slash formed from the convergence of spirit force attacked Giant Armor.

Remembering Lu Ye's instruction not to activate his spirit force, Giant Armor stood there, enduring the hit.

Then he scratched his butt, wearing an innocent expression.

"Pfft..." Yiyi almost burst into laughter because the power of that slash was simply pitiful, weaker than a Level 5 cultivator's Golden Arc Slash.

After triggering that slash, the entire formation violently shattered, turning into specks of light that vanished into thin air.

Lu Ye showed a thoughtful look. With his current mastery of array formation, this outcome was not unexpected. Creating this formation involved several spirit runes, with the core being the spirit arc capable of unleashing that slash.

Lu Ye could construct not only the spirit runes he obtained from the Talent Tree but had also learned many others from books; however, since their construction took a long time and was unstable, they were ineffective in combat.

They could only be used during array setup.

Yiyi thought the formation was weak, though she didn't say it aloud, she probably thought so.

But if those proficient in array paths and array cultivation were to see it, they would certainly be highly appreciative.

Because Lu Ye set up this formation without any physical carrier, relying purely on his spirit force in one continuous process, any slight error in easing could lead to complete failure.

If constructing a spirit rune could be likened to writing a character with a pen, then setting up a formation was like writing an entire article without stopping the ink flow, and ensuring no errors in the strokes.

This posed a great test to a cultivator's control over their spirit force.

For Lu Ye to achieve such a result on his first attempt at setting up a formation was already extremely impressive. If he were to create array banners and array bases as cores for his formations, it would simplify the process and significantly increase the power.

In a strict sense, array cultivators also qualify as a branch of spirit runes masters.

However, the spirit runes learned by array cultivators are primarily for array setup, and there are many spirit runes in the world. Ordinary cultivators, even if they devote their whole lives, cannot master all spirit runes; they can only focus on certain areas.

Array cultivators' runes are tailored for arrays, battle runes masters focus on combat, and rune tattoo masters are more for assistance; each has different focuses and learns different spirit runes. Then there are Artifact Refiners who craft Spiritual Artifacts, also studying some spirit runes mainly used in fabricating Spiritual Artifacts, as every artifact is engraved with various spirit runes forming its restrictions.

Even a master of spirit runes like Madam Yun doesn't master everything.

Lu Ye had never crafted array banners or bases, which required special materials and tools, and he wasn't equipped to do so currently. It would not be too late to delve deeper once he returned to the Righteous Blood Sect.

Lu Ye currently focused primarily on formations, specifically on array destruction.

Therefore, it didn't matter how he set up formations; he just wanted to familiarize himself with their structures, which would facilitate his efforts to break others' formations.

After glaring briefly at Yiyi, Lu Ye returned indoors and continued his cultivation, studying the tome. The more he studied, the more he sensed the vast depth of the Path of Spirit Runes.

Initially, Lu Ye thought that having the Talent Tree would allow him to manipulate various spirit runes at will and easily become a spirit runes master; now he knew he was mistaken. The Talent Tree indeed

offered many conveniences, but relying solely on the Talent Tree would make him at best a second-rate spirit runes master in the future; reaching a first-rate or top-level would be absolutely impossible.

There were many things the Talent Tree could not provide.

As days passed, Lu Ye occasionally went out to set up new formations, familiarizing himself with his tools, drawing conclusions from failures, and enhancing his mastery through success.

The speed of setting up formations increased progressively. The only regret he had was not having an existing formation to study how to break it, which would have to depend on his visit to the Surreptitious Palace, hoping Gu Canyang would not regret inviting him.

Chapter 287 City Lord of Xianyuan City

Cultivation, array setup, reading books, Lu Ye didn't know how others were spending their days in Xianyuan City, but anyway, he found his days to be quite fulfilling.

This made Lu Ye couldn't help but think about simply returning to the Righteous Blood Sect to cultivate in seclusion, but considering his current Level 8 cultivation, staying in the outer circle for a long time didn't seem quite appropriate. Moreover, he still had enmities with many sects from Golden Light Peak that he hadn't avenged yet.

He could only move about in the inner circle now, and once his cultivation reached higher levels, and he went to the Core Circle, it would become even harder for him to seek revenge against those sects.

For example, currently, on Golden Light Peak, he had fought forty-three battles, and many of those sects were from the outer circle.

If he went to the outer circle now to seek revenge, it would be inappropriate and would only cause disturbances.

Li Baxian once said that the affairs of the outer circle should be handled by those in the outer circle, and the affairs of the inner circle should be dealt with by those within it. Each circle has its own conventions, and although these are not rules, they need to be adhered to by the cultivators of both camps, no matter which side breaks them, it may lead to some severe consequences.

Even though Lu Ye was in Xianyuan City, the speed of his spiritual orifice opening was not slow; he managed to maintain the frequency of opening one orifice every three days. His spiritual orifices were now reaching close to one hundred sixty.

It seemed that when he later visited the Surreptitious Palace as a guest, he would need to prepare a Heaven Rank technique in advance for himself, just in case of an emergency.

One day, feeling bored, Lu Ye took the Breath Fruit Core out of his storage sack, intending to enter the Mirage Realm to stretch his limbs a bit.

Spending the days in cultivation and reading was truly quite drab. He couldn't leave Xianyuan City for the time being, so he could only find something else to do.

Although he was sure the Mirage Realm he entered through the Breath Fruit Core had some vague connection to Xianyuan City, he hadn't yet figured out what exactly this connection was.

The only sure thing was that both had constantly churning mists, and from within those mists would emerge shadowy figures to attack. As for the rest, he was still in the dark.

