

Humanity 311

Chapter 311 I Am Exceptionally Gifted

Yoo Xiao said he had a favor to ask, and Lu Ye knew immediately what he wanted to discuss.

Healing cultivators from Tianyan Sect were at a loss regarding the conditions of Giant Armor and Zhao Li. Just before, Yoo Xiao had been considering asking for more skilled healing cultivators from other sects, but now that Shui Yuan was on her way, there was no need to seek help elsewhere.

Across the Nine Provinces, there were some healing cultivators whose medical skills surpassed those of Shui Yuan, but they were all strong cultivators from the Divine Sea Realm, scattered throughout the provinces and serving as stabilizing forces within 1st grade sects. It would not be easy to persuade them to leave their posts.

Moreover, these individuals might not care about the life and death of two junior cultivators from the Spirit Stream Realm.

Therefore, even if Yoo Xiao tried to invite others, they would surely be inferior to Shui Yuan.

It could be said that in the Nine Provinces, apart from those Divine Sea Realm healing cultivators, no one surpassed the medical skills of Shui Yuan from the Righteous Blood Sect.

The Righteous Blood Sect's protective style was well known throughout the provinces, and if Shui Yuan were to be offended and refuse to treat Zhao Li, Tianyan Sect would have no grounds for complaints.

But as the sect master, Yoo Xiao could not just watch his disciple be poisoned to death, so he thought to ask Lu Ye to intercede on their behalf.

To Lu Ye, this was not a big deal. If Shui Yuan truly had the means to extract the psyche poison, treating one person or two would make no difference.

Lu Ye still needed to study the Array Path at Tianyan Sect headquarters, and with this favor, he could stay without any qualms.

Now, the only concern was whether his Second Senior Sister's medical skills could save Giant Armor and Zhao Li!

Lu Ye had heard clearly the conversation between that female healing cultivator and Yoo Xiao. Although the Second Senior Sister was highly skilled, the female healing cultivator had mentioned that this incident could not be resolved simply with advanced medical skills.

"Then, Young Friend Lu, please rest well. I'll make sure they keep what happened to you confidential. As for this incident, I will give Young Friend Lu a satisfactory resolution," Yoo Xiao said.

Yoo Xiao walked to the door to leave but suddenly paused, "There is one thing that this Sect Master is confused about, and I wonder if Young Friend Lu could enlighten me."

Lu Ye looked at him.

Yoo Xiao asked, "Young Friend Lu should also be poisoned, yet you show no symptoms. How is that possible?"

"Could it be that I have a unique talent that makes me immune to all poisons?"

Yoo Xiao chuckled and shook his head as he left, clearly not believing Lu Ye's absurd claim. In this world, nobody was immune to all poisons; even if someone were, they could only resist toxins aimed at the physical body, and not those targeting the psyche.

But what he didn't know was that in a sense, Lu Ye was indeed immune to all poisons.

The Talent Tree could completely burn away even something as hidden as pill poison, so what were other toxins in comparison?

It was Lu Ye's first time learning about this effect of the Talent Tree, but he faintly realized that burning those toxins had consumed quite a bit of the stored fuel in the Talent Tree.

Once that fuel was exhausted, he would need to use the Talent Tree to absorb Earth's Core Fire again.

However, this was not an urgent matter. It was not that he didn't want to possess more spirit runes; rather, he needed to accumulate merit. Previously, the accumulation was for the purpose of purchasing a Heaven Rank technique, but now it was for another matter requiring a staggeringly large amount of merit, an amount daunting to any Spirit Stream Realm cultivator.

This was also why he was keen to seize the territories of others. Merit earned from killing enemies alone could not meet his needs, and even selling captured spoils to the Heaven's Augury treasure vault would not suffice.

The merit gained from taking over someone else's territory was substantial. Though such merit must be converted into sect merit via the Heaven's Augury Pillar when one returned to one's home base and disbursed as a monthly salary, the profits were incomparable to what one would gain from killing enemies.

Yet, returning to Yoo Xiao, the man indeed had a meticulous mind. Before leaving, he specially told Lu Ye that he would ensure that those in Tianyan Sect who knew of Lu Ye's condition would keep silent. It was evident he had realized something.

As soon as Lu Ye detected poison in the wine and food, he messaged Shui Yuan, his Second Senior Sister, for two reasons: first, because of her superior medical skills which might save lives and second, to use this opportunity to divert the attention of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge away from him.

Since leaving the Surreptitious Palace base, Ten Thousand Demons Ridge had been keeping a close watch on him, and he had been through multiple ambushes and assassination attempts en route. He had just arrived at the Tianyan Sect base when someone poisoned him, using a fierce toxin that even Tianyan Sect's healing cultivators could not handle.

The resolve of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge to kill him was intense!

If he truly "died" from this poisoning incident, it might reassure Ten Thousand Demons Ridge and shift their focus from him for a short while.

Simply spreading the news of Lu Ye's death by poison from Tianyan Sect might not convince Ten Thousand Demons Ridge, but if Shui Yuan were present, that would be a different story.

He had already explained his situation to his Second Senior Sister in his message, but unexpectedly, she had still brought the sect master along.

This warmed Lu Ye's heart.

Turning his head to look at the slumbering Giant Armor, Lu Ye's expression gradually grew solemn.

He himself was unscathed thanks to the protection of the Talent Tree, but the Giant Armor had been poisoned, and it was uncertain whether Second Senior Sister's skills could save it.

The Giant Armor had benefited from the Soul Cleansing Pool; if even it couldn't resist the mysterious poison, that spoke volumes about the potency of the toxin.

The one who had poisoned them in secret had been captured by the Tianyan Sect. When Lu Ye sensed the poison in the food and drink, he had entrusted Zhao Li with making arrangement. The poisoner had evidently not foreseen their downfall so soon, and was caught not long after their escape.

The Tianyan Sect showed no mercy to someone who pretended to be a disciple but was in fact a spy for the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge. After a bout of interrogation, they obtained remnants of the poison from the spy. The female healing cultivator carefully investigated and confirmed their earlier conjecture: the toxin primarily affected the psyche rather than causing severe physical harm, so both the Giant Armor and Zhao Li were physically unharmed at this point.

However, if they could not cure the poison in their psyches, both of them would surely die.

According to the spy, he was carrying the poison as a precaution without a specific plan to use it. But with Lu Ye's arrival at Tianyan Sect, and the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge's eagerness to kill him, they commanded the spy to strike.

While the interrogation was underway, outside the Tianyan Sect encampment, squads of varying numbers from the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators arrived. Initially, the arrivals weren't many, all from three nearby forces of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge, each deploying around two hundred people. However, in just half a day, their numbers soared, surpassing the thousand mark.

This news shook the Tianyan Sect headquarters.

Although Zhao Li had made preparations early on under Yooi Xiao's orders, even with the protective array in place, the defensive capability of an encampment is limited.

If the invading enemy's numbers were too great, even the sturdiest protective array couldn't withstand the assault, and the forces the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge had gathered already exceeded the limits of what Tianyan Sect could fend off.

Moreover, it seemed like more forces from various branches of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge were continuously arriving. Each time, the incoming forces weren't large, only a hundred or two each, clearly an amount a sect could deploy. But the problem was the multitude of sects involved in this affair, some even traveling from far distances to converge here.

This was unusual for the Spirit Stream battlefield because reinforcements from afar were easy targets for enemy ambushes en route.

The Tianyan Sect, of course, urgently sought assistance from allies in all directions, yet the forces nearby Alliance Sects could deploy were also extremely limited, given the enemy's overwhelming numbers, a hasty conflict seemed doomed to heavy losses. Yet, nobody could simply watch as Tianyan Sect's encampment fell.

In such circumstances, the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge forces audaciously launched an attack on the Tianyan Sect's encampment.

Even with forces from nearby Alliance Sects intervening and diverting some of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge's might, Tianyan Sect ultimately couldn't hold their own ground.

The big array was forcibly breached, and in the face of the tidal wave of advancing Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators, Tianyan Sect disciples could only retreat back to the Nine Provinces.

Suddenly, Tianyan Sect was enveloped in an atmosphere of sorrow—throughout its years, it had seen its encampment breached several times, but never had it felt so powerless, merely watching its protective array being whittled down without any means of resistance.

However, it was precisely because of this that Tianyan Sect had enough time to retreat its disciples back to the Nine Provinces, avoiding massive casualties, a silver lining in an otherwise unfortunate event.

For the moment, the disciples were safe and sound, but the encampment was lost, and the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge forces had not withdrawn, instead they brazenly remained onsite.

This was a silent warning from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge to the other sects of the Haotian Alliance: to harbor Lu Yiye from the Righteous Blood Sect would result in a similar fate.

In response, the Haotian Alliance was unwilling to concede. Governors from many sects contacted one another, preparing to assemble a counterattack.

But just as quickly, they ceased their aggressive stance, not for a lack of courage or resolve—after all, they were a tremendous force, all ready for a life-or-death battle.

The main reason was the restraint imposed by the elders of the great sects.

The occupation of the Tianyan Sect's encampment was a fact, and if the Haotian Alliance were to counterattack at this point, a large-scale battle would surely erupt, causing considerable losses for both the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge and the Haotian Alliance, an outcome the older generation of cultivators could not accept.

As a result, the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators occupying Tianyan Sect's encampment became increasingly arrogant and triumphant.

In the encampment of the Surreptitious Palace, upon hearing the news, Gu Canyang and Wey Li were shivering with fear. While they knew that the capture of Tianyan Sect's encampment was mainly because of Lu Ye's intention to study the Array Path at Tianyan Sect and the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge could not tolerate such a development, they still couldn't help but feel scared.

Had the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge carried out such an attack when Lu Ye was at the Surreptitious Palace, its encampment would undoubtedly have fallen too.

By forcefully occupying Tianyan Sect's encampment, the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge seemed to be avenging their previous humiliations, and what buoyed the spirits of their cultivators even more was the rumor that Lu Yiye of the Righteous Blood Sect had been severely poisoned and was on the brink of death.

For a time, all over the Spirit Stream battlefield, the mood of the sects of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge lifted, and they were moments away from celebrating with drum-beats and gongs.

Chapter 312 Is this thing useful?

A mere Spirit Stream Level 8 cultivator, to be feared so greatly by the vast Ten Thousand Demons Ridge camp, Lu Ye truly was in a league of his own when looking across history.

Just as anxiety and gloom had descended upon the entire Tianyan Sect, two special guests hurriedly arrived.

They were none other than the Righteous Blood Sect's Sect Master Thang Yifeng, and the Seal Envoy Shui Yuan.

In a grand hall, a Soul Nurturing Array was in operation. This Formation wasn't overly complicated, but simply setting it up was not enough; one must also place some treasures that nourish the psyche and cleanse the soul within the Formation for it to exhibit its soul-nurturing capabilities.

Treasures capable of nourishing the psyche were exceedingly precious, and even a power like the Tianyan Sect did not possess many, and the effects were not very impressive.

But in their current predicament, they had no choice but to use this Formation to alleviate the symptoms of Zhao Li and Giant Armor.

Within the Formation, two figures were settled in. Lu Ye sat cross-legged nearby, anxiously watching over Giant Armor's condition, while the Tianyan Sect's Great Elder Bai Qian also stood guard here, as he had set up the Formation and naturally wanted to ensure it was properly maintained. Apart from them, there were no others in the grand hall.

The dim candlelight flickered.

Bai Qian sighed, "I'll tell you, kid, if you're going to pretend, you might as well do it thoroughly so as to not allow others to see through your guise."

Lu Ye said, "Is Veteran Bai not confident in your Sect's people?"

"That's not the case. It's just that with so many eyes around, information tends to leak out unintentionally."

"So, Veteran Bai is not confident in his own array setup then."

"Nonsense," Bai Qian's beard bristled, and he said proudly, "I may not claim to be the strongest in the Nine Provinces, but currently, no one in the Nine Provinces is capable of peeping through the Formation to see what's happening here."

This short elder was actually a very kind person, but whenever it came to the topic of Formations, he would become extremely strict, especially regarding his own accomplishments in Formations; he had immense confidence.

If it weren't for the current crisis at the Tianyan Sect's headquarters, with Giant Armor and Zhao Li's lives hanging in the balance, Lu Ye would love to earnestly learn about the Array Path from the old man.

But given the current situation, he wasn't in the mood for it.

"Lie down quickly, someone's coming," Bai Qian suddenly shouted.

Lu Ye quickly lay down in the Soul Nurturing Array, closed his eyes, and stayed still.

The next moment, the tightly shut doors of the grand hall opened, and someone walked in. Yooi Xiao's voice could be heard, "Everyone is situated in the Soul Nurturing Array, and for the moment their lives are not in danger."

Immediately after, Lu Ye smelled a familiar scent, and then felt his wrist being grasped.

Lu Ye opened his eyes and saw Senior Sister Shui Yuan's face.

"Second Senior Sister."