Just as he took the Breath Fruit Core out of the storage sack, somewhere in Xianyuan City, a pair of eyes suddenly opened, showing a thoughtful expression. Following that, the owner of those eyes disappeared from the spot with a Single Flash.

In the room, Lu Ye frowned slightly, wondering if it was just his imagination, but just as he was about to use his spirit force to pour into the Breath Fruit Core in his hand, he suddenly felt as if he was being watched by someone.

He looked around, and saw nothing unusual; upon checking more carefully, the feeling vanished.

Lu Ye gathered his spirit force, holding the Breath Fruit Core in hand.

Pop...

A light sound transmitted, Lu Ye's hair stood on end, and as he lifted his gaze, an unexpected figure appeared before him. It was a man who appeared to be in his thirties or forties, dressed in an exquisite purple robe, of a towering stature, with the aura of a dragon and a phoenix. With one hand, he had grabbed Lu Ye's arm and was looking at him somewhat helplessly.

As their gazes met, Lu Ye tried to pull his arm back but couldn't; the man didn't seem to exert much force, yet he had completely immobilized him.

This man was very strong, incredibly strong!

Even stronger than the red-robed woman!

Who was this person? Where did he come from? What did he want? Lu Ye's mind was racing with questions. He couldn't sense any malicious intent from the man, but then again, such a powerful being probably didn't need to harbor any malicious intent towards him, just as he wouldn't bear ill will toward an ant on the roadside.

His tumultuous thoughts did not prevent him from instinctively pulling the Boulder Mountain Saber from his waist and slashing at the newcomer.

Clang...

The saber stopped mid-air. The man simply raised two fingers, trapping the blade between them.

Lu Ye glanced at the Boulder Mountain Saber, his eyelid twitching.

Hearing the noise, Amber and Giant Armor who had been eating outside together rushed in. Following that, Amber roared, summoning multiple Spiritual Bodies, while Giant Armor took large strides forward, his blood Qi churning.

"Nobody move!" Lu Ye shouted.

Giant Armor, ignoring him, came up beside the man and threw a punch, which had no effect on the man, but sent Giant Armor tumbling back.

What was even more astonishing was that the minion spirits released by Amber didn't attack the man; they just stood there dumbly. Only Amber itself leapt forward, along with a spell cast by Yiyi.

Mid-air, Amber reverted to its original body, a gaping maw biting down on the man's head and then... stuck.

Yiyi's spell had no effect either; no matter what she tried, she couldn't harm the newcomer in the slightest.

The man who had grabbed Lu Ye's arm and was pinching the Boulder Mountain Saber looked even more helpless.

After a moment, Lu Ye sheathed his saber, and Yiyi and the returned Giant Armor stood wary at his sides.

Two zhang away, the purple-robed man stood still; Amber was still biting his head and hanging on him, surrounded by a battalion of wooden minion spirits.

"Amber!" Lu Ye called out.

Amber then opened its mouth and released the man.

The purple-robed man straightened his clothes and sighed lightly, settling into a seat, "Young friend, don't be nervous; I mean no harm to you."

Lu Ye said nothing. Indeed, there was no malice, for if there had been, not one living creature in this room would have survived.

Glancing at the minion spirits, Lu Ye spoke, "The City Lord graces us with his presence; to what do we owe this honor?"

Yiyi was slightly taken aback and looked at Lu Ye in surprise.

The purple-robed man seemed a bit startled too before settling into a more comfortable position and said with a smile, "How can you be sure that I am the City Lord?"

"I've met a red-robed woman who swings on the swings; she is the strongest I've encountered in Xianyuan City, but even she pales in comparison to you. I think, apart from the City Lord, there shouldn't be anyone stronger than her here in the city."

"Is that the only reason?"

"Also them." Lu Ye looked towards the minion spirits standing aside, "Amber must have given them orders, but they didn't attack. It shows that their instincts prevent them from becoming enemies with the City Lord."

The purple-robed man nodded slightly, "Let's say you are correct then."

This was an acknowledgment of his identity.

"As for the purpose of my visit," the City Lord extended two fingers, holding the Breath Fruit Core he had obtained from Lu Ye, and said solemnly, "Young friend, this item must not be used in Xianyuan City, and not only in Xianyuan City but also in any part of the Boundless Mirage Realm."

"Why?"

"I can only say it would trigger some very undesirable consequences."

"For example?"

"There are things better left unknown to you." The City Lord smiled, obviously not intending to explain anything to Lu Ye, and during the conversation, he tossed the Breath Fruit Core back to him.

Lu Ye caught it, his eyes flashing with a pensive look, but he couldn't figure out what was going on. However, since the City Lord had personally come to tell him this, he certainly wouldn't act oblivious and rashly try to activate the Breath Fruit Core. That would only anger the other party.

"Is there any tea?" the City Lord asked again.

"No."

"That's a pity." The City Lord stood up, walked over to Lu Ye, coughed lightly with a fist to his mouth, and began, "I have another matter to discuss with you, young friend."

"Please speak, City Lord."

The City Lord turned his gaze to the minion spirits beside him: "You cannot take them out with you."

"Would that also trigger very undesirable consequences?"

"That's not it, but if you take them out, they will die."

Lu Ye pondered thoughtfully, sensing the gravity of the information revealed by those words, but he couldn't immediately grasp the underlying significance.

Seeing Lu Ye's expression, the City Lord was somewhat speechless. If possible, he would not have shown his face. He had already made plans to use some methods to intercept these transformed minion spirits and keep them inside Xianyuan City when Lu Ye was repelled from it.