"Don't move," Shui Yuan's frosty complexion softened somewhat. She held down Lu Ye, who was about to rise, and her gentle spirit force circulated within him, examining his condition.

The Sect Master stood behind Shui Yuan with a look of concealed worry on his face.

Although Lu Ye had communicated on the way there to inform them that he was unharmed, they were not at ease until Shui Yuan's examination was clear.

Shui Yuan examined him very carefully this time, and only after one incense stick's time did she let go of Lu Ye's wrist, then moved to Giant Armor's side to examine him after crouching down.

Lu Ye got up and bowed to the Sect Master, "Sect Master."

The Sect Master nodded slightly, "It's good you're unharmed." Since Shui Yuan had said nothing, it means that Lu Ye was truly unharmed.

Lu Ye felt somewhat ashamed, "Disciple has caused trouble for you."

The Sect Master raised his hand and gave him a tap, "Don't say it's no trouble. Even if you truly caused trouble, how does it matter? We old folks are here to shield you from the wind and rain. If you're afraid of trouble, why even bother with cultivation? In the future, so long as you don't carry guilt in your heart, act without hesitation."

"Yes."

Soon, Shui Yuan finished examining Giant Armor's condition and then went to check on Zhao Li.

After the time it took for one incense stick to burn, Shui Yuan stood up with her brows tightly furrowed, "It's indeed a poison that affects the psyche."

On her way here, Yooi Xiao had given her the remnants of the poison retrieved from the traitor, and combined with the current state of Giant Armor and Zhao Li, Shui Yuan had already formed some judgments.

"Is there a possibility of healing?" Yooi Xiao asked urgently.

"Healing is not a problem, the concern is whether they can withstand it."

"What do you mean?"

The healing cultivators from their Sect were powerless in this situation, but the fact that Shui Yuan had a plan upon arrival undoubtedly meant that her medical skills far surpassed those of the Tianyan Sect's healers. However, the implications of her words suggested that the treatment came with severe after-effects.

"Since it's a poison that affects the psyche, it has latched onto their psyches. I have a method to extract that poison from their psyches, but this process will cause tremendous damage to their psyches. Right now, they are only at the Spirit Stream Realm, and though they possess psyches, those are not resilient. If we really start treatment, their chances of survival are slim."

Listening at the side, Lu Ye's mood grew heavy.

This incident had started because of him, and the result was that, while he, the principal party, was unharmed, Giant Armor and Zhao Li were now in mortal danger.

Yooi Xiao frowned and said, "Does that mean there's no way to help them?"

"Unless they are given some treasures that can quickly enhance their soul power, perhaps they can survive this crisis."

"Treasures that enhance the soul..." Yooi Xiao's voice was bitter.

Such treasures that could rapidly enhance the soul were incredibly precious, not even available in the Heaven's Augury treasure vault. Had he possessed such things, he would have used them himself long ago; why would he have waited until now?

"Second Senior Sister." Lu Ye called out.

Shui Yuan turned her head and saw Lu Ye motioning to her; she hurried over, then was pulled aside by Lu Ye, who surreptitiously took out a jade vial from his storage sack and handed it to her: "Senior Sister, see if this can be of any use?"

Shui Yuan took the jade vial without much thought, as after all, Lu Ye was just a Spirit Stream Realm cultivator. Even if he had obtained something good recently, it might not be remarkable enough to catch her eye.

Casually opening the vial and sniffing it lightly at the tip of her nose, her expression turned doubtful the next moment. She glanced at Lu Ye and then at the contents of the vial, seemingly unsure about her own judgment.

"Sect Master." Shui Yuan called out.

The sect master walked over, and Shui Yuan handed him the jade vial: "You are experienced and knowledgeable, please take a look."

"You can't recognize it?" The sect master was somewhat surprised, took the vial, investigated briefly, and his hand holding the vial trembled involuntarily, his face showing astonishment: "This is..."

"Is it really that?" Shui Yuan looked at him.

The sect master nodded solemnly: "There should be no mistake." He looked at Lu Ye, "Where did you get this?"

Lu Ye, merely a Spirit Stream Realm cultivator who had been staying at the Spirit Stream battlefield, where did he find such a treasure that even Divine Sea Realm strong cultivators would envy?

"I previously entered Xianyuan City and obtained it from there."

Having just heard Shui Yuan mention that a treasure able to quickly strengthen the soul was needed for Giant Armor and Zhao Li to possibly be saved, he immediately thought of the Soul Cleansing Water.

He had also cleansed his psyche in the Soul Cleansing Pool and knew the benefits of the soul mist. The Soul Cleansing Water was a condensation of the soul mist and would surely have a great effect in strengthening the soul.

"Xianyuan City..." The sect master realized then, with his status and knowledge, he naturally knew that Xianyuan City was part of the Boundless Mirage Realm. If there was any way for a Spirit Stream Realm cultivator to obtain such treasures, it would only be from the Boundless Mirage Realm.

But with the Boundless Mirage Realm having opened so many times, not many cultivators had obtained Soul Cleansing Water from it. Although there were rumors of a few lucky cultivators bringing out a few drops, even a small amount was a tremendous opportunity.

Yet, Lu Ye took out a whole vial, which had at least thirty or forty drops. It was truly frightening.

"Is this useful?"

Lu Ye looked at Shui Yuan.

Shui Yuan nodded, "It's useful, but such a treasure..."

"Saving lives is what matters most." Lu Ye probably understood what his Second Senior Sister was about to say, he turned to look at the two lying there, "Giant Armor has extraordinary talent and is bound to achieve great things. I have decided to take him as a disciple in name for our sect, and when we return to Mount Ao later, he will be made an official disciple. He has been with me through life and death lately, and I can't ignore him, Brother Zhao suffered these hardships because of me. Senior Sister, if this thing really works, please feel free to use it."

The sect master nodded approvingly from the side: "It's rare for you to think this way. Shui Yuan, just carry out your junior brother's wishes."

"Yes!"

Yooi Xiao and Bai Qian looked at each other from a distance, scratching their chests and hearts in agony, for no other reason than they had overheard the conversation among the three from the Righteous Blood Sect. Not that they were eavesdropping on purpose, but as the conversation wasn't hidden from them, they caught the gist of it.

A treasure that could even move the Righteous Blood Sect's sect master wasn't common in this world. Considering the situation and the mention of Xianyuan City, what Lu Ye had brought out was self-evident.

Under normal circumstances, their hearts would tremble at the sight of such a treasure, and they couldn't help desiring it, but right now, they dared not harbor any unusual thoughts.

Not to mention they were all part of the Haotian Alliance, but the Tianyan Sect and the Righteous Blood Sect had some connections too. On top of that, Lu Ye was willing to use such a precious item to heal Zhao Li, which was not an act just any person could muster.

So even though they guessed what Lu Ye had brought out, they pretended as if nothing had happened.

"Sect Master Yooi." Shui Yuan turned to Yooi Xiao, her gentle voice turning cold.

Ever since Lu Ye sent a message, she had been holding back a lot of anger on her way here, so how could she give Yooi Xiao any pleasantries?

Although the Tianyan Sect's camp was occupied because of this incident, the fact that Lu Ye was poisoned there was indisputable. She wasn't interested in the specific reasons; she only looked at the consequences and had always been protective.

"Senior Sister Shui, please give me your instructions," Yooi Xiao replied politely.

"I need some medicinal ingredients, prepared within a Shichen."

Shui Yuan took out a jade slip, imprinted information into it with her spirit force, and handed it to Yooi Xiao.

"I'll handle it myself."

Lu Ye had brought out such a treasure for saving people, so how could the Tianyan Sect not fully cooperate? The occupation of their camp was indeed a huge loss, but it wasn't reasonable to blame Lu Ye. After all, Zhao Li had invited him to come.

Moreover, Lu Ye himself had not anticipated that his mere visit to the Tianyan Sect's camp would spark such chaos.

Putting aside these messy issues for the moment, the priority was to save lives.

Furthermore, if they could indeed save the injured this time, Zhao Li would turn misfortune into fortune. This disciple already had commendable talents, and his achievements in the future might exceed expectations, which was clear in Yooi Xiao's mind.

Chapter 313 Return My Junior Brother's Life

After Yooi Xiao left, Shui Yuan took out a small medicinal furnace and then fetched many precious medicinal materials. After a busy session, she crushed those materials into a green medicinal solution, with Lu Ye helping her on the side.

Lu Ye was not familiar with the medicinal theory, but he could still do some simple tasks.

"After this, come back with me and stay at sect headquarters for a while, to avoid the limelight," she suggested.

Lu Ye did not respond.

Shui Yuan paused her movements, then stared at him intently.

Honestly, when Second Senior Sister was kind to someone, she was genuinely kind. During the time at the Righteous Blood Sect, Lu Ye was cared for meticulously by her. However, it was exactly this usually gentle person who was now looking at him coldly, and it made Lu Ye somewhat panicked.

"Speak."

Having no choice, Lu Ye thought for a moment and said, "Senior Sister, since those from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge are already targeting me, merely avoiding the limelight won't help unless I never go to the Spirit Stream battlefield, or stay hidden within my residence all the time. But that's not realistic. I'm already at Level 8 cultivation, and it's against the rules to always stay in the outer circle."

"That's why I called you back to the sect headquarters."

"Senior Sister, here's what I'm thinking," Lu Ye leaned closer and murmured in Shui Yuan's ear, sharing his original plan with her.

Shui Yuan initially listened with some impatience, but her expression softened after a moment, grasping Lu Ye's intention, "So, you're thinking of faking your death?"

"Exactly. Right now, those from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge should know I'm afflicted with severe poison, and it's no secret that you and the sect master have come to the Tianyan Sect. My life is hanging by a thread and I won't last many days. You and the sect master are perfectly timed to collect my dead body."

Shui Yuan slightly frowned, disliking the way he phrased it.

"This way, Ten Thousand Demons Ridge won't keep an eye on me anymore, and I can study the Array Path here to enhance my mastery in it."

"Your idea is quite good." The sect master at the side nodded slightly and wanted to offer another opinion, but after getting a glare from Shui Yuan, he immediately held his tongue.

The old man Bai Qian, lacking any tact, chimed in, "If Young Friend Lu wants to study the Array Path, this old man will gladly teach him. The Tianyan Sect also has the Hundred Arrays Pagoda; you could try your hand at it."

"That's exactly my intention," Lu Ye quickly agreed, "Senior Sister, what do you think? Is it feasible?"

Shui Yuan thought for a moment, then said, "It could work, but whether you're alive or dead can be discovered by those linked to your battlefield marking."

"That's not a problem. The seals in my battlefield marking are either from sect disciples or various governors. I'll inform them in advance, so there won't be any leaks."

"If you've thought everything through, why bother asking me?" Shui Yuan said a bit irritably.

"Thank you, Senior Sister. However, I'll still need you and the sect master to put on a show when the time comes."

Having his disciple with the highest aptitude poisoned to death at the Tianyan Sect would definitely make Shui Yuan and the sect master genuinely grief-stricken. It would all come down to their acting at that time.

Everything was arranged properly, and soon Yooi Xiao also gathered the necessary medicinal materials for Shui Yuan.

Two hours later, Shui Yuan began to treat Zhao Li's injuries.

The reason she treated Zhao Li first was because his condition was more severe. Giant Armor had benefitted from the Soul Cleansing Pool, his psyche being much more resilient than Zhao Li's, and temporarily ignoring him wouldn't be problematic.

The treatment process was somewhat indescribable. Shui Yuan continually mixed various medicinal syrups, then fed them to Zhao Li and used her own methods to extract the toxins from Zhao Li's psyche.

Even in his unconscious state, Zhao Li's body trembled violently, with moans issuing from his mouth, his clothes soaked with sweat again and again.

One could imagine how excruciating the treatment process would be if he were awake.

Four hours later, the medical treatment finally came to an end. Yooi Xiao and Bai Qian looked on with concern. Zhao Li was not dead at the moment, but it was clear that his vitality had significantly weakened, evidently, this method of treatment had taken a heavy toll on him.

"I haven't reached the Divine Sea, so some techniques were difficult to use, and there might still be some residual poison. Whether he can wake up depends on his own fate now," Shui Yuan commented.

"Thank you, Senior Sister Shui," Yooi Xiao expressed his gratitude, knowing that Shui Yuan had done her best. After all, Shui Yuan was only at True Lake Level 9, and the fact that she could treat injuries related to the psyche was a testament to her exceptional medical skills, far beyond what ordinary healing cultivators could achieve.

After resting for half a day, Shui Yuan proceeded to treat Giant Armor in the same manner.

She was surprised to find that treating Giant Armor was much less difficult than treating Zhao Li, and throughout the treatment, Giant Armor showed no reaction, as if he were simply asleep.

After the treatment was over, he even began snoring, which made Shui Yuan somewhat uncertain for a moment. She doubted whether she had made a mistake and checked carefully again. After confirming there was nothing seriously wrong with Giant Armor, she finally relaxed. Recalling Lu Ye's earlier assessment of Giant Armor, Shui Yuan realized that this hefty fellow indeed had some exceptional talents.

After a brief rest, Shui Yuan walked over to Lu Ye and handed him the jade vial containing the Soul Cleansing Water.

She hadn't used more than a few drops of the Soul Cleansing Water for treating Giant Armor and Zhao Li; Shui Yuan had used a total of just five drops. Such a treasure was extremely precious, and Shui Yuan was careful to conserve it.

"I still have some, Senior Sister, keep it," Lu Ye pushed it back.

Shui Yuan grabbed his hand and slapped the jade vial into his palm, "This thing is very precious. Once you reach the True Lake Realm, you can use it slowly. Strong soul power helps greatly in advancing to the Divine Sea Realm..." At this point, Shui Yuan's eyelid twitched because she saw several more vials suddenly appear in Lu Ye's hand.

"This..."

"I really do have more. Take this vial back as a token of my respect for you and the sect master. Let me know if it's not enough later on."

Shui Yuan's expression became blank. She was used to seeing the big picture, but she had never seen so much Soul Cleansing Water. Lu said he got it from Xianyuan City. Was there so much Soul Cleansing Water in Xianyuan City? Others brought it out drop by drop, so why did it come in bottles for their junior brother?

"Then I'll keep it."

After calming her complex emotions, Shui Yuan turned and walked towards Yooi Xiao, "Sect Master Yooi, let's begin then."

"?" Yooi Xiao looked at her blankly, not understanding what she was talking about.

Shui Yuan's tone had become frosty, like a cold wind from the deepest hell, and even her eyes began to turn purple, "My junior brother came to visit Tianyan Sect and ended up murdered by villains. Sect Master Yooi, don't you think you owe me an explanation?"

Yooi Xiao was completely confused and turned to look at Lu Ye, who appeared refreshed and vigorous beside him.

"Senior Sister Shui, are you misunderstanding something? Young Friend Lu he..."

"It looks like Sect Master Yooi is not prepared to explain anything!" As her words fell, her slender body suddenly grew taller, and even her hair lengthened. The somewhat loose clothing she wore immediately became tight, outlining her curvaceous figure.

Murderous intent filled the air, and as her hair flew about, Shui Yuan raised her hand and grasped a battle scythe.

"Boom!" The sealed doors of the grand hall shattered, and Yooi Xiao flew out backwards, his face showing terror. The moment Shui Yuan moved, he almost thought he was going to die!

It was then understood that this well-known healing cultivator from Righteous Blood Sect possessed such astonishing combat capability.

A mournful and indignant cry rang out across the whole Tianyan Sect: "Give me back my junior brother's life!"

That day, Shui Yuan from the Righteous Blood Sect, due to her disciple Lu Ye's poisoning, created a huge disturbance in Tianyan Sect and fought alone against five big-sect True Lake Realm cultivators. The aftermath of the battle destroyed dozens of buildings and injured many disciples.

Luckily, Thang Yifeng, the sect master of Righteous Blood Sect, who was reasonable, stepped in to stop it, and thus the situation finally calmed down.

Yet, the furious and resentful Shui Yuan entered the Spirit Stream battlefield through the heaven's augury pillar of the sect headquarters of Tianyan Sect.

Ever since it was captured, the location was occupied by numerous Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators, who strutted around proudly.

When Shui Yuan intruded, a group of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators were baffled, and under the swings of her exaggeratedly large battle scythe, none could withstand a single blow!

Despite the punishment of Soul-Destroying Divine Lightning, Shui Yuan killed dozens of people in a row in the Tianyan Sect's station, striking fear into the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators, and when she withdrew, thousands of cultivators dared not block her path.

News spread, and the world was shocked!

It was the second time!

The Seal Envoy of Righteous Blood Sect had invaded the Spirit Stream battlefield like this for the second time. The previous occasion could be justified since the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge side first broke the rules, but this time? This time, although the methods of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge were somewhat despicable, they acted within the rules. As foes, naturally, they utilized every possibility within the rules.

On what grounds?

Just because her disciple was poisoned?

This was completely unreasonable. Hadn't Lu Yiye killed many lately? If everyone acted like this in the future, wouldn't the Spirit Stream battlefield become chaotic, leading those with lower cultivation levels to struggle for survival?

For a time, many accusations and criticisms came from the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge side, but that was it.

Shui Yuan could act so recklessly because she had special means to neutralize the punishment of the Soul-Destroying Divine Lightning. Indeed, if the strong ones from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge lowered their cultivation and invaded the Spirit Stream battlefield to bully the weak, they really didn't have the nerve to do so.

The Sect Master of Righteous Blood Sect was different.

According to rumors, since the headquarters of Tianyan Sect left, Thang Yifeng, that old fox went directly into Leizhou, which borders Wuzhou.

Luckily, the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge side was prepared and several Divine Sea Realm strong cultivators joined forces to drive Thang Yifeng out, preventing him from causing damage to the sects of Leizhou.

It wasn't because the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge side could foresee the future; rather, there were precedents. After the battle at Golden Light Peak, Thang Yifeng had invaded Yunzhou and single-handedly demolished three large sects of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge, causing them heavy losses.

Righteous Blood Sect had gone to extremes in defending its own, and after Lu Ye was poisoned, how could the strong ones of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge not be on guard?

Chapter 314 Cry for Me

...

Just as expected, Thang Yifeng invaded Leizhou, and although the strong cultivators of Ten Thousand Demons Ridge managed to repel him, it was clear he had no intention of stopping there. He lingered at the border of Leizhou and Wuzhou, seeking an opportunity.

This gave the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge side an extreme headache. There's a saying that goes, "A thief can only be effective for a thousand days, but no one can defend against one for as long."

In particular, a strong cultivator like Thang Yifeng, once he shamelessly started resorting to all sorts of underhanded tactics, there truly wasn't much that Ten Thousand Demons Ridge could do, unless they could figure out a way to surround and kill him once and for all.

But what kind of man was Thang Yifeng? Describing him as cunning and sly was an understatement by several levels; trying to ensnare him was nothing short of a fool's dream.

While the sect master of the Righteous Blood Sect caused trouble in Leizhou alone, the core circle of the Spirit Stream battlefield also became lively.

Li Baxian stirred up trouble.

There is a fair and impartial ranking on the Spirit Stream battlefield, known as the Spirit Stream Ranking, which is the most authoritative as it contains no human interference. This list is generated automatically by Heaven's Augury, based on the strength cultivators display in battles against their enemies.

This ranking changes frequently because after cultivators reach the pinnacle of the Spirit Stream Realm, it is unlikely they will stay in that realm for long. At most, they would accumulate experience for a while, and when the opportunity arises, choose to advance to Cloud River.

Previously, Li Baxian ranked tenth on the list, the only one listed in the 8th Heaven level, while all others were of Level 9.

But now he had risen to third place, which was not only due to others advancing to Cloud River but also because he had never revealed his true strength in front of others before.

After a fierce battle with Yanh Xing, who ranked second on the list, Li Baxian could no longer hide his true strength.

Now looking at the top three spots on the Spirit Stream Ranking, the geniuses of the major sects on the Spirit Stream battlefield expressed their grievances. They were having a hard time.

These three 'honorable men' had been immersed in this realm for over a decade; how could those rising stars compare with their deep foundations?

It is said that there are benefits to being ranked on the Spirit Stream Ranking, dispensed by Heaven's Augury itself—tangible and real benefits. What exactly these benefits are isn't clear because they seem to differ from person to person, but one can be certain that the higher the rank, the greater the rewards.

However, since these three had occupied the top spots for three years, even though their rankings were high, they had not received any of the rewards anymore.

It appeared that even Heaven's Augury could no longer bear them occupying those spots year after year, treating the trio as if they didn't exist at all. When it was time to bestow blessings, they were simply ignored.

Besides the Spirit Stream Ranking, there are other lists that cultivators established among themselves, such as the Hidden Dragon Ranking, Spirit Stream Beauty Ranking, and so on.

Among these was the Idle Clouds and Wild Cranes Ranking, rating powerful cultivators based on their recent number of enemy kills, frequency of battles, and the threat level to other cultivators.

Prior to the Golden Light Peak battle, the top of the Idle Clouds and Wild Cranes Ranking was Li Baxian. And he had held that position for many years, unchallenged by anyone.

Because he was enough of a recluse, spending days on end stationed at the Loyal Heart Sect's base, like a shy young maiden who never ventured outside. Ostensibly, he was the Deputy Governor of the Loyal Heart Sect, but even the sect's disciples rarely saw him.

However, after the battle at Golden Light Peak, this perennial chart-topper saw his ranking plummet, at one point even falling to the bottom of the list.

Until this time, the Idle Clouds and Wild Cranes Ranking boldly removed his name.

Because he turned the core circle into a complete mess, Li Baxian was now like a robust man who hadn't seen a woman in decades—energetic every day, attacking those Lone Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators. With his third-place strength on the Spirit Stream Ranking, who among those in the core circle could stand as his match? This had already sparked several major battles.

Such a belligerent individual, naturally, had no place on the Idle Clouds and Wild Cranes Ranking anymore.

However, to be fair, all those years with Li Baxian and Feng Yuechan stationed at the Loyal Heart Sect's base, the place was as secure as a fortress, invulnerable to any provocations.

The change in Li Baxian was obviously due to Lu Yiye being poisoned, a fact that was clear to everyone.

At the Righteous Blood Sect's base, the door of the training room opened, and Hua Ci, who had been in closed-door cultivation for several days, walked out, stretching her body.

Ruan Lingyu was waiting outside for her.

Seeing Lingyu, Hua Ci curiously asked, "Why are you here?"

Lingyu stepped forward, took Hua Ci's hand, and said seriously, "Sister Hua Ci, I have something to tell you, and you must not get too agitated."

Hua Ci tilted her head.

Ruan Lingyu looked around, then whispered into Hua Ci's ear, "Lu Ye... he's been poisoned to death."

Hua Ci's body suddenly stiffened; Ruan Lingyu felt her hands turn icy cold and, knowing this was bad news, quickly added, "It's a fake death. Lu Ye is actually alright. I've asked Second Senior Sister, and she said that Ten Thousand Demons Ridge is currently watching Lu Ye, so he used this method to temporarily get out of their sight. Then Second Senior Sister said that our base is now full of people and it's crowded with eyes, and you must not expose yourself."

The reason she had been waiting there this whole time was to inform Hua Ci of this news firsthand, to avoid Hua Ci learning about it from someone else and not being able to handle it, potentially revealing something in the process.

...

Upon hearing Ruan Lingyu's words, Hua Ci felt her emotions violently surge, and she raised her hand to touch her battlefield marking. Sure enough, Lu Ye's imprint had not disappeared. Still uneasy, she sent out a message and only after receiving a reply did she feel at ease.

On the surface, however, she appeared calm and composed, even though her body suddenly went limp and she fell to the ground, her eyes instantly reddening as tears flowed from her eyes.

"Sister Hua Ci!" Ruan Lingyu was horrified. She had already said that Lu Ye was only pretending to be dead, so why was the reaction still so intense?

If Lu Ye had been there, he would have praised Hua Ci for her excellent acting.

Half a day later, in a secluded area of the Righteous Blood Sect's grounds, Hua Ci led some of the core members of the sect to gather there.

Burning joss paper money...

A raging fire burned as Hua Ci tossed paper money into it while silently shedding tears.

Chen Yu, Kong Niu, Guk Yang, He Xiyang, Zhu Wenbo, Yinn Haoran, Luo Qisheng, one by one, they were all called here, their expressions incredibly odd.

They had all been notified in advance that Lu Ye was not actually dead, yet here was Hua Ci, crying with swollen eyes, leaving them unsure whether Lu Ye had died or not.

"Everyone, cry for me!" Hua Ci softly ordered while burning paper money.

Several people looked at each other, and Chen Yu was the first to start weeping loudly, "Oh, how tragically you have fallen, my fifth junior brother!"

Cries and sobs rose and fell in waves, as Guk Yang cried while burning paper money and chant loudly, "May your soul return, may your soul return..."

He Xiyang really wanted to laugh, but then Hua Ci glared at her.

"Whimper, whimper, whimper..." He Xiyang immediately caved, rubbing her eyes and looking the picture of sorrow.

From a distance, Phong Yue watched the scene, unable to suppress a cheer. What goes around comes around; good and evil will always be repaid!

Ever since she was kidnapped by Lu Ye, who then tricked her out of thousands of merits, Phong Yue had stayed with the Righteous Blood Sect. She couldn't go back to the Phong family; having lost its territory on her watch, she, as a Deputy Governor, bore a great responsibility. If she returned to the Phong family, even if she wasn't executed, her ultimate fate would be to marry into another cultivator family as a political tool, with no future to speak of.

This was a consequence she could never accept. After all, she had been a Deputy Governor; how could she just give up?

Staying with the Righteous Blood Sect, despite having no title or status, her position as a healing cultivator meant that the sect's members treated her quite well. The resources distributed by the sect never fell short for her, and over the days, her strength improved.