By then, Lu Ye would probably have no idea what had happened. The most likely misunderstanding would be that the Spiritual Bodies of Xianyuan City could not be taken out.

Thus, the matter could be considered resolved.

However, the City Lord didn't expect Lu Ye to actually bring out that item, forcing him to show himself and clarify the stakes to Lu Ye.

Since he had already shown himself, the tactics he intended to use secretly had become somewhat impractical. Now he had to approach the situation openly and honestly.

"Is this an order from you, City Lord?"

Honestly, the minion spirits transformed by Amber were a significant force, and if he could take them with him, it would be a great help in the short term. However, it wouldn't be much help after a long time since the minion spirits' strength was also limited.

"This is a request," the City Lord stated in a serious tone.

Lu Ye understood.

"These Spiritual Bodies belong to Amber. Whether they can be taken out or not is up to Amber to decide. Why doesn't the City Lord talk to it?"

The City Lord then stared at Lu Ye.

Lu Ye felt immense pressure.

Although he had only brief contact, the City Lord didn't seem like the kind of person who would bully the weak. Otherwise, he wouldn't have said so much."

Since it's a matter of negotiation, Lu Ye thought he might take the opportunity to make some demands—a gentleman's coercion.

His fear was that the other party would simply overturn the table, and then he would have no choice but to yield.

"State your terms," the City Lord said impatiently.

"The Soul Cleansing Pool!"

The City Lord's expression showed he had anticipated this request; he had guessed that Lu Ye would ask for this.

"What if I gift you a spirit treasure?" the City Lord asked.

Yiyi silently took out the Nine Worlds map.

The City Lord raised the offer: "Two pieces? Three pieces?"

Lu Ye shook his head, "Material possessions are, after all, just that."

Hearing this, the City Lord nodded in agreement, "You do have a point. Well, I agree to your request."

Lu Ye felt a surge of joy inside but kept his face expressionless, drawing a circle with his hand, "We all go."

The City Lord laughed with annoyance: "Would you like to add more people? I see many outside."

"No, that's not necessary, one mustn't be too greedy."

"It's been a long time since I've wanted to hit someone. You'd best watch your words," the City Lord warned.

Lu Ye immediately clamped his mouth shut; getting hit by the City Lord would leave him no chance to retaliate.

The City Lord glared at him once more, then waved a hand towards the many minion spirits, performing a slashing motion through the air.

There was a faint noise as if something had been cut through, and Amber's body shook. The minion spirits, who looked dull and lifeless, suddenly seemed reborn, their eyes immediately sparkling with vitality.

Following that, many Spiritual Bodies bowed to the City Lord and quickly dispersed.

"Let's go," the City Lord said, prompting Lu Ye to feel a force wrap around him, and his vision shifted as if stars were moving in fast forward.

Chapter 288 Soul Cleansing Pool

When Lu Ye regained his senses, he already stood beside a large pool enveloped in dense mist. Rows of Xianyuan Guards stood nearby, and the lead commander, seeing the City Lord, immediately saluted.

The City Lord waved his hand, signaling him to step back.

Lu Ye looked down but could see nothing but the swirling mist, which seemed bound by some force. Despite its constant churning, it didn't drift away even slightly.

Was this the legendary Soul Cleansing Pool?

Yiyi stood beside him and whispered softly, "Lu Ye, that mist seems very useful to me."

Being a Spiritual Body, she was extremely sensitive to the mist. Lu Ye hadn't noticed anything, but Yiyi could feel that entering the pool would benefit her unimaginably.

Lu Ye turned to look at the City Lord standing aside. "Just jump down?"

The City Lord, with his hands behind his back, stepped forward and nodded. "Yes, go ahead and jump. However, you only have six hours. After six hours, I will send you back."

No sooner had he finished speaking than Lu Ye jumped down. With limited time, he naturally wanted to seize the opportunity.

As he continuously fell, Lu Ye soon realized something was off—the Soul Cleansing Pool seemed... incredibly deep?

The City Lord hadn't mentioned this.

Just as Lu Ye was about to activate his wings rune tattoo, he suddenly felt lighter as if some force below was supporting him, and his descent slowed down and eventually stabilized.

He couldn't feel any solid substance under his feet; it felt more like stepping on cotton. He was sure he hadn't reached the bottom of the Soul Cleansing Pool. Looking around, he couldn't see Yiyi or the others; the rolling mist here was so thick he couldn't see his own hands in front of him.

He wasn't worried about their safety; they must be somewhere in this Soul Cleansing Pool.

With only six hours, Lu Ye quickly sat down cross-legged.

The situation reminded him of when he was in the Dragon Spring Body Tempering, quite similar to this place, but in Dragon Spring, he had to absorb the blood mist to achieve the tempering effect. Here, it was different. Lu Ye could feel an unseen, intangible force constantly piercing into his body.

His body became lighter, his psyche clearer, sweeping away the fatigue from continuous cultivation and reading.

This was the power of the Soul Cleansing Pool, acting on the psyche. Unfortunately, Lu Ye's cultivation level was not sufficient to reach the psyche level; otherwise, the benefits he could gain from this place would be unimaginable.

Even so, as long as he could absorb and refine the mist around him, the enhancement to his psyche would be tremendous.

Just being here brought great benefits, what about cultivating?

Lu Ye hurriedly began to build Spirit Energy Gathering Spirit Runes within his spiritual orifice.

As each little funnel-shaped Spirit Energy Gathering Spirit Rune was added, the surrounding mist gathered and rushed into Lu Ye's body at an increased pace, making his consciousness clearer and his body lighter.

Above the Soul Cleansing Pool, the City Lord stood with his hands behind his back, murmuring to himself, "The Four Auspicious Beasts gather its second, and it seems to have some connection with that one beast. Interesting."

As he murmured, the City Lord's expression suddenly tightened because he noticed something was not quite right with Lu Ye. He didn't know what method the boy had used, but the surrounding mist was continuously rushing into his body, and the speed was getting faster.

This wasn't a good sign. The mist in the Soul Cleansing Pool indeed greatly benefited the psyche—even just soaking here continuously strengthened the Soul Power, but everything should be in moderation. Lu Ye was only at Spirit Stream Level 8 and far from reaching the level of the psyche. Absorbing the soul mist so frantically would only result in his psyche being assimilated by the soul mist, leading to its disintegration.

It seemed giving him six hours was too much; at this rate, he wouldn't last even one hour.

The City Lord didn't rush to intervene, rather observing with interest. He wanted to see what choices the boy would make once he realized something was wrong.

The enhancement of Soul Power was irresistible and easy to lose oneself in.

At this moment, Lu Ye was energetically building Spirit Energy Gathering Spirit Runes in his spiritual orifice, and as the mist continued to pour in, he felt increasingly lighter, experiencing an indescribably pleasant sensation that was intoxicating, irresistible, and made him feel omnipotent.

No sooner had this feeling arisen than he became alert and stopped constructing spirit runes.

Having experienced tempering in the Dragon Spring before, he knew some things were better in moderation.

He silently sensed his own condition. Unlike the vague sensations of the past, his perception now was clearer and continued to sharpen as he refined the mist.

He could even "see" the spirit force flowing inside his body, and he also "saw" his own Talent Tree rooted in the Root Spiritual Orifice, with many leaves blazing with flames.

He even "saw" himself sitting cross-legged atop the cloud of mist.

Lu Ye was surprised; seeing himself from an outsider's perspective was clearly unusual, almost resembling the legendary psyche out-of-body experience.

He looked down and noticed that unknowingly he had become like Yiyi, turned into a Spiritual Body.

The connection between his Spiritual Body and his flesh body was weakening rapidly.

Something was wrong!

He quickly focused his mind. A strong pulling force came, and Lu Ye abruptly opened his eyes to find himself still sitting on that mist cluster, but he was no longer in the state of a Spiritual Body as before.

The mist in the Soul Cleansing Pool was strange.

Realizing this, Lu Ye immediately became cautious.

He carefully examined his body and recalled the various sensations he had just experienced, quickly identifying the problem.

The mist of the Soul Cleansing Pool indeed had a great nurturing power for the psyche, capable of strengthening the power of the psyche, but he had his limits to bear, after all, he was just a Spirit Stream Realm cultivator.

If the power of the psyche became too strong in a short period of time, it would instinctively want to break free from the constraints of the flesh body, such as the phenomenon of the psyche leaving the body that had just occurred, and with the continuous strengthening of the psyche, this situation would become more severe.

The flesh body is the container of the psyche, the fundamental where the psyche resides. Once the psyche breaks free from the flesh body's constraints, it would truly be transformed into a Spiritual Body.

This was a result that Lu Ye absolutely could not accept.

A pure Spiritual Body certainly has many conveniences, but without a flesh body as a basis, it ultimately is like water without a source, a tree without roots.

Yiyi had no flesh body, but she was transformed from Amber, a minion spirit, so she actually also had a basis.

Having identified the problem, Lu Ye dared not act recklessly anymore. This situation was different from that in the Dragon Spring Body Tempering. In the Dragon Spring, even if one absorbed too much blood mist, it would only cause the physique to become temporarily stronger, the mind not keeping up with the body's responses, which one could gradually adapt to over time.

But in this place, letting the psyche become too strong was ultimately not a good thing.

Originally, he had constructed over a hundred and thirty Spirit Energy Gathering Spirit Runes in his own Root Spiritual Orifice. At this moment, he hurriedly dispersed half of them to avoid bearing the nourishment of the soul mist around him.

A moment later, Lu Ye dispersed another half, leaving only thirty Spirit Energy Gathering Spirit Runes.

The situation was still not optimistic. He seemed to have devoured and refined too much soul mist earlier, causing the power of his psyche to have almost grown to a limit. If it continued to grow like this, the phenomenon of psyche leaving the body would inevitably occur again.

After sensing for a moment, compelled, he dispersed the remaining thirty spirit runes as well.

The situation became awkward. While the benefits were within reach, so close he could almost touch them, he could only sit idly by.

By the side of the Soul Cleansing Pool, the City Lord looked down with a slight nod. Lu Ye being able to quickly recognize the problem and even resist the temptation of the soul mist's enhancement was somewhat unexpected to him.

It seemed that the boy was not bad, just as he had said before, being not too greedy in life allows one to be content and happy.

While thinking this, he then saw Lu Ye take out his storage sack, open the mouth of the bag, and shake it from side to side, seemingly trying to stuff the soul mist into the storage sack...

The City Lord, watching, couldn't help but laugh and cry at the same time. He now understood, whatever nonsense about not being too greedy was purely balderdash.

Below the Soul Cleansing Pool, Lu Ye checked inside the storage sack, having indeed collected some soul mist, but the storage sack itself had limited space. Even if it was filled to the brim, how much could it really hold?

Legend had it that someone had once by chance obtained a few drops of the Soul Cleansing Pool's water, taken out to honor the elders of their sect. Where did they get that pool water from?