The only issue that troubled her was her lack of merits. She was now at Level 8 of cultivation, about to reach Level 9, but without sufficient merits, she could not buy any Heaven Rank techniques.

Thinking about the four thousand merits she had donated made Phong Yue feel wronged; those were what she had saved to buy Cultivation Techniques with...

Fortunately, that detestable Lu Yiye had been poisoned to death. With Hua Ci in charge of the Righteous Blood Sect, Phong Yue's mood brightened considerably.

In Wuzhou, at the Tianyan Sect headquarters, a heavy gloom hung in the air, and the atmosphere was grave.

The occupation of their territory had caused the Tianyan Sect great losses. Though the Ten Thousand Demons Ridge cultivators had withdrawn after Shui Yuan's disruptive incursion, rebuilding the territory was not a simple matter. At the very least, they needed to gather enough merits to establish a protective array before they could consider other matters.

Furthermore, to guard against any ambushes from Ten Thousand Demons Ridge, the Tianyan Sect currently prohibited its disciples from entering the Spirit Stream battlefield.

Even the sect's big array had been activated, isolating the inside from the outside. The Tianyan Sect was now in complete lockdown; outsiders couldn't enter, insiders couldn't leave, and not even messages could get through.

This obviously had to do with the Seal Envoy of the Righteous Blood Sect making a scene. This led to Tianyan Sect's resentment towards the Righteous Blood Sect.

The poisoning and killing of Lu Yiye was not what they wanted to see either; the Righteous Blood Sect's Seal Envoy had made quite an unreasonable fuss in their territory.

It was said that the fight resulted in injuries to the Great Elder Bai Qian, who was now in a state of quiet recuperation.

In Bai Qian's residence, Lu Ye, Giant Armor, and Zhao Li were all arranged to stay there.

After Shui Yuan's treatment, both Giant Armor and Zhao Li had woken up, Giant Armor with no serious problems and Zhao Li very weak. However, waking up meant he was out of danger. The female healing cultivator from the True Lake Realm had checked Zhao Li thoroughly and confirmed there was no remaining poison in his body. His current weakness was only a side effect of the way Shui Yuan had healed him, indicating he would be fine after some rest.

This allowed Yooi Xiao and the others to finally relax.

Inside the library, Lu Ye ended his communication with Second Senior Sister and let his thoughts drift.

The situation had developed completely differently from his original plan.

He had previously told Second Senior Sister to act out a play alongside the sect master, thinking a display of grief would suffice. But who could have known that Second Senior Sister would actually attack Yooi Xiao? Seeing Yooi Xiao's reaction at that time, he was clearly confused, getting into a fight with Second Senior Sister without knowing what hit him.

Chapter 315 Swallowing Moonlight

Yooi Xiao's reaction was extremely quick. Although Shui Yuan did not inform him in advance, as soon as Shui Yuan shouted "Return my junior brother's life!", Yooi Xiao discerned Shui Yuan's intention and strangely cooperated with her in an act. The subsequent four True Lake Realm cultivators who arrived were genuinely uninformed, which made the battle fiercely convincing.

The matter did not end there; clearly unable to quell the anger in her heart after the "much respected" sect master mediated, Shui Yuan once again plunged into the Spirit Stream battlefield...

Her actions were one thing, but the sect master went even further, venturing into Leizhou, which, mind you, is Ten Thousand Demons Ridge's domain.

Fourth senior brother also became active on the Spirit Stream battlefield.

At the moment, Shui Yuan has returned to the headquarters of Righteous Blood Sect, and the sect master is also on his way back; there was nothing to be done as the defenses in Leizhou were impenetrable. The sect master truly could not find a good opportunity. Plus, the Alliance Hierarchy of the Haotian Alliance personally messaged the sect master, asking him to calm his anger and not to take risks alone.

The sect master then seized the chance to gracefully withdraw from Leizhou.

As for the fourth senior brother... The Loyal Heart Sect gave him a thorough reprimand and then grounded him at his station, forbidding him from leaving without orders.

After several days of commotion, the matter of Lu Yiye from Righteous Blood Sect being poisoned finally began to slowly settle down.

In the grand scheme of the Nine Provinces cultivation world, Lu Ye was but a minor Spirit Stream Realm cultivator. Ten Thousand Demons Ridge was wary of him because of the array destruction capabilities he demonstrated. Now that he was dead, there was no need for Ten Thousand Demons Ridge to create further trouble.

However, from Lu Ye's perspective, recently, numerous Governors or Deputy Governors from different sects have been contacting him to inquire about his demise. Others may not know, but those who had mutually added him as a "friend" were aware of the situation.

This matter could not be hidden from these people, and seeing as all these Governors were pillars of their respective sects with clean reputations, they surely would not leak the information. Lu Ye did not explain too much, simply mentioning the dire necessity, and these smart individuals could approximately understand Lu Ye's meaning.

Lately, each of the big sects in the Nine Provinces has been investigating their disciples to prevent similar incidents from happening again. This investigation caused a significant loss of dark agents arranged by both parties, which can be considered a sequelae of this incident.

Another message came through the battlefield marking; Lu Ye checked it and saw it was from Hua Ci.

"Today is the seventh day after your death. What would you like? I'll burn it for you."

Lu Ye's face showed no expression as he shifted his gaze away and stood up, heading for Bai Qian's residence.

Having been invited to the Tianyan Sect's station this time, Lu Ye came specifically to delve deeper into the Array Path. Due to occupying the advantageous location of the Hundred Arrays Pagoda, many disciples of the Tianyan Sect specialize in array cultivation, although the level of their expertise varies greatly.

Within the entire Tianyan Sect, the one with the highest mastery in Array Path was undoubtedly Great Elder Bai Qian, a stature even Sect Master Yooi Xiao could not match. Therefore, Lu Ye had been learning Array Path from Bai Qian these past days.

Bai Qian taught without reservation, especially since Lu Ye had used such valuable treasures to treat Zhao Li. This allowed Lu Ye to gain enormously, improving his expertise in the Array Path by leaps and bounds.

The reason Lu Ye first learned Array Path with Bai Qian was because only by enhancing his skills in Array Path could he more easily challenge the Hundred Arrays Pagoda.

After some teachings, Bai Qian found that Lu Ye had an exceptional talent for Array Path. And considering Lu Ye's background as a spirit runes master, this was to be expected.

Array cultivators are somewhat a branch of spirit runes masters. Lu Ye had laid a solid foundation with Madam Yun, which naturally made his progress in Array Path even more efficient.

What caught Bai Qian's attention the most was Lu Ye's unimaginably sharp eye for array destruction; no matter the array, as long as he observed it for a while, he could find its flaws.

Such a skill is something every array cultivator dreams of, for to break an array, one first needs to find its flaws and key points. Without being able to do that, one should not even think of destroying an array.

Bai Qian initially thought this was due to Lu Ye's talent, but after a few days of observation, he found something off and voiced his doubts.

Lu Ye did not hide it from him, "Does Veteran Bai know of the Insight Spirit Runes?"

"Of course, I am aware." As a master of Array Path who also understood some spirit runes—albeit with a focus on formations—Bai Qian knew about the Insight Spirit Runes well, although he wasn't proficient in constructing them; succeeding even once in ten attempts was considered good.

Certain Spiritual Artifacts used for environment detection and enemy reconnaissance utilized these runes at their core.

"I have constructed the Insight Spirit Runes in my eyes, allowing me to appraise the reality and falsehoods of formations," Lu Ye admitted.

Staring at Lu Ye, Bai Qian seemed taken aback, as if he thought Lu Ye was joking.

However, recalling Lu Ye's performance in array destruction, he realized it was no joke; the young man before him had indeed constructed Insight Spirit Runes in his own eyes.

"I see," Bai Qian nodded slightly, filled with emotion: "The courage of the young to think and act is truly remarkable."

Constructing spirit runes within one's eyes was daring, indeed.

"Do not undertake such a thing frequently; if an accident were to occur, the consequences would be unimaginable," Bai Qian advised earnestly. Although Lu Ye was not a disciple of the Tianyan Sect, his exceptional talent displayed in Array Path over the past few days made Bai Qian, who revered talent, offer such advice—because to do so was truly too dangerous.

The danger of constructing Insight Spirit Runes within one's eyes was no less than constructing Spirit Energy Gathering Spirit Runes within the spiritual orifice.

Among the many spirit runes masters throughout history, generation after generation passed down their research; it wasn't possible that only Lu Ye was the smart one. Predecessor spirit runes masters also thought of constructing Spirit Energy Gathering Spirit Runes within the spiritual orifice to enhance cultivation efficiency, and similarly, they thought of constructing it within the eyes to peer into the secrets invisible to the naked eye.

But no one dared to do so, because no matter how outstanding a spirit runes master was, they could not guarantee that they would succeed in constructing spirit runes every time. Furthermore, the smaller the constructed spirit runes, the greater the difficulty, and if the construction were to fail by accident, the spirit force would surely rampage.

If such a scenario arose, it would mean a damaged spiritual orifice and blindness.

Therefore, this kind of conjecture essentially existed only in theory, with no one daring to put it into practice, not even Madam Yun, a spirit runes master of her caliber, as she also didn't have the assurance of certain success.

Lu Ye was different; activating the spirit runes carried by the Talent Tree had no possibility of failure, so he could be bold and reckless.

If the Insight Spirit Runes were something he had learned from books, he wouldn't dare to do it either.

He could feel Bai Qian's concern, but such matters couldn't be explained, and moreover, in these recent days, while following Bai Qian's cultivation of the Array Path, he had always first used his own ability to observe the weaknesses in the formations, and after making some judgments, he would then activate the Insight Spirit Runes to verify them. Sometimes his judgments were correct, and sometimes they were wrong, from which he could draw lessons to improve his experience in array destruction.

Having given his warning, whether Lu Ye would take it to heart was up to him. Bai Qian said no more but instead waved his hand, and a small flag appeared in his grip, "Today, let's talk about array banners and array bases..."

Lu Ye promptly sat upright in attention.

The days passed by, cultivating the Array Path during the day with Veteran Bai, and at night focusing on his own cultivation and studying the books he brought from Madam Yun to corroborate what he had learned.

Veteran Bai's place was extremely quiet since in the Tianyan Sect, his status was very high. Although he was not the Sect Master, even Yooi Xiao had to greet him with a disciple's courtesy, so Lu Ye and others hiding here went unnoticed.

Moreover, it was rumored that during the commotion caused by the Seal Envoy of the Righteous Blood Sect, Bai Qian had been injured by the aftereffects. Every day, the healing cultivators of the sect would come to treat Veteran Bai, so who would dare to disturb him at such a time?

As for Giant Armor, he sat in meditation and cultivated day and night. Although the cultivation environment here wasn't as good as that of the Spirit Stream battlefield, he didn't waste a moment.

Zhao Li's condition was also slowly improving, and the latent benefits of being treated with Soul Cleansing Water were gradually emerging. In these days, Zhao Li noticed some changes: his control over spirit force seemed to have strengthened, and his perception had significantly improved. This left him utterly puzzled, as he had narrowly escaped death; how could he have also gained a blessing in disguise?

However, every time he thought about the occupation of their territory, his heart ached unbearably. Regardless of the reason, the loss of the Tianyan Sect's territory had happened under his watch, and that was an undeniable fact.

One night, as Lu Ye was reading and cultivating, Yiyi suddenly fluttered in through the window, flustered and exclaiming, "Lu Ye, Lu Ye."

Lu Ye looked up at her.

Yiyi said, "Giant Armor and Amber are up to something, you should go take a look."

Moments later, following Yiyi, Lu Ye came to a protruding rock, below which was a pitch-dark cliff.

At this moment, the moon was high overhead, casting its cool, clear light.

On the rock ahead, both Giant Armor and Amber lay prone with their limbs on the ground, heads raised, sometimes looking up, sometimes bowing down. What was eerie was that visible moonlight was gathering above their heads, and with the inhalation and exhalation of the man and the beast, it was drawn into their bellies.

The moonlight was like a transparent ribbon of pure white, swaying gently. From a distance, it seemed as if a bridge of moonlight had been added between heaven and earth.

As Giant Armor and Amber breathed in and out, their bodies became adorned with a faint luminescence.

Lu Ye's eyebrows rose.

"Are they alright?" Yiyi asked.

"When did this start?"

"Just a few days ago."

Lu Ye usually spent his nights studying and cultivating, so he was unaware of what happened outside. However, Yiyi and Amber maintained an unbreakable bond, so if anything happened to Amber, Yiyi would be aware.

It started a few nights ago when Giant Armor would come here, and Amber would follow. Initially, Giant Armor simply meditated here. There was nothing too wrong, and Yiyi thought he was just bored in the house and wanted to change the environment.

But since three days ago, things started to seem a bit off.

For some reason, the normally statue-like, motionless Giant Armor meditating would toss and turn as if he couldn't find comfort in any position, going through many postures until finally settling into this strange one.

Amber followed suit and copied him.

At this point, the man and the beast periodically raised their heads to inhale and then bowed down to exhale, their movements incredibly synchronized. With their breathing, the luminescence on their bodies began to flicker erratically.

Chapter 316 - 314 Training Square

"Are they okay?" Yiyi was somewhat worried.

Although she hadn't felt anything abnormal from Amber, Amber's strength had even increased rapidly in the past few days, Yiyi's worries stemmed from this very unknown.

"Inhaling and exhaling the essence of the sun and the moon, is the instinct of a demon beast."

A voice suddenly came from the side.

Lu Ye and Yiyi hurriedly turned around and together they bowed, "Veteran Bai."

Bai Qian had unknowingly followed them, clearly sensing something unusual here.

"Does Veteran Bai mean that Giant Armor is a demon cultivator?"

Lu Ye thought of Giant Armor's strange "inner core." He had previously suspected whether Giant Armor was a demon cultivator, but evidence proved Giant Armor was human and had no connection to demon cultivators. Moreover, demon cultivators actually do not have inner cores, only demon beasts do.

After transforming into human form, demon cultivators' methods of cultivation are no different from those of the human race.

But now it seemed, his judgment might not have been very accurate.

"One of his ancestors must have been a demon cultivator, perhaps thereby inheriting some aspects of demon cultivator bloodline. However, the bloodline of demon cultivators becomes more diluted with each generation—it shouldn't show such signs of reverting to its original form."

Veteran Bai clearly was a bit puzzled too.

"However, Yiye my friend, your two companions are worth cultivating diligently. Although inhaling and exhaling the essence of the sun and the moon is the instinct of a demon beast, not all demon beasts possess such ability. Those who can cultivate themselves in this way are invariably exotic beasts with peculiar bloodlines, and their ancestors may have significant backgrounds," Veteran Bai remarked.

From these words of Veteran Bai, it was clear he held Giant Armor and Amber in high regard.

Amber, needless to say, aside from him, Lu Ye had not heard of any other tiger demon beast capable of transforming minion spirits, and his consumption of elixir pills for cultivation contained no side effects. Not only that, Amber could even directly consume Spirit Stones...

That was something even Lu Ye couldn't do.

Giant Armor was exceptionally talented by nature, and Lu Ye was very optimistic about his future. Now that he had revealed such unique abilities, perhaps it was as Veteran Bai had said, Giant Armor's ancestors really had significant backgrounds.

"But Veteran Bai, Giant Armor had never shown such talents before, why recently..."

Bai Qian chuckled, raised his hand, and tapped his head, "Don't forget, he was poisoned with a psyche toxin a few days ago and was unconscious for several days; perhaps it awakened something in him."

Lu Ye nodded; this indeed was an explanation.

"I'm old and lack the energy; I'll go rest now." Bai Qian turned and started for his dwelling, coughing lightly a few times.

Lu Ye chuckled inwardly, aware of the underlying message in his words, but chose not to pursue it, and said to Yiyi, "Let's see Veteran Bai off."

"Mhm," Yiyi quickly responded.

A moment later, Yiyi returned and stood beside Lu Ye, looking around and murmured softly, "Lu Ye, do you think Veteran Bai's words are right?"

"Which aspect?"

"Veteran Bai said that because Giant Armor was poisoned, he awakened something."

"If Veteran Bai said so, he naturally has his judgment."

"No wonder I've felt that Giant Armor has been acting strangely these days, he was already not much of a talker, but now he speaks even less, and seems more sluggish than before."

"Giant Armor is certainly not sluggish." Lu Ye raised his hand to tap on her head; Giant Armor might be simple, but that didn't mean he was stupid.

Yiyi held her head with both hands, pouting.

"Alright, don't worry about them." Lu Ye called out and returned to his own dwelling to continue reading and cultivating.

The Array Path is vast and profound; even someone like Veteran Bai couldn't claim to fully understand it. It's just like the Path of Spirit Runes, an endless field of study.

It was impossible for Lu Ye to completely master the nuances of the Array Path in a short time.

Luckily, Veteran Bai knew what Lu Ye wanted to do, so during these days, he mostly taught him the experiences of array destruction.

These experiences were all personal insights of Veteran Bai, not easily shared with others.

And Lu Ye's progress on the Array Path had undoubtedly pleased Veteran Bai, who had taught so many disciples over the years at the Tianyan Sect, yet never had anyone who grasped the concepts as quickly as Lu Ye did.

Sometimes Veteran Bai felt a sense of regret, thinking that if Lu Ye had been born into the Tianyan Sect, he could've brought great glory to the sect with his talent in the Array Path.

This was also one of the reasons why he had taught without reservation, as he couldn't bear to see such raw talent go to waste.

In the hurried months at Veteran Bai's dwelling, a voice arose, "I know your heart isn't set on the Array Path, studying it is merely to dismantle those protective arrays. With your current expertise, trying to challenge the Hundred Arrays Pagoda again should now be feasible. There's not much more I can teach you; however, the training in Array Path is endless. If you find free time in the future, you can still devote some thought to it."

"Yes," Lu Ye respectfully responded.

"Think tonight about what array banners you need to construct; tomorrow I'll take you to make them. Once everything is prepared, you can challenge the Hundred Arrays Pagoda."

When Lu Ye first heard about the Hundred Arrays Pagoda from Zhao Li, he thought he could directly challenge it, but as he learned under Veteran Bai over the month, he slowly realized that things were not as simple as he had thought.

While he could directly challenge it, it certainly wouldn't be efficient. If he had the appropriate array banners to assist him, both array destruction and array setup would be greatly improved.

"Thank you, Veteran Bai," Lu Ye said as he took out a jade vial from his storage sack and pushed it toward Veteran Bai, "Veteran Bai has not rejected teaching me over these days. As a disciple, I have nothing to repay you with; this is a small token of my appreciation, please do not refuse it."

The jade vial naturally contained Soul Cleansing Water, but it was not a full vial—rather, it contained eight drops.

This wasn't a whim of Lu Ye's. The sect master had instructed him to prepare this gift after learning that Veteran Bai was personally teaching Lu Ye. The quantity of eight drops had also been decided by the sect master.

Given that the Tianyan Sect had experts specialized in the Array Path, there was no need for Veteran Bai to personally teach Lu Ye—one from the Cloud River Realm would suffice.

Veteran Bai had stepped in partly because the Righteous Blood Sect had some connection with the Tianyan Sect and partly because Zhao Li had been saved by Shui Yuan's intervention.

But that wasn't the main reason.

The primary reason was that Lu Ye possessed Soul Cleansing Water.

It would not be appropriate for him to directly ask for it, nor proper to make any trade with Lu Ye, so he simply did his part first.

Lu Ye, having offered Soul Cleansing Water to save Zhao Li, clearly wasn't ungrateful. By diligently teaching him the Array Path, was there any doubt that Lu Ye would show his gratitude?

Being in the Spirit Stream Realm and wanting to thank someone in the Divine Sea Realm, the only thing he could offer was Soul Cleansing Water.

This was the covert plan of Bai Qian, and it was a perfectly reasonable thing to do.

After the sect master heard that it was indeed Bai Qian teaching Lu Ye, he immediately perceived his intentions, which was why he had instructed Lu Ye in advance.

That night, under Yiyi's guidance, Lu Ye had gone to watch Giant Armor and Amber absorb the essence of the moon for cultivation. Just before leaving, Bai Qian had casually mentioned something about being old and lacking energy, which Lu Ye wouldn't have thought much about if not for the sect master's prior instruction. Now he knew it was a hint from Bai Qian.

Though he was old, his cultivation was there to be seen; a few steps at night wouldn't exactly deplete his energy.

Looking at the jade vial in front of him, Bai Qian's heart skipped a beat, and he chuckled, "Well then, I shall not decline out of respect."

The next day, under Bai Qian's lead, Lu Ye and he went together to the Tianyan Sect's training square, a crucial area of the sect.

The training square was usually bustling with people, as Tianyan Sect disciples who had reached a certain level in their cultivation of the Array Path would customarily come here to craft their own array bases and array banners.

However, the place was deserted today; the normally busy training square was void of any visitors.

Naturally, this was Bai Qian's doing, mainly to prevent the news of Lu Ye still being alive from leaking.

Located at the base of a spirit mountaintop about a hundred yards underground, the training square was accessible directly through a wooden elevator, and as Bai Qian stood on it descending straight down, Lu Ye looked around and saw many interlocking gears.

This must be the work of a cover armorer.

The deeper they went, the hotter the environment became.

By the time they reached a hundred yards down, the environment around was harsh enough to make any ordinary person retreat.

The underground was carved out by the Tianyan Sect into various big and small spaces, from which waves of heat continuously emerged.

Following Bai Qian, the two walked to the very back of a cavern, arriving in front of a training platform.

This was a massive device three yards long and one yard wide, equipped with facilities for hammering weapon substrates and many differently shaped moulds embedded within it. From the shapes of those moulds, it was clear that this training platform could be used for more than just crafting array bases and array banners.

There were also many artifact-making tools placed beside it.

In front of the training platform was a furnace, beneath which more hot air surged up.

"Does the Tianyan Sect also refine Spiritual Artifacts?" Lu Ye looked at the shapes of the moulds on the training platform.

Bai Qian chuckled, "Disciples consume a lot during cultivation and always need some income to sustain themselves. Our sect has some Artifact Refiners, but the Spiritual Artifacts they make are not very high-grade, just sufficient to get by."

Saying so, he took off his robe and casually threw it to the side, revealing his muscular upper body.

Lu Ye's eyes twitched at the sight of this robust figure, recalling how Bai Qian had mentioned being out of energy the other night...

"Since you need to break arrays, let's craft an array banner for this purpose. I'll make one first; you carefully observe on the side," said Bai Qian, picking up an artifact-making hammer which didn't look very large but was clearly heavy. Yet, in Bai Qian's hands, it seemed as light as a feather.

"The so-called artifact crafting requires fire initially. Given that you are predominantly of the Fire Element and have cultivated a fire-type technique, you naturally have an innate advantage in this area. But what about those who don't have your conditions? They need to rely on external fire. Our sect's training square is located here because we have Earth Fire, which we draw in through an Array, allowing us to borrow its power," explained Bai Qian as he activated the Fire-Drawing Array arranged there. Soon, the cavern became even hotter, and visible Earth Fire surged from below, turning the furnace red-hot.

Looking at the Earth Fire, Lu Ye was moved; he could feel that his Talent Tree could absorb its power. He had also previously bought many portions of Earth's Core Fire from the Heaven's Augury treasure vault. The Earth Fire he was experiencing now felt very similar to Earth's Core Fire.

However, in terms of quality, the Earth Fire being manipulated by Bai Qian was much inferior to the Earth's Core Fire that Lu Ye had bought from Heaven's Augury treasure vault.

Chapter 317 Crafting the Array Banner

Lu Ye naturally wouldn't activate his Talent Tree here to draw power from the Earth Fire. After all, it would be quite inappropriate to do so when someone had kindly brought him here to forge array banners.

That would be like stealing someone's job.

The furnace quickly turned red-hot, and Veteran Bai tossed a metal ingot into it. At the same time, he tested Lu Ye, "What kind of materials do you generally choose for forging array banners and array bases?"

"You usually choose metals that are lightweight and sturdy, and at the same time, they must have a very high conductivity for spirit force. Beehive steel and black iron are the most commonly used materials. Additionally, if there is a need, demon beast hide can also be used to refine the banner surface..."

Lu Ye recounted the teachings of Bai Qian and spoke fluently.

Bai Qian nodded in satisfaction and asked a few more questions, to which Lu Ye quickly responded.

"Theory is, after all, just theory. Possessing this knowledge while also having the ability to apply it is crucial; otherwise, it will all just be armchair strategy."

The metal ingot that Veteran Bai had thrown into the furnace soon melted into a flowing liquid. With a surge of spirit force, he raised his hand and grabbed the glowing, scalding liquid, which under the control of his spirit force, started to reshape into the form of an array banner.

"Once you have sufficient control over your own spirit force, you can refine array banners without relying on external forces. If that's not the case, you can use molds," he said as he placed the searing liquid into a mold on the training platform, which was indeed for an array banner.

After letting it cool slightly, Veteran Bai took out the rough form of the array banner and began hammering it down with the hammer.

With every strike of the hammer, Lu Ye thought he heard a series of hammering sounds, but the many blows all merged together, making it difficult for him to distinguish between them.

"Whether it's forging array banners or Spiritual Artifacts, one needs to have strong control over their own strength. The primary reason why array banners and Spiritual Artifacts are effective is the restrictions imprinted within them. Without restrictions, no matter how precious the materials are, they are just empty shells. An exceptional Artifact Refiner can alter the inner structure of a Spiritual Artifact during the forging process, thus establishing those restrictions. Some Artifact Refiners can forge the weapon substrate from one material and establish the restrictions using another material; combining the two can enhance the power of the Spiritual Artifact. However, this requires a high level of skill, and I have no talent in this area, so I cannot do such a thing," Veteran Bai explained as he hammered away.