Lu Ye pocketed the storage sack, looking downward.

This rich, churning soul mist couldn't have been created out of nothing. Could it be that the Soul Cleansing Pool's water was below?

Quickly hanging the storage sack at his waist, Lu Ye dove down, using both his hands and feet, swimming towards the depths of the Soul Cleansing Pool like swimming.

A moment later, feeling too slow, he activated the wings rune tattoo, quickly flying downwards.

Flying through the dense clouds of mist, Lu Ye continued to delve deeper.

For the duration of one incense stick's time, he still hadn't reached the bottom. The Soul Cleansing Pool seemed like a bottomless abyss. Lu Ye felt something wasn't quite right—the Soul Cleansing Pool, despite being deep, should have a limit; flying for the time of one incense stick was clearly not normal.

By the side of the Soul Cleansing Pool, the City Lord, unbeknownst to when, had already sat down at the pool's edge, one hand propping up his chin, his expression amused. Xianyuan City, though often having living people entering due to some reasons, he as the City Lord, would not easily show himself before these juniors. It had been a long time since he had seen such an interesting scene.

In his view, Lu Ye hadn't delved into the depths of the Soul Cleansing Pool at all but rather stayed in place, maintaining a posture of flying downward, the rolling soul mist around and the special environment inside the Soul Cleansing Pool creating in Lu Ye the illusion of continuously delving deeper.

In the Soul Cleansing Pool, Lu Ye retracted his spirit force wings, turning his head to look around at the dense soul mist, contemplating.

Since it was impossible to determine just how deep the Soul Cleansing Pool really was, or whether reaching the bottom would enable him to find any pool water, could he possibly create some Soul Cleansing Pool water himself?

This thick soul mist, logically speaking, should be able to form soul water if guided slightly to condense, similar to how mist condenses into water. As for how to guide the soul mist to condense, Lu Ye did have some ideas.

Chapter 289 Soul Water

This thick soul mist had already reached the verge of condensing into water, so it didn't require any cumbersome measures, just needed to make the soul mist more compact and dense.

He didn't know whether it would work, for it was merely a sudden whim, but if it did work, the rewards would be significant, and if it didn't... there wouldn't be any loss anyway.

He raised his hand and pressed it on the mist in front of him, his spirit force crazily urging on, each visible Yin-Yang Dual Origins merging and connecting with each other; each basic element was almost the size of a palm, instantly spreading out all around.

Sitting leisurely by the Soul Cleansing Pool, the City Lord was slightly taken aback, a hint of surprise flashing in his eyes, apparently not expecting that Lu Ye was a spirit runes master, and moreover able to construct spirit runes so freely.

These spirit runes... The City Lord meticulously examined the rapidly shaping massive spirit runes, were they Spirit Energy Gathering Spirit Runes?

Only, this Spirit Energy Gathering Spirit Rune was somewhat different from the usual ones, not only massively huge but also strangely shaped with a protruding middle and curves expanding upward around the edges, looking just like a funnel.

A funnel? The City Lord immediately straightened up, vaguely realizing something.

The young one who came this time seemed a bit tricky, he had agreed to let Lu Ye and the others into the Soul Cleansing Pool because even if they entered, it wouldn't consume much of the Soul Cleansing

Pool's power. As compensation for releasing those transformed minion spirits, it seemed like a fair trade.

But if things really were as he suspected, it seemed he was about to lose out on this deal.

Below the Soul Cleansing Pool, Lu Ye took a deep breath. This was the largest Spirit Energy Gathering Spirit Rune he had ever constructed to date, covering a ten Zhang area, and it was even shaped like a funnel.

This alone had consumed almost half of his spirit force.

He didn't want to construct a larger one, because if he did, even he might fail.

The spirit runes were now constructed, whether the idea would succeed or not, depended on what happened next.

With careful perception, he noticed that the soul mist within the covered range of the spirit runes became even thicker, surging from all directions and continually gathering, then bursting forth from the opening of the funnel, instantly, a strong current appeared at the tip of the large funnel, continuously spewing out a large amount of soul mist.

This won't do, while it could gather soul mist, it couldn't condense it.

He immediately raised his hand, urging the spirit force into action.

The gathered soul mist, having no outlet, kept accumulating within the funnel, compressing gradually until the walls of the funnel began to show a liquid-like presence, slowly enlarging and trickling down the walls of the funnel, accumulating at the tip.

It worked!

Lu Ye was overjoyed, watching the accumulated soul water, watching it grow drop by drop, expanding like dew flowing to the center of a lotus leaf in the early morning.

By the Soul Cleansing Pool, the City Lord couldn't stand it anymore, seeing the scene unfold. The Soul Cleansing Pool wasn't just the foundation of Xianyuan City, but also of other Boundless Mirage Realms; too much power from the Soul Cleansing Pool couldn't be lost.

At this moment, he regretted giving Lu Ye six hours of time because he thought that, for a junior cultivator like Lu Ye, six hours would have been more than enough to satisfy his desires, but now, it seemed, he had given too much!

He should have given just one hour instead.

But what's said is said, what's spilled is spilled, it wouldn't look good to just pull Lu Ye out now.

He looked around, saw all the Xianyuan Guards standing nearby with their backs to him, then he raised a finger and gently stirred towards the direction of the Soul Cleansing Pool.

Below the Soul Cleansing Pool, Lu Ye, who was overjoyed watching the continuous accumulation of soul water, suddenly witnessed the soul mist's surge intensify, the large funnel distorted violently, and collapsed with a roar, the gathered soul mist no longer restrained, dispersed in all directions.