With each strike, the hammer vibrated violently, causing a dense sequence of sounds. With his Insight Spirit Runes enhancing his vision, Lu Ye could see more clearly. Indeed, as Bai Qian had said, each strike caused tiny changes within the substrate, forming a series of restrictions.

"That's why I say you, with your main element of the Five Elements being fire and having practiced a fire-type technique, have a natural advantage in the field of forging and refining. Once your skills

become profound in the future, you won't need any tools and can freely refine what you desire in the air. Many techniques can also be utilized at will. However, for now, your cultivation is too low; don't worry about these things and focus on solidifying your foundation," Veteran Bai instructed.

"Understood."

The constant clinking sound ensued, and in no more than the time it takes for an incense stick to burn, a small array banner just the size of a palm was completed.

An array banner is just a carrier; the key lies in the restrictions within it. Depending on the restrictions, an array banner can exhibit different functions. However, a single array banner is useless on its own. Various array banners working together are what allow for array setup and destruction.

After watching the entire process from start to finish, Lu Ye realized that forging an array banner itself wasn't difficult. In fact, if one had a mold, anyone could create a rough form of an array banner, even if not perfectly, it was the integration of restrictions within the array banner that was challenging.

This process was different from his use of spirit force to construct spirit runes. He had high control over his own spirit force, and even constructing spirit runes he learned from books was not too difficult.

But to hammer out spirit runes and form restrictions, especially within an array banner, the difficulty was not ordinary.

"You try it!" Veteran Bai instructed.

Lu Ye nodded. Seeing something ten times isn't as good as doing it yourself once. Veteran Bai had already demonstrated how to forge an array banner, and although Lu Ye didn't quite understand his technique, such things needed to be practiced personally for comprehension.

He took a metal ingot from Bai Qian, threw it into the furnace, waited for it to melt into liquid, wrapped it with spirit force, took it out, and placed it into a mold. After cooling it slightly, Lu Ye grabbed a nearby hammer, recalling Bai Qian's method, and hammered down.

Two distinct and rhythmic clinks sounded as Lu Ye hammered, causing his spirit force to surge.

"Don't rush, you've just started. First, you must learn how to use the hammering to drive your spirit force into the array banner, utilizing it to change the internal structure. Only then can you possibly build spirit runes and form restrictions within it," Veteran Bai patiently taught by his side.

"Understood."

Clink, clink, clank...

Lu Ye sweated profusely. Veteran Bai occasionally offered pointers, each hitting the nail on the head, allowing Lu Ye to clearly recognize his own shortcomings.

Failure after failure, repetition after repetition.

Fortunately, this practice didn't waste materials. If it turned out poorly, it could simply be thrown back into the furnace to be recast and then hammered again.

The Soul Cleansing Water he had previously given to Veteran Bai was undoubtedly effective; otherwise, as someone from outside the sect, Veteran Bai wouldn't have taught him so tirelessly.

Until a day later, a somewhat crude array banner was finally made.

Bai Qian gave it a cursory inspection and nodded slightly, "Not bad, but there are many areas that need improvement. Continue."

With the experience of the first successful attempt, crafting other array banners became easier.

Time passed, and one array banner after another was crafted.

According to Bai Qian's previous guidance, the most basic set of array banners consisted of thirty-six. For Lu Ye at his current stage of cultivation, crafting these thirty-six array banners would generally suffice.

There was no rush to craft more advanced array banners; he could consider that when his cultivation and proficiency in the Array Path improved in the future.

At first, Lu Ye could only craft one array banner per day, mainly because the difficulty was too great. It was easy to change the internal structure of an array banner with a single hammer strike, but transforming that structure into the unique pattern of spirit runes was difficult. Any mistakes meant the banner had to be recast from scratch.

According to Bai Qian, a true Artifact Crafting Master could directly hammer out spirit runes with a single strike, thus greatly improving the efficiency and tolerance for error in Artifact Refining.

For cultivators like Lu Ye, whose main element was fire and who practiced a fire-type technique, once their cultivation was profound enough, it would be entirely possible to directly manipulate spirit force to change the internal structure of an array banner, thus eliminating the need for hammering.

By the time Lu Ye had completed crafting the most basic set of array banners, half a month had already gone by.

As Lu Ye followed Bai Qian out of the training square, the blinding sunlight poured down, and Lu Ye couldn't help feeling as if he had been transported to a different era.

"Rest today, and I will take you to the Hundred Arrays Pagoda tomorrow," Bai Qian said as he took Lu Ye back to his residence, and after giving instructions, he left.

Once Bai Qian was gone, Lu Ye lay straight down on the bed, not wanting to move at all, and fell into a deep sleep.

Having spent half a month crafting array banners with hardly any rest, he was truly fatigued.

When he awoke, Yiyi had already prepared a sumptuous meal. Lu Ye ate his fill voraciously, only then feeling his vital energy restored.

Bai Qian arrived as promised and, activating his spirit force, he wrapped up Lu Ye and flew in a certain direction.

Before long, the two descended into a valley where a stone tower, dozens of feet tall, stood imposingly. The base of the tower was almost several dozen feet in diameter, radiating a rich sense of antiquity.

This was the purpose of Lu Ye's coming to Tianyan Sect, the Hundred Arrays Pagoda.

However, his initial thoughts were too simplistic, believing that by coming to Tianyan Sect, he could enter the Hundred Arrays Pagoda, yet just following Bai Qian to learn the Array Path and crafting array banners had taken a month and a half.

Still, it was ultimately worth it, for as the saying goes, sharpening your axe will not delay the chopping of firewood.

Just as the Tianyan Sect had previously evacuated the personnel of the training square to prevent the news of Lu Ye being alive from leaking, today they had also cleared out everyone here, completely sealing off the valley where the Hundred Arrays Pagoda was located.

Therefore, when Bai Qian brought Lu Ye here, there was not a soul in sight.

The Hundred Arrays Pagoda was not complete. From the outside, the stone tower seemed to be cut off in the middle, with only the lower half of the tower body remaining, the upper half nowhere in sight.

Zhao Li had told Lu Ye before that the Hundred Arrays Pagoda was divided into three parts: one part was with Tianyan Sect, another at the Cloud River battlefield, and as for the last part, no one knew where it was, as it had never appeared.

At the very bottom of the stone tower, there was also a stele, upon which spirit light flowed, occasionally emitting a mishmash of patterns.

Lu Ye stared at it for a while but couldn't understand what these patterns meant.

"It is said to be a ranking," Bai Qian explained from the side. "Those who excel in the Hundred Arrays Pagoda are entitled to leave their names on this ranking for future generations to admire. However, since the pagoda itself is incomplete, this ranking cannot be revealed. Perhaps only when the Hundred Arrays Pagoda is made whole again will this stele regain its function."

He turned his head and looked seriously at Lu Ye, "Some information about the Hundred Arrays Pagoda you must have learned over these days. There are opportunities inside, but there are also dangers. When entering the pagoda, remember one thing, you must act within your abilities."

"Understood."

In his days at the Tianyan Sect, he had naturally learned about the Hundred Arrays Pagoda through various sources and knew Bai Qian was not exaggerating. Challenging the Hundred Arrays Pagoda was greatly beneficial for the cultivation of the Array Path. Indeed, every Array Cultivator in the Nine Provinces of the Haotian Alliance sought to challenge the Hundred Arrays Pagoda; the Tianyan Sect was welcoming to this and did not selfishly keep it for themselves, nor had they ever sought any profit from it.

But it was undeniable that the Hundred Arrays Pagoda brought many connections to the Tianyan Sect, an intangible benefit.

Inside the Hundred Arrays Pagoda was very dangerous, not only because of the inherent dangers of the formations within but also due to the benefits awarded after passing each level's challenge. These benefits themselves carried risks.

The number of Array Cultivators who had died challenging the Hundred Arrays Pagoda was substantial, including quite a few talented Array Cultivators from big sects.

Chapter 318 Breaking into the Tower

Every cultivator who entered the Hundred Arrays Pagoda was duly informed by the Tianyan Sect of its dangers, to prevent these talents from dying young.

However, no matter how much Tianyan Sect cautioned them, accidents still occurred.

Given the protective nature of the Righteous Blood Sect, Bai Qian certainly did not want Lu Ye to encounter any trouble inside the Hundred Arrays Pagoda.

Standing before the stone pagoda, Lu Ye stepped inside and, under the guidance of Bai Qian, stood on a formation at the center.

Bai Qian moved to place Spirit Stones around the formation and looked up at Lu Ye. Seeing that he was ready, he then activated the Formation.

The view twisted and changed, similar to the sensation of using the Heaven's Augury Pillar to enter and leave the Spirit Stream battlefield. When Lu Ye came back to his senses, he was already in a spacious space.

This space was not large, about the size of a room.

After looking around, Lu Ye noticed a protruding stone brick on the wall of the room. He walked over, placed his hand on the stone brick, and pressed slightly. The stone brick immediately recessed inward.

Instantly, nature's spiritual energy surged, and patterns rapidly spread across the room. These patterns appeared not only on the floor but also on the walls on either side.

The Formation revealed itself, and witnessing this, Lu Ye understood that he was supposed to break the Formation.

Over the years, array cultivators from the Nine Provinces including the Tianyan Sect had continuously attempted the Hundred Arrays Pagoda, and the specific challenges inside were already well-understood by the cultivators.

Generally, there were three types: array setup, array destruction, and array repair.

Array setup involved setting up a Formation according to the requirements of the Hundred Arrays Pagoda, array destruction meant that the pagoda created a Formation for the cultivator to break, and array repair was more complex. The pagoda might only create half a Formation to be completed or might produce a Formation with errors that the cultivator needed to find and mend.

There was a time limit of six hours on each level, and the more challenges a cultivator completed within these six hours, the greater the benefits they received.

The Formations contained within the Hundred Arrays Pagoda numbered far more than one hundred; the name "Hundred" referred to its one hundred levels.

Breaking Formations was something Lu Ye was particularly good at, and it was much simpler compared to setting up or repairing Formations.

First, Lu Ye tossed two elixir pills into his mouth and chewed them while stimulating the Insight Spirit Runes.

With a flash of spirit light in his eyes, Lu Ye immediately spotted several operation nodes of the Formation. After all, this was only the first level, where the Formations were the simplest.

Lu Ye was not entirely sure of the specific function of the Formation, but he did not need to understand it thoroughly.

Not even bothering to bring out his array banner, Lu Ye pulled out the Boulder Mountain Saber from his waist and thrust it at one of the nodes. As spirit force surged, the operating Formation suddenly stalled and then dispersed.

In just three breaths, the Formation was broken!

New patterns rapidly formed, constructing another Formation. After a brief observation, Lu Ye thrust out again with his saber.

After consecutively breaking three Formations, no new Formations appeared. A flicker of light suddenly materialized out of thin air and drifted before Lu Ye. He reached out to touch it, imprinting it on his forehead, and a message appeared in his mind.

This time the challenge was to set up the Formation, and the array diagram for the Formation was provided with that message.

Lu Ye sheathed the Boulder Mountain Saber and, after a moment's thought, took out five array banners from his storage sack.

Compared to breaking Formations, setting up Formations was undoubtedly more troublesome. Previously, when setting up Formations, Lu Ye directly stimulated his own spirit force, constructing a Formation all at once in the same way as constructing spirit runes. While this method was quick, it also entailed greater consumption and resulted in unstable Formations that were easily broken.

However, setting up Formations with array banners was different. It consumed far less energy, the Formations were more stable, and the error tolerance was much higher. Generally, array cultivators set up in this way because not all array cultivators could control their own spirit force as strongly as he could.

As Lu Ye threw out the array banners one by one, positioning them at the four corners, the framework of the Formation was swiftly constructed. Following this, he then stimulated his spirit force to fill and perfect the internal structure of the Formation.

This was the advantage of using array banners for setup: first constructing the framework of the Formation with the banners and then completing and supplementing it, which was much simpler than his previous direct stimulation of spirit force to construct Formations.

The progress was rapid, and about the time it took one incense stick to burn later, the Formation was completed. As Lu Ye established the final pattern, the Formation began to operate.

After maintaining it for three breaths, the formed Formation was inexplicably erased, and Lu Ye retrieved his array banners.

Another flicker of light appeared...

Soon, Lu Ye discovered a problem. It seemed he was being somewhat targeted.

Because in the following challenges, the number of times he was asked to break Formations was very few; out of every ten challenges, only one or two involved breaking Formations, while the rest involved setting them up.

As for repairing Formations, this type of challenge would not appear in the first ten levels. Only after reaching the tenth level would it be included.

He was unsure what trials other cultivators faced here, but the proportion of his array destructions was only around ten to twenty percent, which clearly wasn't normal.

This made him vaguely suspect that the Hundred Arrays Pagoda had its own way of thinking. Did it think he was breaking arrays too quickly, so it increased the difficulty?

Even so, Lu Ye's speed in array setup was gradually improving. After all, it was just the first level, and even if it required him to set arrays, it wouldn't be too difficult. Many Formation internals were standardized, and with more practice, Lu Ye became more adept.