The hard-accumulated soul water also splashed out with the dissolution of the spirit runes.

Lu Ye, quick-reacting, urged his spirit force to wrap around the soul water. Though some was lost, he managed to salvage most of it, reaching into his storage sack and pulling out a jade vial for medicine to contain the soul water into it.

Gently shaking it, it looked to be about half a vial, which would at least contain more than ten drops.

In the past, even if someone had managed to bring soul water out from Xianyuan City, it was only ever a few drops, far fewer than what he had now.

Having had one successful experience, performing it a second time was easier.

However, the past experience made him realize that the spirit runes he had constructed were still too large. Large had its advantages, able to gather soul mist faster and in larger quantities forming soul water, but it wasn't stable enough, and once the soul mist surged violently, it easily led to the collapse of the spirit runes.

So, it was best to make the spirit runes a bit smaller.

Once again, he raised his hand, urging his spirit force, and the Yin-Yang Dual Origins quickly spread around.

In a moment, another large funnel took shape, though this time the funnel was smaller, only covering a seven-zhang area.

With a huge consumption of his own spirit force, Lu Ye quickly took out Breath Fruit wine from his storage sack and drank it down, rapidly restoring his depleted energy.

Although the funnel was smaller than before, and the efficiency of condensing soul water was less, what puzzled Lu Ye was that this funnel could withstand shorter durations than before...

When the violently surging soul mist blasted the funnel open, Lu Ye, being prepared, quickly gathered the scattered soul water and put it into the jade vial.

Lu Ye began constructing the large funnel once again.

As time passed, through several cycles, even with the recovery provided by Breath Fruit wine, Lu Ye was beginning to falter; the recovery speed couldn't keep pace with his consumption. The funnels he built were getting smaller and the yield from each was diminishing.

It was unclear how much time had passed when suddenly, a powerful force seized him. Lu Ye instantly realized something was wrong. He didn't have time to think too much, and hurriedly gathered the bit of soul water he had just managed to form.

The next moment, his view whirled dramatically, and when he came back to his senses, he had returned to the previous courtyard, ending up sprawled on the ground in a quite disheveled state.

Yiyi, Amber, and Giant Armor stood by his side. Seeing Lu Ye fall, Yiyi probably intended to come forward to help him, but her condition was clearly not normal; her body flickered with bursts of spirit light and she couldn't walk in a straight line.

Not only her, but Amber and Giant Armor too seemed as if they were drunk, stumbling around unsteadily.

Six hours had passed in the Soul Cleansing Pool, and the benefits they received were tremendous, making everyone feel dizzy and lightheaded, unable to adapt for the moment.

However, this wasn't a bad thing, as they should be able to recover in a few days.

Lu Ye got to his feet, waved his hands at them to indicate he was unharmed.

Seeing this, Giant Armor simply sat down on the ground and closed his eyes to meditate.

Yiyi couldn't keep up any longer and plunged into Amber, disappearing from sight, while Amber jumped onto Giant Armor's thigh, coiled up, and didn't move, soon emitting snores.

Inside the City Lord's Residence, the City Lord was checking the situation of the Soul Cleansing Pool, sighing faintly after a moment. The loss this time wasn't small, but it was bearable.

He hadn't expected the junior cultivator from Level 8 to have such a peculiar method, actually managing to condense soul mist into soul water and take it away.

He thought that even if the other had such methods, given his spirit force reserves, he wouldn't be able to continue for long. But that young man also possessed an item that quickly restored his spirit force, repeatedly constructing those large funnel spirit runes.

He couldn't be too obvious, only waiting for the other to get a little harvest before taking action to destroy the funnel, lest his manipulation be discovered.

If he hadn't been so malicious in secret, who knows how much soul water that young man would have taken away.

At this moment, Lu Ye was examining his gains from this venture. Setting aside the improvements to his psyche for now, just the soul water alone filled three or four vials.

The vials weren't large, intended originally to hold pills, but even if a vial of soul water held only thirty drops, he had gathered over a hundred drops of soul water this time.

This was the condensed essence of the soul mist.

He could take this item out and give some to the sect master, which would certainly be of great benefit to him.

And Second Senior Sister, who is currently at the True Lake Realm, seemed about to advance to the Divine Sea; she needed this as well.

And there was Li Baxian, Fourth Senior Brother, like him, who was temporarily unable to touch the power of the psyche. Yet, the soul water could strengthen the foundation of his psyche, beneficial in many aspects.

Silently planning in his mind, Lu Ye examined the changes in himself.

Although he felt he gained a lot while in the Soul Cleansing Pool, he had been preoccupied with obtaining soul water back then and hadn't explored the changes.

Upon examining, he immediately noticed the difference from before.

Previously, his perception of his own body was somewhat vague. Even with the aid of the flow of spirit force giving him a rough idea, it wasn't very clear, as if obstructed by a thick membrane. But now, it became very clear, as if there was an invisible pair of eyes inside him that could see anything he wished to see.

He had felt this sensation once before when his psyche left his body, so it was not unfamiliar.

This ability to clearly inspect his own condition was very useful, for instance in fierce battles where concealed injuries were received; previously, he might not have been able to discern the specific injuries, but now he could see them clearly.

It wasn't just his own body; Lu Ye felt that his perception seemed to have formed into an invisible and intangible force that, with a slight exertion, could cover an area within a ten-yard radius.

He could sense any anomalies within this ten-yard range. The farther away, the more vague the perception; the closer, the clearer, especially within a one-yard range around him.

This made him realize a great advantage.

He would no longer have to worry about ghost cultivators sneaking up close to him.