The only issue he now needed to consider was the consumption of his spirit force. He had opened up to one hundred and seventy-nine orifices, just one orifice short of advancing to Level 9.

This count of opened orifices was still the progress from half a month ago. Over the recent half month, he had been following Bai Qian in crafting array banners, which consumed a massive amount of spirit force, leaving him no opportunity to open the last orifice.

However, there was no need to hurry because as soon as he passed the first level's trial, he would be able to advance to Level 9. By then, the Hundred Arrays Pagoda would gather enough of nature's spiritual energy to allow his cultivation to recover.

Continuously setting and breaking arrays, Lu Ye was immersed in it, completely forgetting the passage of time.

Until a certain moment, when, following the requirements of the Hundred Arrays Pagoda, Lu Ye set up an array, the spiritual energy in the room suddenly increased rapidly. Within just a few breaths' time, the room became foggy to the point of barely seeing his own hands.

Three Shichen had passed.

The trial of the Hundred Arrays Pagoda wasn't difficult, no matter which level one was on; as long as a person completed an array destruction, setup, or repair once, it counted as passing the trial.

The more completions, the richer the rewards when the time limit was reached.

The rewards of nature's spiritual energy were additional. No matter what, cultivators here needed to consume a great deal of spirit force for the trials, and after the time limit, the Hundred Arrays Pagoda would create an environment suitable for recovery, to prepare the cultivator for the trials of the next level.

Lu Ye didn't count how many trials he completed in these three Shichen, but a rough estimate would suggest around forty or fifty times, and that was because he encountered a high chance of array setups than usual. If he wasn't being specifically targeted by the Hundred Arrays Pagoda, this number could have increased significantly.

Completing forty or fifty trials in the first level was an extremely terrifying achievement. If the leaderboard at the base of the tower were still operational, then Lu Ye would definitely have his name on it, and moreover, at a very high position.

As a result, the rewards given by the Hundred Arrays Pagoda were also extremely generous – the dense and now mist-like spiritual energy was the best proof of this.

Not only that, but a fist-sized orb of luminescence also emerged out of nowhere, floating before Lu Ye.

This orb of luminescence was the most important benefit of overcoming the Hundred Arrays Pagoda.

Not in a hurry to touch the luminescent orb, Lu Ye first checked the consumption of his spirit force.

For three Shichen, he had continuously set and broken arrays without a break, and even though he had been consuming elixir pills to restore himself, his spirit force nearly ran dry.

With a slight movement of his thoughts, he constructed Spirit Energy Gathering Spirit Runes in his spiritual orifice. In just the time it takes one incense stick to burn, one hundred and seventy-nine spirit runes had formed. Driven by the Spirit Energy Gathering Spirit Runes, the mist-like spiritual energy from the surroundings continuously flowed into his spiritual orifice, allowing his nearly depleted power to recover quickly.

After finishing these tasks, Lu Ye then reached out to grab the luminescent orb floating before him and pressed it against his forehead.

The luminescence entered and vanished.

Complex and intricate information suddenly appeared in Lu Ye's mind, leaving him feeling quite overwhelmed.

If the way Lu Ye had acquired information about spirit runes from the Talent Tree before felt like someone was prying open his skull and stirring his brain with a red-hot iron, then what he experienced now felt like someone was hammering his head vigorously.

Lu Ye's head jerked back, nearly causing him to fall over.

His head swelled, his temples throbbed violently, his eyes bulged, and they were filled with bloodshot streaks due to the overwhelming influx of information.

This was the greatest danger of overcoming the Hundred Arrays Pagoda! This was also why Bai Qian had fervently advised Lu Ye to be mindful of his own limits.

The luminescence contained vast knowledge of the Array Path, infused into Lu Ye's mind in a manner that was overwhelming, without caring whether he could withstand it or not.

If one didn't possess strong willpower and a sturdy psyche, just that could cause one to faint on the spot or, in severe cases, suffer mental damage or even death.

If any other cultivator at the Spirit Stream Level 8 were here, they surely wouldn't be able to bear it.

Fortunately, Lu Ye had endured the torment of the Talent Tree several times before and was not unfamiliar with this kind of sensation.

Moreover, he had refined his psyche in the Soul Cleansing Pool, making his psyche much sturdier than cultivators at the same level.

Another factor was his repeated entries into the Mirage Realm to battle the enemy. Each time he "died" in the Mirage Realm, it refined his psyche a bit more. One or two times might not be noticeable, but over many occurrences, his psychic power naturally enhanced, though he was unaware of this.

Thus, overcoming the Hundred Arrays Pagoda was not about completing as many trials as possible but rather going through as many trials as one could bear within one's limits. Once exceeding those limits, the cultivator might not be able to endure the overwhelming benefits and could suffer dire consequences.

Many cultivators who attempted the Hundred Arrays Pagoda didn't die during the trials but died due to these ultimate benefits, which was a sorrowful fate indeed.

Chapter 319 Level 9

Just as Lu Ye imprinted the glowing light onto his own forehead, the Hundred Arrays Pagoda in the valley suddenly buzzed and shook, followed by an invisible force sweeping in all directions, enveloping the entire valley.

The cultivator responsible for guarding the Hundred Arrays Pagoda sensed it first thing and quickly reported it; soon, a group of high-ranking members of the Tianyan Sect rushed to the site under the leadership of Sect Master Yooi Xiao to investigate.

The Great Elder Bai Qian also returned.

The news quickly leaked, and many disciples of the Tianyan Sect learned of the anomaly in the Hundred Arrays Pagoda, rushing over one after another. However, without Yooi Xiao's command, they all stopped outside the valley, watching from afar.

The Hundred Arrays Pagoda resonated!

Such an event was rare, but not unheard of; it generally happened once every few years, so the disciples of the Tianyan Sect were not unfamiliar with this phenomenon.

There was only one reason for this to occur.

That was someone challenging the Hundred Arrays Pagoda and achieving excellent results! The specific criteria for those results had been speculated by the Tianyan Sect to be worthy of a place on the leaderboard. Unfortunately, the pagoda itself was not complete, and the leaderboard couldn't display this, so no one could confirm whether it was true or not.

But considering that such resonance only occurred every few years, it was clear that not many people could achieve it. From all over the Nine Provinces, nearly every array cultivator in the Haotian Alliance would come to challenge the Hundred Arrays Pagoda, with some even attempting it more than once. The annual tallies came to no fewer than eight hundred to a thousand often.

This showed how difficult it was to incite resonance in the Hundred Arrays Pagoda.

The reason resonance occurred was because the benefits obtained by the one challenging the tower were too significant, stirring the Heaven's Augury to respond.

The buzzing and tremors it caused provided profound enlightenment for array cultivators, so whenever the Hundred Arrays Pagoda resonated, it was a time of celebration for the Tianyan Sect disciples.

They could meditate and cultivate in this valley, deepening their understanding of the Array Path, thereby enhancing their mastery.

To array cultivators, a treasure like the Hundred Arrays Pagoda was a Sacred Land in their hearts. The reason why the Tianyan Sect did not keep it solely for themselves was twofold: first, it allowed them to build their own networks, and secondly, if someone caused the pagoda to resonate, their own disciples could also benefit from it. The person challenging the pagoda would get the meat, but the disciples were content to sip the soup.

At this moment, outside the valley, many Tianyan Sect disciples gathered, discussing fervently.

Today, the valley where the Hundred Arrays Pagoda was located had been suddenly sealed off, and no one knew why, yet precisely today, the pagoda had resonated, which inevitably led to much speculation.

"Could it be Senior Sister Ling Yun challenging the pagoda? I heard a few days ago that Senior Sister Ling Yun made a breakthrough in the Array Path and was preparing to challenge the Hundred Arrays Pagoda for the third time."

"Senior Sister Ling Yun is over there," someone pointed in a direction, and the person who had spoken earlier immediately saw a beautiful female cultivator, who was indeed the woman called Ling Yun.

"If it wasn't Senior Sister Ling Yun, could it be Senior Brother Ji Ye?"

"Are you blind? Senior Brother Ji Ye is standing right next to Senior Sister Ling Yun," someone retorted.

"Err, then who is challenging the pagoda? Within our sect, only these two are qualified to trigger a resonance in the Hundred Arrays Pagoda."

"It may not be someone from our own sect. The Hundred Arrays Pagoda was suddenly sealed off today; perhaps some important figure from outside the sect has arrived. To be treated with such seriousness by our sect, the identity of the guest must be extraordinary, quite possibly someone from a 1st grade sect family."

"Nonsense, we've had our share of 1st graders here, and not once have they caused the Hundred Arrays Pagoda to be sealed off."

"That's true as well..."

The disciples discussed amongst themselves, unable to figure it out.

In front of the Hundred Arrays Pagoda, Yooi Xiao and Bai Qian stood shoulder to shoulder, looking at the first floor of the pagoda.

"Did Veteran Bai not tell him to measure his strength before proceeding?" Yooi Xiao said, somewhat exasperated.

Bai Qian's wrinkled face looked as sour as a bitter melon, full of worry, "How could I not have said anything? I specifically reminded him before he went in. Who knew what this kid was up to, triggering a resonance on the first level; it looks like he's going all out."

"In Veteran Bai's view, how many levels can he break through this time?" Yooi Xiao asked again.

"It's hard to say, you know the rules of the Hundred Arrays Pagoda. The better his performance, the greater the enhancement to his own Array Path. If it's just the ability he has shown before, breaking through about a dozen levels should be about right. But, if he gets enough benefits inside, it's not impossible for him to go a few levels further."

"This is a bit troublesome."

"Now I just hope he can sense the dangers of the Hundred Arrays Pagoda, curtail his eagerness, and not be blinded by the immediate benefits; otherwise, we'll have a hard time explaining it to the Righteous Blood Sect."

If Bai Qian could send a message, he would definitely urge Lu Ye to be cautious in the next stages, but the Hundred Arrays Pagoda isolated the inside from the outside and had its own realm, making it impossible for messages to get through.

An elder of the sect approached, bowed, and said, "Sect Master, Great Elder, the disciples are all waiting. Should we let them in?"

Yooi Xiao turned back to look, saw the disciples of his own sect eagerly awaiting outside the valley, and after a moment's thought, said, "Let them all in."

A resonance event that only happened every few years was also a time for the disciples to enhance their Array Path mastery; they should not be sent away disappointed.

Moments later, all the disciples of the Tianyan Sect had gathered, each finding a spot in the valley to sit cross-legged as they felt the mysteries of the universe with every tremor of the Hundred Arrays Pagoda.

Inside the Hundred Arrays Pagoda, Lu Ye was currently assimilating the vast amount of complex information that had flooded into his mind. Since this was only the first level, the benefits he received were substantial, yet the information given was basically the most fundamental of array knowledge.

To other array cultivators, these benefits might not seem so precious, for every array cultivator would have a good instructor to lay the foundation.

But Lu Ye was different. His studies under Madam Yun revolved around the Path of Spirit Runes. Even though the Array Path was a branch of spirit runes with many overlaps, there were also differences. He had started self-studying the Array Path after leaving the Righteous Blood Sect and could be said to have become accomplished through self-study.

Thus, his foundation in the Array Path wasn't particularly solid—it wouldn't be an exaggeration to call it a castle in the sky. He had his own strengths in the Array Path, such as the Insight Spirit Runes, but he also had many areas of deficiency.

The rewards from this first level were exactly what he needed.

The information surged in his mind as Lu Ye quickly digested it, verifying his own knowledge and filling in any gaps, gradually solidifying the foundation of his Array Path.

Although his head felt uncomfortably swollen, his heart was filled with joy. Even if there were no further benefits from continuing through the Hundred Arrays Pagoda, this experience alone made the journey worthwhile.

The time one could stay on each level of the Hundred Arrays Pagoda was limited. If one did not progress to the next level within a certain time limit, they would be expelled by the pagoda.

As cultivators challenged the Hundred Arrays Pagoda, they not only had to assimilate the various benefits bestowed by the pagoda to enhance their Array Path skills but also figure out how to restore their spirit force.

Therefore, how to make the best use of one's time within these limits is a matter of great importance.

Lu Ye had his own advantages in challenging the Hundred Arrays Pagoda, as he didn't need extra time to restore his own spirit force. With the Spirit Energy Gathering Spirit Runes set up, the almost mist-like spiritual energy in the room continuously poured into his spiritual orifice, allowing him to fully digest the benefits.

As time passed, the feeling of fullness in Lu Ye's mind gradually subsided—a sign that he had assimilated the benefits bestowed by the Hundred Arrays Pagoda.

After an indeterminate amount of time, Lu Ye opened his eyes, his expression thoughtful.

The benefits he gained this time were not esoteric; they were basic and easy-to-understand principles of the Array Path. Thus, they were not difficult to assimilate, although there was a sheer volume of information to process.

With this gain alone, Lu Ye felt that his skills in the Array Path could ascend by half a level.

The Hundred Arrays Pagoda truly lived up to its reputation.

His spirit was slightly fatigued, but it was nothing serious. Lu Ye looked around; the room still maintained that almost mist-like spiritual energy, unchanged from before, as if the energy here was inexhaustible.

However, this was because he had performed exceptionally well on the first level. If he hadn't passed so many challenges, the spiritual energy here wouldn't have been so dense.

The spirit force inside him that was nearly depleted was now full again.

There was still time. He wasn't in a hurry to challenge the next level. It would be a waste not to take advantage of such a rich cultivation environment.

Only one spiritual orifice away from reaching Level 9, Lu Ye immediately activated his spirit force and charged at the barrier of the spiritual orifice.

In just a moment, the barrier of the spiritual orifice broke, and a gentle flow of spirit force entered the new orifice.

Lu Ye stimulated his spirit force, linking the orifices opened after reaching Level 8 and forming a new Minor Circumambulation cycle within his body.

Level 9 achieved!

In the past, his advancement to each level never took more than two months, but this time, climbing from Level 8 to Level 9 had taken him nearly four months.

Mostly because recently he had dedicated a lot of thought and energy to the Array Path, leading to a slower pace in opening his orifices. However, considering what he planned to do later, this was ultimately worthwhile.

Looking back to his early days in the Evil Moon Valley mines, matching wits with Manager Yang and stepping onto the path of cultivation—it had been almost one and a half years in a flash.

To have raised his cultivation to Level 9 in less than a year and a half was a rapid pace, surpassing ninety percent of the cultivators in the Nine Provinces. Only those geniuses hailing from the 1st grade sects could perhaps achieve such a speed of cultivation.

With time to spare, Lu Ye continued to cultivate. The newly broken-through orifice became full within a mere half an hour.

Mainly because the cultivation environment here was too good. Comparatively, the spiritual energy of the world here was many times denser than that at the Righteous Blood Sect's station.

If the station of the Righteous Blood Sect had such an environment for cultivation, then the disciples' cultivations would certainly grow rapidly. But clearly, that was impossible. Even within the Spirit Stream battlefield, no station had such dense nature's spiritual energy—not even those of the core circle sects.

Lu Ye stimulated his spirit force again, charging toward the barrier of the next orifice.

Ever since obtaining the Great Sun Glazed Glass Method from the Heaven's Augury treasure vault, Lu Ye had put some effort into studying it and knew the subsequent orifice locations. As long as his body's spirit force was sufficiently full, opening them would not be difficult.

However, if he wanted to switch to cultivating this Heaven Rank technique, he would need to open up to 240 orifices first.

This was the same principle as when he switched from the Golden Cicada Carefree Method to the Red Lotus Soaring to Sky Technique.

Chapter 320 Consecutive Breakthrough of Ten Floors

The Golden Cicada Carefree Method could only let a cultivator practice up to the Spirit Stream Level 3. After Level 3, Lu Ye, following the guidance of the Red Lotus Soaring to Sky Technique, opened the subsequent spiritual orifices when the requirements were satisfied before he could switch to another Cultivation Technique.

At the moment, the function of the Great Sun Glazed Glass Method was solely to guide the locations of the subsequent spiritual orifices.

A short while later, another new spiritual orifice opened. Just when Lu Ye wished to continue his cultivation, the environment around him suddenly began to distort.

He immediately ceased his actions, knowing his time limit on the first floor had come.

As the view shifted, he found himself in another room. This room lacked the fog-like dense nature's spiritual energy, clearly indicating it was the second floor of the Hundred Arrays Pagoda. Compared to the first floor, this room was undoubtedly larger.

A formation quickly took shape. The test had arrived.

It was time for array destruction.

Lu Ye felt slightly surprised.

Having suffered from being targeted on the first floor, he pondered for a moment. Instead of activating the Insight Spirit Runes to look for weaknesses in the formation, he took out array banners from his storage sack and threw them in all directions to find the flaws in the formation with the help of the banners.

The Insight Spirit Runes were a great asset; they indeed could provide Lu Ye with much convenience in breaking formations but did little to improve his Array Path proficiency.

It's like solving a problem. Normally, one follows the clues provided by the person who set the problem, systematically listing the steps to gradually calculate the answer.

With the boost from the Insight Spirit Runes, Lu Ye could directly see the answer, completely skipping the intermediate steps.

There might be situations where the Insight Spirit Runes couldn't be used in the future, so breaking formations honestly may indeed have its advantages.

The formations on the second floor were slightly more difficult than those on the first floor.

Lu Ye swiftly found the flaw in the formation with the help of the array banners. Then he activated the Insight Spirit Runes to corroborate the result, confirming it was correct, before proceeding with the array destruction.

Gradually, he realized that this was the correct way to challenge the Hundred Arrays Pagoda because, in the subsequent tests, setting up and breaking formations occurred about half the time each, unlike his experience on the first floor.

Moreover, with the significant benefits he received from the first floor, his shortcomings in the Array Path were largely compensated for, resulting in an improvement in his Array Path proficiency.

As a result, even though the formations on the second floor were slightly more challenging than those on the first, the time he spent setting up formations didn't change. Coupled with more frequent opportunities to break formations, his overall efficiency was even higher than that on the first floor.

In the valley where the Hundred Arrays Pagoda was located, many Tianyan Sect disciples were waiting.

Since over four hours ago, when the resonance of the Hundred Arrays Pagoda ceased, this resonance also had a time limit. It was closely related to the person challenging the pagoda—when the challenger had completely assimilated the benefits received, the resonance would disappear.

However, to have caused a resonance at the first floor undoubtedly indicated that the challenger was extraordinary. Thus, the Tianyan Sect disciples eagerly anticipated that he would achieve good results on the second floor as well, so they could also receive some benefits.

The only thing the Tianyan Sect disciples couldn't figure out was the identity of the challenger.

Zhao Li, who was still convalescing at Bai Qian's residence, was clear in his mind. He knew about Lu Ye's attempt to challenge the Hundred Arrays Pagoda, but he didn't expect it to cause a resonance.

He also practiced the Array Path, but since he had to feign death, he was temporarily unable to show himself and couldn't go to the valley where the Hundred Arrays Pagoda was to cultivate, which left him feeling quite frustrated.

If it weren't for the company of Giant Armor and Yiyi at his side, he would almost feel a bitter sense of being abandoned by the sect.

"Buzz..."

The vast Hundred Arrays Pagoda emanated a buzzing sound, an invisible force sweeping across all directions, quickly enveloping the entire valley.

"It's here, it's here," laughed a disciple who had waited for a long time. He quickly sat up straight and began to perceive the inspiring power of the resonance on himself.

If a resonance was induced at the first floor, then surely the second would be no issue, and there was a good chance for the third. As for the fourth floor, that was uncertain.

The record of the Tianyan Sect thus far was for someone to cause nine consecutive resonances, allowing the Tianyan Sect cultivators to gain benefits nine times. These benefits were not the tangible kind found inside the Hundred Arrays Pagoda but more of an enlightenment, which might lead array cultivators to have a Single Flash of inspiration, grasping things they couldn't previously understand.

Perhaps most people gained nothing, but indeed some had improved their proficiency in the Array Path thanks to it.

Compared to the disciples' joy and excitement, Yooi Xiao and Bai Qian were undoubtedly more worried.

They too had once challenged the Hundred Arrays Pagoda and knew how immensely alluring the benefits granted by the pagoda were for array cultivators. Lu Ye causing a resonance on the first floor could be excused, as it could be attributed to his youthful exuberance and unwillingness to hold back.

But, having sensed the dangers hidden within the benefits, he should have been more restrained on the second level.

The two of them now only worried about one thing: that Lu Ye was blinded by the benefits bestowed by the Hundred Arrays Pagoda, charging forward continuously in this manner. If that was truly the case, trouble was inevitable.

Such incidents had occurred before.

While they were worried sick, inside the second floor of the Hundred Arrays Pagoda, Lu Ye's entire body trembled violently, his eyes full of bloodshot veins, as his head throbbed with pain.

The spiritual energy in the room became misty.

With the experience from before, he quickly digested the benefits he had just received.

Strictly speaking, the benefits bestowed by the Hundred Arrays Pagoda and the spirit runes he obtained from the Talent Tree were both like enlightenment from above, as for which experience was worse... it could only be said that they were both terrible.

However, the experience in the Hundred Arrays Pagoda had an advantage, which was that as long as he could digest the extra information in his mind, the terrible feeling would gradually dissipate.

With his previous experience, Lu Ye naturally immersed his mind and soul without delay.

After quite a few Shichen had passed, Lu Ye finally breathed a sigh of relief.

He had completely digested the benefits obtained, making the foundation of his Array Path much more solid.

Just like the last time, Lu Ye hurriedly began his cultivation in this rich environment, aiming for the breakthrough of the spiritual orifice barrier.

As days went by, the disciples of the Tianyan Sect gradually became agitated.

No one knew which powerful individual had entered the Hundred Arrays Pagoda, who in just five days, charged up to the tenth floor, and each level resonated with the pagoda!

An average of twice a day, once during the day and once at night...

Such a thing had never happened in all the years since the founding of the Tianyan Sect.

In the past, even if someone could cause such resonance, it was at most four or five consecutive times, because once it reached the level that caused resonance, the benefits bestowed by the Hundred Arrays Pagoda were extremely great. The cultivator would find it challenging to digest and absorb, and if it happened many times, the cultivator simply could not bear it.

To continuously cause resonance for ten floors, what was the concept of that?

The disciples couldn't help but wonder if some master of the Array Path had secretly come to challenge the tower; otherwise, how could there be such astonishing achievements?

Some bold disciples ran to ask the Sect Master and the Great Elder, who not only did not get an answer, but also got a scolding from them.

It was said that the Sect Master and the Great Elder were in a bad mood at the moment, their faces showing anxiety and concern so thick it was almost impossible to dissipate.

It would be strange if they were in a good mood, they had thought that after challenging the first floor, Lu Ye would realize the dangers of the Hundred Arrays Pagoda and would be cautious. But who would have thought things would not turn out as they expected.

After ten consecutive levels of resonance, how could a Spirit Stream Realm cultivator bear it?

"Veteran Bai, that kid has Soul Cleansing Water, he must have used it before, his psyche is much tougher than the average Spirit Stream Realm cultivator. The Great Elder need not worry too much, I see that he is not a fool, having chosen to do so he must have his own plans," Yooi Xiao spoke, it was as if he was comforting Bai Qian, but it was more like he was comforting himself.

"You don't know how audacious and bold that kid is, even if his psyche is tougher than the average Spirit Stream Realm, there is a limit, if he surpasses this limit he won't be able to bear it, I just hope he will exit the Hundred Arrays Pagoda before reaching his own limit, so there would be nothing to worry about."

What kind of person was that kid? He was the ruthless one who dared to augment his eyes with Insight Spirit Runes!

In Bai Qian's many years of cultivation, he had never heard of a spirit runes master who dared to do such a thing. Previously, he thought the boy's daring and courage were a good thing.

But now it seemed, what a good thing; his heart had been fluctuating greatly these past few days, just fearing that Lu Ye would perish in the Hundred Arrays Pagoda.

He had already sent a message to Zhao Li on that side, telling him to keep an eye on Lu Ye's brand. If Lu Ye's brand disappeared, he was to report back immediately.

While Yooi Xiao and Bai Qian were filled with anxiety here, inside the Hundred Arrays Pagoda, Lu Ye was busily at work.

By challenging ten floors in succession, each time gaining immense benefits, Lu Ye's foundation in the Array Path was not perfect, but looking across the Nine Provinces, few could compare.

The Hundred Arrays Pagoda was like an excellent teacher, bestowing him comprehensive rewards after passing the trials. Having digested and absorbed these rewards, Lu Ye's prowess in the Array Path improved significantly. Thus, as he challenged each level, from easy to difficult, from simple to complex, Lu Ye's understanding of the Array Path reached a very transparent level.

No wonder the array cultivators of the Nine Provinces all loved to challenge the Hundred Arrays Pagoda; it was much more effective than holding a few books and studying the Array Path in a dry manner.

Each floor of the Hundred Arrays Pagoda was more difficult than the last, but as he continued to digest and absorb the benefits bestowed by the pagoda, elevating his Array Path prowess step by step, even as the levels grew higher, the frequency at which he passed the tests did not decrease much.

Take the tenth floor, for example, he cleared roughly forty trials within three Shichen, hence the substantial rewards.

Upon reaching the eleventh floor, the difficulty increased significantly.

Without the foundation laid in the previous ten floors, Lu Ye would have suffered a setback there. Even if he could pass the trial of this level, he wouldn't have gained much.

But with the gains from before, it was different; with the correct array banners at his disposal, Lu Ye repeatedly performed the actions of array destruction and setup.

Moreover, after the eleventh level, there was an additional type of challenge: array repair.

The Hundred Arrays Pagoda would form an incomplete formation, leaving it to Lu Ye to repair, or it would create a formation that had errors, for him to find and fix, therefore making the formation operational.

The first time he encountered it, Lu Ye did delay for a while, but once he had a clear direction, it suddenly became clear.