There had been times before when ghost cultivators got behind him intending to stealthily attack, and had it not been for the Nine Worlds map that trapped the opponent, Lu Ye wouldn't have noticed in time.

His Insight Spirit Runes could also uncover the stealth of ghost cultivators, but the runes needed to be actively activated, whereas perception was constant and omnidirectional without any blind spots, clearly having a greater advantage over needing to be constructed in his eyes.

Currently, the ghost cultivators he encountered were of low cultivation. Although they could employ some ghost cultivator methods, they hadn't mastered the essence.

In the future, as his own cultivation increased, he would encounter increasingly troublesome ghost cultivators. With such strong perception power, he would undoubtedly be able to handle their stealth attacks more composedly.

Chapter 290 Golden Spears and Iron Horses

The benefits were not merely in enhanced perception; even though Lu Ye currently could not access soul power, everyone possesses a soul, and its importance spans all aspects of life, cultivation, and battle.

With the increase in soul power, many things had consequently changed.

Back when Lu Ye was creating the large funnel spirit runes in the Soul Cleansing Pool, he had realized that his control over spirit force had reached a new level.

Originally, due to constant practice with spirit runes, his control over spirit force had already surpassed cultivators at the same level. Now, this foundation had seen a significant improvement.

With just a thought, the spirit force stimulated, and a fiery red glow surged on Lu Ye's hand, transforming into a ball of firelight.

Lu Ye gently tossed it, and the firelight immediately danced into the air, moving constantly. Another thought from Lu Ye and the firelight instantly turned into a stunningly beautiful firebird, trailing a long plume as it flew, leaving a trail of light in the air.

The Fire Phoenix Technique had finally normalized!

Lu Ye couldn't help but sigh with emotion. From the time he had learned this magic, the technique had been somewhat abnormal, turning the well-intended Fire Phoenix Technique into a fire quail. Even as his cultivation increased, this issue had remained unresolved, leading him to avoid using the technique unless absolutely necessary before reaching Spirit Stream Level 7, to avoid becoming a laughingstock.

Not until after reaching Level 7 did he learn the Fire Dragon Technique.

The Fire Phoenix began to distort again, transforming into a writhing fire dragon.

This was no longer just a simple technique. Even those magic cultivators at Spirit Stream Level 8-9 wouldn't be able to achieve such a feat.

This was a deeper form of fire control technique.

The spirit force slowly dissipated, and the fire dragon vanished.

Suddenly, Lu Ye remembered that he had always been dissatisfied with the power of his weapon control, mainly because he was unable to implement spirit runes on the artifact to enhance its lethality and speed.

Therefore, he had always wanted to enhance the spiritual artifact he controlled with spirit runes during usage, but the difficulty was immense. He had attempted this several times before, but each attempt had ended in failure.

Although he still had control over the detached spirit force, the degree of control had significantly dropped. Simple weapon control was not highly affected, but attempting to construct spirit runes at the same time seemed like a fantasy.

He had thought that achieving this might only be possible once his cultivation had advanced further.

Now, it seemed he might be able to try it sooner.

Thinking this, Lu Ye took a hiltless dagger from his storage sack, casually executed it, and the controlled weapon immediately turned into flowing light and swept away.

With a slight shift in his psyche, a flash of brilliance appeared on the hiltless dagger, bolstered by Move-Like-The-Wind, and its already fast speed surged unbelievably further.

Weapon control was already known for its speed, and with Move-Like-The-Wind enhancement, such velocity was beyond the reaction capabilities of ordinary Spirit Stream Level 8-9 cultivators, even if they were cultivators who had switched to cultivating Heaven Rank techniques, they might not be able to block this strike if caught off-guard.

The light on the hiltless dagger flashed again, Sharpness enhanced!

After a while, Lu Ye retracted his controlled weapon, feeling quite satisfied.

A weapon control capable of adding spirit runes had significantly increased its lethality, but there was only one downside: the duration it could be maintained was shortened.

The spirit force consumed by weapon control was stored in the spiritual artifact in advance. Whether it was Move-Like-The-Wind or Sharpness, both required consuming spirit force, resulting in an instant significant reduction in the spirit force stored in the weapon, naturally shortening the time it could be maintained.

This was not a big issue; killing an enemy often just needed a moment. Lu Ye did not need to engage in prolonged battles with the controlled weapon. If he ever encountered such a situation, Lu Ye would simply grasp his Boulder Mountain Saber and engage in melee combat.

It was possible to refine two more spiritual artifacts now.

Previously, the limit of Lu Ye's weapon control was not just two, but he felt that increasing the number would divide his attention, so he had not refined more.

But now, with a stronger psyche, his combat power would not be decreased by controlling two additional spiritual artifacts.

If one day he could reach Brother Li Baxian's level—the ability to form a thought and summon a hundred swords—then he could walk sideways across the Spirit Stream battlefield.

Yet, such a feat depended on talent, not merely on having a strong mind and psyche.

In the many years of the Spirit Stream battlefield, only Li Baxian had emerged.

Lu Ye had many controlled spiritual artifacts in his possession, including some Restriction Level 9 spirit artifacts captured from enemies. He selected two suitable ones, and while swallowing elixir pills to restore his spirit force, he slowly refined their restrictions.

Giant Armor was still meditating, Amber was in a deep sleep, and Yiyi showed no signs of activity—the courtyard was left only to Lu Ye.

He didn't find it boring, still cultivating and reading books every day.

Currently, his reading efficiency had improved over before, and his understanding of the knowledge within the books had become much more thorough—another benefit brought about by the enhanced soul power.

Time swiftly passed, and several days later.

While practicing his cultivation and studying ancient texts, Lu Ye suddenly felt a repelling force around him. He quickly closed the thick tome in his hands and stood up.

The Giant Armor beside him also stood up.

As the two walked shoulder to shoulder toward the outside, they had just reached the courtyard entrance when Jik Yan approached them, "Brother Yiye, Xianyuan City is about to shut down."

"I felt it."

Continuing forward, they soon joined up with Gu Canyang and others. The reason for this gathering was that, if they didn't stay together, they might get scattered when expelled from Xianyuan City and staying together would avoid unnecessary troubles when they left.

Everyone silently awaited, the repelling force growing stronger around them until it reached a certain limit, blurring and then distorting the view before everyone's eyes.

When everything stabilized, they found themselves in a wilderness.

Meanwhile, inside the City Lord's Residence of Xianyuan City, the City Lord, seated comfortably, listened as the Great Commander of the Xianyuan Guard stepped forward and reported, "City Lord, everyone has left."

The City Lord slightly lifted his hand and gently waved it, "Lift the restrictions."

"Yes!"

With that command relayed, the various restrictions around Xianyuan City began to lift, and the city trembled as significant transformations took place.

When Lu Ye and others were there, the city had shown signs of extreme dilapidation, but that was merely the facade of Xianyuan City.

As the major restrictions were lifted, ripple-like waves spread out, and the true Xianyuan City slowly emerged.

Rows of dilapidated houses vanished, replaced by robust defense lines filled with formations and large offensive and defensive spirit treasures. Each of these items would be considered invaluable in the Nine Provinces, but in Xianyuan City, they were commonplace.

The soul mist from the Soul Cleansing Pool churned, and strong Spiritual Bodies kept emerging, half dressed as Xianyuan Guards and the other half as original residents of Xianyuan City.

Unlike the Spiritual Bodies Lu Ye and others had encountered earlier, each of these beings was at least in the Cloud River Realm, and countless were in the True Lake and Divine Sea, forming a force unmatched by any sect in the Nine Provinces, not even those long-standing 1st grade sects.

Emerging from the Soul Cleansing Pool, they looked solemn and brimming with fighting spirit because they knew, war was about to commence again—a war that had been ongoing for countless years.

If Lu Ye stood here, he would surely recognize some of the Xianyuan Guards that he had once defeated.

No one knew that the Xianyuan Guards never really died; even if their Spiritual Bodies disintegrated under attack, as long as the Soul Cleansing Pool existed, they could always emerge from it again. This was because all their soul seals remained in the Soul Cleansing Pool. Unless the soul seals were destroyed, the Spiritual Bodies would never perish.

Thus, the Soul Cleansing Pool was the foundation of Xianyuan City, and not just Xianyuan City, but many other Boundless Mirage Realms as well.

In the gambling den, Liu Sanbao's eyes momentarily cleared as he briskly strode out, his plump body soaring towards the City Lord's Residence.

In the brothel, Pipa Girl, holding her pipa, walked onto the street with a deep and distant expression.

In the literary academy, a scholar put down his half-written article, shaking his head with a sigh, "The world is heartless, using all beings as sacrificial dogs!"

In the butcher's shop, the Butcher sharpened his knife.

At the street corner, the blind fortune-teller tossed Copper Coins and after a brief divination, lamented continuously, "A disaster of bloodshed."

The capabilities shown by these five minion spirits, once under Lu Ye's command, were far beyond those of the Spirit Stream Realm; each was clearly a strong cultivator of the Divine Sea Realm.

The strength they had previously shown was merely a facade, or perhaps an effect of being suppressed by restrictions.

In Xianyuan City, only two were unaffected by these restrictions, the City Lord and the red-robed woman.

This was also why the City Lord told Lu Ye that the Spiritual Bodies of Xianyuan City could not leave—the issue was not whether Lu Ye could take them away, even if he successfully did so, Amber, with her current strength, would not be able to sustain such strong minion spirits. The only outcome would be their bodies exploding upon leaving Xianyuan City.

Within just the duration of one incense stick, the dilapidated and bleak Xianyuan City transformed; now the defense lines were filled with Spiritual Bodies, and the entire city was enveloped in an atmosphere of stern killing, with the stirrings of warfare abounding.

The Spiritual Bodies greedily sensed their surroundings, relishing the long-absent scent of living beings left behind by the cultivators who had been active within Xianyuan City. This scent, unperceived by ordinary beings and even Yiyi, who was also a Spiritual Body, was all too clear for those who had abandoned their physical forms and battled here for countless years. This scent.

It was precisely this scent of the living that had sustained their spiritual intelligence over so many years, without which, after enduring the countless wars and 'deaths', the Spiritual Bodies would have succumbed to the endless torment and become mindless beings of slaughter, irrespective of their strength.

This was also the reason why the Boundless Mirage Realm occasionally appeared in the Spirit Stream battlefield and various locations across the Nine Provinces. It was not only Xianyuan City, but all the Boundless Mirage Realms needed the presence of the living to dilute the pervasive gloom.

Within the City Lord's Residence, the City Lord sat with closed eyes, flanked on his left and right by the Great Commander of the Xianyuan Guard and the red-robed woman holding a white cat.

The former commanded all the Xianyuan Guards, and the latter commanded all other Spiritual Bodies beyond the Xianyuan Guards.

Suddenly, the City Lord opened his eyes, his piercing gaze seemed to penetrate the void as he looked above the city and called out softly, "Activate the formation!"